

## Scaling macroscopic aquatic locomotion

Argentina<sup>1</sup>, Gazzola<sup>2</sup> & Mahadevan<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> INLN, Université Nice Sophia Antipolis, 1361 Route des Lucioles, Vabonne, France

<sup>2</sup> SEAS, Pierce Hall 408 Harvard University 29 Oxford Street Cambridge, MA 02138

`mederic.argentina@unice.fr`

Inertial aquatic swimmers that use undulatory gaits range in length  $L$  from a few millimetres to 30 metres, across a wide array of biological taxa. Using elementary hydrodynamic arguments, we uncover a unifying mechanistic principle characterizing their locomotion by deriving a scaling relation that links swimming speed  $U$  to body kinematics (tail beat amplitude  $A$  and frequency  $w$ ) and fluid properties (kinematic viscosity  $\nu$ ). This principle can be simply couched as the power law  $Re \sim Sw^a$ , where  $Re = UL/\nu$  and  $Sw = AwL/\nu$ , with  $a = 4/3$  for laminar flows, and  $a = 1$  for turbulent flows. Existing data from over 1,000 measurements on fish, amphibians, larvae, reptiles, mammals and birds, as well as direct numerical simulations are consistent with our scaling. We interpret our results as the consequence of the convergence of aquatic gaits to the performance limits imposed by hydrodynamics.

### Références

1. M. Gazzola, M. Argentina & L. Mahadevan, *Nature Physics*, **10**, 758, 2014.