# COMMUNITY CATCH

## Guidance for Self-Assessment

### Section 7: Animal Welfare

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# Introduction

This is a living document.

Some content in this document is presented in a yellow box to indicate normative language taken directly from the Community Catch Standard, including definitions and clarifications.
Text presented in a blue box represents additional guidance that is illustrative or discretionary, such as examples, further explanation, or types of acceptable evidence.

**Section 7 of the Community Catch Standard outlines expectations for promoting animal welfare within fisheries. The section recognises the importance of transparency, humane handling, and reducing unnecessary harm to animals during fishing, handling, and processing activities. It sets requirements for providing information on current practices, promoting access to welfare improvements, ensuring sharks are landed with fins naturally attached, and identifying measures that reduce suffering for both targeted and non-targeted species.**

*This section provides a baseline for understanding existing practices, encourages the identification of suitable modifications, and creates a record of any specific adaptations made within the Fisher Group to further animal welfare in a practical and context-appropriate way.*

# Section 7: Animal Welfare

## Sub-section: 7.1 Animal welfare information

### *7.1.1 Transparency in Handling and Killing Practices (MINIMUM REQUIREMENT)*

*Information is available on practices employed within the Fisher Group in relation to means of handling and killing animals caught.*

**Guidance:** Information should be available on how animals are handled and killed within the Fisher Group. The aim is to promote transparency and awareness of practices that may affect animal welfare, including for fish, shellfish, and other species caught. The Fishery Client should be able to describe standard practices used during fishing, handling, and processing. For example, whether animals are stunned before killing, if animals are landed alive for sale, if handling practices minimise stress or injury.

**Question: 7.1.1.1 How are fish or shellfish killed?**

☐ Killed in the net or on deck
☐ Killed during processing (such as gutting or shucking)
☐ Landed and sold alive
☐ Stunned and bled
☐ Thermal shock

**Question: 7.1.1.2 Are fish or shellfish stunned prior to kill?**

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Not applicable

**Question: 7.1.1.3 Please confirm how the fish or shellfish are stunned?**

☐ Stunned by concussive blow
☐ Thermal shock
☐ Stunned by air chill
☐ Electrical stun prior to kill
☐ Other (Please specify)

### *7.1.2 Access to Information on Gear and Practices for Animal Welfare*

*Where relevant, fishers have access to information on modifications to gear, vessels or fishing operations which would improve animal welfare. This includes measures to reduce post-release mortality of unwanted catches.*

**Guidance:** Relevant information (and measures implemented) would be any relating to the gear, species and/or fishing practices used which could provide practical and cost-effective solutions to minimise any suffering of some or all of the animals caught, whether retained or discarded.
To meet this requirement, the Fishery Client should confirm that they have investigated potential sources of information.

**Question: 7.1.2.1 Is the Fishery Client aware of any modifications to gear, vessels or fishing operations (including providing information to Fishers) which would improve animal welfare?**

**Guidance:** This could include information that is available for example via reports, studies, websites, training/education on humane fishing techniques.

☐ Yes
☐ No
☐ Don't know
☐ Not applicable

## Sub-section: 7.2 Animal welfare management

### *7.2.1 Shark Products Landed with Fins Naturally Attached (MINIMUM REQUIREMENT)*

*Any shark products landed are whole carcass with fins naturally attached.*

**Guidance:** Where sharks are caught by the Fisher Group, shark products must be landed with fins naturally attached, meaning fins are not removed at sea or prior to landing. This requirement aligns with global efforts to prevent shark finning. If sharks are not normally caught in the fishery, this requirement is not applicable. The Fishery Client should demonstrate good faith efforts to determine and monitor shark handling practices, even if formal records are limited.

**Question: 7.2.1.1 Are sharks regularly caught?**

☐ Never
☐ Sometimes
☐ Routinely

**Question:** **7.2.1.2 Are shark products (especially shark fins) sold?**

☐ Never
☐ Sometimes
☐ Routinely

**Question:** **7.2.1.3 Are sharks landed with fins naturally attached?**

☐ Never
☐ Sometimes
☐ Routinely

### *7.2.2 Animal Welfare Measures Identified and Implementation Reported*

*Measures to increase animal welfare, appropriate to the Fisher Group, are identified. Any measures implemented shall be reported.*

**Guidance:** The Community Catch Standard explains that this may include strategies relating to minimising capture or disturbance, and/or increasing post-capture survival of bycatches (notably Threatened species).

**Question:** **7.2.2.1 Are any measures in place (in some or all of the Fisher Group) to improve the welfare of animals during catching/discarding/handling/storing?**

**Guidance:** To meet this requirement, the Fishery Client should confirm that they have investigated potential sources of information on suitable measures. Where measures have been implemented, these should be identified.

☐ Stunning of animals prior to killing
☐ Modified killing practices to improve welfare
☐ Gear or fishing practice modifications to reduce unwanted mortality or injury and allow safe escape of non-targeted species which will not impact on survivability
☐ Humane handling and release of bycatches
☐ Suitable and appropriate conditions under which animals are kept alive/transported (if applicable)
☐ Other (Please specify)