



**Confidential**

**Supervisor's Review of USB RIFCH PhD Thesis**

Surname of the PhD student: Ing. Jan Kohout	Name of supervisor: prof. Ing. Petr Ráb, DrSc.
Title of PhD thesis: Population genetic structure of brown trout as groundwork for efficient management of fisheries in central European salmonid waters	

**OVERALL COMMENTARY ON THE PhD THESIS**

The theme of dissertation project was conceptually extremely difficult, especially from two main reasons. 1) The brown trouts is the fish group biodiversity of which remains still not well understood, the best characterization of this situation illustrates the citation from Handbook of Freshwater Fishes of Europe (Kottelat and Freyhof, 2007) : *Trouts are 'the' fish that most anglers prize throughout Europe. They are the main (if not the sole) concern of a number of fisheries agencies and associations. They have been cause of most fisheries 'management plans' in many countries. They are produced in huge quantities. They have been subject of innumerable studies.. They have attracted the attention of hordes of geneticists. Nevertheless, all this 'interest' has resulted in very little data usable in taxonomic Framework. In 2007, trout taxonomy in most of Europe is still handled in a way that would be considered non-professional anywhere else and for any other groups of animals...*2) Moreover, the populations of brown trouts were heavily admixed after more than 150 years of transplantation of juveniles, especially across Central Europe. In this dissertation project, several unfavourable aspects came together – unclear brown trout diversity in studied area of Central Europe, many published papers about topic (and hence number of competing laboratories meaning difficult penetration into higher ranked journals), well elaborated genetic markers and admixed populations resulting from long lasting fisheries activities. I consider it important to document how difficult was to progress, especially in the beginning, the dissertation project. Ing. J. Kohout, after some unsure beginning, became quite excellent researcher in population genetic and molecular phylogeography. He interrupted his PhD study in Faculty of Fisheries and Protection of Waters due to his new employment in Institute of Zoology, Slovak Academy of Sciences, Bratislava, as well as his familial situation. Finally, he succeeded to publish the core study of his PhD project in well ranked journal as well as complete other studies. Of them, I appreciate very much the contribution to the knowledge of genetic structures of brown trouts from not yet sampled areas of Balkan. Generally, the studies in PhD Thesis significantly contributed to learning the genetic structures of brown trout populations in Central Europe demonstrating large genetic admixture of populations but also it discovered autochthonous populations without signs of gene introgression that can serve as object of conservation programmes. J. Kohout was member of team awarded by Award of AV CR in 2012. In conclusion, I would like to stress that collaboration with Jan Kohout was real enrichment of my professional and personal life.

**FINAL RECOMMENDATION**

X can be recommended for defence of PhD Thesis



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- can be recommended with reservations for defence of PhD Thesis**  
 **can not be recommended for defence of PhD Thesis**

**10.5.2013 Liběchov**

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Date and place

  
.....P. Ráb  
surname and signature