

Biosecurity in the CZAR

It is important that all personnel using the CZAR follow these steps to avoid the accidental introduction of new pathogens into the fish facility, and to help reduce the current pathogen load in the CZAR. These policies will evolve over time and should be reviewed any time you wish to do something new. If you have questions, please check with the director prior to starting something new.

1. ALL embryos from the CZAR must be treated with Bleach OR Ovadine before going into the CZAR nursery incubator. The protocols and supplies needed are provided beside the sinks in the injection rooms and the microscope room.
2. Embryos from fish mated in other fish facilities on campus may **ONLY** be placed in the CZAR incubators after they have been treated with Bleach THEN Ovadine using these same protocols. The protocols and supplies needed are provided beside the sinks in the injection rooms and the microscope room.
3. When working with CZAR embryos or fry in your labs that will return to the CZAR, please clean your lab work area with 70% EtOH prior to starting. Please make every effort to avoid these potential sources of contamination: dirty work surfaces, old or used pipets/petri dishes, and non-sterile solutions.
4. Embryos from fish mated in the CZAR and transported to user's labs for microinjection or sorting on fluorescent scopes must be decontaminated using the Bleach OR Ovadine protocols and supplies before going into the CZAR incubators.
5. If you must wait until the fry have hatched to screen them in your lab, please sanitize the embryos before the fry hatch. Then follow the guidelines in #3 above.
6. The quarantine facility (QX) will house all imported adult fish. The QX is not intended to house fish long-term. Please plan to mate imported fish quickly and establish a new generation of fish in the main facility within 4 months of import. Users will be asked to euthanize fish residing in the QX longer than six months.
7. The QX room is now a locked facility. You must have training to use the QX and check out the key. (see 18.20-QX Use.docx).
8. Traffic from the QX to the main fish rooms should be minimized. Please do not work in the main fish rooms on the same day after handling water or fish in the QX unless you have showered or taken similar precautions. Items and fish from the QX should not be brought into the main facility without advance permission from CZAR management or staff.
9. Please use fish tanks rather than mating tanks to transport fish to individual labs. Tanks and dishes removed from the CZAR should be returned to the red bin on top of the ice machine for cleaning with QX dishes. Please do not return dishes with water in them. This increases the biosecurity risk to staff and fish.
10. Nothing that touches the floor should be subsequently placed into the system. This includes escapee fish, nets, cage parts, fish food, etc.

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11. Never return an escaped fish to a tank, even if you think you know where it belongs. This could introduce pathogens or lead to genetic contamination.
12. Work should not be performed on the floor. Please work on a cart or a bench.
13. Please clean up after yourself. Dirty tanks and accessories should be placed in the designated areas. This helps prevent accidental reuse of dirty supplies. Please use hand squeegees to clean up spilled water on benches, and floor squeegees to clean up excess water spilled on floors.
14. Wearing (powder-free) gloves is recommended for working in system water or contacting fish. Users must supply their own gloves. Hands and arms should be washed thoroughly with soap provided in the fish facility before and after contacting fish or system water. Lotions, fragrances, and similar substances must be removed from hands/arms so that they do not contaminate fish water, as these can negatively affect water quality and fish health.
15. Please use one net per tank of fish. If a net is used for handling a sick or dead fish, please place it in a dirty net bin, and then get a clean one to continue working.
16. If you notice a sick fish, please point it out to facility staff.
17. If you notice a dead fish in your tank, please remove it from the tank, and transport it in a container* to the “Dead Fish” bucket in the freezer. Please put the container on the dirty dish rack for bleaching, and the net in one of the net buckets.

*Please do not carry dead fish in a net while dripping dead fish water half way across the CZAR to put it in the freezer.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

No food or drink for human consumption should be used or stored in the animal facility except in designated break rooms or offices.

Please do not leave standing water on surfaces or the floor. Standing water can lead to personnel injury. Squeegees, mops, and paper towels are provided in the facility. Sandals and flip flops are prohibited in the animal facilities by the UofU Environmental Health and Safety Department.