

## *Nomenclatural Changes in FishBase*

A well-designed relational database is a powerful system and one of the few computer-based applications where you get more out than you have put in. For example, when the scientific name of the well-studied rainbow trout was changed from *Salmo gairdneri* to *Oncorhynchus mykiss*, it took us only 5 minutes to change the name in the SPECIES table, change the status of the old name in the SYNONYMS table and to enter a record for the new name. This simple change, however, updated the various checklists for 99 countries where the species occurs or has been introduced. It also updated the valid name in 457 references, 153 common names, 31 synonyms and more than 1,000 records in 18 linked tables.

FishBase does not only link references permanently to valid names, it also records the names that were originally used in a publication (see the 'BIBLIO Table in FishBase'). That allowed us to create a routine that lists all nomenclatural changes that the FishBase Team has discovered so far for important taxonomic works. For more than 400 publications with at least one outdated name, this routine produces a list of invalid names together with the page number where the name is used and provides the current allocation to a higher taxon, senior synonym, correct spelling or proper identification.

### **Internet**

Click on a reference number or a citation to get to the reference summary page. There, click on the 'Species used from this reference' link. There will be a table with two columns: the left column contains the currently valid name and the right column contains the names as used in the publication. Names that are different from the valid name are highlighted.

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