



Fish health management by husbandry training

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In an effort to sustain fish biodiversity, Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan has developed a health management method for handling fish in captivity and for collecting physiological and behavioral data as a part of *in-* and *ex situ* conservation activities.

The process of selecting and capturing one particular fish among many in a large exhibit tank is often a difficult task and can be dangerous for our staff. Also fish become stressed while being physically restrained during examinations, resulting in the risk that the collected data may lack validity.

To address these concerns, we have been conducting husbandry training to enable our staff to confidently perform inspections, palpations, weight checks, logger installations, biopsies, ultrasound examinations and collection of blood samples. We have worked with Chondrichthyes such as Zebra Shark (*Stegostoma fasciatum*) and Whale Shark (*Rhincodon typus*), and Osteichthyes like Spotted Halibut (*Verasper variegates*) and Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*). Examples of these fish health management efforts will be presented.