The mission of **Aquatic Animal Care Services** is to support researchers using aquatic and semi-aquatic animal models, primarily fish, to study vertebrate genomics and vertebrate development by employing expert husbandry techniques, by supplying efficient and timely services, and by fostering a helpful, cooperative environment. The most widely used fish model at the University of Oregon is the zebrafish (*Danio rerio*).

SERVICES

* Husbandry and Housing
* Daily Veterinary Care
* Cryopreservation
* Wildtype Zebrafish Strains
* Shipping and Receiving
* Training

 **International Resource Center for Zebrafish (ZIRC),** on the University of Oregon campus, was established with money from the State of Oregon for construction of a new building, and grants from the NIH for construction, equipment, supplies and operating expenses. ZIRC’s mission is to provide a central repository for wild-type and mutant strains of zebrafish (Danio rerio) and for materials and information about zebrafish research. Materials and zebrafish strains are distributed to the research community. Pathology services are provided for diseased fish. Standards and procedures for maintaining healthy strains of zebrafish are being developed and a manual, Diseases of Zebrafish in Research Facilities, for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases affecting zebrafish, is available.

The Resource Center has three main functions:

1. It maintains and makes available to the research community wild-type and mutant zebrafish stocks, frozen sperm, and reagents. It organizes genetic markers and maintains the genetic map.
2. The Resource Center distributes information. It maintains the ZFIN computer database, accessible via the Internet, publishes a manual for the laboratory use of zebrafish, facilitates communication among zebrafish researchers, and hosts visits from researchers to work with stocks or learn techniques to identify and maintain mutants.
3. The Resource Center develops methods to improve zebrafish health. It establishes standards and procedures for generating and maintaining healthier more vigorous strains, characterizes endemic diseases, develops methods for disease control and treatment, and publishes a manual of procedures for preventing, diagnosing, and treating zebrafish diseases.