

How to get a letter published in a newspaper expressing concerns about octopus farming

This could be getting a letter published in a national newspaper in a country where your government has spent public funds on research into octopus farming, or, if you live in Gran Canaria, you may wish to get a letter published in a local newspaper expressing your concerns about the octopus farm planned by Nueva Pescanova.

How to write your letter for publication:

- Go to the publication's website and look for 'About us' or 'Contact us' where you can usually find an email address for the 'Letters Editor' or 'Letters to the editor'
- For the best chance of it being published, keep the letter short and concise, ideally between 100 and 200 words, and use your own words (see our example below for inspiration).
- Address the letter to 'Dear Editor' and include your name and address at the end (the publication requires this to verify that you are a resident of the country/community, although they will not publish it).
- Email the letter and use 'Letter for publication' in the subject line.
- Please note that the Editor is not obliged to publish your letter but if you follow these tips, you will increase your chance of success.

Key points to include:

- Open with a short, leading sentence that summarises your concerns.
- Explain WHY this is relevant to readers e.g. taxpayers like you and the publications' readers would not want their money being spent on research into such a cruel and unsustainable practice OR residents in Gran Canaria may share your concerns about a commercial octopus farm operating in their community.
- Include a few succinct factual points that demonstrate the evidence behind your concerns. You can find more details about octopus farming [here](#).
- Demonstrate that you are passionate about the issue, but ensure your letter is considered and not overly emotional.
- Conclude the letter with a 'call to action', e.g. what you want to happen.

Example 1

Dear Editor,

I have recently learned that the [insert nationality] government has invested public funds—[amount**]—in octopus farming.

[Link to article: [Governments must stop funding octopus farming | Compassion in World Farming International](#)]

I expect that other taxpayers, like me, would be shocked to hear that public money is being invested in this cruel and unsustainable practice.

Octopuses are highly intelligent and naturally solitary wild animals who belong in the open ocean. Subjecting them to the high stocking densities typical of farming systems would cause immense suffering.

Octopus farming would also negatively impact the environment and food security. Feeding farmed octopuses requires capturing large quantities of wild fish and other marine life, contributing to overfishing, and also posing a threat to vulnerable communities around the world that rely on wild-caught fish for food.

I strongly believe that public funds should only be used to support ethical and sustainable farming practices. I, therefore, urge the [insert nationality] government to introduce a ban on octopus farming and to divert funds used for research towards responsible, cruelty-free food practices that benefit animals, people, and our planet.

Yours sincerely,

Example 2

Dear Editor,

As a resident of Gran Canaria, I'm writing to express serious concerns over plans by seafood company Nueva Pescanova to develop the world's first commercial octopus farm on the island.

As well as causing immense cruelty to these highly intelligent and naturally solitary wild animals, this farm would threaten public health, as well as local marine protected areas and wildlife such as dolphins and turtles.

Octopus farming is also unsustainable as it involves feeding them large quantities of wild fish and other marine life, contributing to overfishing. This practice also poses a threat to vulnerable communities around the world that rely on wild-caught fish for food.

We must protect Gran Canaria and keep it a haven for wildlife. Octopuses belong in our oceans, not in factory farms. Please support the campaign to stop octopus farming by signing Compassion in World Farming's [petition](#).

Yours sincerely,