

SOP #: 112.02Title: **SOP - Oviparous Fish Embryo Use In Teaching and Research at Florida International University**

Approvals:

Attending Veterinarian

Date:

IACUC Chair

Date:

1. Purpose

The eighth edition of the Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals addresses terrestrial and aquatic animals in separate sections, reflecting the growing role of aquatic animals in biomedical research. FIU animal care is committed to observing all Federal Guidelines and AAALAC International policies for the humane care and use of animals. Due to the unique features of aquatic species, the IACUC has created dedicated guidelines related to the care and use of freshwater fish embryos such as zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) and others. We encourage researchers to use these guidelines as a basis when working with aquatic species. All experimental procedures and agents must be incorporated into the animal study protocol and approved by the IACUC before being implemented as well as any justifications for deviations.

2. Responsibility

2.1 The procedure outlined in this policy is limited to use by authorized employees at FIU. It is the responsibility of the Principle Investigators and their approve delegates and staff to insure that all vertebrate embryos are handled in accordance with federal regulations and AAALAC guidelines.

3. Definitions

3.1 FIU – Florida International University

3.2 PHS - Public Health Service

3.3 AAALAC - Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International

4. Guidelines

4.1 Larval forms of fish and amphibians have vertebrae and are covered by the PHS Policy. The PHS Policy applies to the offspring of egg-laying vertebrates only after hatching. Zebrafish larvae, for example, typically hatch 3 days post-fertilization.

4.2 AAALAC (Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Laboratory Animal Care International): The IACUC considers embryos and fetuses as vertebrate animals if their CNS is sufficiently developed to feel pain.

4.3 FIU: IACUC considers all hatched fish embryos/larvae as covered species regardless of degree of yolk sac absorption.

5. References

5.1 <http://www.aaalac.org/>

5.2 Animal Welfare Act & Regulations (9 CFR 11; §3.9)

5.3 The Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals 8th Edition (NRC 2011)

6. Revisions

6.1 Revision 02: 2016 IACUC Review