

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Minutes for February 12, 2021

**Call to Order**

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) met on February 12, 2021, via WebEx. Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order on February 12, 2021, at 1:01 pm with the following members present.

Total Number of Members Present in Voting Capacity: 9

# required for quorum: 6

**Meeting Attendance**

Meeting Chair:

<b><u>Chair name</u></b>	<b><u>Voting Status</u></b>	<b><u>Membership</u></b>	<b><u>Affiliation</u></b>	<b><u>Scientific</u></b>	<b><u>Arrive late</u></b>	<b><u>Left Early</u></b>	<b><u>Teleconference</u></b>
Felix Omoruyi	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference

Members Present:

<b><u>Member name</u></b>	<b><u>Voting Status</u></b>	<b><u>Membership</u></b>	<b><u>Affiliation</u></b>	<b><u>Scientific</u></b>	<b><u>Arrive late</u></b>	<b><u>Left Early</u></b>	<b><u>Teleconference</u></b>
John Scarpa	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Taylor Yaw	Voting	Full/Vet	Affiliated	Scientific	1:09 pm	N/A	Teleconference
Jean Sparks	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Eric Christensen	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Non-Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Judd Curtis	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Paul Silva	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Cecelia Gonzales	Voting	Full	Unaffiliated	Non-Scientific	1:04 pm	N/A	Teleconference
Michael Garcia	Voting	Alternate, Coons	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Charles Sassine	Non-Voting	Alternate, Silva	Affiliated	Scientific	1:04 pm	N/A	Teleconference
Larry Lloyd	Non-Voting	Alternate, Curtis/Scarpa	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Michelle Costa	Non-Voting	Alternate, Gonzales	Unaffiliated	Non-Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference

Staff and Guest Present:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Job Title</u></b>	<b><u>Teleconference</u></b>
Linda Villarreal	Program Manager	Teleconference
Germaine Hughes-Waters	Research Compliance Coordinator	Teleconference

**I. Conflict of Interest**

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Members are reminded of their obligation to disclose any conflict of interest related to any of the items on today's agenda.

The chair called for any disclosures of conflict of interest. Conflict was declared and noted in the minutes on the relevant item.

## II. Minutes

Minutes from December 11, 2020, were reviewed. It was noted that a member sent revisions to the minutes prior to the meeting which were incorporated in the minutes under review. The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve was made, seconded, and carried.

Vote yes:	7	Recused:	0
Vote no:	0	Excused:	2 – Gonzales, Yaw
Abstain:	0		

Cecelia Gonzales joined the meeting at 1:04 pm.

Charles Sassine joined the meeting at 1:04 pm.

## III. Tabled Studies

IACUC Number:	TAMU-CC-IACUC-2020-09-009
Principal Investigator:	Aaron Baxter
Conflict of Interest:	None
Primary reviewers:	Judd Curtis and Paul Silva
Project Title:	Development, verification, and implementation of an eDNA detection assay for diamondback terrapins in the Texas Coastal Bend.
Protocol Type:	Animal Research Protocol
Protocol Objectives:	1) Develop eDNA assay for diamondback terrapin. 2) Test assay for effectiveness. 3) Implement assay into the field.
Protocol Summary:	Diamondback terrapins are listed as imperiled/critically imperiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Traditional sampling methods to test for the presence of this species are intensive and expensive. The purpose of this project is to develop, test, and implement an eDNA primer for diamondback terrapins. This method would provide a more efficient means for determining the presence of terrapins in local water bodies. In this study, tissue samples will be collected from diamondback terrapin and red-eared sliders. These samples will be used to isolate genetic primers unique to diamondback terrapins. A small number of terrapins and red-eared sliders will be housed in a known volume of water for a set amount of time. This will allow us to determine a volumetric detection threshold for identifying terrapin eDNA in water samples. The resulting assay will be implemented into the field by testing water samples for the existence of terrapin eDNA. Tissue sampling and marking can be expected to cause minimal and temporary discomfort. No anesthetics will be used as the long-term effects of these drugs can be more detrimental to the animals than the sampling itself. After sampling/housing, animals will be released at the site of capture.
CITI verified:	No
OHP verified:	Yes

September 18, 2020, IACUC Meeting – Stipulations Met:

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

- The OHP form does not have to be submitted with the IACUC submission as this has personalized health information. ORC will delete this document from the application. **The document has been deleted.**
- Scientific permit: PI is not listed on the permit. Dr. Zimba would need to be in the field every time to collect specimens. Suggest doing an amendment to add Baxter to the permit. **The permit has been updated.**
- The permit does not list all species (red-eared slider). Please amend the permit to add species. **The permit has been updated.**
- The permit does not allow for the collection of live specimens; only catch and release or voucher species. Please amend the permit to cover procedures as described in the protocol. **The permit has been updated.**

## September 18, 2020, IACUC Meeting – Stipulations NOT Met:

- Animal List/Study Locations: NRC 1018 is not a location previously inspected or approved to house animals. An IACUC inspection will be required.
- Animal List/Study Locations: Application list secondary locations that may be used. If approving secondary locations, then we need to confirm IACUC status and/or conduct IACUC inspection for these locations. If unknown at this time, the PI can remove and add later as an amendment when site locations are confirmed.
- Study Personnel: The species for this study are reptiles. Please select reptiles as the species relevant course and complete required species-specific training.
- Study Documents: The document has comments and notes. This document is labeled as draft. Please provide finalized documents for IACUC review.
- Sample design – says catch and release but protocol says bring specimens to NRC 1018 or other holding places. This is conflicting information. Please reconcile.
- 9 diamondbacks; 5 red-eared sliders – no justification for species number or difference in numbers for species. Please add justification for species numbers.
- Not using anesthesia or analgesia because it will be catch and release but requesting animals to be brought back to the lab. Analgesics could be used for these specimens. Lidocaine cream and antibiotic cream are discussed in the attached documents but not described in the submission as being used. Please clarify if lidocaine cream and antibiotic cream will be used in the protocol.
- Spelling errors were noted throughout. Example: Typo “Using a file or rotary tood” (tood – tool) page 4 and page 8.

Discussion: A member noted he may have a COI because he knows of the study but did not feel conflicted in reviewing the submission. Ultimately, the member remained during the study discussion and voted.

The Chair and Program Manager summarized the state of the submission. Noted were the pending stipulations from the September 18, 2020, meeting which remain un-addressed per the “Notes from September 18, 2020, IACUC Meeting Minutes” and the “REDCap follow-up – outstanding items” documents.

Taylor Yaw joined the meeting at 1:09 pm.

The standing question as to if Mr. Baxter could serve as PI of this protocol was discussed. The group reviewed the IACUC FAQ’s website regarding the topic. Some members noted Dr. Portnoy should serve as PI, others noting Mr. Baxter met the following FAQ text: “Non-faculty University Principal Investigators must hold an appropriate position or provide key expertise and should at least have a master’s degree to serve as Principal Investigator, Project Director, Co-Principal Investigator, or other senior personnel on a sponsored project.” The group concluded that Mr. Baxter could serve as PI with the following stipulations: Needs to submit a letter from his department Chair stating he is eligible to serve as PI listing his key expertise related to this protocol. Need to provide a copy of Mr. Baxter’s full CV/Resume.

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

The group continued to discuss pending questions/revisions including the attached, species permit, justification of the number of species requested, the need for IACUC approval prior to conducting lab inspection, the discrepancies in location of labs, overflow labs, catch and release plans as well as study conduct on and off sites were listed and discussed until the PI joined the meeting.

Open meeting: Dr. Baxter joined the meeting at 1:24 pm.

The Chair welcomed Mr. Baxter to the meeting. The group discussed justification for the numbers diamondback terrapins and what lab(s) will be used with Mr. Baxter. It was noted all samples will be housed in Dr. Portnoy's lab. Dr. Baxter explained Dr. Portnoy could explain the justification of the number the best.

A member asked if punch biopsy will be used. Mr. Baxter noted this was a good question and needs to be addressed by Dr. Portnoy. A member questioned the unequal numbers of live vertebrates requested and noted this could all be taken care of via a citation. The discrepancies in Maestro numbers in the submission needing to be addressed was brought to Mr. Baxter's attention, to which he agreed. Mr. Baxter was reminded to complete the CITI reptile training as well as make sure that all "Draft" study documents are converted to final versions. Again, to which Mr. Baxter agreed.

The group moved on to discuss lab locations and inspections. The PI noted the NRC 1019 lab is the only lab being used and he will correct the references to NCR 1018. and asked that Mr. Baxter delay working off-site until collaborations are known for sure. This would require changing the animal transportation section in REDCap. An amendment can be submitted in the future to external sites. Mr. Baxter noted there would be no overflow lab, which needs to be corrected in the protocol. Member clarified to Mr. Baxter that the permit can be up to 25.

Closed meeting: Mr. Baxter exited the meeting at 1:36 pm.

The discussion was summarized as follows: The Board noted that most items in question have been addressed after speaking with Mr. Baxter, he just needs to clean up and address his stipulations. Once changes are made, the study will be ready to go. The Program Manager read the stipulations for the group and noted the voting members on this submission.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve with stipulations, to be reviewed by the Chair, with a review period of one year was made, seconded, and carried.

Stipulations include:

At the February 2021 meeting, the committee concluded that Mr. Baxter could serve as PI with the following stipulations. Upload the following document in RedCap:

1. Provide a Letter of Support from the Department Chair stating that Mr. Baxter is eligible to serve as PI listing his key expertise related to this study.
2. Provide a full CV/Resume for Mr. Baxter.

Remaining stipulations from the September 2020 meeting that have not been addressed:

3. Provide justification, such as a citation, of how the number of live animals was decided and why the numbers are uneven.
4. Remove external sites and transportation of animals from submission. Adding sites in the future can be made via an IACUC Amendment.
5. Clarify across study documents what lab(s) will be used for this study and if there will be an overflow lab. Please keep in mind that lab inspections cannot be completed until IACUC approval is received.

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

6. Sample design – says catch and release but protocol says bring specimens to NRC 1018 or holding places. This is conflicting information. Please reconcile.
7. 9 diamondback; 5 red-eared sliders – no justification for species number or difference in number for species.
8. Scientific permit does not list red-eared sliders; provide updated permit showing red-eared sliders.
9. Not using anesthesia or analgesia because it will be catch and release but requesting animals to be brought back to the lab. Analgesics could be used for these specimens. Lidocaine cream and antibiotic cream are discussed in the attached documents but not described in the submission as being used. Please clarify if lidocaine cream and antibiotic cream will be used in the protocol.
10. Clarify if punch biopsy will be used to collect samples.
11. Clarify the Maestro across all applicable study documents.
12. Complete the CITI Reptile training.
13. Replace “draft” study documents with final versions.

Vote yes: 7  
Vote no: 0  
Abstain: 1

Recused: 0  
Excused: 1 - Yaw

**IV. New Studies**

IACUC Number: TAMU-CC-IACUC-2021-01-001  
Principal Investigator: Dara Orbach  
Conflict of Interest: Paul Silva  
Primary reviewers: Felix Omoruyi and Larry Lloyd  
Project title: Observing bottlenose dolphins in their natural environment  
Protocol type: Animal Research Protocol  
Protocol Objective: Develop and maintain standardized photo-identification catalogs to estimate abundance. Establish baseline patterns of distribution, habitat use, and site-fidelity. Analyze dolphin behavior in relation to anthropogenic activities. Measure health status from aerial footage of body conditions. Identify potential risks to the population.  
Protocol Summary: Data collection will consist of photo-identification of dolphins facilitated by boat-based surveys, using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to capture photographs, and deploying a passive acoustic recorder to assess acoustics.

- Dr. Orbach and her team of research assistants will use the non-invasive method of photographing dolphins and using the natural markings on their dorsal fins for identification.
- Image data will be integrated with geospatial mapping to develop a dolphin photo-identification catalog.
- New catalog of individuals and images will be integrated with historical data from the 1980's and submitted to the Gulf of Mexico Dolphin Identification System (GoMDIS) to promote collaboration with other research entities interested in protecting the preserving dolphins in the Gulf of Mexico.
- UAVs will be operated by FAA certified pilots over dolphins to photograph their bodies. The boat motor will be off. Skin lesions visible in the photos will then be categorized based on severity
- A hydrophone will be immersed in the water from the boat to passively record dolphin acoustics while the motor is off.

CITI verified: Yes      OHP verified: Yes

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Discussion: The group discussed UAVs and the notation that 25 meters above sea level have no adverse short-term effects on dolphin behavior. The REDCap form mentions "previous research has shown" but the board would like the actual citation/permit. The group briefly discussed the animal study procedures and noted confusion regarding acoustics versus tagging and clarification is needed from the PI.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve with stipulations, with approval by the Chair, with a review period of one year was made, seconded, and carried.

## Stipulations:

1. Please provide the actual citation for the "25 meters distance to avoid UAV adverse effect on dolphin's" reference.
2. Please provide clarification regarding choices made in the "Animal Activities" section of REDCap. Was "Animal identification/tagging" chosen because you will identify via acoustics, markings, and photography? If so, please uncheck this box as it is meant for physical identification methods. Along the same lines, please just clarify you chose "Field Capture/Field Studies" because this is a field study? If so, that is appropriate, you can leave it checked.
3. Please provide a copy of the permit or study citation that guided your decisions for 700 animals.

Vote yes: 7

Recused: 0

Vote no: 0

Excused: 0

Abstain: 2

**V. Continuing Review**

IACUC Number: 03-19

Principal Investigator: Frauke Seemann

Conflict of Interest: None

Primary Reviewers: Jean Sparks and Michael Garcia

Project Title: Medaka fish breeding

Protocol Type: Breeding or Husbandry Protocol

Protocol Summary: The objective of this animal use protocol is to establish a fish breeding set-up for the Japanese medaka strain (CAB strain, freshwater) and the marine medaka strain, to provide researchers at TAMU-CC and beyond with embryos, larvae, juveniles and adult fish for their projects. TAMU-CC will be the only US facility to maintain the marine medaka fish and providing unique access to the transgenic line, making it a unique hub of supply for the US research community.

CR Update: We have established a breeding set-up for the Japanese medaka (*Oryzias latipes*: CAB strain, freshwater; two transgenic strains) and the marine medaka (*Oryzias melastigma*). We continue to produce embryos, larvae, juvenile and adult fish for projects as well as future broodstock.

Adverse Events reported? No

Alternatives to Animal Use? No

Alternatives to Potentially Painful Procedures? No

Not Unnecessarily Duplicative? No

CITI verified: Yes OHP verified: Yes

The discussion was summarized as follows: A member noted on the initial approval it is noted study activities, housing, were happening off campus, but all other documents note study is on campus. The group noted this needed

## Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

to be addressed. Another member noted the same graduate students have been listed on the study for 2 years and suggested the PI be asked to confirm if they are still on the study. The board agreed.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve with stipulations, to be reviewed by the Chair, with a review period of <one year> was made, seconded, and carried.

Stipulations include:

1. Please clarify on the animal lists if any housing/study activities took place on or off campus? Please see the Animal List for No is checked on page 12 for marine medaka, and pages 14, 16, 18 for the Japanese fish/medaka.
2. Confirm if the graduate students currently listed as part of the study team is correct.

Vote yes: 8

Recused: 0

Vote no: 0

Excused: 0

Abstain: 1

## VI. Other

The Chair announced that Dr. Yaw has accepted a new position in Minnesota. He has agreed to remain on the board until we find a replacement. The group congratulated Dr. Yaw. It was noted if any members had a replacement in mind to let the ORC know.

Next meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 12, 2021.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:06 pm.