It’s that time of year when many carp ponds are stocked with new fish. As of now, there are no new restrictions involving carp harvest and transport in the Great Lakes region. Even so, fish haulers and pond owners need to exercise caution when transporting and stocking fish from any region. Here are a few best management practices when stocking fish.

**Transporting Fish**

Ensure fish supply is disease free. No known disease problems in water source. Especially exotic diseases.

Disinfect the transport vehicle before loading stock.

Move fish during cooler parts of the day.

Avoid delays.

Have all required permits or licenses in order. Carry in truck in case of inspection.

Check with proper regulatory authorities for current information on laws and regulations on transporting live fish before doing interstate business.

Disinfect the transport vehicle after unloading stock.

The goal is to provide healthy fish that survive after stocking. Another goal is to stop the spread of exotic diseases.

**Stocking Fish**

Know your supplier.

Know where your supplier is getting your fish stock. Is it known to have disease prob-
lems? It is best to avoid disease introductions.

Handle fish with care. Do not overload dip nets. Fish can be scraped and bruised. Fish can lose scales. Rough handling can cause fish to lose protective slime coat (their defense against disease). Loss of scales and open wounds is also an opening for infection.

Handle fish during cooler parts of the day.

Temper/acclimate fish to receiving pond water temperature. For every 10 °F change in temperature, temper fish for 20 minutes.

Minimize the amount of time fish spend out of water.

If possible, isolate the new stock from existing stock. Many pond owners will be unable to do this. However this would be the ideal situation. After observing fish for a period of time, stock new fish with existing fish.

If isolating new stock is not possible, it is best to avoid disease introductions.

Where was the hauler before it came to your pond? Are you the first, second, or third stop?

Good Fish Husbandry


Diffused Air vs. Vertical Pump Aerators

Most of us have experienced oxygen problems. Even though oxygen problems are less likely to occur during the winter months, take time this winter to investigate your aeration choices.

Oxygen is critical to our fishing or production operation. Aeration devices are used to increase oxygen levels in a pond. In my pond visits, I have observed two different aeration devices that are utilized. Forrest Wynne, extension agent, from Kentucky wrote an excellent article on aeration choices in the September 2007 issue of World Aquaculture. I would like to highlight some of the points he made about aeration and your choices.

Diffused Air

Diffused air systems are used for mixing ponds (water destratification). They are used in deep ponds (8 feet or deeper). Destratification systems are run continuously throughout the summer months to provide constant mixing. This helps low oxygen problems from occurring.

Air bubbles are released from diffusers placed near the bottom of the pond. Diffusers work by moving deeper water to the surface for mixing. Diffused air systems transfer oxygen more efficiently in deeper ponds. The bubble has longer contact with the water. Diffusers need to be cleaned periodically. They can be cleaned in the slow winter months.

The diffused air system may prevent low oxygen problems, but do little to remedy a low oxygen problem when occurring.

Vertical Pump Aerators

These floating aerators are often used in shallow ponds (less than 8 feet). They do not provide good mixing in deep ponds because they draw water from 3 feet. They can be fitted with a pipe to help draw water from greater depths. Vertical pump aerators do provide a high oxygen transfer rate efficiency. They work well increasing oxygen levels during low oxygen problems.

Vertical pump aerators are generally run on a timer, not continuously.

As you can see, the diffused air system is good for mixing. The vertical pump aerator is good for oxygen transfer. If you decide to put in a diffused air system, it would be a smart idea to have a backup floating aerator for emergencies.

So here's to blogging! A new venture for both of us! If you don't like the term blog, just think of it as news being published on a more timely basis. There are many instances when news and events need to get into your hands quickly. I hope that this technology will allow that to happen.

http://fishfitnessfamily.blogspot.com/

I am going to set-up a feature that allows for you to receive an e-mail whenever I post something new on the blog. That way you know when to look at the website.


It is filled with information about current drought conditions. But more importantly, it contains information about water conservation tips. We all need to do our part in order to save this economically and environmentally important resource.

**Tip #1:** Use indoor water wisely...Turn off water while lathering, shampooing, shaving and brushing your teeth. (I have started practicing this. Not as much an inconvenience as you might think).

**Tip #2:** Use dry cleanup methods...Use a broom instead of a hose to wash away debris on your sidewalks and driveways. (I have always done this. Much easier to grab a broom than a hose).
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