

Response: ProjectID 35061

Prophylactic Treatments for White Sturgeon with the White Sturgeon Iridovirus (WSIV)

Comment: "The proposal was inadequate..... Such checking of prophylactics doesn't seem to be cutting edge research".

Response:

Not all of us doing practical research can submit Nobel caliber projects. The ISRP Preliminary Comments contained no meaningful or useful critique of this proposal. They show no understanding of the field of therapeutic treatments in fisheries and are only concerned with denigrating submissions without backing it up any useful suggestions.

I agree this is not "cutting edge" research. It is practical, applied research submitted to fill a severe lack of information in the area for fish therapeutants, especially the area of sturgeon treatments.

Comment: "The prophylactics are commonly used on other fish for similar infections".

Response:

That is a true statement. However, they have not been tested on white sturgeon. According to FDA regulations these compounds are not cleared for use on white sturgeon and until such information is supplied to FDA for a label extension, they are technically illegal to use.

Comment: "No literature documentation is provided for this common practice".

Response:

Of course not; there is no information out there in the literature on the use of therapeutants on sturgeon. As I stressed in Section 9b of my proposal (and strongly stressed in my presentation) any existing treatment information is all anecdotal.

Proposal overview:

This proposal is a simple examination of six therapeutic compounds to determine which ones might supply the best treatment for white sturgeon. The experimental design is standard for evaluating the efficacy of various treatments. It is a design that has been used in similar work with other species of fish. It will provide useful

information for the hatchery manager as well as serving as a basis for FDA label extension. Until this type of work is done the medicine chest for white sturgeon will remain empty. No, it is not rocket science, but it is a critical need. If there are design flaws I would like to know them because the ISRP Comments were nonexistent in this area.