

Health monitoring of fish used in research – progress?

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The paper will give a short description of how VESO Vikan perform health monitoring of fish used in research.

Health monitoring is important to assure that we put healthy fish into research and to keep the fish healthy during the research period until we challenge them.

VESO Vikan has a history of 20 years, and health monitoring and secure sources for trial fish are fields that have been developed continuously.

In 2000 we bought a hatchery for production of Atlantic salmon for research purposes, to be able to produce fish of good quality, correct size and health status according to specifications for vaccine testing.

External suppliers are used for other species, and the procedures for health monitoring of these farms and fish are presented.

The paper will also focus on challenges in the research facility with respect to hygiene, water quality, adverse mortalities, know - how of new species etc.

Production of specific pathogen free fish may give us a standardized research fish without diseases, but is such a production possible?

The lack of harmonization of health monitoring and challenge models between labs will also be discussed.