Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee

Guidelines for Fisheries and Aquaculture Applications

The University of New Hampshire Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) developed these guidelines for submitting an application based on past IACUC reviews of projects in these areas.

Section III, A (summary of proposed animal use)
Make sure it is clear how the proposed study will differ from previously published work (i.e., identify the information gaps the study is intended to fill and if the research duplicates previous experiments, explain why the duplication is necessary).

Section IV, A (experimental design)
1. Researchers are responsible for obtaining all necessary permits for the study (e.g., NMFS federal permit, capture permit, interstate transport permit, release permit).
2. Please provide detailed information about the following, as appropriate for the specifics of the study:
   a. Location and time of year of capture/trapping, the maximum amount of fish by species to be caught/trapped (estimate high if precision is not possible), number and description of traps, holding time in traps, length and depth of trawls, net mesh size, capture/trapping procedures, size of fish, how moribund fish (or those that do not appear robust) will be handled, and physical arrangements for transporting fish from source to the research lab/facility, including tank sizes, aeration/water exchange, and time spent in tanks.
   b. If by-catch will be involved, approximate number, type, and disposition.
   c. If used, where holding tanks are located and how long fish will be housed there.
   d. Disposition of remaining fish (those caught but not used for further study).
   e. If fish are returned to the ocean, where and how (re-release of wild fish may require additional permitting).
3. Please provide detailed information about the following for individual experiments/activities, as appropriate for the specifics of the study:
   a. Dimensions of tanks/cages, aeration method, water temperature (at source, during holding and transport, and at destination, as well as information about the acclimation period, if necessary), depths of cages, animal densities, number of fish sampled, sampling procedures, what will happen to the fish at the end of the experiment, and how long fish will be housed at site.
   b. How fish are handled in each activity (e.g., using nets, mesh size of nets).
   c. If used, the process of stocking out fish.
   d. How fish will be disposed of in the event of mortality.
   e. Total length of time of each experiment.
   f. Experimental procedures (specific):
      i. Feeding trials: photoperiod and timing of feeding trials, amount and type of food, feeding strategies, environmental factors being monitored, fish behaviors being monitored, and how data are to be collected.
      ii. Tagging/implants: who will be performing surgical procedures, site of tag/implant, size of tags/implants, sedation method, tagging/implant procedures, needle sizes, and doses of freezing agents, anesthetics, and antibacterial creams, etc.
iii. Behavioral studies: ranges and types of environmental factors manipulated, types and methods of behavioral stimuli, frequency of observations and how data are to be collected.

iv. Blood collection: frequency, site, amount, and syringe and needle size, and the details if fish must be held/immobilized/out of water.

Section VI, A (method to determine animal numbers):
Please address the following:
1. Justify the number of animals requested using maximum numbers if unsure of exact numbers.
2. Indicate how many times (if more than once) individual animals will be subjected to specific procedures (consider providing a flow chart).

Animal Numbers
Researchers must make sure that numbers in Section VI A, Section V, Table 1, and Section VI tables tally.

Facilities for Animal Housing and Use
Researchers must ensure that all facilities where fish will be housed and used have prior IACUC approval for the specific animal and its use. All facility SOPs (and modifications to SOPs) must be approved by the IACUC.