In January, a meeting was held to update carp pond owners about the current restrictions involving live transport of certain fish from the Great Lakes region. Dr. Jeff Hinshaw, Extension Specialist, North Carolina State University, and Ms. Debra Sloan, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, educated the audience on the disease and current regulations.

Some interesting facts about VHS:
- It is a viral disease that has caused severe mortality in rainbow trout and other aquaculture operations in Europe.
- It is not a human pathogen. Humans will not get sick from eating infected fish.
- The virus is more active in colder water <59 °F.

Common carp is still not included as a restricted species. However, I would encourage you to avoid getting stock from this area until this issue is resolved. Carp are not known to carry this virus. But the virus may be transferred by the fish and in water. If a problem would ever arise because of the transport of common carp or any other live fish, severe restrictions could result in the transport of carp or any other live fish in or out of North Carolina.

Much discussion followed concerning the future of carp harvest in North Carolina. In order to change current regulations, carp pond owners need to contact members of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission to express your desires. I have included Commission members at the end of this article.

It might be wise to make a wish list (harvest time frame, harvest equipment, etc.) of your needs to make harvest possible. E-mail or mail me the list. I can compile the list for everyone, and we can discuss your needs. Basically, it would be best to present a unified effort in order to make this possible.
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AQUAFLOR® Approved for Freshwater-reared Salmonids (Trout)

AQUAFLOR® (florfenicol), the first new in-feed antibiotic licensed for U.S. aquaculture in more than two decades, has become the first and only antibiotic approved for controlling mortality in freshwater-reared salmonids due to *Flavobacterium psychrophilum* (coldwater disease).

Developed by Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation, AQUAFLOR Type A has been proven worldwide to be effective against a wide range of bacteria in several aquatic species. It is also highly palatable and has an excellent safety profile for fish, human food and the environment.

Unlike sulfa drugs and tetracyclines, this unique antibiotic was developed specifically for use in food animal species. Studies have shown that AQUAFLOR can be used in trout and other freshwater-reared salmonids, from sac fry to food fish, with no reduction in feed consumption or growth. The product’s short, 15-day withdrawal period gives producers ample flexibility when marketing fish.

**Effective against coldwater disease**

Trials conducted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have shown AQUAFLOR to be highly effective against coldwater disease.

“Coldwater disease often results in prolonged, chronic mortality and is one of the most economically significant diseases of salmonid aquaculture — not just in the U.S., but also worldwide,” says Richard Endris, Ph.D., aquaculture research program manager for Schering-Plough Animal Health.

Bacterial coldwater disease (BCWD) has been a serious issue in Idaho for a number of years. In North Carolina, BCWD has been relatively serious and widespread problem for the last few years.

“In fingerlings and food fish, the disease produces lethargy, poor appetite and dark coloration,” he adds. “Infected fish can also develop spinal deformities, which reduce their value.”

AQUAFLOR is the first in-feed antibiotic in aquaculture and the second for all food-animal species to be classified by the FDA as a Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) drug. Fish farmers may obtain VFD drugs through normal feed distribution channels, but they will require a signed Veterinary Feed Directive from a licensed veterinarian.

The veterinarians with the North Carolina Department of Agriculture are aware of this new drug and VFD requirement. With proper diagnosis of coldwater disease, veterinarians will sign a VFD.

Schering-Plough Animal Health recommends using feed medicated with AQUAFLOR as the sole ration for 10 consecutive days. Treatments should be discontinued 15 days before marketing.

**Oxygen**

As we get closer to the hot summer months, I can not express the importance of having the ability to check oxygen levels in your pond or raceway. The amount of oxygen in water decreases as temperature increases. Since ponds and raceways are typically stocked at high densities, there is a greater demand for oxygen than in a pond or stream that you would find in a natural environment. Oxygen can be measured using either a chemical test kit or oxygen meter.

Test kits are available from LaMotte (www.lamotte.com) Model 5860 or Hach (www.hach.com) Product #146900.

Many times, when something is not normal like fish are not biting or fish are dying, water quality like dissolved oxygen needs to be evaluated.

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The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service is an educational agency funded by the United States Department of Agriculture, North Carolina State University, and local governments. The North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service’s mission is to help individuals, families, and communities put research based knowledge to work to improve their lives.

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- Agriculture and Natural Resources
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- 4-H & Youth Development

The use of trade named products is with the understanding that no endorsement is made to the exclusion of other equally effective products.

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