Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee
Clemson University

POLICY #35: INSTITUTIONAL ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE (IACUC) POLICY FOR FISH HEALTH SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM (FHSP)

Clemson’s Fish Health Surveillance Program (FHSP) requires all Principal Investigators holding fish develop an individualized plan to monitor the health of their fish culture for as long as it is active. Collectively, the FHSP will assist in assuring the health and welfare of university animals, help assure the integrity and repeatability of experimental results, and help protect personnel from zoonotic infection. All fish cultures are covered under this Policy. See Aquatic Animal Research Laboratory (AARL) SOP 104-04-XX for additional information.

Two Levels of Fish Health Monitoring

- Daily health monitoring must be performed for all fish and recorded

**Level 1:** Fish cultures used for research, display, demonstration, or behavioral teaching:
  - Sick fish must be reported to PI, AARL Facility Manager and Attending Veterinarian (AV).
  - Sick fish will be isolated and treated or euthanized.
  - In some cases, diagnostic laboratories may be needed to assist in diagnosis.

**Level 2:** Fish cultures expected to be housed for more than one year and used to produce offspring or embryos for experimental use or culture replenishment:
  - Initial and routine periodic pathogen screening must be performed.
  - Sick fish must be reported to PI, AARL Facility Manager and AV.
  - Sick fish will be isolated and treated or euthanized.
  - Sick fish may be sent to a diagnostic lab for pathogen identification and a recommended treatment plan.

**Responsibility:** The Principal Investigator, in consultation with the AV, the AARL Facility Manager, or other fish health experts is responsible for developing, implementing and maintaining their FHSP. Initial and routine health surveillance is the responsibility of the PI and should be reported at the time of annual review. The AV is responsible for sick fish diagnostics.

**Approval:** The AV will determine the level of health monitoring prior to animal use proposal (AUP), submission, usually during pre-submission consultation with the AV. A clear and detailed plan must be included in the AUP or a separate SOP must be submitted along with the AUP application. Additional numbers of fish may be requested to provide enough fish for health monitoring. Consultation with a fish disease consultant or diagnostic lab is recommended to determine sampling frequency and diagnostic panel selection. The plan should be detailed enough to indicate sample frequency and volume, procedures for sample preparation, procedures for shipping and procedures for reporting diagnostic results.