

University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

Aquaculture/Fisheries Center of Excellence

Policy for Organism Importation

Introduction

The UAPB Aquaculture and Fisheries Department conducts a variety of research studies applicable at local, regional, national and international levels. Such research may involve the use of living organisms in the confines of a laboratory or within ponds or tanks at the Aquaculture Research Station. The Organism Importation Needs Committee (OINC) was created by the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center to reduce risk factors associated with the importation of new live animal and plant species to Center facilities. The charge given to the OINC was to set guidelines to prevent possible contamination of these facilities, or worse, public lands and waters, with University-introduced organisms. The following criteria were developed with the goal of creating a measured approval process that increases the required detail and scrutiny corresponding to the perceived increase in potential risk.

It is Aquaculture/Fisheries Center policy that approval must be obtained from the OINC and the Center Director before any new species or strains of live organisms are introduced into Center facilities. This includes the Aquaculture Research Station, the Lonoke Farm, and all other facilities and laboratories, either on or off campus. Please use the provided flowchart to determine your obligation.

Assessment Requirements and Criteria

Researchers are asked to justify bringing in a new organism. This document will provide researchers with the criteria needed by the committee to decide the appropriateness of bringing new organisms to UAPB. Researchers are encouraged to provide information and documentation for each criterion, using Forms 1 and 2, in order to expedite the committee's decision. The committee may respond verbally or through written communication. The OINC hopes this process will help researchers understand the importance in considering issues involved with the importation of new organisms.

Justification

New organisms may be brought into the department for legitimate research and educational purposes only.

Any organism not listed on the Clean List must be evaluated by the OINC.

The requester must provide the committee with a compelling argument for bringing a new organism into the department in order to justify the risk to existing organisms both on and off UAPB property.

The requester must provide the committee with a proposal explaining the general outline of the project, to include (please use Form 1):

- species used**
- research facilities required**
- containment strategy**
- proposed length of stay**
- disposal/removal**

The requester must give information and documentation to satisfy the following criteria (please use Form 2): (Information on non-indigenous aquatic species is available at <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/fishes/fisheslist.htm>)

- 1. Temperature tolerance: what is the range of temperature tolerance of the organism?**
- 2. Natural distribution: where does this organism normally occur; is it native to the area; is it an introduced, but well established species; is it exotic?**
- 3. Ability to disperse on and off site: what is the likelihood the organism will move from pond to pond, tank to tank, out drain pipes, back up through inlet pipes, etc.?**
- 4. Breeding potential: reproductive ability in the research environment and in an environment into which it could escape.**
- 5. Potential to affect other research: e.g. if organism is kept in an aquarium in a lab the potential may be low. The same organism kept in a pond perhaps could negatively impact other research very easily.**

Using these criteria, the OINC will assess the risk to current research, facilities, and surrounding environment and make its recommendation to the requester. As this process continues, criteria may be added or deleted.

The researcher should consider the resulting costs if the organism escapes, spreads to other research or destroys facilities.

Remember:

Current Aquaculture/Fisheries Center policy requires that all organisms brought to UAPB must be health checked by the diagnostic lab according to the lab's protocol. This policy

extends to the introduction of new species as well. Always check with the lab before organism importation to verify how many animals may need to be sacrificed.

Organisms Imported to Diagnostic Labs

Due to the frequency of unknown organism importation to the UAPB Center diagnostic labs, these labs will not be required to justify each case. The labs will be responsible for using a standard policy which will receive, contain, and dispose of organisms. This Containment and Sanitation Policy will be developed by the diagnostic labs and approved by the Center Director. No equipment will leave the labs for use at other UAPB facilities unless a sanitation procedure cited in the previously mentioned policy has been utilized. This policy must be posted and all lab workers must understand and use the policy.

No organisms will leave the labs for use at other UAPB facilities unless they have passed through Route 1 of the Flowchart.

Flowchart

Bringing in an organism:

- 1. Is organism going to a diagnostic lab?**
Yes -> use Route 2
No -> use Route 1

Route 1

- 1. Is organism on Clean List?**
Yes -> a) turn in protocol for facilities space procurement
b) have organisms health checked before entry into facilities space.

No -> Submit Forms 1 and 2 to OINC

Route 2

- 1. Is organism destined solely for the diagnostic lab so it may be covered by the Containment and Sanitation Policy?**
Yes -> No action with OINC, see Organisms Imported to Diagnostic Labs
No -> If the organism may be used/stored at other UAPB facilities, go to Route 1.

Clean List

The Clean List is currently defined as all species listed in the Central Region in the Fishes Of Arkansas.

Policy for Organism Importation

Form

1

Please use Flowchart and read the policy completely before filling this out.

Request to Import Unlisted Species to a UAPB Aquaculture/Fisheries Center for Excellence Facility

Date _____

Requester
Name _____

1. Species to be imported: _____

2. What research facilities are required?

3. How will you confine the organisms to these facilities?

4. What is the proposed length of stay of the organisms at these facilities?

5. What method of disposal/removal will you use when the organisms are no longer needed? ____

6. Please give a short outline of your project which requires this species.

7. How does this project fulfill the Aquaculture/Fisheries Center's mandate to its stakeholders in Arkansas? _____

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Please use Flowchart and read the policy completely before filling this out.

Background information for _____ as listed on Form 1
(Species)

Date _____

Requester
Name _____

1. What is the range of temperature tolerance of the organism? _____

2a. This species is (circle one) exotic
native
introduced, but well established

2b. Where does this organism normally occur?

3. What is the likelihood the organism will move from pond to pond, tank to tank, out drain pipes, back up through inlet pipes, etc.?

4. What is the reproductive ability in the research environment and in an environment into which it could escape?

6. What is the potential affect of this organism on other research?

