



August 12, 2021
Aquatic Life Institute
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Dear GCA +20,

With this letter the **Aquatic Life Institute** is pleased to submit its support of the Shanghai Declaration. Aquaculture is the fastest-growing food production industry in the world and is expected to increase even further to keep up with a growing population. In order to achieve truly sustainable aquaculture, and along with it meet the immense challenges of Zero Hunger by 2030, international guidelines should and must begin to take a one health approach by incorporating aquatic animal welfare into its discourse, as healthy and humanely treated animals also benefit people and the environment. We are extremely pleased that the Shanghai Declaration was able to amend its draft by elevating the status of aquatic animal welfare.

The Aquatic Life Institute is an international NGO working to improve the welfare of all aquatic animals in both aquaculture and capture fisheries. We believe in multi-stakeholder collaborations and have created the first Aquatic Animal Alliance to propel the movement forward for aquatic animal protection at all levels of society, including industry, national and international policy, and consumer awareness.

The future development of aquaculture and fisheries production is closely linked to objectives towards the Sustainable Development Goals. In fact, animal welfare is a key pillar towards helping to achieve these global objectives. For this reason, we and our partners create a welfare guide for aquaculture and work tirelessly to raise awareness of aquatic animal sentience. Further, we research the highest-impact interventions in aquaculture settings that would provide positive lives for farmed species and use science-backed evidence to raise welfare standards across global certification schemes, governmental policies, and international guidelines.

We look forward to being able to contribute wherever is needed in providing species-specific welfare standards for farmed aquatic species around the world. We hope that with the newly updated text of the Shanghai Declaration, more institutions will start seeing the importance of incorporating aquatic animal welfare for sustainable development.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christine Xu", is positioned below the text "Yours sincerely,".

Christine Xu