

SOP No: AHT 028(f)

SUBJECT: Transportation of Live Fish – BOAT TRANSPORT (June 2016)

POLICY: Animal transportation should not be undertaken if fish are likely to be exposed to temperature extremes.
Boat transport should not exceed 3 hours

PRECAUTIONS: Acceptance and housing space must be approved and allocated prior to the transport of aquatic animals to UQ facilities
Personal protective equipment must be specific to the area of pick up, type of animal, and size of animal, which all must be taken into account in a risk assessment, and this includes any extra safety precautions that should be made due to the nature of the animal e.g. poisonous spines, sharp teeth, electrical discharge.
Staff responsible for the transportation of animals must use their professional judgement on the mode/type of equipment suitable for the particular animal being transported

EQUIPMENT: As relevant:
safety glasses (Risk Assessment)
gloves (Risk Assessment)
fully enclosed, non slip shoes

PROCEDURE:

Animals should be maintained in well-oxygenated water of a salinity and temperature close to the ambient conditions of the animal's habitat from which it was removed.

- Levels of dissolved oxygen in the water should be kept relatively high by use of a battery-powered aquarium style aerator with a diffusing stone. Fish should be transported in a large container, such as a plastic bin (with lid). Use buoyant material to prevent water slopping about during transport (e.g. polystyrene sheets, neoprene – that cover most of the water's surface).
- A water-change of up to 50% of the volume in the bin should be performed at regular intervals to maintain the water temperature close to that of the fishes' habitat. This is particularly important when operating in an open-boat in tropical conditions.
- Fish containing bins should be positioned in a stable (if available - shaded) position in the boat so as not to present a hazard to the operation of the craft or the crew/passengers.

- **Safe lifting of the fish containers is required when unloading the boat (Risk assessment). Multi-person lift, or scissor lifts should be used for heavy containers (containers half-filled with water are recommended to reduce overall mass). Stable and safe conditions need be identified prior to lifting.**

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Wildlife, fisheries and National Park (e.g. GBRMPA, MBMP, GSMP) permits may be required for animals obtained from the wild.

On arrival at the destination fish should be gradually acclimatised to tank conditions to minimise the rate of thermal change – a process that may take many tens of minutes if there is a significant temperature differential between transportation and final destination tanks.

A period of isolation should be considered to reduce/prevent the introduction of parasites and infections into an aquarium system.

DATE ISSUED: 24.06.2009

**REVISED: 10.07.2012
07.04.2015**


CHAIR OF AEC

REFERENCES

1. http://www.ccaac.ca/en/CCAC_Programs/Guidelines_Policies/GDLINES/Fish/Fish_Guidelines_English.pdf