**University of Vermont**

**Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee**

Approved by IACUC – 4/22/19

Reviewed and Revised:

**Policy Title:** Counting fish Usage

**Purpose:** The University of Vermont is responsible to OLAW (Office of Laboratory Animal Welfare) and USDA for assuring that animal numbers on approved protocols are accounted for. This policy is to provide direction to investigators regarding when they must count zebra fish (*Danio* species) or other fish species as part of an animal-use protocol.

**POLICY:** OLAW considers larval and adult forms of fish to be covered by the Public Health Service policy, and both of these forms must be counted. OLAW has made the determination that all stages of zebra fish development greater than 3 days post-fertilization must be described in animal-use protocols. Zebrafish from 4 days post-fertilization onward are considered animals, and therefore must be counted. Other species of fish similarly must be counted after the larvae have emerged from the egg, which will vary by species and incubation conditions.

This policy acknowledges that making exact counts of zebra fish and other fish larval forms is difficult, and allows knowledgeable investigators to rely on experience and expertise to arrive at estimated counts that accurately reflect numbers of zebra fish 4 days post-fertilization as well as other fish species that are used.

Adapted from University of Wisconsin policy, 2012-044-v