

IACUC Guidelines for the Use of Zebrafish at UWM

Last Review: 4/2022

Revision History:

Current OLAW interpretation of the PHS Policy considers aquatic species as “live, vertebrate animals” at hatching. Although this is an imprecise stage for zebrafish it can be approximated at 72 hours post fertilization. For purposes of accountability all stages of development greater than three days of age should be described in an approved animal protocol. Thus, an estimate of the number of larval zebrafish from day 4-7 days post fertilization (dpf) should be included.

Since these early stages (4-7dpf) are not currently considered to feel pain or distress, their numbers should be separated from the zebrafish 8 days of age or older. The number of animals used may need to be provided as an estimate, particularly with these young larvae, consider their size and normal housing conditions. Estimated numbers may still be used after they have matured to adults if they are group housed.

There will be an appendix to the protocol form to complete that will account for the use of zebrafish less than 8 days of age. They are exempt from the rest of the protocol form, although a coversheet must be completed.