Special Issue

Welfare of Cultured and Experimental Fishes

Message from the Guest Editors

Welfare is a complex, multidimensional concept that can be broadly described as the state of an animal as it copes with the environment. Rearing conditions of finfish aquaculture and experimentation can impair welfare of captive fishes through stress, negative emotional states, health problems, and even mortality. Chemical, physical, social and other variables in captive environments can initiate changes at different levels within the individual, especially due to the high complexity of the sensory world of fishes. Natural stressors tend to be brief and/or avoidable, while stressors of anthropogenic origin may be unavoidable and prolonged or repetitive. Under such circumstances, chronic or repeated activation of stress responses is not adaptive and can cause severe damage to the animal. Therefore, it is essential to use indicators of welfare that draw attention to early signs of problems related to captivity conditions and allow intervention before harmful states are reached. As welfare in captivity is affected in multiple dimensions, there are multiple possible indicators to assess the welfare state of captive individuals.

Guest Editors

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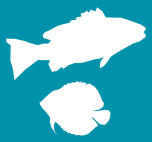

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About the Journal

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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