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**Title:** The response of fish blood cells, particularly thrombocytes, to decompression

**Authors:** Casillas, E  
Smith, LS  
D'Aoust, BG

**Issue Date:** 1976

**Abstract:** The effects of decompression on various blood-cell types in chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) were investigated using a 4-liter hyperbaric chamber. Thrombocytes (platelets) were found to decrease significantly in numbers following lethal and nonlethal decompressions. The response was highly dependent on depth, gas solubility, and rate of decompression, whereby increasing depth or gas solubility caused greater and faster declines of thrombocyte levels. Return of thrombocyte numbers to normal values usually occurred within 48 hours, except after the more severe decompressions where recovery was never fully attained during the sampling period. Erythrocyte levels increased significantly 1 day after a severe decompression, suggesting hemoconcentration. Leucocytes appeared not to respond to decompression; they were not decreased compared to normal levels, although they were significantly decreased compared to levels of the chamber controls in the nonpressurized chamber. The results are discussed in relation to possible involvement of the fish's blood-coagulation system after decompression. Animals Atmosphere Exposure Chambers \*Atmospheric Pressure Blood Coagulation \*Blood Platelets Salmon/\*blood Support, U.S. Gov't, P.H.S.

**Description:** Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, Inc. (<http://www.uhms.org> )

**URI:** [PMID: 969029](#)  
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