

Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Minutes for December 10, 2021

**Call to Order**

The Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) met on December 10, 2021, via Webex. Quorum was confirmed and the meeting was called to order at 1:04 pm with the following members present.

Total Number of Members Present in Voting Capacity: 10

# 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	WebEx

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>
Shawn McCracken	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	1:07 pm	N/A	WebEx
Cecelia Gonzales	Voting	Full	Un-affiliated	Non-Scientific	1:06 pm	N/A	WebEx
Jean Sparks	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Larry Lloyd	Voting	Alternate, Banks	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
John Scarpa	Voting	Alternate, Seemann	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Nathan Galvan	Voting	Alternate, Garcia	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Daniel Coffey	Voting	Alternate, Orbach	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Paula Baker (vet.)	Non-Voting	Alternate, Whitaker	Affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Angelica Chapa	Voting	Full	Un-affiliated	Scientific	N/A	N/A	WebEx
Shayna Whitaker (vet.)	Voting	Full	Affiliated	Scientific	1:07 pm	1:29 pm dropped, re-entered at 1:31 pm	WebEx

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Staff and Guest Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Job Title</u>	<u>Teleconference</u>
Rebecca Ballard	Director, Research Compliance	WebEx
John Scarpa	IACUC & IBC Coordinator	WebEx

**I. Minutes**

Meeting minutes from November 12, 2021, were reviewed. 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: 3 (McCracken, Chapa, Scarpa)  
Abstain: 0

**II. New business**

Education:

- A) APHIS rules changes (Federal Register file)

IACUC coordinator briefed members on APHIS rule changes. No further discussion.

- B) Recent report: Sentience In Cephalopod Molluscs and Decapod Crustaceans, Final Report, November 2021.

IACUC coordinator briefed members on recent changes occurring in U.K. to be aware of discussions around pain in crustaceans and molluscs (e.g., cephalopods). No further discussion.

Other:

- A) Off-campus semi-annual inspections, Internal Investigation report (review & vote)

IACUC coordinator briefed members on inspection investigation report.

Tidal Hall: Members were reminded of the need to inspect. Both IACUC and IBC needed to inspect. IACUC because the protocol changed the animal from embryo to larva to trigger use of animals and IBC for the use of biohazards.

Off campus inspection: Members discussed whether the issue was minor versus serious. Considering the pandemic situation and the fact that no significant findings were found between the two inspections of the labs missed, the consensus was this was minor.

Tidal Hall 251: ORC Director updated IACUC on the ABSL-2 inspection challenges for Tidal Hall 251. ABSL-2 inspection is schedule for January 14, 2022, with system compliance.

How long has research been going when the issue was realized? Protocol was approved in May and first experiment in June. Second experiment with larvae was conducted in July. The inspection was done in

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November 2021. No work was occurring in November when lab inspected. PI currently has no work and does not expect work to occur over holiday or early January. Once discovered the experiments were already completed. Committee discussed timeline and determined if minor or major as well as follow-up inspections (Jan 14) and new determination/discussion at Jan 28 IACUC meeting.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to accept internal investigation report as minor non-compliance and correction action plan was made, seconded, and carried. Corrective action timeline set for next IACUC meeting, January 28, 2022.

Vote yes: 8                      Recused: 1 (Scarpa)  
Vote no: 0                      Excused: 1 (Chapa)  
Abstain: 0

B) OLAW report letter (review/vote)

IACUC coordinator reviewed reporting letter to OLAW. The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to accept OLAW report was made, seconded, and carried.

Dr. Whitaker dropped from teleconference at 1:29 pm (Baker as alternate assumes voting role).

Vote yes: 8                      Recused: 1 (Scarpa)  
Vote no: 0                      Excused: 1 (Chapa)  
Abstain: 0

Dr. Whitaker re-enters at 1:31 pm.

C) SOP 1000.01 “Review of Reported ACUC Concerns”

IACUC coordinator reviewed draft SOP 1000.01. Notifications III.B. was modified to state, “notified of findings and corrective actions required.”

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve as amended was made, seconded, and carried.

Vote yes: 7                      Recused: 0  
Vote no: 0                      Excused: 3 (Scarpa, Chapa, Gonzales)  
Abstain: 0

D) SOP 800.02 “Facility Inspections”

IACUC coordinator reviewed draft SOP. Members discussed assignment of responsibilities, “IACUC staff is responsible for supporting the committee in the inspection process.”

E) Movement of files from OneDrive to MS Teams:

<https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3ajwLOqwsbkLTZsmeBqwgXrNabM0lb2ljOZttHkIsYCmg1%40thread.tacv2/conversations?groupId=105d930f-3a5d-448f-add1-c6547866974a&tenantId=34cbfaf1-67a6-4781-a9ca-514eb2550b66>

Members were updated on document management change.

### III. Amendment

#### IACUC #: 23-19

Protocol title: Aquaponicis

Principal Investigator: F. Seemann

Primary Reviewer: Coffey and Scarpa

Conflict of Interest: Frauke Seemann

Species: Medaka (*Oryzias latipes*)

Summary: Addition of algae eaters and personnel: There is intensive algae growth in the aquaponics tank, thus an algae eating snail will be introduced. 10 commercially available Nerite snails (*Nerita* sp) will be added to the medaka reservoir after a 2-hour methylene blue (0.001%) bath to prevent transmission of pathogens and subsequently added to the system. In addition, planting efforts will be increased to employ the nutrients in the water.

CITI Training: completed

OHP enrollment: verified

Discussion: No issues with addition of commercially available snails or personnel change. OHP was verified with EHS staff yesterday.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve was made, seconded and carried.

Vote yes: 8

Recused: 0

Vote no: 0

Excused: 2 (Scarpa and Chapa)

Abstain: 0

### IV. Reportable Events

#### IACUC #: 2020-10-012

Protocol title: Post-release Survival, Growth and Habitat Preference of Hatchery-Reared Southern Flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*)

Principal Investigator: Simon Geist

Primary Reviewer: Sparks and Gonzales

Conflict of Interest: None

Species: Southern Flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*)

Summary: Excessive Mortality –

Description: 3 weeks into the 1st field experiment during July 2021 we noticed low success of PIT tag detection in the net pens, although about 50% of fish were tagged before they were released, and also a low number of animals caught during weekly routine subsampling. We investigated different reasons including both evasion of the micro tag probe and hand nets by the fish, and also checked water quality monitoring

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data for suboptimal conditions. Bottom hypoxia was detected in parts of the net pens that is a known cause for flounder mortality.

Managed: We took immediate countermeasures and started to create oxygen refuges in the net pens by providing extra oxygen via dispensers and gas bottles that were exchanged twice a week. Finally we decided to end the experiment 2 weeks earlier than planned and after 6 weeks duration. Upon clearing of the net pens, a very low survival rate of flounder juveniles was determined after 6 weeks, at 0% for the small size class and about 3% for the large size class, which was considerably lower than the estimated 20 - 30% in the original protocol.

Corrective actions: After looking into the suite of probable causes that may have contributed to the low survival, we identified temporally low oxygen concentrations, high temperatures and predation by blue crabs that found their way into the pens as likely culprits. Upon a thorough discussion of alternatives, the PIs decided to move the experimental site from the field at Mustang Island to ponds at the TPWD Marine Development Center, that present a semi-natural environment. Have control for potential predators and surveying water quality will be easier at the ponds, while natural water quality and plankton food supply is available. Paddling wheels are available to provide aeration if needed to prevent the development of hypoxic conditions. The timing of the upcoming experiments during winter and spring and lower temperatures will avoid any temperature stress. An amendment to change the experimental site was submitted.

Discussion: Study initiated on August 2 and event not reported to November 29. Did PI start 2<sup>nd</sup> experiment or stop after awareness of issue? This is a long time between start of experiment and awareness. High mortality was expected in this experiment and it was not until experiment was taken down that PI became aware of higher than expected mortality. Not until semi-annual inspection did IACUC coordinator become aware of this issue. IACUC coordinator alerted PI to the need to report higher than expected mortality. Quantification of mortality could not occur until the end of the experiment. A second experiment was not done. An amendment was submitted to move to TPWD ponds and approved (11 Nov 2021)

The amendment indicates there is more control over the environment to monitor oxygen. PI feels this is more of an oxygen event rather than temperature. With changes they still expect high mortality because of small animals (fingerlings) but will be less than this first experiment.

Experience from first experiment will be used to determine earlier mortality event and stop the experiment sooner if this is a repeated issue.

New pond: Has this been inspected? The last off campus inspection (November 2021) included reviewing the new pond that will be used.

The Chair invited additional comments, questions, and/or concerns. Having none, the motion to approve was made, seconded and carried.

Vote yes: 8	Recused: 0
Vote no: 0	Excused: 2 (Chapa and Scarpa)
Abstain: 0	



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### **V. Other**

The next IACUC meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2022, at 10:00 AM (note earlier than usual start time).

Reminder - 2022 meetings will be held via ZOOM.

Meeting adjourned at 1:49 pm.