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Glenn Cooke
CEO
Cooke Inc.

As you are likely aware, public opposition to the establishment of the first industrial octopus farm is steadily increasing as consumers are becoming more informed about the potential environmental, economic, public health, and animal welfare implications of this initiative. Once again, the Aquatic Animal Alliance, a coalition of 117 organizations worldwide dedicated to improving aquatic animal well-being, urges Cooke to reconsider its decision to acquire Nueva Pescanova and engage in the octopus farming endeavor. We hold deep concerns about the potential impacts of this project on marine ecosystems, animal welfare, and Cooke's reputation as an environmentally conscious company.

To date, [Nearly one million people have already voiced](#) their disapproval of this project through an online petition led by the social mobilization network Avaaz. Despite public resistance and numerous warnings from the scientific community, Nueva Pescanova continues to disregard the risks posed by the facility to the health of the local community, the environment, and the animals themselves.

A new [study](#) commissioned by Avaaz and conducted by the Aquatic Life Institute, an international non-profit organization dedicated to improving the welfare conditions of aquatic animals in the food system, reiterates the seriousness of the risks associated with the initiative. The report highlights that octopuses are susceptible to bacterial skin infections, with the potential for transmission to humans. Furthermore, serious environmental and economic problems can occur without appropriate management of the large amount of waste generated by processing industries.

The Aquatic Life Institute has uncovered a significant publication that has not been previously discussed. The 234-page ["Handbook of Pathogens and Diseases in Cephalopods,"](#) created in partnership with the European Commission, illustrates the presence of bacterial infections in *Octopus vulgaris* (the species of octopus that would be farmed) that can infect humans and cause severe gastroenteritis, septicemia, and even death.

Scientists have consistently highlighted their concerns regarding octopus farming since the inception of this project. These concerns revolve around the fact that octopuses, like many other species exploited within the food system, are not suited in any way, shape, or form for large-scale farming. Nueva Pescanova has completely failed to recognize the variety of diseases that have already been observed for *O. vulgaris*, and they have failed to incorporate

any farm management practices to prevent the next public health crisis for Las Palmas communities. They have even boldly claimed to the Canary Islands environmental agency that they will not use antibiotics on the farm. There are also grave concerns on putting further pressure on overfished wild populations in order to provide adequate nutrition for the octopus as it is a carnivorous species.

As a leading figure in the industry, Cooke holds the potential to drive positive change in the aquaculture sector. Rather than pursuing the acquisition of Nueva Pescanova and endorsing the establishment of octopus farms, we encourage you to prioritize sustainable practices that champion marine life's well-being, environmental conservation, and responsible aquaculture advancement.

By promoting responsible and more ethical practices, your company can set a new standard for the entire industry and inspire others to follow suit. We would welcome the opportunity to engage in constructive discussions with you and your team to explore more ethical and environmentally-friendly alternatives.

Please reach out to catalina@ali.fish if you would like to discuss the matter further. Your thoughtful consideration of our concerns is of utmost importance, and we hope to hear from you soon.

Signatories

Acción Océanos
Action for Protection of Animals Africa
Action For Dolphins
AEL Advocacy
Africa Network for Animal Welfare USA
African Marine Mammal Conservation Organization
Alexandria Turtle And Wildlife Rescue
Alianima
Anima International
AnimaNaturalis
ANIMAL
Animal Advocacy Africa
Animal Advocates International
Animal Empathy Philippines
Animal Equality
Animal Friends Croatia
Animal Justice Canada
Animal Interfaith Alliance
Animal Kingdom Foundation
Animal Law Italia

Animal Nepal
Animal Rights Center Japan
Animal Society e.V.
Animals Aotearoa
Animals Don't Speak Human
Animal Welfare Advocates Association the Gambia
Animal Welfare Concern
Animals Australia
Animals Now
Apon Welfare
Aquatic Ally
Aquatic Life Institute
ARAF-PLATEAU DOGON
ARBA
Arusha Society for the Protection of Animals
Aware
BC SPCA
Catholic Concern for Animals
Coalition of African Animal Welfare Organisations
Compassion in World Farming
Conservative Animal Welfare Foundation
Crustacean compassion
The Dark Hobby
Deutscher Tierschutzbund
Dharma Voices for Animals
Dieren Bescherming
Djurens Rätt
Dyrenes Alliance
Education for African Animals Welfare
Essere Animali
Estonian Union for the Protection of Animals (MTÜ Eestimaa Loomakaitse Liit)
Ethical Farming Ireland
FAADA
Factory Farming Awareness Coalition
Feedback Global
Fish Welfare Initiative
F.R.E.E
Fórum Animal
Friends of Phillip
Ghana Animal Welfare Society
Green REV Institute
Humane Africa Trust
The Humane Global Network

The Humane League
Humánny pokrok
In Defense of Animals
Institute of Animal Law Asia
Invisible Animals (Nevidimi Zhivotni)
Kafessiz Türkiye
Kitwe Animal Welfare Society
Kurdistan Organization for Animal Rights Protection
L214
Lady Freethinker
Lilongwe Society for Protection and Care of Animals
Luv 4 all: Uganda
National Council of SPCAs
Nepal Animal Welfare and Research Center (NAWRC)
Nurture Imvelo Trust
Oikeutta eläimille
OIPA - International Organization for Animal Protection
One Health and Development Initiative
ONG Sante Animale Afrique (SAA)
Plataforma ALTO
Planet For All
Protección Animal Ecuador (PAE)
Proyecto ALA
PAZ
RENTAS
Rwanda Animal Welfare Organization (RAWO)
SAFCEI
SAFE
Samayu
Sea First
Sentient Media
Shellfish Network
Sibanye Animal Welfare and Conservancy Trust
Sinergia Animal
Sống Thuần Chay
SPCA Montreal
SPCA New Zealand
SPCA Selangor
Tanzania Animals Protection Organization
Tanzania Animal Welfare Society (TAWESO)
Tikobane Trust
Todos Somos Animales
Tourists Against Trophy Hunting



University of Guilan
Utunzi Animal Welfare Organization
Vegetarianos Hoy
Vissenbescherming
Voices for Animals
Voters for animals rights
We Animals
Welfare Footprint Project (Center for Welfare Metrics)
Welfarm
West Africa Centre for the Protection of Animal Welfare (WACPAW)
WTS