Subject: Harpoon Hunters Content

Hi, Leigh Purinton. I'm writing on behalf of People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals—PETA entities have more than 10.4 million members and supporters globally—and on behalf of other people who do not belong to PETA but are upset by what they now know. Because times have changed and we have discovered so much more about animals of all kinds than we knew before, we ask that you add a graphic content warning at the beginning of Harpoon Hunters. This would be appropriate in light of a just-published, peer-reviewed study which reaffirms the fact that fish suffer intense pain and distress when pulled from the water and left to asphyxiate.

Like many people who fish, it somehow didn't register even though it was happening right in front of me, that when fish are dragged from what are their underwater homes, they panic, struggle, and gasp for breath as carbon dioxide accumulates in their blood and oxygen depletes—just as humans do when they suffocate. It's clearly a slow and agonizing way to die: This latest study's authors found that depending on the size of the fish, they may experience disabling and even excruciating pain for *at least 10 minutes*—and in some cases, for *over an hour*—before their brains shut down and they become unconscious. And larger fish, like those targeted by the participants on your show, suffer longer.

Given all this, broadcasting footage of terrified, suffering animals as they struggle to escape nets and sharp hooks has to be considered as barbaric as doing the same thing to a dog, and a message warning viewers about your show's graphic and disturbing content is appropriate and necessary.

Thanks for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,



R. Mason Payne, DVM, cVMA