

# The issue of Octopus farming

One consequence of understanding the octopus mind should be the refusal to subject octopuses to mass production.

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## Who am I?



They have a complex nervous system divided between the brain and the arms. Each arm can taste, touch and move independently.

Capable of very complex behaviours, including avoiding pain or remembering areas where they have already hunted and are empty.

They have three hearts and their blood is blue because it is based on copper.



They are "colour-blind" but they have good eyesight and don't have blind spots. They also use receptors in the suckers for touch and chemical detection.

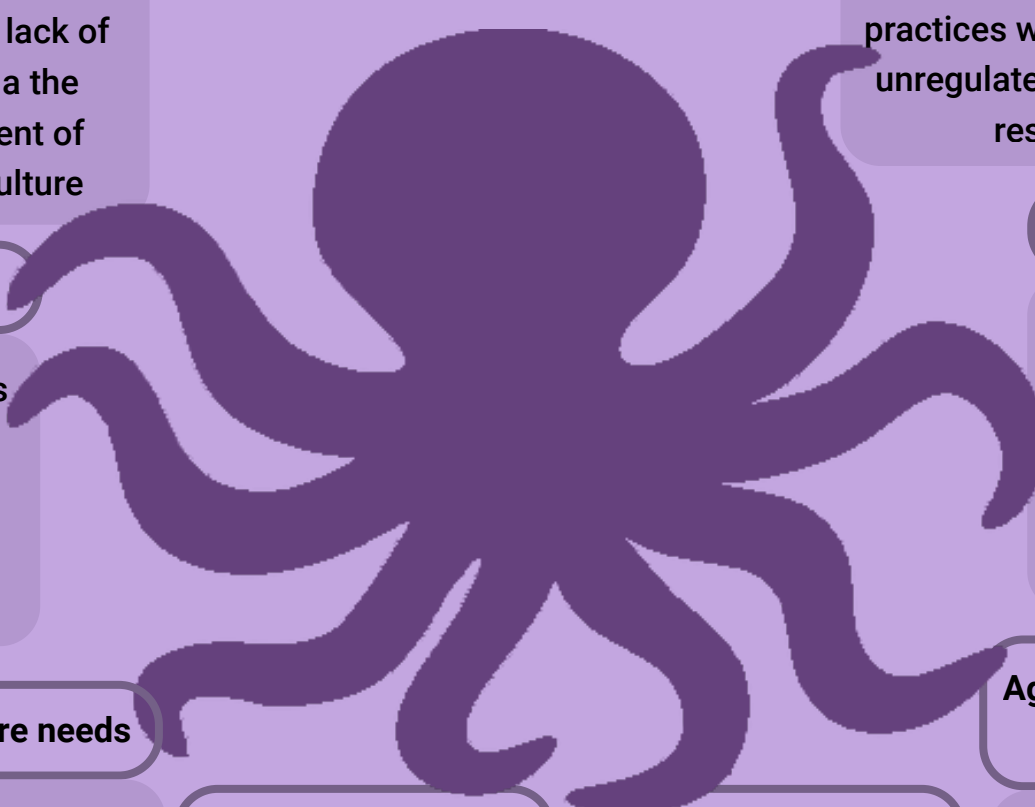


They are capable of interacting and modifying the environment.



They grow fast and the females die after reproducing.

## 8 reasons not to farm me



### Inquisitive & Intelligent

Their remarkable intelligence would lack of sensory input in a the barren environment of intensive aquaculture

### No protective legislation

There are no regulations on octopus welfare and farming practices which allows for an unregulated activity. Who is responsible?

### Solitary

High stocking densities means big crowds which can lead to aggressions and cannibalism

### Inhumane slaughter

There aren't scientifically proven methods. All methods reviewed for wild-caught cause suffering. Due to their nervous systems this a huge difficulty.

### Unknown welfare needs

Is an attempt to farm a wild animal. We don't have enough knowledge to met their needs in captivity

### Against Sustainability strategy

EU Strategic Aquaculture Guidelines encourage reduction of fishmeal and fish oil from wild-caught fish and to diversify into species that do not need it. Octopus diet would increase pressure on fisheries and contribute to food insecurity.

### Fragility

A fragile skin and a jet-propelled locomotion makes easy that they get injured and experience pain in aquaculture

### Carnivorous

Diets based on fishmeal and fish oil will make the cost of producing octopus high and not stable. It will compete with other species already established.

High Mortality

1 in 5 would die

Unsustainable

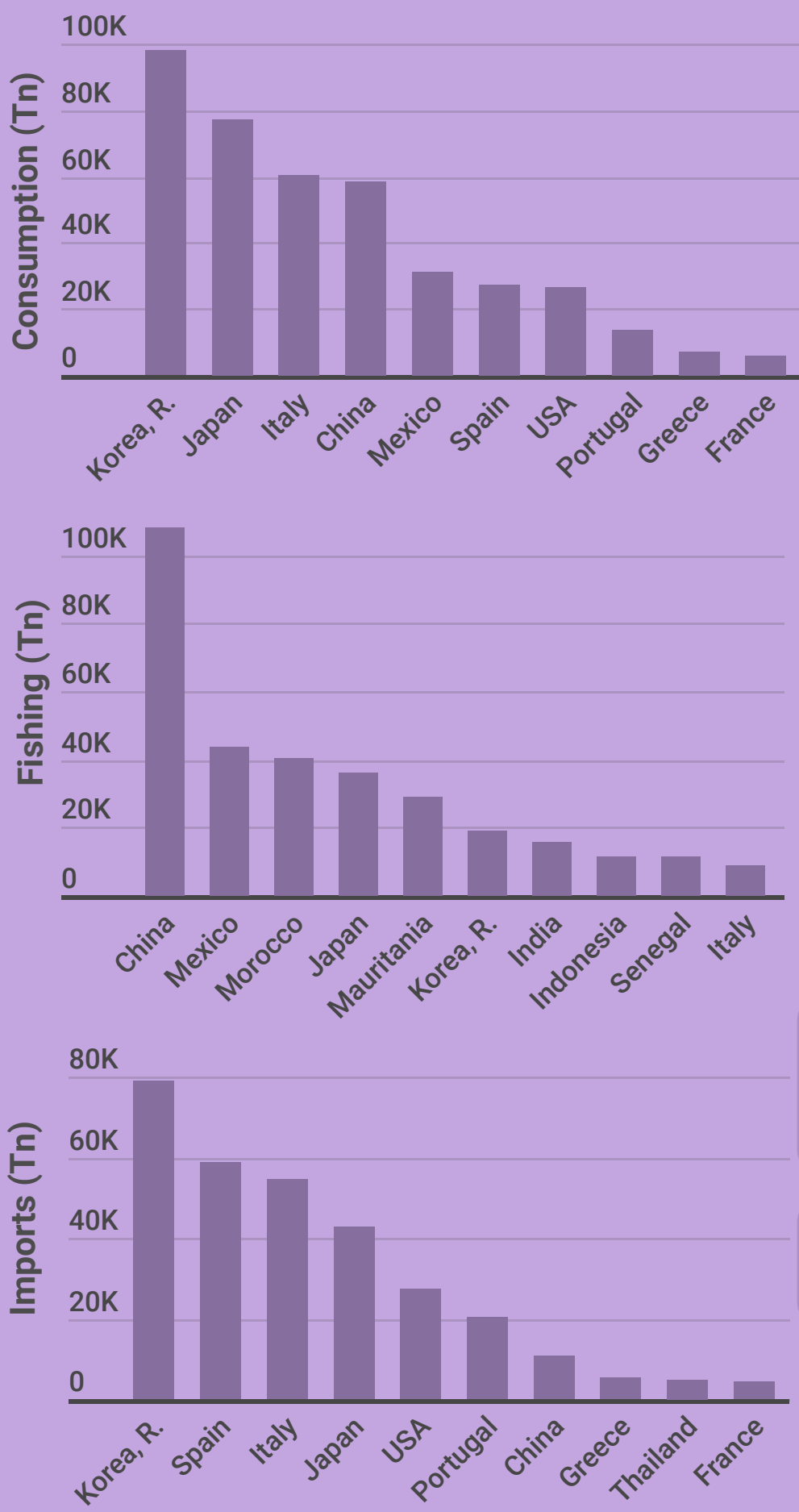
3 kg of feed to gain 1 kg

## The reality of economic development

### Why the desire for aquaculture?

- Fishing and consumption are delocalized
- Worldwide increase of consumption
- Increase of price

Thought that it will be very profitable



### Where is developing?

- Spain
- USA
- Japan
- Mexico

### Issues not resolved

High mortality rates. Cannibalism and escapes.

Reproductive cycle. Parents replaced from the wild

Feeding during early stages. Requires live prey, difficult to obtain.

Feeding during the whole life cycle.

Rearing method needs improvement (tanks, light...)