



**Florida State University
Animal Care and Use Committee**

**Standard Operating Procedure
Fish Health Surveillance Program**

1.0 Scope and Application

A comprehensive health surveillance program is an integral component of contemporary laboratory animal programs. Successful health surveillance programs are designed to identify potential human zoonosis, as well as identify, control, and eliminate disease variables that affect research animals and thusly compromise research. Fish from established colonies will be submitted for diagnostic testing to determine overall colony health.

2.0 Summary of Method

- Once annually, Principal Investigators will be asked to provide fish for diagnostic testing. Approximately two to five live fish or fixed/frozen carcasses for each species per protocol and location are requested. Fish submitted for diagnostic testing must be at least three months old and have been in the colony for at least three months. Fish may be ill, retired breeders, or surplus animals. Fish that are found dead are unacceptable for diagnostic testing.
- Fish requiring euthanasia, will be euthanized by rapid chilling, benzocaine hydrochloride, or MS-222 immersion.
- The diagnostic lab shipping guidelines will be followed. Contact the laboratory for appropriate sample submission for the desired test.
- Water or detritus samples may be collected from the sump and submitted annually along with fish samples.
- Environmental swabs may be taken to determine the presence of contamination in live feed.

Approval history:

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