

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Minutes for March 12, 2021

Call to Order

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) met on March 12, 2021, via WebEx. A quorum was confirmed, and the meeting was called to order on March 12, 2021, at 1:04 pm with the following members present.

Total Number of Members Present in Voting Capacity: 8

required for a quorum: 6

Meeting Attendance

Meeting Chair:

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

Members Present:

<u>Member name</u>	<u>Voting Status</u>	<u>Membership</u>	<u>Affiliation</u>	<u>Scientific</u>	<u>Arrive late</u>	<u>Left Early</u>	<u>Teleconference</u>
John Scarpa	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Taylor Yaw	Voting	Full/Vet	Affiliated	Scientific	1:13 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
Kesley Banks	Voting	Alternate, Curtis	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Frauke Seemann	Voting	Alternate, Silva	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Michael Garcia	Voting	Alternate, Coons	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference
Larry Lloyd	Non-Voting	Alternate, Curtis/Scarpa	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	Teleconference

Staff and Guest Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Teleconference</u>
Rebecca Ballard	Director, Research Compliance	Teleconference
Linda Villarreal	Program Manager	Teleconference

I. Conflict of Interest

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. No conflicts were declared.

II. Minutes

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Minutes from February 12, 2021, were reviewed. The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve as edited was made, seconded and carried.

Stipulations include:

1. Page 4, 3rd paragraph “A member asked if punch therapy” should be biopsy.
2. Page 5, therapy should be biopsy.
3. Page 6, last paragraph. “not” should be “note”

Vote yes: 7

Recused: 0

Vote no: 0

Excused: 1, Yaw

Abstain: 0

III. New business

The Committee reviewed new business items.

USDA Updated Animal Welfare Inspection Guide (Revised January 2021)

On December 15, 2017, USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) posted the Tech Note “Incentives for Identifying, Reporting, Correcting, and Preventing Noncompliance with the Animal Welfare Act”. The Tech Note described an incentive program that recognized licensees and registrants who routinely monitored their activities and took appropriate and timely action to address non-compliant items. APHIS’ Animal Care program is rescinding this guideline, and the Tech Note on incentives (which was updated in May 2018), as it is no longer representative of the current agency policy for documenting Animal Welfare Act non-compliances. Animal Care has removed the Incentives Tech Note from its website; removed the Self-Reporting section from the Inspection Guide and updated its inspector training materials to reflect the Inspection Guide changes.

Director provided an overview of the document as guidance to see how USDA trains their inspectors to conduct inspections.

Dr. Yaw entered at 1:13 pm.

IV TPWD CCA Marine Development Center

On March 8, 2021, the following IACUC members conducted a remote Semi-Annual Inspection of off-campus animals: Taylor Yaw (AV), Kesley Banks, Larry Lloyd, Felix Omoruyi, John Scarpa, Frauke Seemann, and Paul Silva. The off-campus location inspected include:

Location	Species	IACUC #	PI	Deficiency
TPWD CCA Marine Development Center 4300 Waldron Road CC, TX 78418	Fish	22-18 2020-10-012	Geist	Yes

Members reviewed the inspection reports and deficiency tables.

Discussion: Staff provided an update on the inspection. Logs were provided by PI and provided to members. Labels need to be added to water buckets. Expired food and anesthetic ointment were noticed. Need to dispose of expired items.

The report indicated 40-80 C. There is either a mistake in the number (40-80) or C should be F.

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The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve inspection report and deficiencies tabled with clarification on the temperature was made, seconded, and carried.

Stipulations include:

1. The report indicated 40-80 C. There is either a mistake in the number (40-80) or C should be F.

Vote yes:	8	Recused:	0
Vote no:	0	Excused:	0
Abstain:	0		

After the vote, Dr. Geist joined at 1:21 pm for the inspection at Nature Conservancy below. Members asked clarifying questions for the inspection report.

Food found on top of the refrigerator belongs to the Texas Parks and Wildlife, not the research team. The refrigerator is shared by both the research team and TPWD. The food feed for the research project is live feed only. PI will inform TPWD of expired food.

Dr. Geist exited at 1:35 pm.

V. Animal Facilities Inspections

IACUC Number: TAMU-CC-IACUC-2020-10-012
Principal Investigator: Simon Geist
Project Title: Post-release Survival, Growth and Habitat Preference of Hatchery-Reared Southern Flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*)
Protocol Type: Animal Research Protocol
Lab Location: Off-campus - The Nature Conservancy Francine Cohn Preserve, 7797 TX-361, Port Aransas, TX 78373

Open meeting: Dr. Geist joined at 1:21 pm.

Dr. Geist provided a live video feed of the field site. Corpus Christi bay leads to a smaller bay protected from waves. The smaller, protected bay is where pens will be installed.

The pen is placed in water close to the shore. The net-pen will include a top cover to avoid fish being taken by birds while in the pen. Fish will be checked for food availability inside the penned area. If there is a difference in and out of the pen, then food will be adjusted by adding from outside to inside the pen.

Pens are marked with TAMU-CC/Texas Wildlife logo in the water with a warning to keep out. Signs on pen also have the contact information of researchers. PI will forward a PDF of the signs to be used. The pen stakes at the top are also fluorescent to alert any incoming boat or foot traffic at night of pen. Investigators do not anticipate boat traffic in this part of the protected bay. The pen is also very shallow for boat traffic. At the border of Mustang State Park. Restricted access should limit any interference with outside visitors.

Transport: Fish are placed in large coolers. Oxygen gas bottles are used to oxygenate during transport from TWPD to pen. There is a hatchery procedure to slowly acclimate fish with new water conditions of the pen with the water in the transport containers by slowly adding pen water to the cooler water over time.

Mentioned multiple enclosures. Planned for 6 but have a permit for 8 total. What is the mesh opening size on the enclosure? Small pens 1/16th inch. Larger fish pens 3/8th inch.

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Closed meeting: Dr. Geist exited at 1:35 pm.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve inspection with no deficiencies noted was made, seconded, and carried.

Vote yes:	8	Recused:	0
Vote no:	0	Excused:	0
Abstain:	0		

IACUC Number: TAMU-CC-IACUC-2020-09-009

Principal Investigator: Aaron Baxter

Project Title: Development, verification, and implementation of an eDNA detection assay for diamondback terrapins in the Texas Coastal Bend.

Protocol Type: Animal Research Protocol

Lab Location: On-campus - TAMU-CC 6300 Ocean Dr., NRC 1018, Corpus Christi, TX 78412

Discussion: Larry Lloyd provided a live video feed with IACUC member, Michael Garcia providing photos of the labs. The door was locked/secured. Door signage is present.

Walkways are clear. There were no live animals in the fish holding tank. The refrigerator has proper signage on the outside stating “no drink/no food” and “temperature controlled”.

Animal care protocol not found in the lab. The current protocol for Baxter was not found in the lab. MSDS red binder had permits and animal protocol but the protocol present was from 2002 and no longer active.

This protocol is still not final or approved. IACUC staff will notify PI to add a copy of the protocol to the lab once approved. Recommend removing outdated permits and IACUC protocols.

There are lights over the fish tank. Not sure if the lights turn on. Lights make a noise when turned on but no lights come on over tanks. Noise is not at a level that would cause animal concerns.

No temperature controls on fish holding tanks. Switches did have waterproof coverage for lights over the holding tank. Light contacts are corroded and should be cleaned. Corrosion will overheat the electrical plug. Sheet wire between box and switch. Need some flex cable for connections to avoid water going into box/switches.

There is an auto feeder and circulation pump in the lab. The circulation pump box was empty. Looks like equipment is there but the animal holding tank is not set up to inspect at this point.

The vacuum feeder expired as of 2018. The Lifeguard’s all-in-one treatment expired in 2013.

Staff confirmed for members that researchers were provided the inspection checklist in advance and notified we were going to inspect. Researchers chose not to attend the inspection. Member commented the research staff made no effort to prepare the lab for inspection.

The room is equipped with one floor drain. There is no sink but there is a source of running water next to the drain. There were no fire extinguishers in the lab.

The thermostat is regulated externally. Need to confirm if protocol experiments occur at room temperature.

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The lab is cluttered with other experiments and/or outdated equipment/supplies. Need to clean the room and remove unused items before it can be continued to be used as a research lab.

There are no signs on the door with BLS level, researcher, and vet contact information. Need to add all the required signs.

The lab is not inspection ready. It will need to be evaluated on how to conduct further experiments in this designated lab space.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve inspection with deficiencies with re-inspection by Chair or a Designated member was made, seconded, and carried.

Stipulations include:

1. No current IACUC protocol is located in the lab. PI needs to add the final approved protocol. Recommend removing outdated permits and IACUC protocols from the lab.
2. No temperature controls on fish holding tanks. Setup holding tank to be ready for animals.
3. Expired food/items. Need to remove and replace all expired food/items.
4. Maze present in this lab and Wither's teaching protocol. This lab is not listed on Wither's teaching protocol. Need to verify that Wither's teaching protocol is not being conducted in this lab.
5. Light contacts are not cleaned. Light contacts need to be cleaned.
6. Wirings are not waterproofed next to the holding tank. Wirings next to the holding tank need to be waterproofed.
7. Behind the water tank the electrical cover is not attached to the switch. An electrical cover must be attached to the switch.
8. Ceiling tiles are not set to allow the ceiling tiles to sit flush. Potential fire hazard. Ceiling tiles need to be reset to allow the ceiling tiles to sit flush to avoid any fire hazards.
9. No fire extinguisher was found in the lab. Need to secure a fire extinguisher in the lab.
10. Lab is messy and crowded. Need to clean up the lab and remove unused items.
11. There was no animal signage, vet's contact information, or Baxter's contact information. Need to add animal signage including the vet's and Baxter's contact information.
12. No temperature monitor on animal holding area. Need to add a temperature monitor on the animal holding area.
13. Lab is not set up or ready to bring in animals. Need to set up the lab to be ready to bring in animals.

A walk through follow-up inspection will be required before the lab receives final approval.

Roy Coons enters at 1:43 pm at NRC.

Vote yes:	8	Recused:	0
Vote no:	0	Excused:	0
Abstain	0		

VI. Semi-Annual Facility Inspection – Update Reportable Events

On December 16, 2020, the following IACUC members conducted a remote Semi-Annual Inspection of on-campus animals: Taylor Yaw (AV), Eric Christensen, Michelle Costa, Nathan Galvan, Michael Garcia, Larry Lloyd, Felix Omoruyi, John Scarpa, and Jean Sparks. The on-campus location inspected include:

Location – TAMU-CC	Species	IACUC #	PI
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Tidal Hall 114G	Fish – Japanese Medaka	03-19 23-19 26-19	Seemann
Tidal Hall 114G	Zebrafish	20-18	Xu
Tidal Hall 114M	Fish	22-18 09-19	Geist
ECMS 114	Mice, birds, snakes, lizards,	06-18	Withers

Some PIs have outstanding corrective action plan items. IACUC staff will reach out to PI to note the required corrective actions to be reviewed for the April 16, 2021 meeting.

The final OLAW report will be reviewed in the IACUC April 16, 2021 meeting.

V. Other

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 16, 2021.

Meeting adjourned at 2:22 pm.