

INVITATION TO LUNCH SEMINAR



Lecture by **Prof. Giovanni M. Turchini**

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Title Research in Aquaculture Nutrition:
What Makes an Experimental Feeding
Trial Successful?

Date 21 July 2026
11.30 AM – 12.30 PM

Place Room R1, ZR Building
Na Sádkách 1780, České Budějovice

Registration [HERE](#) 
Please confirm your
participation **by 16th July, 2026**
Lunch sandwich for all
registered participants



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Professor Giovanni M. Turchini

Giovanni M. Turchini is an internationally recognised scholar in aquaculture nutrition and sustainability, and serves as Editor-in-Chief of Reviews in Aquaculture, published by Wiley. His research group, AquaS, focuses on aquaculture nutrition, sustainability assessment and quantitative modelling, including life cycle assessment and nutritional modelling. Outside academia, Gio is also a pianist and composer.

Abstract:

Experimental feeding trials are central to research in aquaculture nutrition, but they are costly, resource-intensive and easy to design poorly. This talk argues that a successful trial must begin with a clearly articulated scientific question and a testable hypothesis, rather than with an available facility or an ambition to test as many variables as possible. Drawing on common pitfalls in the field, including the “feed and see” approach, the “it hasn’t been done before” justification, and what the author terms Maslow’s Hammer, the tendency to reach for a familiar method or facility and then search for a question to justify it, the talk sets out practical principles for designing a robust trial. It also revisits some statistical fundamentals of experimental design that are too often overlooked, including how treatment numbers and replication should be matched to statistical power, rather than simply to the number of tanks available. Further principles include ensuring experimental diets are nutritionally sound and practically manufacturable, and allowing sufficient time for biological effects to be reliably detected. While the examples are drawn from aquaculture nutrition, the underlying issues of question-first design, adequate statistical power and resisting the pull of familiar tools are common to experimental research across many disciplines, and the talk is intended to be of interest well beyond fish nutrition specialists. The talk concludes with a simple, five-step checklist that researchers can use to assess whether their own feeding trials are likely to generate results that are reliable, interpretable and genuinely useful. It is aimed particularly at early career researchers and graduate students still developing their experimental design skills, though all are welcome.

