

- SOP No:** AHT 028(e)
- SUBJECT:** Transportation of Live Fish – ROAD TRANSPORT (June 2016)
- POLICY:** Animal transportation should not be undertaken if fish are likely to be exposed to temperature extremes.
- 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
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.
- Oxygenation:**
Levels of dissolved oxygen in the water should be kept relatively high by using either:
- (i) a battery-powered aquarium style aerator with a diffusing stone for fish 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), or
 - (ii) by placing animal(s) in double bags (large, heavy duty polythene) held in a rigid-walled container with water of the correct temperature, and inflating the bag with pure oxygen. Close (fold/roll) the top of bag and use rubber bands to make air-tight. Regular monitoring of animals is required. Gas volume should be as large as feasible. This technique will be affected by a number of variables and is not recommended for long-duration transport especially if stocking density (biomass) of animals is relatively high.
- Temperature:**

Abrupt changes in water temperature should be avoided. Air-conditioned vehicles may be suitable for transport of temperate, cool-water species, but may not be appropriate in tropical regions.

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.ccac.ca/en/CCAC_Programs/Guidelines_Policies/GDLINES/Fish/Fish_Guidelines_English.pdf