

1



## PILA/B Fish

Paul Schroeder BSc (Hons) Biol., MSc (Fish Biol.), DVM, PhD, MRCVS

1

3

## PILA&K Fish

3

LO: 3.1.1

5

## Fishes

Suitable definition: "Craniate, gilled ectothermic aquatic animals with limbs in the shape of fins and lacking digits. These morphological traits can have evolved homologically or analogously."

*Edward Branson, Fish Welfare (2008)*

Not a systematic term!

5

2

## AGENDA

- Introduction and quiz
- Introduction to fish biology & welfare
- Husbandry, biosecurity & disease prevention
- Fish anaesthesia & Sch1
- Minor procedures & severity assessments
- Refinements
- Breakout session
- Written Assessment (20 minutes)

2

LO: 3.1.1

4

## Introduction to fish biology and the most popular research species

4

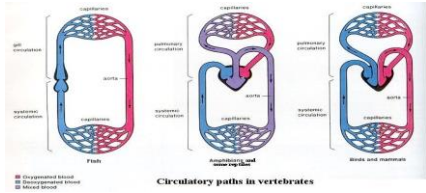
LO: 3.1.1

6



6

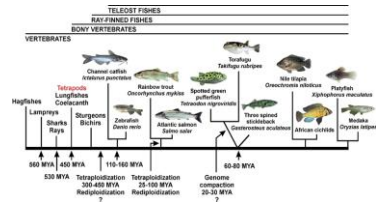
### Overview of fish biology



www.Nature.com

7

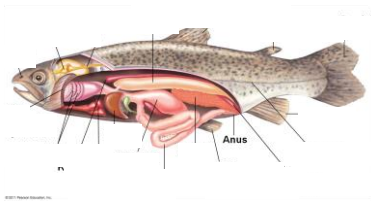
### Overview of fish biology



www.Nature.com

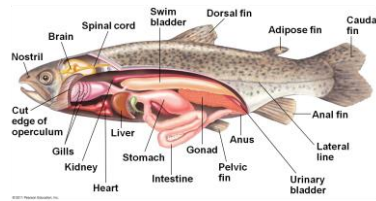
8

### Fish Anatomy



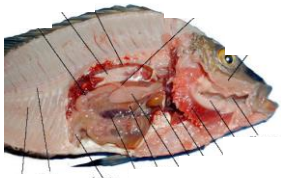
9

### Fish Anatomy



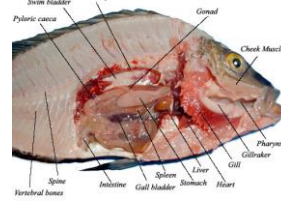
10

### Fish Anatomy



11

### Fish Anatomy



12

LO: 3.1.1

13

## Fish Anatomy

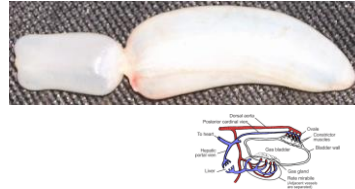


13

LO: 3.1.1

14

## Some (more or less) unique anatomical features



14

LO: 3.1.1

15

## Some (more or less) unique morphological and physiological features

- No thoracic diaphragm
- No middle ear
- No limbs or limb girdles
- Swim bladder (teleosts)
- Bony fin rays without skeletal support
- Otoliths
- Heart consists of single chamber
- 95% of gas exchange through gills, 5% through skin

15

LO: 3.1.1

16

## How we should classify fishes in research facilities

- Small warm freshwater - modular re-circulation systems



- Freshwater (cold water aquaculture)



- Marine (cold water)



- Marine (warm water)



16

LO: 3.1.1

17

## How the Home Office classifies fishes in research facilities

- Zebrafish
- Freshwater fishes: typical species trout & carp
- Marine fishes: typical species seabass & salmon

17

LO: 3.1.1

18

## Zebra fish

- Zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) – small **shoaling** members of Cyprinidae family (carps & minnows)
- Max total length 50mm, weight up to 1.8g
- **Sexually mature 12 weeks after hatching**
- **Photoperiodic breeders – right after sunrise**
- **Females spawn every 2-3d, producing clutches of 100-200 eggs**
- **Larvae hatch 2-3d pf at 28.5°C**
- Live up to 5 years
- Natural geographic range: South and South East Asia (Pakistan to Myanmar)
- Habitat: well oxygenated (>5mg dissolved O<sub>2</sub>/l) freshwater - slow flowing streams, flooded plains, rice paddies; water temperature range 14-34°C (in captivity - ideally 26-29 °C)
- Diet: copepods & other small crustaceans, insects & insect larvae, zooplankton...



18

LO: 3.1.1

19

## Zebra fish use

- Zebrafish popular aquarium species before development of ZF research model
- Fast development (motile transparent larvae 48h post fertilization), rapid wound regeneration, cheap husbandry → ideal for toxicology, surgical models and genetic research
- 2<sup>nd</sup> most common (appr. 15% of total) animal used in scientific procedures
- As vertebrates, zebrafish are protected under ASPA from the time they can feed independently (day 5 p.f.)
- some husbandry recommendations in Home Office CoP (max 5 fish/litre, unspecified structural enrichment)



19

LO: 3.1.1

20

## Freshwater fishes



20

LO: 3.1.1

37

## Marine species



37

LO: 3.1.1

38

## European seabass

- Protected under ASPA from 6dph (7-10 days pf)
- **Temperature** 15-25°C
- **Diet:** rotifera, artemia & nauplii from d6ph;
- D40-50ph: transfer to nurseries & transition from live prey to granulates
- Commercial fish meal & fish oil pellets
- In the wild: slow growing species that takes several years to **reach full adulthood (4-7y)**
- Wild seabass can grow to **1m/12kg (females); 7kg (males)**
- AQ: 1.5-2 years to slaughter (350-500g)
- Seasonal migration from **summer coastal feeding to winter offshore spawning grounds**

38

LO: 3.1.1

39

## European seabass

- *Dicentrarchus labrax*
- Salt- and brackish coastal waters; NW Atlantic incl. Mediterranean
- "Pioneer" species for marine aquaculture (sustainable seafood, aquaponics)



Regulated procedures UK:

- Nutritional research
- Physiological studies
- Marine ecotoxicology



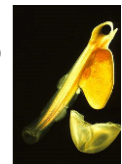
39

LO: 3.1.1

40

## Atlantic Salmon

- **Atlantic Salmon** (*Salmo salar*)
- N Atlantic and tributaries;
- Anadromous (landlocked forms exist)
- "Classic" commercial aquaculture species (since early 1980s)
- Hatcheries & nurseries (FW)
- Grow out/fattening (SW) in sea pens/sea cages;
- Or combined egg to table aquaculture facilities
- Slaughter weight 3kg after 1.5-2 (organic: 3) years
- Perennial disease issues: sealice, ISA etc.

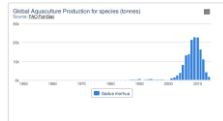


40

### Wild caught species

- e.g. **spiny dogfish** (*Squalus acanthias*)
- Temperate coastal waters S & N hemisphere
- Sexual maturity >20yo
- Ovoviviparous
- Caught by anglers & trawl bycatch
- Optimal temperature 7-14°C
- Poor survival in conventional recirc systems
- e.g. **Atlantic cod** (*Gadus morua*)
- Continental shelf Atlantic N of 40° latitude
- Mature at 3-5yo
- Usually young fish (<1.5yo) caught by coastal angling but heavy transfer losses
- Adults survive in conventional recirc systems (11-15°C)

POLE needs to be specified in PPL application!



45

Between evidence base & speciesism – paradigms and debates on fish welfare

48

### Marine fish

- Can usually tolerate wide range of salinities as they are excellent osmoregulators
- Grading - Separating by size cohorts to minimize aggression and cannibalism
- Though in saltwater ammonia and nitrite has less toxicity relative to FW but still needs to be monitored; high stocking densities can produce extreme levels!!
- Feeding - Give sufficient quantities to avert aggression and competition stress
- Sourcing? Not Sch2 - e.g. commercial AQ Wild caught – POLE
- Health issues – hygiene, C&D, screening to limit parasites & viral diseases

46

### Fishes as subject of animal welfare science



49

11,000,000 – 80,000,000 fish/year



50

10,000,000-20,000,000 fish per/year



51

4,000,000,000,000 fish per year



52

Fish in laboratories

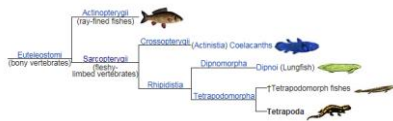
- 470 000 fish procedures in UK 2018, 82% of which ZF (HO returns, 2019)
- Worldwide estimate: >3,250 institutes in >100 countries work with zebrafish and >5 million are used per year Lidster K, Readman GD, Prescott MJ, Owen SF (2017) International survey on the use and welfare of zebrafish in research. Journal of Fish Biology doi:10.1111/jfb.13278



53

Humans are fish...

- (cladistically) as all tetrapods, including mammals, stem from lobe finned fishes emerging during the Devonian period



54

First steps in recognising pain sensitivity in fish & the perennial debate on sentience

55

General principles in fish welfare – pain sensitivity?

Sentience - “the capacity to feel, perceive, or experience subjectively”

Prof.dr. F.J. Verheijen (1920 - )  
Gemeen boogkierst De vergifkennende fysiologie vanaf 1 augustus 1973



56

General principles in fish welfare –pain sensitivity?

Verheijen (1983):

- Hooked and released 30 juvenile carp:
- Reactions to hook – spitting, headshaking (even with slack line) – “pain” ?
- Buoyancy changes due to expulsion of spitgas when line was pulled taught



57

LO: 5.2

58

## General principles in fish welfare – pain sensitivity?

Verheijen (1983):

- Different behavioural pattern when line was kept slack
- ↑ time to feeding, erratic behaviours – fear, anxiety (?)



58

LO: 5.2

59

## General principles in fish welfare – pain sensitivity?

Verheijen (1983):

- Work was partially funded by the Dutch Angling Society who subsequently refused permission for international publication of results;
- First mentioned in New Scientist feature in 1987; now considered seminal work

59

LO: 5.2

60

## General principles in fish welfare – pain sensitivity?

Sneddon (2003):

- 3 nociceptor types on head of rainbow trout, A-δ and C fibres in trigeminal ganglion
- nociceptive events could change the motivational state of trout & post nociceptive behaviours after injection of acetic acid and bee venom:
- Lip rubbing, ↓↑OBR, ↓activity



60

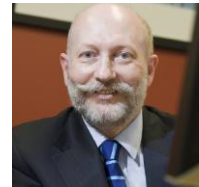
LO: 5.2

61

## “Why fish do not feel pain”

Brian Key (2016)

“Accepting at face that fish may feel pain (...) comparable to believing causal association between MMR vaccination and the development of autism in children”



61

LO: 5.2

62

## “Why fish do not feel pain”

Brian Key (2016)

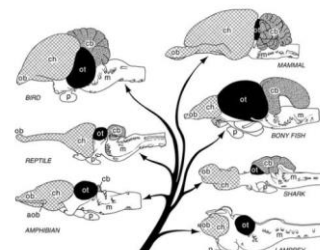
- Devastating consequences through legislative restrictions on fish-related activities with potentially serious negative implications for
  - native subsistence fishing,
  - human food supply
  - economic development
- “Benefit of the doubt” argument can quickly lead to unsupported anthropomorphic conclusions



62

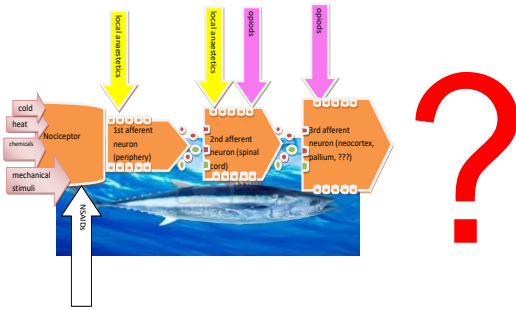
LO: 5.2

63



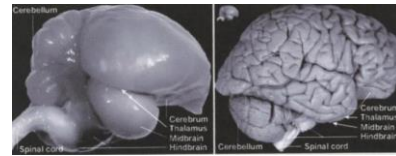
63

LO: 5.2 64

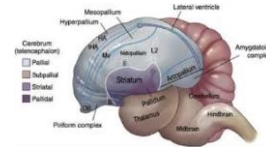


64

LO: 5.2 65



Jarvis et al. (2005)



65

LO: 5.2 67

### Speciesism



67

LO: 5.2 68



68

LO: 5.2 69



69

LO: 5.2 70



70



**Conclusion**  
 The Cöttingen Mini pig is increasingly being selected for all aspects of pharmaceutical research

- The smallest of all commercially available mini- and micro pigs
- Available in large uniform groups
- Well defined and managed genetics
- Well-defined health status
- More and more available background data
- Easy to **fall for one's own**, socialize and train for scientific procedures
- **More accepted by the general public**

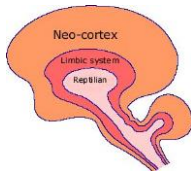
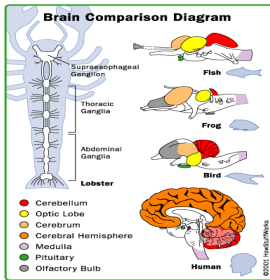
71

### Speciesism

- Assigning certain value on membership of a specific genetic clade/species/taxon
- For example – special protection for dogs, cats & horses under European laboratory animal legislation (but not pigs, psittacines..)

72

### Fish – sentient species?



[brainevolution.html](http://brainevolution.html)

73

### Fish – sentient species?

- Birds and reptiles would be equally incapable of any “higher” response as they do not possess a neocortex
- Different species can use different neurological structures and systems to handle the same functions
- E.g. avian pallium => functional rather than structural homologies between avian and mammalian brains

Jarvis, Güntürkün et al. 2005

74

### The perennial debate...



Key: Brian (2016) *Why fish do not feel pain* *Animal Sentience* 2016.003

Author Website  
<http://www.usc.edu/aubornestaff/briankey>

**Abstract** Only humans can report feeling pain. In contrast, pain in animals is typically inferred on the basis of nonverbal behaviour. Unfortunately, these behavioural data can be problematic when the reliability and validity of the behavioural tests are questionable. The thesis proposed here is based on the bioengineering principle that structure determines function. Basic functional homologies can be mapped to structural homologies across a broad spectrum of vertebrate species. For example, olfaction depends on olfactory glomeruli in the olfactory bulbs of the forebrain, visual orientation responses depend on the laminated optic tectum in the midbrain, and locomotion depends on pattern generators in the spinal cord. **Human brain that is directly responsible for feeling painful stimuli. The principal structure in this region is identified and then used as biomarkers to infer whether fish are, at least, anatomically capable of feeling pain. Using this strategy, I conclude that fish lack the necessary neuroanatomical, microstructural, and structural connectivity for the neural processing required for feeling pain.**

**Fish do not feel pain and its implications for understanding phenomenal consciousness**

Brian Key

Received 18 April 2016; accepted 10 October 2016; published online 18 December 2016  
 © The Author(s) 2016. This article published with open access at [springerplus.com](http://springerplus.com)

**Abstract** Phenomenal consciousness or the subjective experience of feeling sensory stimuli is fundamental to human existence. Because of the ubiquity of this subjective experience, humans seem to readily accept the anthropomorphic extension of these mental states to other animals. Humans will typically extrapolate feelings of pain or anxiety if they respond physiologically and behaviourally in various stimuli. The alternative view that fish instead respond to various stimuli reflexively and with a limited behavioural repertoire is difficult within the context of our current understanding of the neuroanatomy and neurophysiology of mental states. Consequently, a set of fundamental properties of neural tissue necessary for feeling pain or experiencing affective states in vertebrates is proposed. While mammals and birds possess the proposed neural architecture for phenomenal consciousness, it is concluded that fish lack these essential elements and hence do not feel pain.

human brain that is directly responsible

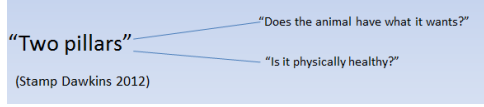
75

### Speciesism

- Assigning certain value on membership of a specific genetic clade/species/taxon

76

State of (zebra)fish welfare today



77

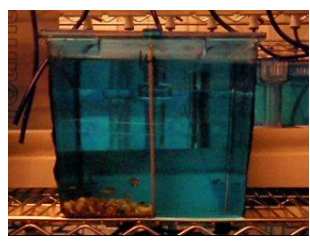


78

Does the animal have what it wants?

Paul Schroeder, Soffia Jones, Iain S Young and Lynne U Sneddon (2014): What do zebrafish want? Impact of social grouping, dominance and gender on preference for enrichment. *Laboratory Animals* 48 (4) 328-327

- Most enrichment cues significantly preferred over barren environment except airstones (significantly avoided)
- Images of (gravel) substrate alone sufficient to elicit preference behaviour, attracting occupancy rates almost as high as the actual substrate

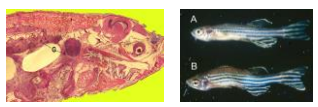


79

80

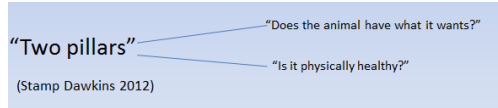
Is the animal healthy?

- Microsporidiosis
- *Pseudoloma neurophilia*. “skinny fish disease” or scoliosis
- 90-95% prevalence in European ZF facilities (estimate, QM Diagnostics, 2015) with 10-30% of healthy fish and 90% of emaciated fish infected (Matthews et al. 2001)
- **Diagnosis** – histology; PCR (water, eggs)
- **Control** - Pre-screening all brood fish by PCR → *Pseudoloma* free stock.



81

State of (zebra)fish welfare today



82

83

**Husbandry:**  
housing, breeding & production, nutrition,  
transport, GMOs

83

LO: 4.2

84

## General - Water quality

- Fish ectothermic, water passing **by** and passing **through**
- There is nowhere to hide if anything is wrong with tank water



84

LO: 4.2

85

## Water quality

- PH 6.8-7.6 (ZF); 6.8-8.0 (trout) optimal;
- Temperature 26-29° (ZF); 22-24° (seabass); 8-15° (salmon)
- Conductivity 3-500 ms
- Salinity 1-3 ppt



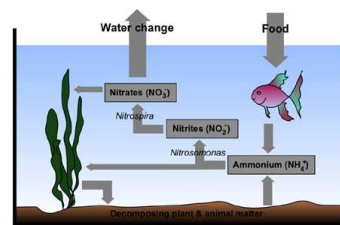
Buffering to resist changes in pH;  
50-150mg/L CaCO<sub>3</sub>

85

LO: 4.2

86

## Water quality



86

LO: 4.2

87

## Ammonia, nitrite and nitrate

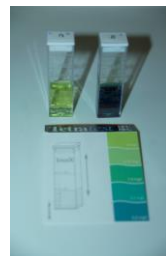
- Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>/NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup>): Either dissolved as ammonium ions or more dangerously as free ammonia.
- Levels of free ammonia increase with increased pH or temperature.
- Ideally < 0.06ppm, toxic > 0.3ppm.
- Nitrite less toxic than ammonia.
- Toxic from 0.5 mg/l; death at levels > 10mg/l
- Nitrate depends on bacterial nitrification (final product in the nitrogen cycle)
- Recommended maximum 50mg/l

87

LO: 4.2

88

## Ammonia, nitrite and nitrate



88

LO: 4.2

89

## Temperature

- Fish should be kept "as close to natural environmental temperature" (CoP) yet this is 12-34°C (*Zebrafish in the wild; Engesser et al. 2004*)
- **Zebrafish**
  - Optimum temperature of 26-29°C
  - Above 31°C and below 25°C → decreased breeding performance.
  - Room temperature at 25°C as temperature buffer.
- **Rainbow trout**
  - 12-20°C
  - Room temperature 14°C
- **Common carp**
  - 14-20°C
  - Room temperature 14-17°C

89

LO: 4.2

90

## Temperature change

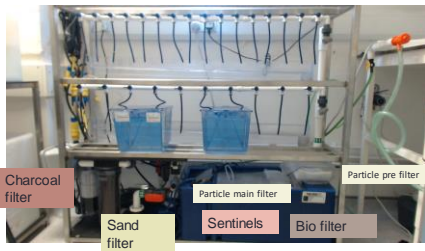
- Osmo-regulatory dysfunction.
- Suppression of immune system.
- Loss of equilibrium.
- High temp. - Increased activity.
- Low temp – Ataxia and coma.

90

LO: 4.2

91

## Filtration



91

LO: 4.2

92

## Filtration



92

LO: 4.2

93

## Housing - zebrafish

- For ZF - facility sizes vary from one tabletop rack to those with tens of thousands of tanks (ZF Resource Center Karlsruhe, Sanger Institute).



93

LO: 4.2

94

## Housing - zebrafish



94

97

## Nutrition

97

LO: 3.1.5 &amp; 4.6

99

## Feed related hazards

- Overfeed
  - Obesity
  - Accumulation & degradation in tank edges, overflows
  - Overload of physical & biological filtration process; displacement & overgrowth of denitrifiers by decomposition bacteria
  - Increased resistance for effluent leg of recirc system, slowing down water replacement
  - Can lead to increased circulating microorganisms/pathogens – as fine waste food particles & pigments may pass through physical & biofilters, reducing efficacy of UV filtration through shading



99

LO: 3.1.5 &amp; 4.6

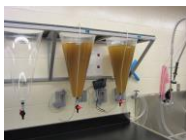
101

## Zebrafish/medaka/guppy nutrition

- Minimum requirement:
  - ZF & medaka < 10-12 days typically fed Paramecium
  - ZF & medaka > 10-12 days dried flakes 000 with feed particle size increased progressively from then
- Guppies: fry formula or paramecium <3weeks, flakes for older fish
- Live feeds with artemia at least 2-3 times per week (ideally daily)

**AVOID TUBIFEX & DAPHNIA!**

**AVOID OVERFEEDING!!**



101

LO: 3.1.5 &amp; 4.6

98

## Feeding – presentation, frequency, hazards

- Controlled ration vs ad libitum
- Timed vs continuous
- Frequent (several times/day) vs infrequent (once/day or less)
- Pellet/commercial vs live/natural feeds
- Depends on species requirements: energy expenditure (breeding, activity levels & metabolic state as well as digestive morphology)
  - Example: ZF – controlled ration, timed, frequent, commercial & live
  - Example: Juvenile carp (cool water system) infrequent, commercial, timed ad libitum
  - Example: Juvenile carp (warm water system) frequent, natural & commercial, timed, controlled ration

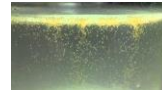
98

LO: 3.1.5 &amp; 4.6

100

## Feed related hazards

- Live feed as vector for parasites
  - cultured in freshwater, veritable "bacterial soups," shown to support diverse microbial communities, including *Vibrio*.
  - Commonly utilized zooplankton species indiscriminately feed on bacteria, it is entirely possible that they would then have infective potential if they ingested pathogens and then in turn were themselves ingested by fish.
  - Documented cases not limited to *Vibrio*: "*Paramecium caudatum*, a commonly utilized prey item for first feeding zebrafish, experimentally enhanced transmission of both *Mycobacterium chelonae* and *M. marinum* to zebrafish larvae"



100

LO: 3.1.5 &amp; 4.6

102

## Zebrafish nutrition

- Survival and subsequent health status of juvenile ZF related to:

1. Frequency of feed
1. swift removal of uneaten food remainders

Not so much feed brand/type!

102

LO: 3.1.5 &amp; 4.6

103

## Trout/salmon/seabass nutrition

- Adult salmonids and bass feed on variety of invertebrates e.g., freshwater shrimp, aquatic and terrestrial insects, and small fishes.
- Fry can be weaned onto an artificial diet.
  - Starter feeds, starting from when approximately 50% have reached the 'swim-up' stage.
  - When most fish actively feeding, give 10% of their weight daily for 2–3 weeks.
  - When fish reach 15–25 mm long feeding based on temperature and fish size.
  - Overfeeding must be avoided.
  - Fish moved to larger tanks to reduce density as they grow.
- Adults fed pelleted diet as a % of body weight (typically 1-2%) depending on how much growth you want!

103

LO: 4.7 &amp; 7.1

104

## Fish handling, capture & restraint

- Fish are invariably stressed through all forms of handling
- Struggle during capture in wild and captive environment
- Significant damage to eyes, gills, epidermis & scales can result from rough handling, followed by osmoregulatory & neurological pathology
- For larger ornamental or AC species, sedation may be necessary prior to netting



104

LO: 4.7 &amp; 7.1

105

## Capture & netting

- Some management activities e.g. cleaning of the tank, moving fish to another tank, require netting.
- Suitable non-abrasive/knotless net
- Attempt to reduce chasing with a net during capture.
- Ensure that fish are out of water for the shortest possible time.
- Well-established routines should be applied to the care to both minimize the frequency of cleaning and the moving of fish.
- Zebrafish, medaka, guppies and other small ornamental breeds are caught and transferred from tank to tank by the use of soft non-abrasive nets to minimise any stress and damage to scales and skin.
- Any skin damage should be avoided as this may lead to infection.



105

LO: 4.7 &amp; 7.1

106

## Handling & restraint

- Handle with clean, soap free, moist hands or gloves.
- Place animals onto plastic covered foam or soft moist cloth to avoid skin abrasions.
- Larger fish may require restraining device for quick out-of-water procedures

106

LO: 4.10

107

## Breeding/production systems

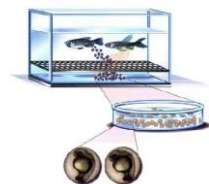
107

LO: 4.10

108

## Breeding systems - ZF

- "Low tech" breeding systems or fully automated nurseries
- Install screens to stop egg predation
- Install enrichment cues to encourage spawning
- Select and monitor brood stock
- Natural or in vitro fertilization



108

### Breeding systems - ZF

- Select fertilized eggs
- Keep in fry tanks or deep petri dishes
- Frequent water change & removal of dead eggs/larvae
- Feed Paramecium from day 5 pf



109

### Fish Transport

- ZF, medaka, sticklebacks, juvenile carp - adults or juveniles in bags (system water) in insulated boxes
- For medaka & ZF>3 months no more than 5 fish/l
- Air pocket must be locked into bag!
- Post transport quarantine
- Careful of any **netting damage- skin surface delicate!**
- Large fish
- Barrelled in groups or bagged individually as above - lower temperature (within species appropriate range) for longer transport to reduce oxygen demand. Ideally no longer than 2h
- Consider alternative methods for short distances – pipes, chutes



110

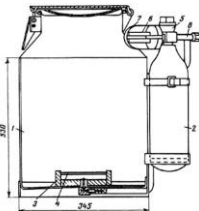
### Transport

- Transport stressful to all fish species, resulting immunosuppression and ↓ oxygen can lead to high transport mortality
- Higher oxygen demand with higher temperatures
- Published loading rates in need of revision
- Allow for temperature acclimation pre and post transport

Weight (in kg) of channel catfish that can be transported per liter of 18°C water (Piper et al., 1982)

Number of fish per bag	Travel distance (km)		
	0	12	48
2	0.75	0.66	0.57
4	0.37	0.33	0.28
6	0.25	0.22	0.19
8	0.19	0.16	0.14
10	0.15	0.13	0.11
15	0.11	0.09	0.08
20	0.08	0.07	0.06
30	0.05	0.04	0.04
40	0.04	0.03	0.03
50	0.03	0.03	0.03
100	0.02	0.02	0.02
200	0.01	0.01	0.01

Piper et al. (1982)



111

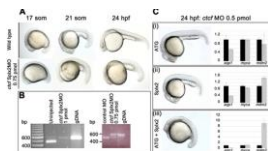
### Genetic modifications

- Morpholinos (knockdowns)
- Transgenics
- Knockouts

112

### Genetic modifications

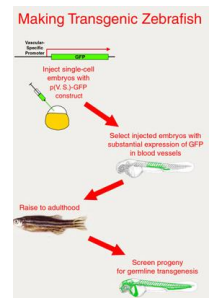
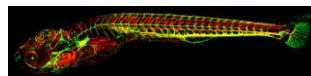
- Morpholinos (knockdowns) used in molecular biology to modify gene expression. DNA bases attached to a backbone of methylenemorpholine rings. Morpholinos block access of small (~25 base) specific sequences of the base-pairing surfaces of ribonucleic acid (mRNA). Morpholinos are used as research tools for reverse genetics by knocking down gene function.



113

### Genetic modifications

#### Transgenics



114

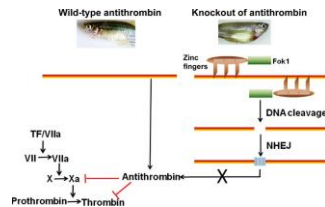
LO: 3.1.7 &amp; 4.11 &amp; 3.1.8

115

## Genetic modifications

### Knockouts

- ↑ membrane permeability with electroporation before chemically induced DNA cleavage



115

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

117

## Diseases



117

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

119

## Examination

- External - **Fish behavior**
- Flashing (rubbing on the sides of tanks), may indicate external parasites.
- Cessation of feeding, lethargy, loss of equilibrium, abnormal position in the aquarium (e.g., at surface or bottom).
- Abnormal respiratory pattern (gill damage, other stress).
- whirling or spiralling swimming often indicates neurological damage.

119

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

116

## Husbandry – biosecurity & disease prevention

116

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

118

## General

- Relatively little knowledge on ZF diseases
- No "known viral pathogens" in research facilities (but some suspicious cases)
- Several persistent infections with high morbidity but low mortality, affecting many facilities.
- As with other laboratory animals used in research, imperative to conduct studies with disease-free fish ([Kent 2009](#)).
- Unlike rodent models, where there are many certified specific pathogen free (SPF) strains, it is early days still for SPF stocks of zebrafish

118

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

120

## Further examination

- **Necropsy** conducted on diseased fish that are collected while still alive
- Several affected fish should be examined whenever possible
- Include apparently normal, asymptomatic fish to detect early pathological changes
- Dead fish – CAVEAT post-mortem autolysis.

120



### Further examination



121

### Further examination

- **Close up examination** with stereo dissecting microscope.
- Surface abnormalities (e.g., frayed fins, cloudy eyes, ulcers, skin discolorations, parasites, and tumors).
- Prepare wet mounts of skin mucus/scales by scraping surface of fish with glass cover → put on slide; reduce light and lower condenser for higher contrast

122

### Preservation for diagnosis (zebrafish.org)

Preservation methods of fish tissues and their uses in fish disease diagnostic examinations. +++ = optimal; ++ = satisfactory in most cases; + = suboptimal, can be used if no other tissue available; 0 = useless.

	Live	Iced	Frozen	Preserved *
Parasitology	+++	++	+	+
Bacteriology	+++	+	+	0
Virology	+++	++	+	0
Toxicology	+++	++	+++	0 to +++
Histology	+++	+	+	+++
Electron Microscopy	+++	+	0	+++
PCR	+++	++	+++	+++

\* Preserved in formalin-based fixative (e.g., [Dietrich's Fixative](#)) for histology, glutaraldehyde-based fixative for electron microscopy, 95% ethanol for PCR testing.

123

### Protozoan infections

- **1. Microsporidiosis**
- *Pseudoloma neurophilia* (Matthews et al. 2001)
- “Skinny disease”
- Scoliosis

124



125



126

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

127

## Protozoan infections

- Most "skinny" fish and up to 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of healthy fish infected  
→ infection routinely in normal, healthy appearing fish
- stress causes increased severity of the infection
- **Transmission:** obligate intracellular fungus-like parasites which produces infectious and resistant spore

127

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

129

## Protozoan infections

- **Diagnosis** – histology; spores ovoid to pyriform, with a prominent posterior vacuole, and average 5.4 x 2.7  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- Xenomas within the spinal cord and hindbrain.
- PCR tests (non-invasive test based on PCR of water and eggs in development).
- Pre-screening all brood fish by PCR → Pseudoloma free stock.

129

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

131

## Protozoan infections

- **Ichthyophthirius (white spot/Ich)**
  - Most common disease in FW ornamentals
  - Excessive mucus production, labored breathing, and lethargy
  - White, raised nodules on the skin ("white spot")



131

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

128

## Protozoan infections

- Transmission via the ingestion of infective spore stage;
- Fry fish are very susceptible, and may show more acute form
- Transmitted by feeding on infected carcasses, but also via water in recirc system!

128

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

130

## Protozoan infections

- **Control and Treatment** – UV at 30-50,000  $\mu\text{Wsec/cm}^2$  kills the parasite and thus prevents its transmission in a recirculating system.
- Fumagillin as oral treatment for ornamental fish and aquaculture species (eel, salmon; originally developed for honeybee microsporidiosis).
- Microsporidian spores resistant to disinfectants!
- chlorine levels routinely used by zebrafish facilities (i.e., 25 or 50 ppm for 10 min) not effective for killing spores, especially those persisting in eggs.

130

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

132

## Protozoan infections

- **Treatment/control** - Ich penetrates the epithelium hence difficult to eradicate with external baths or dips.
- Formaldehyde 1:5000; Methylene blue
- Multiple treatments!
- UV filters upstream & downstream, especially in recirc systems
- Quarantine racks with separate recirc/flow through system

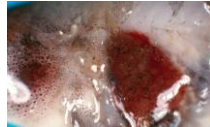
132

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

135

## Bacterial infections

- **Mycobacteriosis (Fish TB)**
- Chronic, systemic bacterial infections by various *Mycobacterium* species
- *M. marinum*, *M. abscessus*, *M. chelonae*, *M. Fortuitum*, *M. peregrinum* and *M. haemophilum* associated with mycobacteriosis in zebrafish



135

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

136

## Bacterial infections

- usually chronic with low level mortality
- rarely acute or peracute with severe losses in ZF colonies.
- Factors responsible for the differences yet to be determined (strain, species, water quality, stress etc.).

136

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

137

## Bacterial infections

- **Zoonosis!** "Fish handlers disease"(usually extremities) which needs aggressive antibiotic treatments, can even be lethal to immune compromised individuals
  - **Wear gloves!** Wash hands after coming in contact with water containing fish, and avoid exposing open lesions to aquarium water and fishes.
  - Most cases of human mycobacteriosis associated with fishes caused by *M. marinum*.
- check that *M. marinum* is covered by AFB scan (if applicable)

137

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

138

## Bacterial infections



138

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

140

## Aquatic health screening – rationale & epidemiology

- What do we screen
- (Epidemiological) Population, a group of conspecific individuals sharing a defined space or medium, so that they have an approximately equal chance of contact with a hypothetical pathogen



140

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

141

## Aquatic health screening – rationale & epidemiology

- Why do we screen?
- Reactive
  - Understanding cause of acute mortality event
  - Morbidity
  - Failure to thrive
  - Known biosecurity breach

141

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

142

## Aquatic health screening – rationale & epidemiology

- Why do we screen?

### Preventive

- ID pathogens before clinical manifestation
- ID pathogens because clinical manifestations other than death are unlikely to be spotted by anyone
- ↓ Statistical noise (screening for infections which result in confounding subclinical conditions)
- Protect human health (screening for zoonotic pathogens such as *Mycobacterium* spp., *Aerisakia* etc.)
- Quality assurance of genetic integrity, especially inbred strains bred and maintained in facility
- Environmental factors (quality of feed, water, and bedding; lighting; noise; etc) that can affect colony health.



142

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

143

## Aquatic health screening – rationale & epidemiology

- How do we screen?

Indirect (e.g., tank water)

### Direct:

- non lethal, non invasive (e.g. faeces)
- Non lethal, minimally invasive (e.g. mucus swab from gills or skin)
- Non lethal, moderately invasive (e.g. scale extraction, peripheral blood sample, gill biopsy, fin clip, stripping)
- Non lethal, highly invasive (e.g. liver biopsy, surgical egg removal)
- Lethal (whole fish or tissue samples)

143

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

144

## Aquatic health screening – rationale & epidemiology

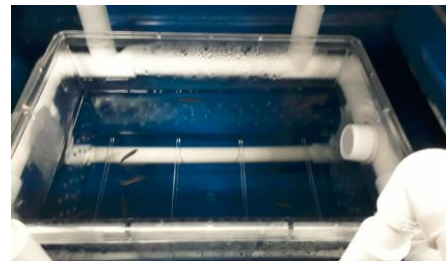
If samples are to be sent away, live fish usually preferred  
e.g. CR Health Surveillance 360 Diagnostics™

Testing Type	Required Sample Type(s)
Signature Health Inspection	65 live fish selected randomly from the population
Diagnostic Investigation	10 live fish; ideally some, or all, of the fish submitted will be moribund, or displaying signs of disease. Please also health history of the animal/colony, being as detailed as possible.
Histopathology	Live fish or fish fixed in 10% neutral buffered formalin (euthanized immediately before fixing, with belly carefully slit to allow optimal fixation)
Aerobic Culture	Live fish
Molecular Testing	Live fish, frozen fish, or fish preserved in RNA-later or ethanol (euthanized immediately before preservation, with belly carefully slit to allow optimal preservation)
Virus Isolation	Live fish

144

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

145



145

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

146

## Aquatic health screening – rationale & epidemiology

- Preventive screening

Sentinel or randomly chosen tank?

- Depends on facility design

- How strongly are we convinced that our filtration system and gradual water replacement significantly reduces circulating pathogens?



146

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

149

## Required sample sizes

- Depends on sensitivity and specificity of test
  - Sensitivity = likelihood of truly infected animal to be detected by test
  - Specificity = likelihood of truly uninfected animal to be cleared by test
- Generally, tests offered by health screening services based on serology &/or PCR have ↑specificity ↓sensitivity
  - few false positives, lots of false negatives
  - Sensitivity can be augmented by also adding histology & cultures (bacteria, fungi, viruses)
- Measure of certainty that test positive animal is truly infected:
  - Positive predictive value (PPV)
 = true positives/(true positives/false positives)

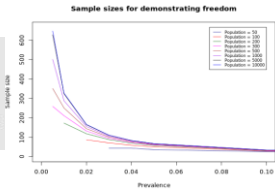
149

### Required sample sizes

It is a numbers game and depends on:

- Prevalence
- Test sensitivity
- Desired confidence interval

**Signature Health Inspection**  
The Signature Health Inspection provides a 95% confidence level in detection, assuming pathogen prevalence is at least 5%. This approach to health monitoring in aquatic systems is based on the recommendations of the Office International Des Epizooties (OIE) and the American Fisheries Society-Fish Health Section.



153

### Required sample sizes for demonstrating disease freedom

e.g. Pseudoloma PCR assay, 99.4% specificity, 85% sensitivity, CI95%

	Prevalence = 0.005	Prevalence = 0.01	Prevalence = 0.02	Prevalence = 0.03	Prevalence = 0.04	Prevalence = 0.05	Prevalence = 0.1	Prevalence = 0.2
Population = 50			92	75	63	54	31	17
Population = 100		183	135	93	76	61	33	17
Population = 200	275	223	139	100	78	64	34	18
Population = 500	372	266	153	107	82	67	35	18
Population = 1000	531	305	164	112	85	69	35	18
Population = 5000	665	343	174	117	88	71	36	18
Population = 10000	685	348	175	117	88	71	36	18
Population = 14100	703	352	177	118	89	71	36	18
Population = 14150	705	353	177	118	89	71	36	18

154

### Required sample sizes for demonstrating disease freedom

- The lower the prevalence, the higher the required sample size for any given test sensitivity
- The lower the test sensitivity, the higher the required sample size for any given prevalence
- The size of population under surveillance only affects sample sizes up to n=10,000

155

### Lethargy & inappetence



156

### Adspection & wet mount

- Heavy sedation MS 222 75mg/l (10min)
- During inspection gills appeared greyish pale.
- Wet mount largely inconspicuous, except for copious amounts of mucous embedding the secondary lamellae.

157



158

LO: 4.1 &amp; 4.2

159



159

160

## Anaesthesia & Sch1

160

161

### Fish anaesthesia in the laboratory – principles

- Definitions, limitations and pre-anaesthetic considerations
- Refinement issues
- Recent developments – how do we interpret the evidence base?
- Analgesic considerations

161

LO: 3.1.1

163

### Definitions

- 96% of fish species gilled teleosts
- 50% of regulated fish procedures on ZF; rest variety of spp. incl. trout, stickleback, cave fish



163

LO: 8.1

164

### Definitions

Non-immersion fish anaesthesia:

- i.v. - restraint issues
- i.c. – visceral damage
- i.m. – (dorsal musculature) – leakage
- oral – precise dosing difficult, absorption?

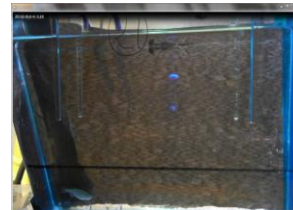
164

LO: 20.6

165

### Main method of choice for fish

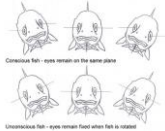
- anaesthesia: immersion (water medication)



165

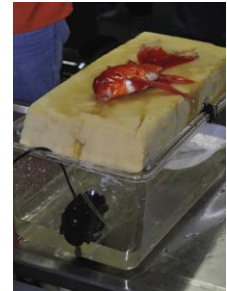
LO: 20.6 166

	Mammal	Fish (immersion route)
Premed	Anti-emetic Anticholinergic Sedatives Anaesthetic potentiators Analgesics	?
Short acting anaesthetic	Inhalant anaesthetic Propofol	MS222, benzocaine, ZPOH, isocugenol
Longer acting anaesthetic	$\alpha_2$ diss. agents, opioids etc...	
Adjusting	↓ Inhalant conc. ↑ Top-up with injectant	↑ Top-up immersion bath with anaesthetic stock solution; ↓ bags of anaesthetic-free water if using reservoir
Monitoring	Righting reflex Spinal reflexes Ocular reflexes Respiration Temperature Pulse $O_2$ , $CO_2$	Righting reflex Spinal reflexes Ocular reflexes Respiration
Reversal	Opioids, $\alpha_2$	n/a; "gill flushing"



166

LO: 20.6 &amp; 4.7 167



167

LO: 20.8 168

## Pre-anaesthetic considerations

Routes of administration and pharmacokinetic considerations:

- Immersion drug uptake mostly gills,
- Generally very little through olfactory tract and skin
- But species dependent with less scaled fish absorbing higher proportion through skin
- E.g. for electric eels more quinaldine may be absorbed through skin than gills (Neiffer & Stamper 2007)
- Permeability of skin to immersion drugs varies between animals and with age



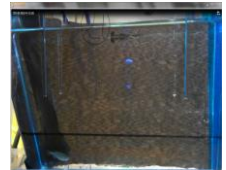
168

LO: 20.8 169

## Pre-anaesthetic considerations

Routes of administration and pharmacokinetic considerations:

- Skin only permeable to water and small, nonpolar molecules limited by mucus and scales
- Gills with varying absorption - lipophilic compounds will diffuse across gills but not ions with mol weight > 100;
- even with ideal absorption 95% of immersion anaesthetic wasted!



169

LO: 02.8 170

## Pre anaesthetic considerations

- Fasting -12/24/48h (WF cost?)
- Health?
- Preparation of transport, anaesthetic and recovery tanks
- Oxygenation of water
- Out of water procedure?
- poikilo/endothemy? Could temperature become an issue?

170

LO: 20.8 171

## Pre anaesthetic considerations

Peri-procedural parameters to be monitored:

- Opercular beat rate
- Swimming behaviour: coordination, activity level
- Righting reflex (maintenance of equilibrium?)
- Responsiveness to tactile stimuli (blunt forceps)
- Eye roll
- Return-to-feeding time (post recovery)

171

LO: 20.6

173

### Criteria for suitability of anaesthetic (Brown, 1994/2010):

Induce stage III anaesthesia within 3 mins

- Offer a 90s window for out-of-water procedure
- be safe to fish when used for 30 mins
- allow full recovery within 5 mins
- Rapid metabolism or secretion
- Zero or short withdrawal period\*

\* degree-days, calculated by multiplying mean daily water temperature by total number of days on which temperature was measured; for any off-label use 500 d/d is minimum withdrawal period established by European Economic Commission Directive No. 82/2001

173

LO: 20.6

174

### Criteria for suitability of anaesthetic (NC3Rs/CEFAS Weymouth Fish WF workshop proceedings May 2016):

- Induce surgical anaesthesia
- Offer a suitable window for out-of-water procedure
- **Minimal aversive properties**
- ...

174

LO: 20.6

175

### Anaesthesia in fish – anaesthetic agents

Agent	Dose to induce surgical anaesthesia	Properties
Benzocaine	25-200mg/l	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid uptake</li> <li>• Hypoxia</li> <li>• Efficacy affected by water temperature → poor safety margins for warm water species</li> <li>• Poor safety margin for salmonids</li> </ul>
Buffered tricain (MS 222)	100-300mg/l	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rapid uptake through gills due to high lipid solubility, inexpensive</li> <li>• Induction of hypoxia</li> <li>• Effects on CV system / vasoconstriction make long term anaesthesia hard to manage, sensitive to light</li> </ul>
Clove oil + polyorbate 80 (Aquic-3)	15-25mg/l	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No withdrawal period, very fast recovery for lower to medium doses</li> </ul>
2-Phenoxyethanol	200-800mg/l	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small safety margin when using higher concentrations, interactions with local anaesthetics</li> <li>• Inexpensive, easy to dose, fast onset</li> <li>• Questionable analgesic properties, only consistency requires mixing with water</li> </ul>
Buffered quinaldine sulphate	25-40mg/l	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very fast induction and recovery</li> <li>• Expensive, poor safety margin in some species</li> </ul>

175

LO: 20.6

176

### Anaesthesia in Fish - stages

Stage	Plane	Description	Signs	Dose required (MS 222, mg/l, 3-5 mins)
I	1	Light sedation	Reduced motion, responsive to stimuli, ↓-ventilation possible	20-30
	2	Deep sedation	Same as 1 but less responsive to stimuli, some analgesia	50-80
II	1	Light anaesthesia	Loss of equilibrium, still some response to tactile stimuli, good analgesia, ventilation ↓-↓	100 (Leopard) 125 (AB)
	2	Deeper anaesthesia		125-150 (?)
III	n/a	Surgical anaesthesia (formerly "stage 4")	As in II but total loss of responsiveness to stimuli, ventilation ↓-↓ and very shallow	125-200
IV	1	Anaesthetic overdose	Gasping, no other signs of ventilation	250-300
	2	Medullary collapse	Total absence of opercular movements, death (after 15-30mins)	>400

adapted for zebrafish from own data, 2011-14, Treves-Brown (2000) Applied Fish Pharmacology and Roberts (2010) Fundamentals of Ornamental Fish Health

176

LO: 20.6

177

### Anaesthesia in fish – recommended species' doses

- MS 222 (buffered tricain)
  - ZF: 100-200mg/l
  - Trout: 80-180mg/l
  - Carp: 30-200mg/l
  - Medaka: 200-300mg/l
- Benzocaine
  - ZF: 50-100mg/l
  - Trout: 25-35mg/l
  - Carp: 50mg/l

177

LO: 20.6

178

### Why such differences?

- Mucus layer (gill, tegument) and scale cover vary from fish to fish
- MS 222 is fat soluble



178



LO: 1.11 &amp; 1.12

179

### Euthanasia / Sch 1

Which of these methods is consistent with ASPA 1986 (2012 Amendment Regulation) Schedule: 1, listing humane killing methods for protected species?

5.2kg salmon: concussion with heavy metal rod then destruction of the brain

**Yes** – ANIMAL EXCEEDED WEIGHT LIMIT FOR THIS METHOD UNTIL LAST YEAR

179

LO: 1.11 &amp; 1.12

181

### Euthanasia / Sch 1

Which of these methods is consistent with ASPA 1986 (2012 Amendment Regulation) Schedule 1, listing humane killing methods for protected species?

4 wo Zebrafish: netting, injection of 2ml/kg pentobarbital with 35 gauge needle, followed by destruction of the brain

**YES** – CONSISTENT WITH SCH1

181

LO: 1.11 &amp; 1.12

183

### Euthanasia / Sch 1

- Physical methods – concussion, then destruction of the brain
- Non physical methods – Overdose of anaesthetic
- Injection of pentobarbital - 0.06mg/g body weight
- Immersion bath using range of anaesthetics:

183

LO: 1.11 &amp; 1.12

180

### Euthanasia / Sch 1

Which of these methods is consistent with ASPA 1986 (2012 Amendment Regulation) Schedule 1, listing humane killing methods for protected species?

1 yo Zebrafish: netting, concussion by "snipping" index finger onto cranium, followed by checking reflexes for vital signs

**NO** – CHECKING REFLEXES NOT AN ACCEPTABLE METHOD FOR CONFIRMING DEATH

180

LO: 1.11 &amp; 1.12

182

### Euthanasia / Sch 1

Which of these methods is consistent with ASPA 1986 (2012 Amendment Regulation) Schedule 1, listing humane killing methods for protected species?

3mo rainbow trout: electrocution with 24V/14A, followed by destruction of the brain

**NO** – ELECTROCUTION NOT IN SCH1

182

LO: 1.11 &amp; 1.12

184

### Euthanasia / Sch 1

- MS 222 (>500mg/l, 30 min)
- 2PO (>1500mg/l, >15 -20 min)
- Benzocaine (>250mg/l, 30 min)



Euthanise individually!

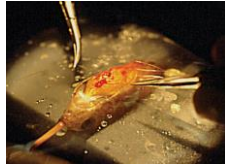
184

LO: 7.5 &amp; 8.1

185

## Minor procedures and aseptic technique

- Injection sites
- Fin clipping & other ID systems
- Aseptic technique
- Post op care



Harms (2005)

185

LO: 7.5 &amp; 8.1

186

## Injection sites

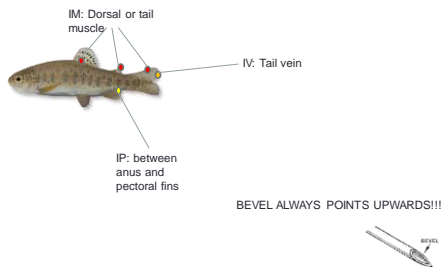
- IM – 85% of fish may be muscle so easy enough to find!  
E.g. dorsal musculature,
- IP – along midline between pectoral fin and anus, fish in dorsal recumbency
- IV – lateral caudal peduncle, tricky in smaller fish (blind technique)

186

LO: 7.5 &amp; 8.1

187

## Injection techniques



187

LO: 4.8

188

## Fin clip and other minor procedures (e.g., scale removal)

- For batch ID or for genetic material
- Size 10/15 curved scalpel – remove max 50% of tailfin distal of forking
- 2-6 weeks to full regeneration (ZF)
- Anaesthetize to allow at least 60s out-of-water procedure
- **Aseptic technique similar to that in other species: sterile nets; sterile scalpel/surgical scissors; sterile drape or fine kitchen towel; sterile system water for squirting/drenching BUT DON'T DISINFECT SKIN; JUST SWAB EXCESS MUCUS**

- Batch surgery – use bead sterilizer or autoclave
  - in between (or have several sets of sterile
  - instruments ready



188

LO: 4.8

189

## Tagging – Passive integrated transponder (PIT)

- First developed to monitor salmon movements in the 1980s
- 8-12mm long, not suitable for fish < 15cm TL
- Less invasive alternative preferable (VIE, even fin clip)
  - for smaller fish
- Can exceed limits of “minor procedure” e.g. surgical implantation of PIT tag in coelom



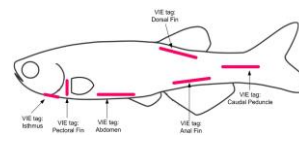
189

LO: 4.8

190

## Tagging – Visible implant elastomer (VIE)

- Implant applied subcutaneously in several sites
- Batch tagging, no additional data stored electronically (unlike PIT tag)
- Smaller and thinner than PIT tag



190

LO: 20.12

191

## Post surgery

- Check on full recovery/feeding
- Analgesia: lidocaine 2-5mg/l

191

LO: 5.5

192

## Severity considerations

- Sub – threshold
- Non-recovery
- Mild
- Moderate
- Severe

192

LO: 5.5

193

## Severity considerations – examples

1. Control animals in genetic study → Sch1?
2. ZF: 16 hours food retention effecting slight behavioural change?
3. ZF: Cardiac excision procedure with 10-15% mortality?
4. Carp: Fin clip under anaesthesia?
5. ZF: VIE implant under anaesthesia?
6. Medaka: superficial mucus swab without anaesthesia?
7. Rainbow trout: blood sample for health screening ?
8. Fish anaesthetised for surgical implantation of PIT tag in coelom

193

## Some final legal considerations

- Protection from free swimming stage – use minimum; guppies protected from day one!
- Prospective & reported severity – surgical procedures often “severe”
- Refinement obligation
- Sch1 with completion!!
- Sch2!!!

194

LO: 5.5

195

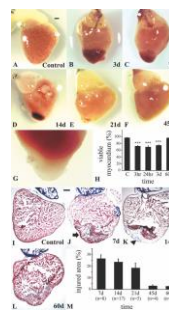
## Refinement matters

195

LO: 5.5

196

## Refinement of fish anaesthesia -Systematic review on piscine models of myocardial infarction (Oct 2014)<sup>1</sup>

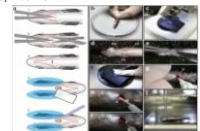


The ARRIVE guidelines (Kilkenny, Browne et al. 2010) were devised to improve transparency where studies reported results derived from animal research. Ideally, any publications adhering to these rules objectively describe the welfare cost to the animals involved. Three guidelines are particularly linked to this:

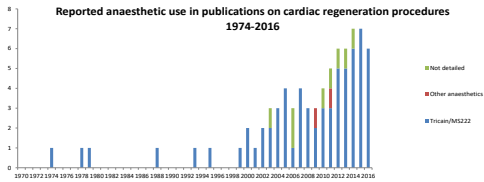
- (1) Provide precise details of all procedures carried out, for example (...) anaesthesia and analgesia, (...) surgical procedure.
- (2) Provide details of (...) welfare related assessments and interventions that were carried out prior to, during, or after the experiment.
- (3) Specify the total number of animals used in each experiment.

<sup>1</sup>The Welfare of Laboratory Fishes. In Fish Welfare (ed. Peter Southgate) 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Wiley-Blackwell.

Mercader et al. 2012



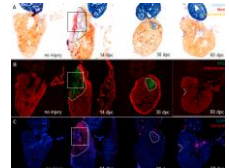
196



197

So, I shall use nothing but MS222...

- But how much for this fish?
- For example, cardiac excision & cardiac cryoinjury: publications 2012-2016; for ZF recovery anaesthesia all used tricain but with dose ranging from 0.090 to 0.032 (90-320mg/l)



198

MS222 doses for cryoinjury and cardiac excision

**Cryoinjury**  
Fish were anesthetized with 0.02% Tricaine (MS-222) and transferred to a moist sponge for surgery. After visually locating the posterior medial margin of the heart straight incision scissors were used to puncture the skin and the silvery pericardial sac. Subsequently, an incision was made through both the skin and pericardium starting from the junction of the pericardium and peritoneum and reaching anteriorly for about 2/3 of the length of the heart. The incision was spread open laterally using fine forceps to expose the ventricle. Small pieces of dry ice were formed into a conical shape with a length of ~20 mm, one end with a diameter of ~2 mm and the other end with a pointed tip. The pointed tip of the dry ice cone was applied to the posterior apex of the ventricle for 10 seconds to cause the cryoinjury. After surgery the fish were returned to holding tanks. To revitalize the fish a pipette was used.

Schnabel et al. 2016

**Methods**  
**Animal Procedures**  
The following rebradfish strains were used in this study: wild-type AB (Oregon) strain, Ekko1 (EK) strain, transgenic strain cmk2-DsRed2-mac [26] to visualize cardiomyocytes nuclei, and transgenic strain cmk2-EGFP [27] to analyze the injured area on the wall of the ventricle. Fish aged 6-18 months were anesthetized in a 0.1% Tricaine

Chablais et al. 2011

**Experimental design**  
Fish are anesthetized by immersion in 0.032% (wt/vol) Tricaine and immobilized by placing them with the ventral side facing up into a foam holder under a dissecting microscope. After removing some of the ventral scales with forceps, a small incision is made through the body wall and the pericardium. This is done using forceps and microdissection scissors, tearing the tissue rather than making a clean cut, in order to facilitate healing (see Fig. 1 for an illustration of the main steps in the procedure). Once the

Mercader et al. 2012

**Cryoinjury**  
Cryoinjury was performed as described previously (Gonzalez-Rosa and Mercader, 2012). For analysis of regeneration, animals were euthanized at different times post-injury by immersion in 0.16% tricaine (Sigma), and hearts

199

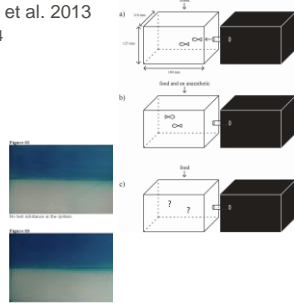
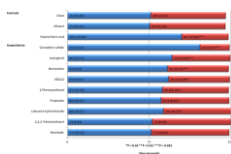
Refinement of aquatic anaesthesia

- Length of out-of-water procedure?
- Only specified in Mercader et al. (2012) as 3-5 min

200

Refinement of anaesthetic procedures - recent evidence base?

- e.g., Readman et al. 2013
- Wong et al. 2014



201

Some historical context



202

### Some historical context

- **MS 222** used since 1960 (experimental); validated 1967 (Schoettger et al.)
- Observation at the time: huge variation in induction time and dose response within same species
- In 1960 **sodium thiopental** was the most widely used human general anaesthetic; neither etomidate nor fentanyl had been invented
- In 1960, for laboratory mice, the **ether jar** was the most popular anaesthetic delivery method

203

### Some historical context

- Attempts at balanced fish anaesthesia using mix of compounds is not that new either...

**SYNERGIC MIXTURES OF MS-222 AND QUINALDINE AS ANESTHETICS FOR RAINBOW TROUT AND NORTHERN PIKE**

Richard A. Schoettger  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife  
Fish Control Laboratory, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601  
and  
Erwin W. Duesler, Jr.  
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55411

**ANESTHETICS** are essential tools for the proper handling of sport and commercial fishes during artificial spawning, marking, weighing, restraining, surgery, photography, and research. For example, Baker (1963) reported the use of MS-222 as anaesthetic solutions of lake trout for fish tagging. Literature reviews by Klotter and Buchal (1980), Koontz (1984), Bell (1987), Boyd (1987), Schoettger (1987), and Schoettger and Juhn (1989) have demonstrated the extent and variety of uses of MS-222 and quinaldine in fish anaesthesia. In general, either MS-222 or quinaldine is selected by hobby owners because its properties are suited to a specific need. MS-222 is water-soluble and colorless, and desired depths of anaesthesia are relatively easy to control with concentrations (Schoettger and Juhn, 1989), but concentrations that quickly render fish immobile.

A better anaesthetic would combine certain properties of both these compounds. Specifically, it would immobilize fish rapidly, completely, and maintain them easily in this condition for a reasonable period. Therefore, the objective of our study was to determine whether MS-222 and quinaldine could be used together to achieve safe and more effective anaesthesia of fish.

*Materials and Methods*

Practical grade 100 percent quinaldine, 2-methylpiperidine, was purchased from Eastman Kodak Company. Technical grade 98.5 percent MS-222, the methanesulfonate of its sodium salt, and eight other... was obtained from Tectra Pharmaceuticals.<sup>1</sup>

Rainbow trout (*Salmo gairdneri*) used in this work were obtained in 1975 from the Nelson Fish Hatchery at Woodchester.

204

### Perioperative analgesia

- Objective:
  - Can perioperative immersion analgesia protocols be beneficial to ZF welfare?



Paul Schroeder & Lynne Sneddon (2017): Exploring the efficacy of immersion analgesics in zebrafish – an integrated approach. Applied Animal Behaviour Science

205

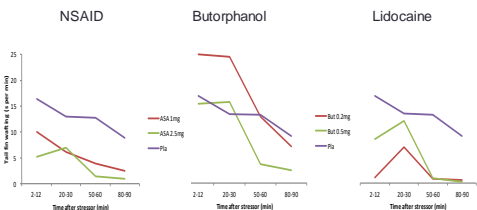
### Tail-wafting

- Duration (s) of high frequency tail-beat movements that do not lead to propulsion in the water
- First seen in study on ZF post-nociceptive behaviour, after acid injection near tail fin ("tail beating") Maximino 2011



206

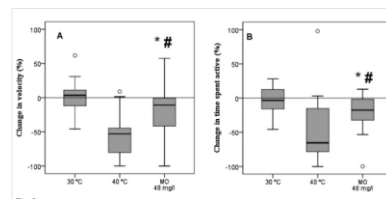
### Tail-wafting



207

### See also

- Lopez-Luna et al. (2017)
- Analgesic protocol for 5dpf ZF (morphine, lidocaine)



208

And



Article  
**Welfare Challenges Influence the Complexity of Movement: Fractal Analysis of Behaviour in Zebrafish**

Anthony G. Daskin<sup>1,2</sup>, Joseph W. Spencer<sup>1</sup>, Andrew R. Cawlin<sup>1,2</sup>, Lata S. Young<sup>1,2</sup> and Lynne U. Stuedgen<sup>1,\*</sup>

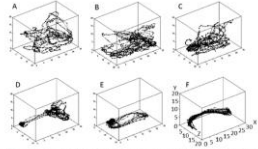


Figure 2. Comparison between the 3D trajectory plots (A–F) and fractal dimension (FD) scores across the 25 min recording at the 25 min point of three control zebrafish with fractal dimension (FD) scores above 1.33 (A, FD = 1.37; B, FD = 1.34; C, FD = 1.35) and three treatment zebrafish with FD below 1.0 (D, FD = 0.98; E, FD = 0.94; F, FD = 0.91 for csp; G, FD = 0.90 for spg). These selected reflect that observed across each group; n, n = 3 are shown on plot A.

209

Break out session 2

211

“The only animal species which we can justifiably use for invasive surgical research procedures is the dog”  
Prof Eddie Clutton (2013)



210

Questions



212