POLICY #14: INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC) POLICY ON APPROVED NUMBERS FOR FAUNAL SURVEYS AND BREEDING COLONIES

Purpose: The following policy has been developed for AUPs which involve field work and/or breeding colonies.

Accurately predicting the number of animals to be used on Animal Use Protocols (AUP’s) which involve field work that use faunal surveys of fish, small wildlife and breeding colonies of fishes and amphibians can be difficult. Faunal surveys and community measures like species diversity, by their very nature, require thorough samples in order for the science to be rigorous. Most fishes and amphibians have high reproductive potentials or fecundities so Principal Investigators (PIs) can only predict how many animals each reproductive season or cycle will produce.

For these reasons, PIs should provide estimates of the numbers of animals needed on an AUP based upon past experience or other reliable sources of information. Numbers of animals approved in these types of protocols will be labeled as estimates.

When PIs submit their annual continuing reviews, which include actual numbers of animals sampled or breeding colony size, the Chair of the IACUC and the University Veterinarian will evaluate the included written report. The approved numbers in the protocol will be adjusted accordingly based upon the reports provided by PIs.