



Humane Slaughter Association

Media Release

13 November 2019

The Humane Slaughter Association announces further funding to encourage the development and adoption of humane slaughter methods for fish caught in the wild

Up to £200,000 available to support a systematic review and feasibility study into stunning or killing of wild-caught fish in commercial fisheries

Billions of fish are caught for food every year, the vast majority of these fish are not stunned before killing and there is good evidence that many wild-caught fish may experience significant suffering between the time they are captured and their death.

The Humane Slaughter Association (HSA) hopes to encourage the development and adoption of humane slaughter methods for fish caught in the wild and, as a preliminary step, wishes to support a systematic study into humane capture and slaughter of fish caught on a commercial scale in the wild for food.

The aim of this research is to investigate the feasibility of the development and use of methods of humane stunning or stun/killing for wild-caught fish in order to minimise pain or distress in wild-capture commercial fisheries. The research should also consider the sustainability of such methods (economic, environmental, ethical and social considerations including practicality). The research is expected to consist of three major components: An overview of the worldwide wild-capture fishing industry, a systematic review of any existing relevant research into the stunning of wild-caught fish and, using the systematic review as its basis, a feasibility analysis of which fishing system, species of fish, geographical fishing area, etc is most likely to be amenable to the adoption of routine stunning of wild-caught fish.

Due to an anonymous benefactor, a total of up to £200,000 is offered and applications should be made via the HSA website (<https://www.hsa.org.uk/grants-awards/wild-caught-fish-stunning-review-2020>). **The deadline for receipt of applications is the 10th of January 2020 with the aim of making an award by April 2020.**

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Note to Editors:

The HSA is an independent charity recognised internationally for promoting scientific, technical and educational advances towards improving the welfare of food animals worldwide at slaughter, killing, marketing and transport.

Its work includes researching, refining and demonstrating humane slaughter methods, publishing material such as guidelines, best practice, books and videos, funding research projects and the development of equipment. Specialist technical staff provide expert and practical advice on all welfare issues relating to food animals.

The HSA is funded by voluntary donations, subscriptions and legacies.

For more information about the HSA's work call 01582 831919, email info@hsa.org.uk or visit www.hsa.org.uk

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