

Preparation Guidelines Before Working with Fish

Things to Be Aware of:

1. Training Requirements:

- All need to comply with NMBUs routine for competence requirements (ANNEX A)

2. Project Approval:

- Projects above the legally defined threshold for potential harm require approval from authorities ([Mattilsynet](#)) via a FOTS application.
- Contact [PMSK NMBU](#) if you are in doubt whether your project requires a FOTS-application
- You should read NMBUs routine for planning, applying, and performing animal experiments for further information (ANNEX B)
- Consult the NMBU guidance documents for FOTS applications (ANNEX C)

3. Chemicals and Infection Agents:

- Researchers must conduct a risk assessment and provide Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for any chemicals, infection agents or other hazards used in the project.
- SOPs must be validated by the HSE coordinator at the fish facility before the last preparatory meeting to prevent the spread of infection or contamination, and to limit the risks on the fish facility staff and users.

Things to Do:

1. Contact the Fish Facility:

- Initiate contact with the fish facility to discuss project specifics and obtain an estimated budget.
- Provide details such as fish quantity, age/size/weight, origin, tank requirements, experiment duration, necessary equipment, and the need of technical assistance for specific tasks (e.g. sampling).

Note: Obtain the estimated budget before grant application to prevent underestimation of costs.

2. Provide the necessary documentation:

- If a FOTS-app is not required, an agreement between the researcher and the fish facility is essential. Provide detailed project information, including group/treatment separation, environmental conditions, special research requirement, chemicals/pathogens, and personnel access.

Note: For infection or toxicology studies, additional information is required.

- Infection Study:
 - Method of infection, pathogen aggressiveness, mortality expectations, humane endpoints, and handling of dead/sacrificed fish.
- Toxicology Study:
 - Fish exposure method, toxicity level, mortality expectations, humane endpoints, and handling of dead/sacrificed fish.
- Researchers must provide complementary SOPs/risk assessments specific to the project's pathogen or chemical.

Important Information for SOPs:

- Pathogen SOPs:
 - Pathogen identity, spread prevention procedures.
- Chemical SOPs:
 - Chemical identity, danger to fish and personnel, contamination prevention procedures, waste treatment, and material decontamination.

For any questions, contact us at lab-fish-vet@nmbu.no.