Special Issue

Puberty and Early Gametogenesis in Fish

Message from the Guest Editor

Puberty can be defined as the process by which an immature animal acquires the ability to reproduce for the first time. In fish, puberty it is characterized by the beginning of gametogenesis and it is controlled by the activation of the brain-pituitary-gonad axis. This axis stimulates the synthesis and secretion of follicle stimulating hormone and luteinizing hormone, which in turn act on the gonads controlling the production of germ cells (gametogenesis) and sex steroids (steroidogenesis). Age and size at puberty is species-specific and different internal and external factors stimulate and modulate this activation. However, in fish, the information about the regulation of the early stages of gametogenesis is limited. In addition, onset of puberty is a major problem in aquaculture due to its negative influence on growth, feed conversion, health or animal welfare as well as on species diversification. A thorough study of these early stages becomes thus essential in order to find solutions to current and pressing issues in aquaculture.

Guest Editor

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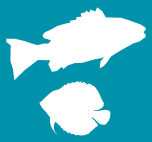

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Fishes is a multidisciplinary open access journal focusing on reports of original research and critical reviews and synthesis from the broad area of fishes and aquatic animals. The ultimate objective of *Fishes* is to facilitate the discovery of connections between research areas, advancing science and filling knowledge gaps, and providing solutions for all present and future issues encountered in the sector of fisheries and aquaculture. As Editor-in-Chief, I encourage you to consider *Fishes* for your scientific papers and would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

Editor-in-Chief

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