

**Screening of threespine stickleback, *Gasterosteus aculeatus*, for presence of the novel megalocytivirus, Threespine Stickleback Iridovirus (TSIV)**

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Recently it was discovered that a small population of threespine stickleback from waters of the Broughton Archipelago in British Columbia were affected by a novel megalocytivirus, Threespine Stickleback Iridovirus (TSIV). In order to determine a possible impact of the virus on threespine stickleback populations, we screened 31 individual fish from a population caught off of Yellow Point, south of Nanaimo, for presence of the virus. Screening was done using a TSIV-specific qPCR assay targeting part of the viral major capsid protein (MCP) gene. Of the 31 fish analyzed, all tested negative for TSIV using the qPCR assay. This suggests that either the fish are free of the virus, or that viral loads of infected fish in the population are below the detection level of the assay.