

Petition to the Government of Canada

Ban Octopus Farming

Whereas:

- Companies around the world have begun developing industrial-scale commercial cephalopod farms, in which tens of thousands of octopus or squid would be bred, raised and slaughtered for human consumption;
- Octopus are highly intelligent, inquisitive and complex beings who, despite their different physiology, feel and respond to pain in a similar way to mammals;
- Octopus are solitary, wild animals, who are particularly ill-suited to being raised in captivity and would suffer greatly on industrial farms;
- There is currently no legislation protecting the welfare of farmed cephalopods in those jurisdictions where octopus farming is being developed;
- Octopus farming raises significant environmental concerns due to new effluents being produced and subsequently discharged into surrounding ecosystems;
- Octopus farm escapes also pose a serious risk to local habitats and wild animal populations with a high potential of transmitting on-farm diseases;
- A substantial increase in the use of fishmeal and fish oil products to feed carnivorous farmed octopus will only increase the unsustainable pressure on wild fish populations;
- Octopus farming also poses serious public health risks, as captive cephalopods could be vectors of multiple unknown pathogens and zoonotic diseases such as cholera; and
- Large-scale aquatic farms are a breeding ground for pathogenic bacteria and therefore contribute to the overuse of antibiotics and the creation of multidrug-resistant bacteria.

We, the **undersigned, citizens and residents of Canada**, and supporters of Animal Justice, Humane Canada, Last Chance for Animals, the BC SPCA, the Canadian Coalition for Farm Animals, the Montreal SPCA, the Vancouver Humane Society and the Winnipeg Humane Society, call upon the **Government of Canada** to:

- Ban the importation of farmed cephalopod products into Canada; and
- Prohibit the breeding or raising of cephalopods in captivity on Canadian territory.

Signature (Sign your name. Do not print.)	Address (City, province, or postal code)

Guidelines

1. Must have at least 25 original signatures with valid addresses (we recommend 30+ to be safe);
2. Must contain original signatures written directly on the document and not pasted, taped, photocopied or otherwise transferred to it;
3. Must have at least 3 valid signatures and addresses on the first page after the full text of the petition (again, more is better if they fit);
4. Must include the prayer line (the request) of the petition on each subsequent page;
5. The text must not be altered or have any text added on any of the pages;
6. Each petitioner must sign, not print, their name directly on the petition;
7. Should contain signatures of residents of Canada only;
8. There is no minimum age requirement for anyone signing a petition;
9. If a petitioner cannot sign because of illness or a disability, this must be noted on the petition and the note signed by a witness. Aside from this exception, you can only sign for yourself;
10. No photocopies, scans, e-mails etc. as petitions are only admissible in hardcopy; and,
11. Petitions can be either double-sided or have a blank back page.

Please return all original signed petitions, postage free, to:

Elizabeth May, M.P.
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0A6