

Bamfield Animal Care Committee 2019
Letter to Researchers

Dear Researchers at the Bamfield Marine Sciences Centre,

2019 is a watershed year for the BMSC. The Director and staff have been working diligently on your behalf to secure funding for, and build, new infrastructure in support of your research at BMSC. The flagship of these accomplishments is the new shark holding building (the Cable Tank) and a reliable seawater supply system. The BMSC administration has been particularly supportive of the Bamfield Animal Care Committee (BACC) as we add additional capacity and secure fish holding areas to ensure compliance with the CCAC regular and serious recommendations detailed in their 2018 audit of BMSC. Both the administration and the BACC thank you for your cooperation, input and patience as we align with the CCAC.

To this end, I am very happy to inform you that our CCAC certification regarding *Good Animal Practice* has been reinstated. The glory is short lived, however, as our next regular audit is August 2019. We are very confident that with the collaborative effort of all involved at BMSC these past few years, we will pass without issue.

The BACC would like to congratulate all research teams on the success of the Research and Animal Care Orientation (RACO). The CCAC was impressed with how well this RACO meeting has been accepted and the collaborative tone it has set to ongoing relations. It has helped the BACC team as well, because they acknowledge that their message of 'Here to help' has been received.

This year, the RACO has a new importance. In response to a long-standing issue between the CCAC and BACC over access to labs, and in compliance with CCAC recommendations, all labs have been placed on restrictive access. Each lab has a key 'lock-box' next to it, within which will be found keys to the lab. The code for this box will be given to listed research team members at the RACO. As well, fish holding area access points have keyed or number pad locks on them that will also be issued to authorized personnel at the meeting. We are working towards all keypad entries in the future, but the budget would not allow it this year.

The BACC continues to reduce redundancy in filling out BMSC AUPs by working more closely with the home ACCs. We have established an excellent working relationship with each of the member university ACCs, allowing us to use much more of the home institute AUP information. We are working to align the process to describe how the principles of the work apply to the conditions at the BMSC. It is a work in progress.



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Should you find yourself needing to apply to the BMSC for an AUP before it can be reviewed by your home ACC, the BACC can conduct a preliminary review towards a *provisional approval* (provided your AUP is complete). Although this will allow you to make plans to procure animals in advance of your arrival, you may only commence work once your home institute has notified the BACC of their approval of your AUP, and after the BACC has conducted its own full committee review. The CCAC will allow for a limited number of provisional approvals, however, a full face-to-face meeting of the BACC is required for full approval of AUPs at BMSC. We have increased the number of these meetings with three scheduled between April and August this year.

We can now issue renewals for three years past the approval year to comply with the funding cycle. If experiments: a) have not changed, b) the home institution has renewed the home approval and c) the staff is the same, the AUP may be renewed. Any minor amendments, for example up to two new researchers, a small increase in the number of animals, are acceptable for renewal. We are working on language for our Terms of Reference regarding minor and major changes and what qualifies for this decision. The main point of concern here is change of species. We continue to work on our process internally, so please be patient. More information will be forthcoming in the months ahead.

The BACC sincerely appreciates the help and cooperation we have received from the researchers. Please keep the constructive comments for improvement coming – they really help. We are excited to start a new research season and we look forward to you using the facility upgrades.

On behalf of the Bamfield Animal Care Committee,



Jim Powell

Chair, BACC

