

***Stress in Fish:
New Directions***

SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

Bruce Barton

Tom Pottinger

George Iwama

Don M^{ac}Kinlay

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Don MacKinlay, SEP DFO, 555 West Hastings St.,
Vancouver BC V6B 5G3 Canada
Phone: 604-666-3520 Fax 604-666-6894
E-mail: mackinlayd@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Website: www.fishbiologycongress.org

PREFACE

The physiological responses of fish to stress have been documented extensively during the last two decades. Indeed, many thorough reviews have been published on the subject. Fish physiologists have now directed their attention to unravelling answers to those important questions: What? – the central and peripheral mechanisms involved with regulating the stress response; and, So what? – the effects of stress on fish performance, health and well-being.

The objective of this symposium was to focus on recent novel findings regarding the nature of stress responses in fish, new approaches for determining stressed states, and applications of such findings in aquaculture and environmental monitoring. We believe we have met that objective by presenting a truly international suite of papers and posters by both established scientists and graduate students representing nine countries. The diversity of stress-related research topics presented in this symposium – physiology and behaviour; responses to environmental challenges; cellular, molecular and endocrine responses; metabolism and metabolic activity – reflect those new directions and are not mutually exclusive. The overlapping of these areas of interest clearly indicates potential new avenues for future study on the physiology of stress in fish.

Symposia and meetings, such as this Congress, are as much about communicating and networking with colleagues, as they are showcasing new research findings. Interested participants and readers are encouraged to contact the symposium's presenters with follow-up questions, or simply to discuss areas of mutual interest or even possible collaborations. We sincerely thank the paper and poster presenters and co-authors for sharing their results at the Congress and wish them every success in their future research endeavours.

Symposium Organizers:

Bruce Barton
University of South Dakota

George Iwama
University of British Columbia

Tom Pottinger
Institute of Freshwater Ecology

Don MacKinlay
Fisheries Canada

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Don MacKinlay
Congress Chair

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Interaction of stress, pathogens and development on behavior of teleosts Schreck, C.B.	1
Behavioral and neuroendocrine correlates of social stress in fish Winberg, Svante et al.	5
Why did the salmon cross the road? The neuroendocrine control of migration in juvenile salmonids Clements, S. and C. Schreck	9
Physiological effects of behavioural interactions in artificial and natural environments Sloman, K.	11
Impaired adrenal steroidogenesis in fish chronically exposed to environmental xenobiotics Hontela, A.	17
Brain monoamine concentrations as predictors of growth inhibition in channel catfish exposed to ammonia Atwood, Heidi Tomasso, Joe, et al.	23
Stream temperature affects growth and stress indices in juvenile chinook salmon Shrimpton, M. and D.M. Blouw	27
Are behaviour and body colouration effective diagnostic tools for assessing environmental stress in fish? Owen, S.	33
Comparison of short-term changes in condition of hatchery- raised chinook salmon between polluted and reference estuaries Brand, Dawna, et al.	35
Molecular mechanisms for contending with osmotic stress Bradley, T., et al.	51
Stress-associated modulation in the expression of cytokine and related genes in rainbow trout Holland, Jason, T. Pottinger and C. Secombes	53
Characterization of the impact of rearing density on the responses of yellow perch to subsequent inflammatory challenges Haukenes, Alf and B. Barton	59
Involvement of corticotropin-releasing factor and urotensin I in mediating the appetite suppressing effects of stress in fish Bernier, Nicholas and R. Peter	63
In-vitro regulation of cortisol and ACTH output from interrenal and pituitary tissue of gilthead sea bream Rotllant, J. et al.	67

The regulatory roles of cortisol and catecholamines in trout white muscle glycogen metabolism studied in-vitro Milligan, C. Louise and J. Frolow	73
Locomotory dynamics as indicators of stress in fish -- remote measures utilizing activity transmitters Cooke, Steven J., et al.....	77
An experimental test of substrate-induced stress in two benthic fish species, burbot and stone loach Fischer, P.	87
Metabolic impact of handling on <i>Pseudoplatystoma coruscans</i> , a widespread teleost fish Moraes, Gilberto, and P.M. Bidinotto	89
Variation in the stress response between genetically different strains of common carp Ruane, Neil et al.	101
Effects of hatchery stress on heat shock protein induction in juvenile Atlantic salmon Zarate, J. and T. Bradley.....	105
Neurotransmitter activity in the fore- and hind-brain of the pallid sturgeon, following acute and chronic stress Sipiorski, Justin, et al.....	109
Handling stress affects avoidance behavioural responses of juvenile walleye Barton, B., A. Haukenes and C. Sykes.....	115
Physiological stress responses of stream dwelling rainbow trout to clear-cut logging Mellina, Erick and S.G. Hinch.....	121
Metabolic rearrangements of submitted to environmental dehydration Moraes, Gilberto, et al.	127
Effects of dietary supplemental tryptophan on intraspecific aggressive behaviour in rainbow trout: implication for the rearing of fish in aquaculture Lepage, Olivier, O. Overli and S. Winberg	133
Why are sea bass so susceptible to stress? Internel dynamics provide some explanations. Tort, L., et al.	137
Metabolic actions of cortisol during stress in fish Vijayan, M.	139

