

## KELPFISH CARE

SOP# - OSTE12

**PURPOSE:** To describe methods of husbandry for kelpfishes.

**POLICY:** To provide optimum care for all animals.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** Collector and user of the animals. If these are not the same person, the user takes over responsibility of the animals as soon as the animals have arrived on station.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Identifying Characteristics
<b>Striped kelpfish</b>	<i>Gibbonsia metzi</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- This kelpfish has no eye-spots</li><li>- Dark in color</li><li>- Evenly-spaced soft dorsal rays and a rounded tail</li><li>- It can reach 24cm in length</li><li>- Well camouflaged in weed-choked rocky crevices, it is found in surf-swept rocky shallows</li></ul> 

### **IDENTIFICATION:**

### **CAPTURE:**

<b>Location</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Well camouflaged in weed-choked rocky crevices</li><li>- It is found in surf-swept rocky shallows</li><li>- Also found in salt and brackish water tidepools and around pilings and piers</li><li>- Never swim below depths of a few meters.</li></ul>
<b>Methods</b>	Caught with a long-handled, fine-meshed dipnet.

## ANIMAL CARE:

<b>Holding Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Held in continually flowing seawater in large tanks</li><li>- Water must be aerated</li><li>- These fish are shy and often only their head is seen poking out as they hide behind rocks and seaweeds</li><li>- Lids are necessary.</li></ul>
<b>Feeding</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Feeds on green algae though, will happily eat finely chopped frozen fish or mussels</li></ul>
<b>Tank Cleaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Once every 2-3 weeks, fish should be removed from the tank and placed into a holding bucket</li><li>- The tanks should be drained and the sides and bottom should be scrubbed and rinsed with warm freshwater</li><li>- The tanks should then be rinsed with cold seawater and allowed to refill, and the kelpfish replaced.</li></ul>
<b>Daily Cleaning</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Ensure water is flowing into the tank at a reasonable rate.</li><li>-Ensure the standpipe is in place and not blocked.</li><li>-Check for and remove dead animals.</li><li>-Check for and remove any uneaten prey organisms.</li><li>-Check for and remove foreign organisms.</li></ul>
<b>Animal Return</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Animals should be returned to the site of their collection</li><li>- Be sure to have well oxygenated water in bucket that they are being returned in</li><li>- If any anesthetic chemical has been used on the fish during its holding at BMSC, the animal must not be released before the drug withdrawal time. Withdrawal time should be on the label of an anesthetic in degree-days or 'ATUs' (degree-days are the accumulated thermal units for a given day. One day at 10C is 10 degree-days)</li></ul>

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2017