

Focus of Research

Annex 1 to the research policy of Department of Aquaculture and Fish Biology, Hólar University College.

1 – Basic focus

The department emphasizes research in the following fields: evolutionary ecology, freshwater ecology, developmental biology, behaviour, physiology, aquaculture, and environmental studies.

The department aims to integrate research of these different fields, and encourage more collaboration; for example, through an emphasis on combining field and laboratory studies.

The department aims to be leading in each field of study by providing the best facilities in these fields and leading academic discussion and teaching, and by organising meetings and participation in domestic and international workshops and conferences.

To further improve the research in these areas, the department aims to stimulate communication by encouraging within department research collaboration, increase active communication about science, and ensure the continuity of technical and methodological knowledge.

The department aims to ensure more efficient use of funding and other resources by improving research management practices. The department will develop codes of conducts for the management and execution of research projects. The department will provide clear guidelines for project leaders to budget the use of facilities and cost of hiring research assistants and students. The department will create a general overview for the use and availability of facilities.

The department emphasizes research collaboration as a key to science. Priority should be given to research collaboration led by HUC, and active relations with other scientists.

The department aims to increase the visibility of its research in the society.

The department recognizes the importance of graduate students for research. Therefore it will provide the necessary support and training for supervisors. The department accepts its responsibility towards graduate students and requires supervision contracts to be made between supervisors and students. The department will actively involve the students into its academic environment and encourage their development as independent scientists.

2 – Hiring policy

The department has the following hiring policy to support the above basic focus, and further build-up of the department:

- A. Support to research
 - a. Technician - multitasking
 - b. Administrative assistant for support of research and outreach.
- B. Hiring of new faculty
 - a. Geneticist with a strong statistical background

3 – Policy on building up of facilities

The department has developed a policy for building up facilities to support the above basic focus, and further development of the department. Following is a list of priorities in this regard:

- Complete setting up the centre for ecophysiology.

- Build insulated research rooms, for private (and quiet) environments for research, and/or with the capacity to maintain environmental variables.
- Develop a centre for behaviour research.
- Develop further the “white bucket” room with a focus on temperature control.
- Ensure temperature control for insulated research spaces.
- Provide mobile ecophysiological unit.
- Obtain histological equipment, with a focus on methods for studying bone and cartilage in fishes.
- Provide a compound microscope, with camera system.
- Set up stream channels.
- Develop facilities for storing of data.