

What is Life Like for Farmed Fish?

From [We Animals Media](#)

March 2022

Despite the enormous suffering fish endure, it can be difficult to encourage empathy with them. Off-land, unblinking, scaled and finned, it seems to require extra imagination for people to make a connection.



A fish farmer feeds food pellets to red hybrid tilapia. The fish are raised in floating fish pens at a farm by a river in Thailand. Mako Kurokawa / Sinergia Animal / We Animals Media

In partnership with Sinergia Animal we have just concluded one of our largest investigations, exposing the cruelty at Thai fish farms and markets. We now have hundreds more photos and video clips available that lay bare the reality of farming fish for food.



A large group of red hybrid tilapia converge at the surface of a crowded floating pen during feeding time.



A pile of dead red hybrid tilapia is cast aside in a plastic drum after being removed from floating pens by workers at a fish farm.

Despite the enormous suffering fish endure, it can be difficult to encourage empathy with them. Off-land, unblinking, scaled and finned, it seems to require extra imagination for people to make a connection.



Red hybrid tilapia gorge on homemade formulated food pellets on the surface of the murky water of a floating pen at a fish farm.



Several live Nile tilapia in the murky water of a densely crowded tank at a Thai supermarket.

Thailand is a major consumer and exporter of fish, killing hundreds of millions each year. Our investigation documents fish tossed alive into buckets filled with ice; fish suffocated in open air or in plastic bags; diseased fish; and fish often gutted and descaled alive. This happens at small fish farms and at some of the largest markets and wholesalers in the country.



Workers pick up sedated red hybrid tilapia from a floating pen to be weighed and sorted during the harvest at a fish farm.



"Live chilling" is a slaughter method that involves submerging the fish in icy water until they die of anoxia.

These visuals are free for all animal advocates to use so that less imagination is needed. Sinergia Animal is using these visuals for their advocacy, campaigning for these producers to change their practices.