

Fish Physiology in Support to a Sustainable Aquaculture

International Conference – University of Namur (Namur, Belgium)
6 - 9 July 2026

General information

The conference will start on Monday evening, 6 July, with registration and a social get-together and ends on Thursday 9 July at 17h.

Presentation time

Invited keynote lectures (KL): 30 minutes (25 min talk + 5 min Q&A) - [Learn more about the keynote speakers here!](#)

Contributed talks (CT): 15 minutes (12 min talk + 3 min Q&A)

Poster teasers (PT): 3 minutes without Q&A (it is recommended to provide 2-3 slides that should incite people to visit your poster!)

Speakers

Please transfer your presentation file to conference PC on podium in the morning or - !!exceptionally!! – during the break before the new session starts.

Poster presentation

Please place your poster (Size: A0 - Width: 841 mm, Height: 1189 mm, portrait orientation) on the boards according to the number given in the programme. Posters should be put up during arrival in the afternoon Day 0 and remain throughout the conference.

Prices

A price will be awarded to Master/PhD students for the best oral presentation and the best poster.

Conference Programme

All talks are numbered in sequence according to the conference schedule (T00 - T48), which you will again find in the abstract book.

DAY 0- MONDAY 6TH JULY

16:00	Arrival & registration at the conference venue, Faculty of Sciences, rue Grafé, 2 - 5000 Namur - Belgium
18:00	Welcome get-together

DAY 1- TUESDAY 7TH JULY 2026

8:15-8:45	Registration-welcome
8:45-9:00	Welcome address by Sabine Henry, Dean of the Science Faculty
9:00-9:30	T00-Introductory lecture by P. Kestemont
	Session 1 - Physiology of reproduction Chairs: D. Zarski & C. Mylonas
9:30-10:00	T01-Keynote 1 by C. Mylonas: Fish reproduction control in Mediterranean aquaculture
10:00-10:15	T02-O. Baric: Transcriptomic Insights into the Onset and Maturation of the Circadian Clock in Eurasian Perch
10:15-10:30	T03-J. Nynca: Integrated proteomic and transcriptomic analysis reveals mechanism of in vivo post-ovulatory egg ageing in pikeperch
10:30-11:00	Coffee break-poster viewing
11:00-11:30	T04-Keynote 2 by D. Zarski: Non-genetic inheritance factors as key drivers shaping progeny phenotype and intergenerational adaptability to aquaculture conditions
11:30-11:45	T05-O. Linhart: Optimizing short-term storage of common carp sperm: impacts on motility, hatchability, and offspring epigenetics
11:45-12:00	T06-S. Wałdowska: Post-thaw storage of sperm as a tool towards revealing paternal-effect genes in Eurasian perch, <i>Perca fluviatilis</i>
12:00-12:20	Poster teasers
12:20-13:20	Walking lunch on site
13:20-13:35	T07-P. Parente: The pikeperch (<i>Sander lucioperca</i>) mRNAome: from multi-tissue atlas to reproductive axis specificity
13:35-13:50	T08-M.Z. Iqbal: Integrative egg quality assessment in European plaice (<i>Pleuronectes platessa</i>): linking morphological and molecular markers

13:50-14:05	T09-F. Teletchea: Why do larvae hatch when they do? An extended analysis and first physical modelling approaches.
	Session 2 - Physiology of Feeding and Nutrition Chair: I. Lund
14:05-14:35	T10-Keynote 3 by M. Izquierdo: Essential fatty acids in hatchery diets: functions, levels and interactions
14:35-14:50	T11-M. Gokulakrishnan: Growth and Physiological Responses of Rainbow Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) to Dietary Replacement of Soy Protein Concentrate with Brewer's Spent Grain Protein Isolate
14:50-15:05	T12- N.T. Tran: Effects of Feeding Regime on Growth Performance and Feed Utilization of Pangasius (<i>Pangasianodon hypophthalmus</i>)
15:05-15:20	T13-C.J. Saromines: Growth and Physiological Responses of Rainbow Trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>) to Alternative Feed Ingredients Derived from <i>Agaricus bisporus</i> and <i>Pleurotus ostreatus</i> Stem By-Products
15:20-15:25	Poster teaser
15:25-16:00	Coffee break-poster viewing
	Session 2 - Physiology of Feeding and Nutrition (larval stage) Chair: M. Izquierdo
16:00-16:30	T14-Keynote 4 by I. Lund: Prospects of using live feed substitutes in early larval fish nutrition: Current status and remaining challenges
16:30-16:45	T15-O. Malvezin: Impact of growth rhythms on muscle characteristics in rainbow trout (<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>)
16:45-17:15	T16-Keynote 5 by E. Gisbert: Skeletal Deformities in Fish: The Holy Grail of the Aquaculture Industry
17:15-17:30	T17-C. Philippe: Effects of dietary protein sources and pigment supplementation on growth performance and fillet quality in Rainbow Trout
17:30-17:45	T18-C. Le Xuan: Plant-based additives in Tilapia aquaculture: applications, challenges and emerging opportunities
17:45-19:00	Beer/wine and cheese party
19:00	Dinner (free)

DAY 2-WEDNESDAY 8TH JULY 2026

	Session 2 - Physiology of Feeding and Nutrition (larval stage) Chair: E. Gisbert
9:00-9:30	T19-Keynote 6 by M. Saroglia: How Diet, Genotype, and Environment Shape Fish Microbiota for a Sustainable Aquaculture
9:30-9:45	T20-V. Kalemi: Diet, Genotype, and Environment as Drivers of Fish Microbiota: Implications for Sustainable Aquaculture
9:45-10:00	T21-K. Ricaud: Characterization of novel histone post-translational modifications linking, via the microbiota, the impact of the nutritional environment to phenotypes expressed in trout: towards an open door to new biomarkers of metabolic diseases?
	Session 3 - Fish immunology and health Chairs: D. Montero & L. Tort
10:00-10:30	T22-Keynote 7 by L. Tort: Interactive immuno-neuroendocrine response to stress
10:30-11:00	Coffee break-poster viewing
11:00-11:15	T23-H. Segner: Trade-offs between reproduction and immune system in female rainbow trout
11:15-11:45	T24-Keynote 8 by D. Montero: Nutritional strategies to enhance fish health and welfare
11:45-12:00	T25-L. Burratin: Comparative assessment of the potential effects of EE2 and E4 on immune development and functions in zebrafish (<i>Danio rerio</i>) under <i>Aeromonas hydrophila</i> challenge
12:00-12:15	Poster teasers
12:15-13:15	Walking lunch on site
13:15-13:30	T26-N.T. Mai: Replacing Fish Oil with Plant Oils: Lessons from Growth, Immunity and Inflammatory Balance in Fish
13:30-13:45	T27-S. Torrecillas & E. Gisbert: Use of dietary phytogenic feed additives as an effective approach to reduce <i>Vibrio anguillarum</i> infection incidence in European seabass <i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i> juveniles
13:45-14:00	T28-L. Molina Roque: Antioxidant, antibacterial, and immunostimulatory potentials of terrestrial and marine extracts from by-products and low-value biomass: An ex vivo study in gilthead seabream (<i>Sparus aurata</i>) head kidney leukocytes
14:00-14:15	T29-I.T. Chen: Using small fish models to assess phytobiotic-based feed additive for skin health
14:15-14:45	T30-Keynote 9 by A. Vanderplasschen: The Carp and Its Herpesvirus: A Fascinating Journey into Immune System Discoveries
14:45-15:15	Coffee break-poster viewing
	Session 4 -Physiology of stress and welfare Chair: S. Milla

15:15-15:45	T31-Keynote 10 by M. Gesto: Physiology of stress and its connections to Operational Welfare Indicators (OWIs) in aquaculture
15:45-16:00	T32-A. Palstra: Heart rate and acceleration biologging of yellowtail kingfish <i>Seriola lalandi</i> in a commercial marine RAS environment
16:00-16:15	T33-J. Arboleda: The stress response of European seabass (<i>Dicentrarchus labrax</i>) at harvest
16:15-16:45	T34-Keynote 11 by S. Milla: New strategies to evaluate and encourage fish welfare in aquaculture
16:45-17:15	T35-Keynote 12 by E. Thoré: Reading stress through animal behaviour
18:00-19:30	Visit Citadel of Namur or Grafe Lecoq Wine Caves
20:00	Gala dinner, Panorama

Social Activities:

Please gather in the entrance hall of the Science Building according to the activity you selected.

Participants of the Citadel activities (Activities 1 and 2) will depart promptly at 17:30 to catch the cable car. Please make sure you are ready on time.

- Activity 1: Guided visit of the Citadel underground passages
- Activity 2: Guided visit of the Citadel in the Middle Ages
- Activity 3: Visit of the Grafé-Lecocq wine cellars

Gala Dinner:

If you do not take part in one of these, please render yourself to the restaurant “**Panorama**” (address: Route Merveilleuse 82, 5000 Namur) on your own. Dinner starts at 20h.

Please remember to bring your badge with you. Your menu choice is indicated by the coloured ticket on the back of your badge. Once you are seated, place the coloured ticket in front of you so the serving staff can easily identify and serve the correct meal.

DAY 3-THURSDAY 9TH JULY 2026

	Session 5 - Fish genetics and epigenetics Chairs: F. Piferrer & F. Farnir
9:00-9:30	T36-Keynote 13 by M. Vandeputte: Which phenotypes for selective breeding in aquaculture?
9:30-10:00	T37-Keynote 14 by F. Farnir: Genomic selection in aquaculture: current status, challenges and prospects
10:00-10:15	T38-R. Debernardis: Zootechnical and transcriptomic profile of non-eating Eurasian perch larvae
10:15-10:30	T39-Y. Duong: Gene expression and growth in bighead catfish (<i>Clarias macrocephalus</i>) exposed to varying salinity levels
10:30-11:00	Coffee break-poster viewing
11:00-11:15	T40-L. Gazo: Sturgeon embryos as a model for genotoxicity screening
11:15-11:45	T41-Keynote 15 by F. Piferrer: Epigenetics in Aquaculture: recent developments and prospects
11:45-12:00	Poster teasers
12:00-13:00	Walking lunch on site
	Session 6 - Fish diversification/domestication Chair: C. Rougeot
13:00-13:30	T42-Keynote 16 by P. Fontaine: The domestication of new species in fish farming: assessment, challenges and prospects
13:30-14:00	T43-Keynote 17 by N.T. Phuong: Domestication of indigenous fishes: A significant contribution to the unprecedented development of Aquaculture in the Mekong River Delta, Vietnam
14:00-14:15	T44-K. Palińska-Żarska: Domestication starts early: physiological and molecular drivers of early-life adaptation in Eurasian perch (<i>Perca fluviatilis</i>)
14:15-14:30	T45-E. Diakos & T. Lecocq: Sex-specific domestication effects on aquaculture potential during early generations in a model fish species
14:30-14:45	T46-M.D. Tchiedjo: Effects of stocking ratios on the growth and welfare of pikeperch (<i>Sander lucioperca</i>) and sterlet (<i>Acipenser ruthenus</i>) reared in polyculture in recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS)
14:45-15:00	Poster teasers
15:00-15:30	Coffee break-poster viewing
	Session 7 - Fish Physiology and conservation Chair: P. Fontaine

15:30-16:00	T47-Keynote 19 by V. Cornet: Integrative Research to Improve Atlantic Salmon Health and Fitness Supporting Restocking Program in the Meuse Basin
16:00-16:15	T48-M. Poignet: Effects of Sperm Cryopreservation on Offspring Fitness and Environmental Stress Tolerance in Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>)
16:15-17:00	Awards and closure ceremony