COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

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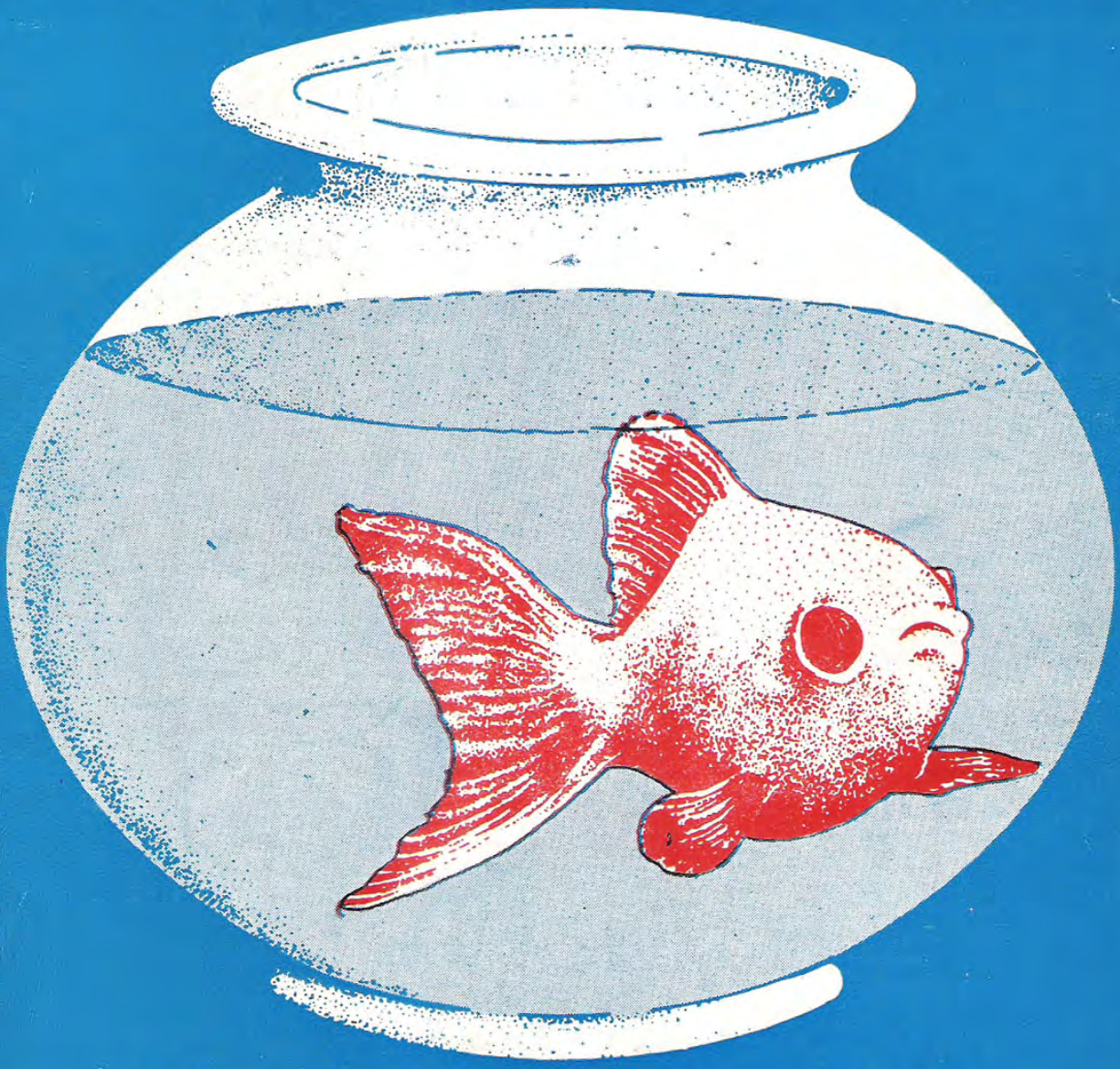

Bored, Lonely & a Long Way from Home

Courtesy : Animal Diary

Beauty Without Cruelty

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Beauty Without Cruelty
is a way of life
which causes no creature
of land, or sea or air,
terror, torture or death.

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Animals are not Toys

A little girl of two and a half brought home a gold fish. An empty 500 ml plastic jar had been half-filled with water and the fish released inside. A small packet of fish-feed accompanied the gift. All the children attending the birthday party had received similar gifts.

Beauty Without Cruelty is constantly being approached by several Mothers from places like Bombay and Calcutta, who ask "What do I do with the fish/budgerigar/puppy/kitten my child was given as a gift?" RETURN IT!

Certainly, return it. A gift should be a source of joy to the receiver, giver - and to the life itself if it happens to be a living creature. Gifts such as gold fish solitarily swimming round and round in a small jar of water amounts to nothing but cruelty to the fish. As soon as the novelty has worn off, by which time the little fish-feed packet is also over, the jar is bound to be dumped in a corner of the house, only to be forgotten till the day on which the poor fish is found dead and floating on the surface of the half-filled, dirty, stinking jar of water

It seems to be the "in" thing these days to give pets as gifts to children. The givers may be doing so unthinkingly, having been gullible enough to be convinced of the uniqueness of the gift by some pet shop owner in a desperate bid to increase sales. But, why are the receivers' families also accepting these gifts unthinkingly? A Parent said: "How can I return the fish? It will look bad." Another Mother, a BWC Member, stuck to her convictions and firmly but politely refused to accept the pair of fish given to her daughter. A torch was given instead.

Leave alone fish, a parrot or budgerigars in a cage, is positively the wrong gift for a child. The intense cruelty involved in caging cannot be so easily forgotten.

Kittens and puppies with bright ribbons round their necks as gift wrapping may look cute initially. But, has the giver found out if the family will take care of the pet forever? Animals are not toys to be played with and discarded. Like children they need to be taken care of physically and emotionally.

It is far from impolite to return such gifts. By accepting lives to be kept in unnatural conditions or which will not get proper attention and love, children acquire a non-caring attitude. It has an adverse effect on their learning to respect life. Compassion and love is what they need to feel for all lesser forms of life - some thing that gold fish in coffee jars and caged birds can never teach.

BWC Bombay Office

Better now than later. We got to know just in time that the building in which we were purchasing the premises for our Bombay office is non-commercial.

As it meant we would not be able to sell our Ahinsa greeting cards and soaps, we had no alternative but to give up the place.

The money collected has been now kept in Fixed Deposit.

Meanwhile, we are desperately looking for some other suitable office space. Can you help ?

BWC Video Cassette

The BWC Video Cassette of an hour's duration, in English or Hindi, is available against a donation of Rs.200/- and an undertaking that it will not be duplicated. It contains the films "What Price Beauty?", "Ivory Poachers" and "Beauty Without Cruelty".

Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 1991
Salient features

S. C. Sharma

Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, which provides the main legal framework for protection of wild life and management of wild life habitats, was the first effort to have a comprehensive and effective law applicable to wild life protection throughout the entire country. The implementation of the Act over the years revealed that there were certain lacunas in the Act. The objective of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1991 is to rectify these lacunas and to make the provisions of the Act more stringent and effective. Certain areas like management of zoos, transport of wild life products and collection of rare and endangered species of plants which were not covered by the Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972, have also been covered by this legislation. The Act achieves the objective of bringing the wild life laws in line with the currently felt needs of nature conservation.

The commercial exploitation of wild fauna by way of hunting and trapping of wild animals has affected the wild life populations seriously. In view of this fact Section 9 of the Act has been amended to provide that hunting of any wild animals, other than vermin is prohibited, However hunting of wild animals as provided under Section 11 and 12 of the Act particularly for purposes of protection of life and property, for education, research and scientific management of wild populations is permitted.

The commercial exploitation of plants has brought many species of flora on the verge of extinction. A new chapter has been added in the Act to prohibit collection and exploitation of threatened species of wild plants.

So far there was no specific provision in the Act for declaring territorial waters as a Sanctuary. Section 26 of the Act now provides that State Governments may declare any area forming part of territorial waters as a sanctuary with prior concurrence of the Central Government. The boundaries of such a Sanctuary shall be determined in consultation with the Chief Naval Hydrographer. While selecting such areas for creation of a Sanctuary, adequate safeguards to protect the occupational interests of local fishermen shall be taken.

The provisions regarding management of Sanctuaries have been made more stringent. Now the State Governments cannot make any alteration in the boundaries of a Sanctuary except by a Resolution passed by the legislature of the State. Causing damage to any boundary mark of a Sanctuary, or defacing or moving such boundary marks has been made a punishable offence, Teasing or molesting animals and littering the grounds of the sanctuaries has also been made punishable. Destroying or exploiting any wild life, including removal of vegetations, forming part of the habitat of wild animals has been prohibited. A new section 33A has been introduced in the Act to make it mandatory for the Chief Wild Life Wardens to take measures for immunisation of live-stock kept in or within 5 kms of the sanctuary. No person can take any live-stock into a sanctuary without getting it immunised. A provision has also been made in the Act that no new arm-licence shall be granted within a radius of 10 kms of a Sanctuary without proper concurrence of the Chief Wild Life Warden.

There has been a mushroom growth of ill-conceived, inadequately managed and in-appropriately equipped zoos over the years.

With a view to ensure appropriate standards of management in zoos and overseeing their functioning, a new chapter has been introduced in the Act to provide for creation of Central Zoo Authority. The chapter provides in detail the functions to be carried out by the Zoo Authority. It has been provided that no zoo shall be operated without being recognized by the Zoo Authority. It will also be necessary for zoos to take the permission of the Zoo Authority for acquiring or transferring any wild animals specified in Schedule I or Schedule II of the Act. Teasing, molesting, injuring or feeding any animals, or causing disturbance to the animals by noise or otherwise and littering the grounds of the zoo have been made punishable.

Poaching of wild animals and illegal trade over the years has taken on serious dimensions because of the exponential rise in the price of wild animals and their products. Therefore, the penalties for various offences have been made more deterrent. Section 51 of the Act has been amended and now any person indulging in illegal hunting of wild animals is liable for imprisonment for a term which may extend up to 3 years or a fine of which may extend to Rs.25,000/- or both. However in cases relating to hunting in or damaging the boundaries of a Sanctuary/ National Park, the punishment shall not be less than 1 year of imprisonment and the fine not less than Rs.5000/-. In cases of second or subsequent offences, the term of imprisonment shall not be less than 2 years and the fine shall not be less than Rs.10,000/ It has also been provided that nothing contained in Section 360 of CRPC and in the Probation of Offenders Act, 1958 shall apply to a person convicted of an offence with respect to hunting in a Sanctuary or a National Park or an offence relating to illegal trade in Scheduled animals' products. However this provision would not apply to persons under 18 years of age.

Section 39 of the Act has been amended to the effect that vehicles, vessels, weapons, traps and tools used for committing an offence shall be the property of the Govt. Section 50 of the Act has also been amended to the effect that the vehicles, vessels, weapons, traps or tools seized from the offenders shall not be released to the offenders. Ivory imported into India and articles made from such ivory in respect of which any offence against this Act has been made shall also be the property of the Government and would be liable for confiscation.

Population of Indian elephants has been threatened seriously by the ivory poachers. Although the trade in Indian ivory was banned in 1986, the trade in imported ivory gave an opportunity to the unscrupulous traders to launder poached ivory in the garb of imported ivory. With this fact in view, the trade in imported ivory has also been banned. The traders would, however, be given a time of 6 months to dispose of their exsisiting stock.

Section 49A and 49 B of the Act have been amended to the effect that collection of snake venom from the snakes included in Schedule land Part II of Schedule II of the Act, shall not be an offence. This amendment was necessitated by the fact that snake venom is an essential ingredient of life-saving anti-snake venom. Similarly, a provision has been made under Section 49A to the effect that dealing in naturally shed peacock-tail feathers is not an offence. This provision would help in fruitful utilisation of a naturally shed product.

A new Section 60A has been added to the Act to the effect that the courts may, when passing judgement, order that persons rendering assistance in the detection of the offences or in the apprehension of the offender may be paid a reward to the extent of 20% of the fine awarded to the offender. The Officers compounding offences under Section 54 of the Act may also order payment of rewards, to the extent of 20% of the sum of money

accepted by way of compensation, to the persons helping in detection of the offence.

Under Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the State Governments were empowered to transfer any entry from Schedule II, Schedule III, Schedule IV, or Schedule V to Schedule I of the Act. They were also empowered to transfer any entry from Part I of Schedule II, Schedule III, Schedule IV or Schedule V to any other Schedule. Because of this power, different Schedules were applicable in adjoining States. The unscrupulous traders usually indulged in illegal acquisition of wild life products in the States where the hunting of such species was banned and laundered them by smuggling these products to the states where the hunting of such species was allowed. To prevent such transactions and to ensure uniformity of Schedules in adjoining areas, Section 61' has been amended to the effect that any changes in Schedules can only be made by Central Government. Similarly, the power of declaring any species as vermin under Section 62 can now be exercised only by the Central Government.

Under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, the power of filing any case in the court vested only with the Chief Wildlife Warden or the Officers authorised in this behalf by the State Govt. This power has now been delegated to the Officers of the Central Govt. also. **It has also been provided that any individual can also file complaint regarding any wildlife offence before the competent court after giving a notice to the Government in a prescribed manner.** Provision also has been made in the Act for appointment of Honarary Wildlife Wardens to help Govt. infrastructure in apprehension of the persons voilating the provisions of the Act.

It is hoped that the above mentioned amendments will make the provisions of the Act more effective and go a long way in conservation of our rich heritage.

Nothing is worth it !

Rajeev Sethi

How many people do you know who are allergic to fish? Yet, they cannot resist eating it! But, others do not eat it because they are vegetarian, or simply because they can't stand the smell; some because they care for the environment or respect life.

India's total fish production in 1990-91 was 38.36 lakh tonnes, of which 1.38 lakh tonnes were exported. There are 275 marine products processing units in our country and the catch from the sea is steadily declining. The Central Inland Capture Fisheries Research Institute (CICFRI) has established that man-made environmental alterations has upset the physiological rhythm of fishes affecting their feeding, breeding and migratory behaviour, therefore the alarming fall in the catch from the Ganga over the years. Moreover, overfishing, poaching in dams, reservoirs and irrigation projects as also a complete absence of conservation measures is to blame.

In the late 1970s, India launched the Inland Fisheries Project with the assistance of the World Bank. Of the Rs.150 crores allotted, West Bengal got Rs.90 crores. Today it is the number one State in fish production and has received the National Productivity Council's award for the fifth consecutive year. Other States such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra and Gujarat have also been giving a thrust to fishing during the last decade.

The latest trend is to earn foreign exchange and marine products have been classified by the Government as having an exciting potential! In 1990-91 India's export performance was Rs. 865 crores. This is 2% of the global trade in marine products

amounting to $32 billion. The Union Commerce Ministry has fixed the current target at Rs.1500 crores; and it is hoped that through aggressive marketing strategies, by the year 2000, export earnings will touch Rs.5000 crores.

Very impressive figures - but let us think what it implies - Rs.5000 crores will represent 110 million tonnes of fish - **billions of lives** - yes, billions of them - **sacrificed just for earning foreign exchange.** 85% of the exports are based on catches from the sea - prawns caught by small boats from coastal areas. The other two methods of obtaining the shrimps (which forms the bulk of marine products' export items) are by deep sea fishing and aquaculture.

It has become a classic case of too many people chasing too few goods. The Sea Food Exporters' Association are fighting tooth and nail the entry of big business houses and multinationals into their domain. As it is, the Tatas, Thapars, MRF, Levers, Greaves Cotton are in it in some form or the other and have plans to export.

The latest technique called IQF (individually quick frozen) used for shrimp has been brazenly advertised by the Alsa Marine & Harvest Ltd. as "state of art machines". Despite rapid freezing to very low temperature of -180°C inside the product, exporters are today facing a crisis. Cargo claims over the quality of exports, mainly to the US, have mounted to Rs.1 crore. This excludes 51 Indian exporters exempted from the system of automatic detention in the US. The US Federal Drug Administration (FDA) is most particular about salmonella micro-organism and foreign matter in shrimps and if found the entire consignments is rejected. It may be recalled that the presence of salmonella often caused many Indian consignments of frogs legs to be destroyed. Now the same thing is occuring in the case of shrimps.

Modernisation and expansion by leading seafood companies, such as Alsa Marine who have recently collected Rs.6.62 crores from the public, does not still rule out the possibility of infected marine products. In addition to export of shrimps, their new ventures are for export of squid, lobsters, promfrets and tuna. All with the help of a foreign tie-up and diversification into deep sea fishing, which is today restricted mainly to the East Coast of India.

In fact, the Government of India is considering to set up a Central Fishery Harbour Authority for management and maintenance of deep sea fishing harbours. Although the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) exists, the President of the Association of Indian Fishery Industries has suggested the formation of a Marine Fisheries Development Board. (The MPEDA was set up by an Act of Parliament under the Ministry of Commerce in 1972 for the planned and regulated development of the marine products industry in India, with special reference to export promotion.)

People die due to fish poisoning whether it be the dreaded salmonella or the "ulcerative" disease which breaks out so often. An Indo-Dutch study just completed reveals that the "cancer" threat to fish is caused due to heavy use of pesticides. During the past year alone, a killer epidemic among fish has broken out in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal. Literally thousands of dead and putrified fish surfaced. Many people who consumed the fish died and it was termed the "lacerated disease syndrome", a type of fatal gastro-enteritis. Adding bleaching powder, salt, lime, and antibiotic drugs to the water hardly helps. Consumption immediately drops by about 85% whenever such epidemics break, but the confidence of fish eaters is rewon after the initial panic period.

The Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE) has recently started in Bombay an advisory service for fishermen, fish farmers and fisheries enterpreneurs. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)

are setting up modern shrimp hatcheries like the one for Goa. The Central Fisheries Technology Institute (CFTI) is responsible for introducing saline water fisheries in 6 desert districts of Rajasthan. The World Bank has assured aid to the Shipping Credit & Investment Corporation of India (SCICI) to boost exports of marine products. By the end of this year, the Amalgum group of industries and MPEDA are setting up a prawn feed factory in India. (We import 2000 tons of prawn feed from Taiwan at the rate of $1000 a ton.) No wonder then, that the Union Government is keen to set up 100% export oriented units (EOUs) and the State Governments are allocating land in brackish water areas for the development of shrimp farming.

Karnataka Inland Fisheries Development Corporation has begun the process of privatising 42 fish-seed farms. The bulk of the production in other States like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, is already with the private sector. Brackish water fish culture to step up inland prawn fish farming for big entrepreneurs is being encouraged in Andhra Pradesh. And on national level, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are not far behind with their advice and assistance with regard to the promotion of pisciculture in India. The aim is to set up shrimp/fish farms and hatcheries, purchase fishing vessels and modernise the fishing industries. It is claimed that out of 1.4 million hectares of inland water areas, hardly 60,000 hectares are utilised for aquaculture.

Scientists have experimented on altering hormonal balance and controlling diet and enviromental factors such as temperature and salinity, so that prawns mature in lakes twice as fast. Few consider it unethical to engineer the entire life cycle of the prawns. An injection of the extract of pituitary glands is given to fish for "better and bigger" results and returns. As collection of pituitary glands is difficult, a new Canadian drug called Oveprim was tried out. It contains an analogue of salmon fish hormone to be injected weightwise so that the rate of fertilisation and hatchings is higher and the size of the eggs bigger. Recirculating synthetic sea water is also utilised in growing fresh water prawns as is done in a hatchery in Bhopal. West Bengal cross-breeds 3-4 species of common carp like gold, silver and grass. And to improve the State's fish productivity three-fold, they plan to intoduce expensive aerator machines, which circulate oxygen in inland ponds and reservoirs.

The Central Institute of Freshwater Aquaculture (CIFA) offers a technology of mono-sex for Tilapia fish. They are to be fed a steroid supplementary diet. It takes around a month for the female to get the characteristics of male fish and grow faster.

Breeding also does not take place. There has been a ban on breeding this specie, imported from Thailand and Sri Lanka, as it multiplies very quickly and saps the water body of all food materials and does not permit other species to survive. The CIFA not only pride themselves in having solved the problem by converting the fish to all males, but have devised cruel ways to bring them up to marketable size earlier. Like chicken, Tilapia feed during the day time and so exposing their tanks to lights during the nights, exactly like poultry broilers, leads to increased levels of production, the feed to flesh conversion being three to one. An article on this fish, stated how hardy they were, having survived two hours without water in a car boot, then taken out and thrown in a pond, re-caught and eaten the next day.

Cruel and unnatural materials and methods utilised by the the fishing industry and their promoters are endless. Obviously bad for the fish and the consumer. Nothing is worth it - not the taste, not even the foreign exchange.

Fish, Made To Order

Dr. Eric Dunayer

Anglers love "wipers" because they put up a fight when hooked and taste good. However, they don't normally exist in nature. Wipers are products of fisheries biologists' ingenuity, a hybrid cross between white bass and stripers. In nature, interspecies breeding rarely occurs, as fishes have different spawning rituals, times, and areas. To accomplish interbreeding fisheries biologists first capture spawning fish, usually by stunning them with electric shock. Human chorionic gonadotropin hormone injections then force the females to ovulate. The eggs are squeezed from the females and mixed with semen from a different species.

New techniques are accelerating genetic manipulation. Like animals of many other species, millions of fish are suffering in ever more unnatural ways.

Using interspecies hybridization, fisheries biologists have already produced dozens of popular variations besides wipers.

Hybrids are continually restocked because they usually do not survive the winter and are believed to be sterile. Recent evidence, however, indicates that some hybrids can breed with local populations. In the lab, when wipers are crossed with stripers, almost half of the offspring ar severely deformed. The reproduction of artificially created hybrids, then, has frightening implications both for native species and for such hybrids' offspring.

Biologists have also developed "triploid" fish with three sets of chromosomes. Normal (diploid) fish possess one maternal and one paternal set of chromosomes. But with heat, with chemicals, or by other means, a fish egg can be "shocked" into having three sets: two from the mother and one from the father.

Triploid fish have deformed, non functional reproductive organs. For this reason, nutrients that would normally be used for egg or semen production are redirected to growth. And so, these fish can grow much larger than diploid fish.

Researchers are using other methods to increase growth. Some have injected young fish with cow or chicken growth hormones which have been mass-produced by genetically engineered bacteria.

Scientists in at least 12 countries have been working to perfect gene-transfer methods in about 15 species of fish, especially species commonly "cultivated" for food.

Gene-transfer experiments are not limited to making fish grow larger. For example, researchers are seeking to isolate the genes that confer resistance to viruses currently decimating "farmed" fish.

Sophisticated genetic manipulations must now be added to the ways in which fish are exploited for profit and sport. Instead of reducing suffering, such use of scientific knowledge simply furthers human abuse of other animals.

Courtesy : THE ANIMALS' AGENDA

Animal and Bird Exports BANNED

In response to Beauty Without Cruelty's representations, the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports has written to BWC: "I assure you that we share your concern ... Barring the export of sheep and goats, we are not permitting the exports of cattle, donkeys, horses, etc. Birds are no longer allowed for export as they have been shifted to Banned List of the Export Policy."

Fish Out of Water

Patty Mark

Eight years ago I had been a "vegetarian" for several years but was still eating fish. After all fish weren't animals, I thought. I had what is the typical human attitude towards fish. They weren't plants, of course, but some cold-blooded, limbless "things" that inhabited an environment totally alien to us as mammals.

Fish are marine animals

My awakening and acceptance of fish as fellow animals was more based on emotion than on intellect. But after speaking with several scientists, some working directly with fish, and reading the findings of the British Enquiry into Shooting and Angling, chaired by the noted zoologist, Lord Medway, I now have no doubt that fish are very much "animals" with well-developed brains and nervous systems and as likely to feel pain as any other vertebrate.

Fish feel Pain

An eminent microbiologist at Melbourne University, Professor Frank Hird, spoke out for fish in 1974 on an ABC science program, "Insight." Professor Hird said, "The suffering that arises from neglecting biological justice in the fishing industry appalls me in the extreme."

In April 1985 Professor Hird expanded on his statement and wrote: "It is unthinkable for me that animals do not have pain receptors. They need them in order to learn to survive dangerous situations. The argument which says that vertebrates such as fish do not feel pain is an argument of convenience and it is a shallow trick to make animal liberationists prove that pain receptors exist. Taking the opposite view, one can say, 'Can the fishing industry prove that pain does not exist in fish?' From all that one knows about physiology, it would be proper to make the assumption that successful animals in evolution, that is, those now existing, have pain receptors."

Altruism

Another fact about fish as animals is their ability to be altruistic. Altruism represents actions towards others that are based on a regard for the others' welfare. It signifies a level of consciousness capable of compassion. Altruism is generally considered a human trait although it occurs in other sentient animals, and fish are no exception.

Abuse of Fish

The abuse of fish can be divided into two main categories: fish as a "recreational resource" and fish as a "commercial resource." The major recreational use of fish is the bloodsport of fishing. An Australian government survey found that the two most highly regarded aspects of recreational fishing were to relax and unwind (43%) and to be outdoors (28%). Farther down the list were those fishing for food (7%). It is incongruous and horrifying that the millions of adults who fish annually choose to relax and unwind in nature by mutilating, stressing, and killing other animals.

Hooking is extremely painful to fish, as they have rich innervation in their lips, tongues and mouths. The "playing" of fish could easily be considered the most barbaric and crudest aspect of sport fishing. Fishermen are considered quite skillful if they can land heavy fish by using low weight line. This means they have to "play" the fish, giving them a lot of line to wear down their resistance so they can gradually be pulled in without breaking the line. This puts the fish through a long ordeal of stress, struggle, and torture, and has been condemned by veterinarians and scientists as well as animal activists. Gaffs are sharp hooks that are stabbed into live fish to help bring them on board or onto land once they have been caught."

Courtesy : ANIMAL LIBERATION, AUSTRALIA

Anglers:Hunters:Murderers

A small news item is off and on spotted which states that some society, usually a religious based one, has been successful in making a particular number of fishermen give up their "hinsak" profession and have rehabilitated them in some other work. Commendable beyond doubt, and it would be great if many more fishermen could be converted.

There is however another aspect relating to fishing in which anglers actually try to entice their friends to join their tribe. They consider fishing a rewarding "sport" and feel it helps them unwind and relax during the time they patiently wait with their fishing rods in hand.

It is due to their own greed,resulting in the wanton destruction of the brood fish and the deteriorating ecological condition of the spawning and rearing grounds that today "sport" fish, like the famous mahseer, are fast depleting in number. Anglers talk of conservation and artificial propagation of rare fishes and want a ban on illegal methods of fishing, but all this remains in the realm of "talk" only.

Apart from anglers hooking more anglers, certain States breed fish to promote angling among tourists. They lure them with colourful advertisements and leaflets highlighting the added attractions and facilities available. Things like angling jetties, motor boats, trawlers and fiber glass boats. Staying close to the fishing spots, guides who know exactly when and where to fish. Even an aquarium and biological park is not very far behind in their scheme of things.

Outdoor sports such as mountaineering often get clubbed together with fishing and hunting - the cruel "blood sports" which should have no place in today's enlightened world. Leave alone the fish which suffer and die at the end of the line, anglers care no less for the torture they inflict upon the live bait they use - minnows, succulent worms,live small fish and frogs.

Shikaris, hooked on angling feel it is a way of life, not only a hobby or pastime. An ex-armyman recently stated "The interesting element about shikar and fishing is that the subject allow free rein to one's imagination with feats of courage, endurance and achievement, often apocryphal which act as a salve to one's ego".

Their description can run some thing like : "On one occasion, I cast mechanically into shallow clear water, which flowed over a bed of little pebbles and watched a silver streak appear from nowhere and flash across almost 10 metres towards my spinner. I was still gwaking as the rod began to jump and buck in my hand, like a water diviner's stick. Another time as I floated a pretty little dry fly downstream, a trout came leaping out of the water and took it while still airborne." Another angler described his "maiden debut in this glorious sport" thus: "Call it beginner's luck if you will, but in the afternoon session, with the second cast, I felt a tug on the line. It was like a human hand grabbing my rod and pulling it vigorously. The reel unwound and there I was, stammering to glory. ..... A shrill warning came from my friend on the right, "Be careful, he's going to jump." And that was exactly what the fish did. ... By some sudden intuition, I heaved back and lowered the line quickly to crank back precious inches of slack. Sweat poured down my face, ... I heaved and reeled the guy in slowly and steadily with grim determination. Eager helpers did the last bit. This was followed by a lot of back-slapping and congratulations galore".

Hearing such stories make many others, people who respect life, feel sick... like they would on hearing a hunter's tale on killing a big cat. But they should be happy in the fact that shooting and fishing are more and more frowned upon and as vegetarianism gains more ground lesser people want to be anglers:hunters:murderers!

The IWC : Broken Promises Threaten Whales and Dolphins

Dave Currey

The cold Icelandic breeze blew right through this year's IWC meeting in Reykjavik. It was a sad year for all whales, dolphins and porpoises. Only New Zealand lived up to the challenge by openly stating it is the will of their people that no whales be killed. The US and most European countries backed a "Revised Procedure" which will lead to the resumption of commercial whaling in the next few years. Their rationale was that it was the best they could get. We disagree.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the position taken by the US and most European countries is that it allows for 46% of the original population of whales to be exterminated before intervention is required. Then whaling operations are supposed to be "sustainable", i.e. the population should be kept the same with no more kills than births.

This disapointing lack of confidence in public support seems indefensible. The public have shown again and again that they do not want to see whaling or killing of dolphins. Small whales, dolphins and porpoises had a rough time as well. Two important resolutions were withdrawn by the US at the last moment to avoid a vote. The first resolution to be withdrawn endorsed the United Nations resolution to ban high seas driftnets by 1992. The other important resolution that was withdrawn broke new ground. Its withdrawal represents a major setback for dolphins worldwide. It focused on five endangered species including the Mexican vaquita, the Indus river dolphin, and the Yangtze dolphin. For the species it was aimed to help, next year may be too late.

Iceland finally carried out its threat to leave the Commission after years of rhetoric and back downs. But even now they have until next year's meeting to show if they are genuinely prepared to walk.

Votes expose the true position of member countries. Brazil's behaviour proves that consensus politics at the IWC does not work and will lead to the resumption of commercial whaling and the extinction of one speices of dolphins after another. One resolution on small whales, dolphins and porpoises was adpoted by consensus.

Japan and Iceland failed to get interim quotas for whales, under Japan's own category "small type coastal whaling", which is an alternative way of describing commercial coastal whaling. Also requests for approval of "Scientific Whaling" programmes by Japan and the USSR were turned down.

The US succeeded in gaining an increased quota for Bowhead whales. Inuits in Alaska are permitted to strike with a harpoon whether or not the whale escapes. The number they are permitted to actually kill, land and butcher remains the same. It sounds complicated and it is.

Let's not delude ourselves, the killing of dolphins continues unabated, and commercial whaling is set to start up again. The Save the Whale movement has to make itself heard all over again - but this time the battle cry must include the dolphins, before it's too late.

Courtesy : THE ANIMAL WELFARE INSTITUTE QUARTERLY

Note : The Royal SPCA sent a request to all animal welfare societies in India to write to the Ministry of Environment & Forests (Government of India) urging that India should support the ban on whaling at the International Whaling Commission meeting in Iceland. Although no representatives from our country attended the meeting, India's existing stand as being anti-whaling even for so-called scientific research was communicated.

How much more can They take?

Nature gives . . .

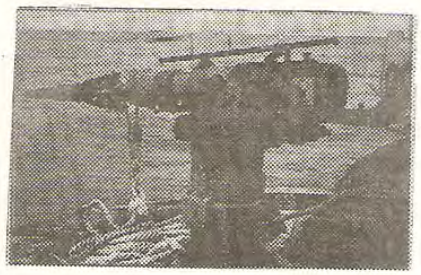
Mankind has long been fascinated by whales and dolphins. Maybe it's because everything about them seems "larger than life"-

* Whales are the largest animals ever to have lived on earth.
* They have huge and complex brains - the sperm whale's is eight times the size of man's.
* Blue whales can produce sounds louder than a jet plane.
* Humpback whales sing intricate and haunting songs.
* Dolphins can reach speeds of over 35 mph.
* The larger baleen whales can produce up to 1,000 pints of milk each day ....

The list of astonishing facts goes on and on.

May be the bond between us comes from the things we have in common. Being mammals, they breathe air, their young are born live and then suckled. Mother and young develop an extremely strong relationship and some species display a level of social organisation that is highly sophisticated, with complicated communication systems. Scientists have speculated that they may be capable of mental activity at least as complicated as ours.

Or perhaps its simply the enormous awe and admiration we feel when confronted with their undeniable grace, elegance and beauty.



Man takes ...

Man has hunted these sensitive and intelligent creatures over the centuries to such an extent that in many cases their future now hangs in the balance.

They just can't take any more ...

Over the last 20 years, realisation of their plight, strong public opinion and opposition to these needless deaths have begun to change their fate.

Commercial whaling has been banned since October 1985 - officially - and today no country or communtiy really needs a whaling industry for survival.

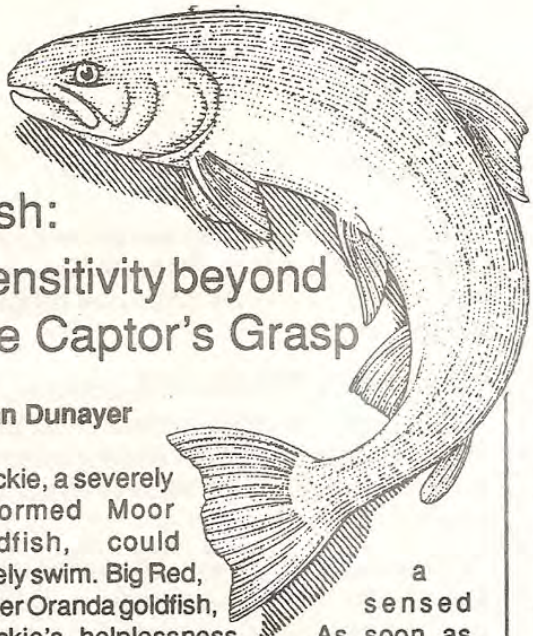
Yet the **inhumane slaughter still continues,** especially of the unprotected smaller whales, such as dolphins. Over 500,000 are **still** dying every year.

But even when hunting finally stops, whales and dolphins will still be in terrible danger for other man-made reasons.

They are killed in their hundreds of thousands by the fishing industry, both accidentaly, and on purpose during tuna fishing.

They are also threatened by pollution, with its dreadful legacy of disease and chemical poisoning.

Courtesy : WHALE AND DOLPHIN CONSERVATION SOCIETY



Fish: Sensitivity beyond the Captor's Grasp

Joan Dunayer

Blackie, a severely deformed Moor goldfish, could barely swim. Big Red, a larger Oranda goldfish, sensed Blackie's helplessness. As soon as Blackie was added to Big Red's pet-store tank, Big Red started looking after him. "Big Red constantly watches over his sick buddy, gently picking him up on his broad back and swimming around the tank," a South African newspaper reported in 1985. Whenever food was sprinkled overhead, Big Red carried Blackie to the water's surface so that both could eat. For a year, the pet-store owner said, Big Red had been showing this "compassion".

Most humans show far less compassion for fish. Tragically and ironically, they fail to recognize sensitivity that in many ways surpasses their own.

The perceptual world of fish.

Although they lack vocal cords, fish "talk". By squeezing their swimbladder, gnashing their pharyngeal teeth, or rubbing some of their bones together, they produce sounds ranging from buzzes and clicks to yelps and sobs. Fish "vocalizations," marine biologists have found, communicate states such as courtship, alarm, or submission, along with the "speaker's" species, size, and individual identity.

The lateral line, a series of sensory hairs running from head to tail on each side of a fish's body, also registers vibrations.

The sensitivity of fish to light exceeds ours. Many abyssal fishes can see in dimmer light than a cat.

In most fish, taste buds dot the lips and snout, as well as the mouth and throat.

Salmon can migrate thousands of miles and, years later, recognize the smell of their home stream. By odor alone, some fish can determine another fish's species, gender, sexual receptivity, or individual identity.

With hundreds of electric sensors on their skin, fish of many species detect the shape of electric fields they generate. An object less conductive than water, such as a rock, casts an electrical shadow on the field; an object more conductive, such as prey, creates a bright spot.

Whether or not they electrically signal, many fishes sense the electricity generated by all living beings and, in this way, detect prey hiding in gravel or sand.

The capacity of fish to suffer

In keeping with their other sensitives, fish undoubtedly feel stress and pain. Chased. confined, or otherwise threatened, they react as humans do to stress: with increased heart rate, breathing rate, adrenal hormone release. Subjected to prolonged adverse conditions such as crowding or pollution, they suffer immune deficiency and damage to internal organs. Both biochemically and structurally, the central nervous systems of fish closely resembles ours. In vertebrates, free nerve-endings register pain; fish possess these nerve-endings in abundance. When injured, fish writhe, gasp, and show other signs of pain.

Fish definitely feel fear, which plays a role in learned avoidance. Fish cry out in both pain and fear.

Fish as "pets"

With or without the added cruelty of experimentation, holding fish captive

disregards their most basic needs. High-strung and fragile, fish are ill-suited to a glass-enclosed life; yet, hundreds of millions are imprisoned in home aquariums.

Fish are more sensitive to temperature than any warm blooded animal. A sudden change of only a few degrees can kill a goldfish. Nevertheless, fish are confined to small containers whose water temperature can rapidly fluctuate.

Aquarium fish cannot escape harmful chemicals that enter their water. Cigarette smoke, paint fumes, and aerosol sprays are only a few of the common indoor pollutants that can harm fish. In a bowl or tank, the ammonia that fish themselves excrete can accumulate to toxic levels. As with ammonia, minute amounts of chlorine can cause breathing difficulty and nervous spasms. The chlorine in tap water can easily prove fatal.

Human sights and sounds bombard aquarium fish. Simply switching on the light in a dark room can so startle them that they dash into their tank's walls, and die. Vibrations from TV, stereo, or slammed door can also cause alarm and injury.

While assailing fish with the artificial, aquariums rob them of the natural. The fish are denied such activities as foraging over brilliantly varied coral reef. Instead they swim and re-swim the same cubic inches or feet, passively receiving the same commercial feed day after day. Aquarium fish, often suffer from boredom.

Goldfish and other social fish require companions of their own species; at the loss of a companion, social fish show signs of depression, such as lethargy, paleness and drooping fins.

Hobbyists' harm to fish extends far beyond the home aquarium. Countless fish die before reaching the pet store, during transport from either the fish "farm" or the wild. Capture alone injures and kills millions of fish, who are incapacitated with anesthetics, dynamite, or cyanide before being caught by hand or net.

Commercial Fishing

Commercial fishing further decimates fish, killing untold billions each year. Generally, their deaths are neither quick nor painless.

In purse seining, a boat encircles a school of fish with a net that is then drawn tight. Once hauled up, the fish are usually dumped into liquid brine kept below freezing. If they haven't already suffocated or been crushed, the fish die of thermal shock. Purse seining for yellowfin tuna has aroused public outrage on behalf of dolphins ensnared with the tuna swimming below them. Few people, however, have protested the death meted out to the tuna themselves. Surely, the motorboats and underwater explosives that hurt the dolphins cause terror and pain to the vibration-sensitive tuna as well. Pressure waves from an underwater detonation can burst a fish's swimbladder.

In trawling, a moving boat drags an enormous net through the water. The tow forces all fish who enter the net into the tapered, closed end. For one to four hours, the trapped fish are squeezed and bounced, together with any netted rocks and ocean debris. Prolonged tumbling and dragging in the net causes the fish to rub against each other and file away their sharp scales.

When hauled up from a substantial depth, fish undergo excruciating decompression. As water pressure plummets, the volume of gas in a fish's swimbladder increases more rapidly than the bloodstream can absorb the gas. Frequently, the intense internal pressure ruptures the swimbladder, pops out the eyes, and pushes the esophagus and stomach out through the mouth.

Smaller fish, are ordinarily dumped onto chopped ice; most suffocate of are crushed to death by layers of fish who follow. Larger fish, tumble onto deck. An eyewitness has described how the catch is sorted: the crew stab the fish with short, spiked rods called pickers, "throwing cod here, haddock there,

yellowtail there." Next, the fish have their throats and bellies slit (not necessarily in that order). Meanwhile, non-target ("trash") fish, who sometimes comprise most of the catch, are thrown overboard, often by pitchfork.

On any one evening, fishers may set out some 40,000 miles of gillnets, mainly driftnets on the Pacific high seas, but also anchored nets in coastal waters. Plastic mesh with floats on top and weights at the bottom, gillnets hang like curtains, generally to a depth of 30 feet. In addition to causing the slaughter of more than a million unsought mammals, turtles, and birds each year, gillnets inflict enormous suffering on fish.

Unable to see the netting, fish swim into it. Unless they are smaller than the mesh size, they get no further than poking their heads through. When they try to back out, the netting catches them by their gill-plates or fins. Many of the fish suffocate. Others struggle so desperately in the sharp mesh that they bleed to death, whether or not they have managed to pull free. Because many fishers fail to tend their gillnets daily, trapped fish may survive for days, slowly dying.

Sport Fishing

Many sport fishers claim that their victims don't suffer. All the evidence indicates otherwise.

When hooked, carp shake their head, spit as if to cough up food, dart, and dive. Electric shock in the roof of their mouth initially elicits the same reactions. When hooked and held on a taut line for at least several minutes, carp spit gas from their swimbladders; after the line is slackened, they sink. Hook and line cause some combination of terror and pain.

In the May 1990 issue, a "Field and Stream" columnist acknowledged that lactic acid can "immobilize" a fish "in a much more rapid and intense fashion than the similar cramps and sore muscles we humans suffer from too much exercise." The longer the fish struggles, the greater the lactic acid buildup. Yet sport fishers take pleasure in "running" fish hard. Before being hauled up, many fish die from exhaustion.

For many others, the worst suffering may follow being reeled in. Typically, medium-sized and larger fish are pulled on board by being stabbed with a hand-held hook, or gaff. Sometimes, fish are skinned alive. Many fishers regularly string their still-living catch, for hours, on a rope or chain that hangs in the water. The rope is threaded through each fish, normally through the mouth and one gill-opening. The chain has clips like giant safety pins on which the fish are impaled, usually through the jaw. Most fish caught in "sport" suffocate. Even out of water, they may die slowly.

Catch and release fishing, at minimum, inflicts terror, pain and temporary disability Frequently, it permanently or fatally disables. "Field and Stream" in a May 1990 article, admitted that fish commonly "struggle so violently as the hook is being removed that anglers drop them on the hard bottom of a boat or a rocky bank." Always, the hook causes injury. Severe mouth lacerations can destroy a fish's ability to eat. Many fish are released after being hooked by the gills or internal organs, as when they swallow the hook into their stomach.

Fishing also tortures any live bait used. Minnows and other small fish are routinely hooked through the back, the lips, or even the eyes. Because injuries attract predatory "gamefish", some anglers further maim bait fish by cutting their fins or breaking their backs.

"Managing" fish for sport

To provide a steady supply of catches, U.S. hatcheries annually stock angling waters with hundreds of millions of fish, commonly salmon and trout. A self described "former barker for the managers," has called hatchery trout "genetic wrecks." In a September 1987 "Audubon" article, he wrote, "After years of inbreeding, hatchery trout tend to be deformed. Gill covers don't fit, jaws are bent,

tails pinched." He deplores the conditions in which hatchery trout are reared: "filthy, crowded, cement troughs that wear away scales and fins." The fish, he adds, are ill equipped for life in the wild.

In a book for anglers, the goal of fish management: "to provide the best sportfishing." To thin native populations of smaller non-game fish and increase water transparency, managers often partially drain lakes or ponds, leaving the non-game species to suffer from reduced food, protective cover, and space in which to avoid predators. "When a lake or pond becomes heavily populated with undesirable species, the best solution may be to annihilate all the fish and start over again. This is usually done either by draining the lake dry or by poisoning the fish. . . . . After all of the fish have been killed, the basin is refilled and stocked according to the desired mix of predator prey species." Desired, that is, by anglers and the "wildlife managers" whose salaries derive largely from license fees.

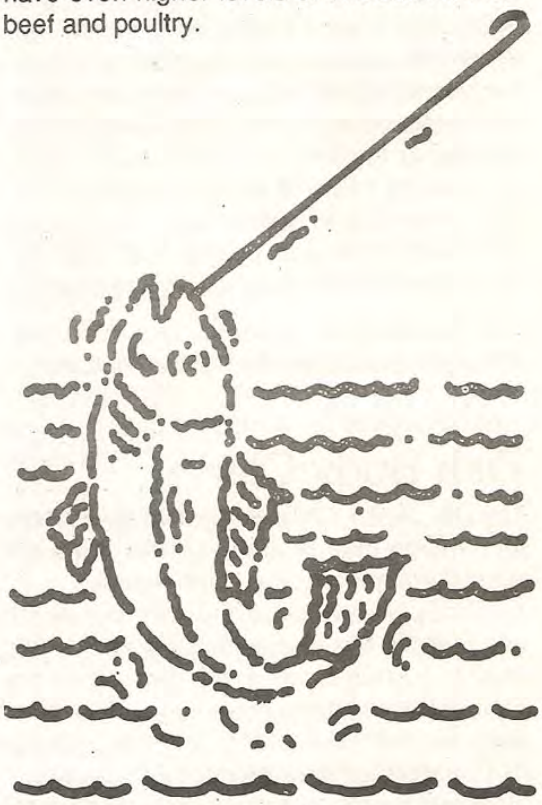
Most humans feel little empathy for fish seeing fish gathered en masse, or viewing them as uniform throughout a species, people easily disregard them as individuals. Because fish dwell in an aquatic world, communicate by means hidden to our perceptions, and have physical appearance so different from our own, many humans fail to recognize their sentience. The result is massive, socially sanctioned abuse. As more people become aware of the sensitivity of fish, fish will begin to receive the compassion and respect they deserve.

When it comes to feeling we have much to learn from Big Red.

Courtesy : THE ANIMALS' AGENDA

Fish

The fishing industry annually dumps more than 350 million pounds of fishing net, packaging material and containers, all plastic, into the oceans. The netting traps and drowns an estimated 50,000 seals, over 20,000 dolphins and more than a million birds each year, as well as millions of fishes,. Dumped sewage and garbage kill even more animals and sometimes poison people who consume fish, as fishes can accumulate, in their flesh, up to nine million times the concentration of toxic chemicals (including PCBs and DDT) of the surrounding waters. Some kinds of ocean life forms, such as shrimps and scallops, also have even higher levels of cholesterol than beef and poultry.



If you have a yen for seafood, try seaweed, not sea animals.

Courtesy : PETA

Fish Farming

Merritt Clifton

As wild fish stocks decline, aquaculture has become the fastest growing form of factory farming - and in some regions, may displace more traditional forms of animal husbandry.

Viral infections and parasites spread rapidly through submerged cages whose initial population density runs as high as eight fingerlings per cubic foot of water. Though the numbers thin out, the fish get no more space relative to their own size as they grow. The crowding also contributes to deaths from oxygen depletion of the ponds, usually brought on by the combination of warm weather, algal blooms, and electrical brown-outs that cause aeration failure.

Eager to increase profits by reducing the death rate, most catfish farmers now give their stocks heavily medicated feed, a practice that could backfire by lowering resistance to disease in the long run - and could alarm consumers, many of whom have turned to fish, according to supermarket studies, to avoid red meat and poultry that may be tainted by antibiotics and growth hormones.

The Norwegian success has inspired American and Canadian entrepreneurs to set up at least 14 cage ranches in Puget Sound (13 of them in America waters). Opposition from environmentalists has held up efforts to start another 6 cage ranches since 1987. The major problem is that a single two-acre salmon farm, holding 50,000 to 100,000 fish, produces as much organic waste as a town of 10,000 people. Crowding in the cages as the salmon grow larger, spreads infection and parasites, which in turn can be passed to the wild with the waste. In February 1990, Washington state officials ordered four million ranched salmon and salmon eggs destroyed to prevent the spread of disease.

All ranched fish have short lives. Most ranched fish, regardless of species, are killed at 10 months to 2 years of age. Researchers are now trying to cut their lives still shorter, by speeding growth through genetic engineering.

In 1985, Chinese geneticists reportedly used human growth hormones to double the size of gold fish. Subsequent experiments are said to have transplanted genes from people, cattle, chickens, and mice into ranched varieties of fish, a source of alarm among critics of genetics research, who fear that such modified fish will escape into the environment and pass along traits that could be detrimental to wild populations.

Courtesy: THE ANIMALS' AGENDA.

Fish Body Oils

The US, Japan, Chile, Scandinavia and Peru are the leading producers of fish body oils. Except for Peru, the main producers of this oil are all exporters. The main importing countries are the UK, West Germany and the Nertherlands.

Fish body oils are used in the manufacture of hardened products, like an ingredient for margarines and cooking fats and as a component of the diet of farmed fish. In the UK, hardened fish oil is used to a great extent in margarine than any other oils.

Fish oil prices have always been influenced by the easy and cheap availability of other oils, like palm oil, in world markets. When fish oil prices fall, some of the producers are known to burn 5 to 10 percent of their produce.

However, the fact remains that the world market is largely dominated by vegetable oils, the annual world production of fish body oils being only around 17 lakh tonnes.

Desecration of Compassion

Pilu Dady

Reading the headline : "Live Fish Latest Food Rage in Japan", one wondered what sort of gimmick it was. Curiosity prompted one to read further. And one realised that it was not a gimmick after all.

Various kinds of alive fish that flounder and flap around in the plate are served in expensive sea-food restaurants in Japan. The idea being to eat one's food as fresh as it can possibly be - regardless of its high cost.

Thus it is that waiters bring the fish in wriggling, their eyes and mouths moving, then quickly slice open the mid-section, so the fish is ready to eat - the slices dipped in soya sauce. Finger length eels and squids are swallowed whole. Shrimps are featured in a dish called 'dance', and are expected to do just that - or else they are sent back. Lobster is served with its belly up, then an incision made along the length of the tail, so diners can get at the meat straightaway.

According to the press report this gourmet boom is fuelled by Japan's ever-growing economy. People have more money to spend and are looking for better-tasting and more unusual dishes.

Each to his choice. But are sophisticated tastes, trendiness and flavour all that important? How can one relish eating that which is seen struggling to live? Does this denote culture? Like humans, fish are susceptible to pain and fear, cannot one then visualise the mute, mental torment of the shrimps on the plate? Is one justified in tramping on basic values of love and compassion for the sake of satisfying one's palette? Does not the diner's delight amount to closing the door on sensitivity, one's deeper, inner feelings - on one's soul? These are not mere philosophic questions which can be dismissed lightly, or brushed aside as pure emotionalism and sentiment. They are important, in as much as they involve our ethics, our code of behaviour, our attitude to other forms of life. As such, they demand of each one of us honest, straightforward answers. Because in the long run our actions and behaviour patterns will determine whether we live in a world of violence, greed and selfishness, or be true to our selves, and be at peace with the world.

Buddha was asked, "How may we build a new civilization?" His reply: "The key to a new civilization is the spirit of 'maitri' friendliness towards all living things." ...We trust that the spirit of Compassion and Wisdom will prevail, and that the 'gourmet plague' will die a natural death - before it spreads elsewhere.

Important

You are requested to please always quote your Membership number when renewing your Beauty Without Cruelty annual subscription.

BWC Magazine

We have discontinued printing our magazine in Hindi and Gujarati. All BWC Members are therefore sent "Compassionate Friend".

Animal Sacrifice foiled

As reported by **Meena Swamy**

A huge ghastly photograph depicting buffalo-heads recently appeared in the Bangalore edition of "The Times of India". The caption read: After the sacrificial beheading, the head is added to the pile while the torso is dragged away to make way for the next killing.

The newspaper reported: "While the nation celebrated Gandhi Jayanti on Wednesday (October 2, 1991), 179 he-buffaloes were beheaded ritually that night at Doddaramapura of Kandikere hobli in Chikkanayakana taluk. A cheering, jostling crowd running into thousands had gathered from the surrounding villages to witness the ceremonial slaughter. This was the annual "Mari Jathra". The Jathra has been held for the last forty years. The sacrifice to appease Goddess Maramma left the area in the centre of the village covered with thick blood. The hides were to be sold at an auction and the remains distributed among the members of a particular community in nearby villages. The palegars who were empowered to carry out the ritual, vied with each other to behead the animals with sharp sickles. Among them was a former minister... the sacrifice, which began at 9 p.m. and finished around mid-night, was attended, among others, by mandal pradhans and members. Exactly one month later, on November 2, the "Thingala Jathra" will be held at Marikanive near the village, where a scaled-down slaughter will take place."

The Mysore (Karnataka) Prevention of Animal Sacrifices Act, 1959, gives any Police Officer, not below the rank of a Sub-Inspector, general power to arrest any person without a warrant. Under this Act, sacrificing animals and birds in a temple, its precincts, or when a deity is taken in procession is prohibited, as is allowing, participating or officiating at sacrifices. The penalties include imprisonment and fines.

In spite of this enactment, the article clearly stated that all appeals made to the Police to stop the mass killing had gone unheeded; instead, the Police had thought it fit to maintain order in the gathering! It was obvious that an awareness of the cruelty involved was lacking. In the past, sufficient people had not protested; obtaining a stay order from the Court had not helped in any way and the animal sacrifice at Davangere was performed as scheduled.

This time, Beauty Without Cruelty (Banglore Centre), decided that, come what may, the proposed sacrifice would be stopped. The support of other animal welfare and religious organisations was also taken.

Although the article had stated that the "Thingala Jathra" would be held on November 2, the Jathra was held on October 30, 1991. The Hony Secretary of the Beauty Without Cruelty (Banglore Centre), Ms. Meena Swamy, along with animal activists visited the village, Doddaramapura, from October 28, for three days. The police had been contacted and Mr. A.P. Prasad, I.P.S., Superintendent of Police, Tumkur District, helped whole heartedly. The heavens also cried for the animals! Heavy rain and chilly weather helped to prevent many devotees from reaching the site for sacrificing the animals. Swami Dayananda of Rashtreeya Basava Dal and other crusaders of Beauty Without Cruelty and the Akhil Karnataka Prani Daya Sangh, worked with great dedication and enthusiasm despite proper sleep or food. They contacted various local authorities, gave speeches, distributed leaflets, etc. so that the desired impact could be made on the villagers.

Thus, the proposed sacrifice of about 50 to 100 buffaloes and goats was successfully foiled.

Beauty Without Cruelty now hopes that the Tehsildar of Chikkanayakana taluk, the police force and others in authority will next year also make sure that no animal is sacrificed to appease the Goddess Maramma.

Circuses

The Ministry of Environment & Forests (Govt. of India) in March 1991 issued a Notification banning the use of tigers, panthers, bears, monkeys and dogs in Circuses. The Indian Circus Federation obtained a Stay Order on this Notification. The final hearing at the Delhi High Court was due to be held on August 27, 1991. But, for some reason or another, it keeps getting postponed.

Circus owners know that it won't be long before they will be forced to stop their animal entertainments.Therefore in a last bid for survival, in keeping with the worldwide circus philosophy of elaborating fallacies to appeal and draw crowds, they are desperately seeking favourable media coverage. Most of the articles compare aspects, such as conditions of animals kept in zoos, which attempt to draw attention away from the issue and their own involvement in cruelty. Their pleas never fail to point out that theirs is a centuries-old tradition (so was slavery), unemployment and economic hardship (can be easily overcome as all-human circuses are the rage today), aggravation of ardent fans (nonsense - they are their own fans!), etc. They would prefer gradual reform to prohibition. This would be disastrous because if rules for minimum standards and the like are introduced, it will do next to nothing to alleviate the deprivation because there is positive cruelty in training and keeping animals even if they are not performing. It will lead no where and do more harm than good as it would only legitimise the circus industry which is bound to go its own merry way basking in its new-found approval.

Certain Circuses have been inspected independently and conditions are found to be more or less the same - one worse than the other. It further confirms that circuses with animals are unworthy of civilised people and certainly unsuitable for children. So let us hope that in the near future entertainments which include performing animals are banned in our country.

COMPASSIONATE FRIEND

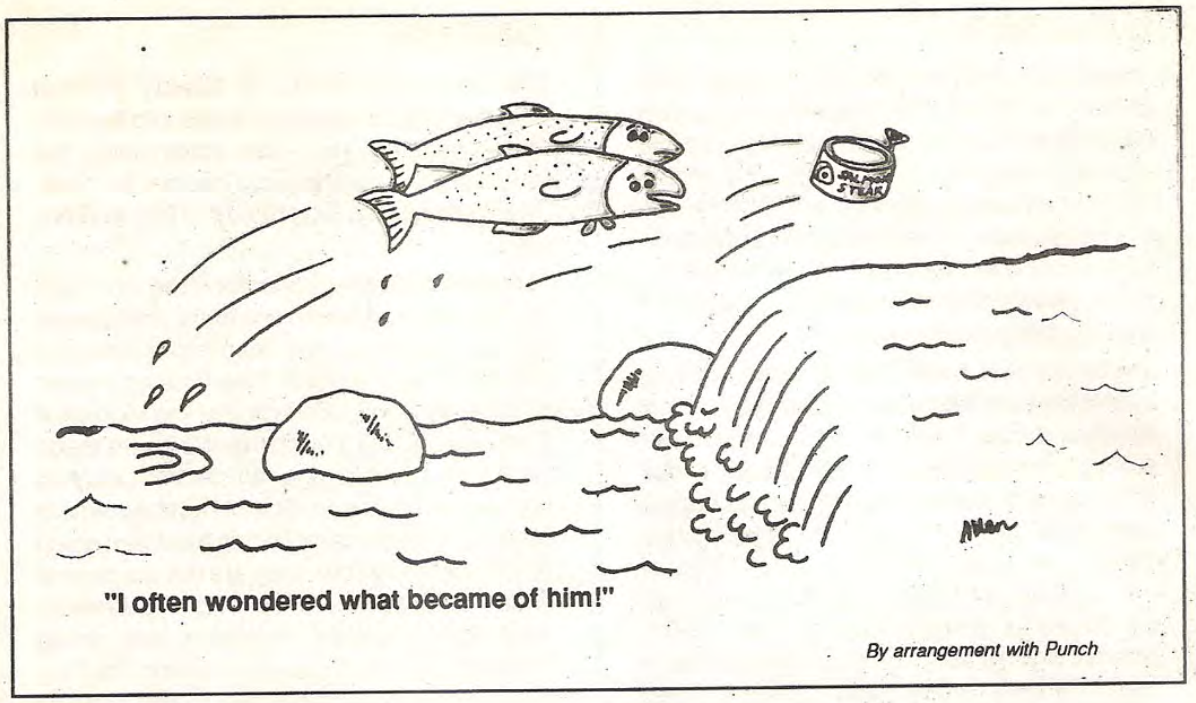
From Beauty Without Cruelty, Printed in India, October - December 1991

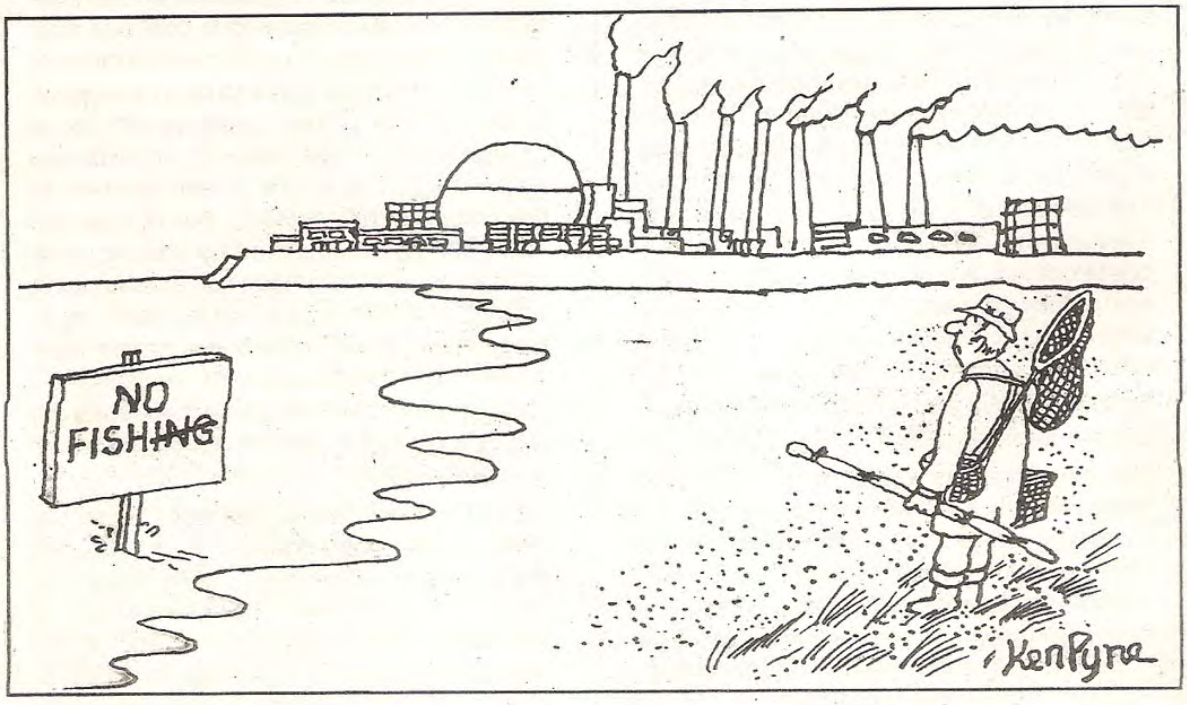
Camels

The persistent efforts of Beauty Without Cruelty to ban the entry of Camels into Bombay finally resulted in a little action from the Municipal Corporation of Greater Bombay. Their letter dated October 18, 1991 to BWC says:

"It may be stated that the order of the Municipal Commissioner banning camels and ponies etc in public places has been implemented in respect of the Gardens, Play Grounds which are directly in the jurisdiction of the Municipal Corporation. But though the efforts are made to ban the same in other places like beaches and some places in South Bombay where regular pony and camel riding has been going on for years together, they are not successful to the satisfaction. Hack Victoria Owners Association whose members are doing business on beaches and in some of the Play Grounds, have represented to the Govt of Maharashtra that members of Hack Victoria Owners Association have no other livelihood and who are living on this activity to feed their families, should be allowed to continue their activity. The matter is under consideration of the Govt. The issue has also been discussed at length in the various meetings with social organisations... It was, however, unanimously agreed that all the efforts should be made to gradually ban this activity. But till then the same should be regulated by framing strict rules in respect of animals to be used for such activity, and also to see that by adhering to these rules, these camels are saved from cruelty, i.e. caused to them for the present... I hope this will definitely prove that efforts are being taken in the right direction and would give good results."

Beauty Without Cruelty will **not** rest till the BMC totally stops camels from entering Bombay and pony-rides. Meanwhile, we appeal to members and friends not to unwittingly encourage them. And if the animals are found in a pathetic condition or cruelty inflicted upon them, please inform the Bombay SPCA who can prosecute the owners and runners.



"I often wondered what became of him!"

By arrangement with Punch