

## Sustainable Advisory Collective

<u>Team Member Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Major</u>
<b>Member 1:</b> Aashna Shah	2026	Finance
<b>Member 2:</b> Erica Phan	2024	OIM
<b>Member 3:</b> Riley Linden	2024	Finance
<b>Member 4:</b> Aash Nanduri	2025	OIM & Legal Studies
<b>Member 5:</b> Riya Ramanlal	2026	OIM

**Advisor(s):** Jennifer Merton

**Topic:** Sustainable Aquaculture for Cephalopods

**Audience:** Nueva Pescanova's Board of Directors

## Sustainable Development Goals

**SDG # 14** Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development.

## Executive Summary

Our understanding of cephalopods has expanded as scientific research uncovers amazing new facts about the creatures who share our planet. We have seen octopuses solving puzzles, expressing likes and dislikes, and forming a bond with their caretakers. The possible sentience of octopuses is an important factor to consider when designing the guidelines for their sustainable farming and consumption.

Fishing octopuses is becoming unsustainable as the wild population diminishes rapidly due to the high demand for this species. Many companies, like Nueva Pescanova, have turned to farming octopus to satisfy global needs. The regulatory space has not been supportive of octopus aquaculture, however. In Hawaii, Kanaloa Octopus Farm has been shut down for allegedly breeding octopuses without permits, edging the state of Hawaii toward a ban on octopus farming. In Washington, a bill banning octopus farming is being considered as animal right activists argue that taking care of octopus in captivity is impossible. With many of Nueva Pescanova's competitors being under fire for their practices, it is imperative that the company takes actions to engage in the ethical farming of this species, not only to be ahead of the regulatory curve, but to also be the leader of the industry.

There is debate about the ethics surrounding our interactions with animals. While many argue that animals should be afforded rights like humans, this approach has ethical and legal challenges that make it untenable. Our ethical approach is one of stewardship where the focus is on allowing octopuses in captivity to flourish. While we may not be able to fully understand quality of life for the octopus, improvements in feeding techniques, living spaces, and continuous updates in research about octopuses will support the responsible aquaculture of this creature, while protecting it from diminishing in populations in future years. From these innovations, best practices can be created and adopted in a financially viable and ethically robust structure that will help the company maintain their obligations to their human stakeholders, and marine life.