

Pond Management



Fish Diseases Treatment



Common Freshwater Fish Diseases and their treatment

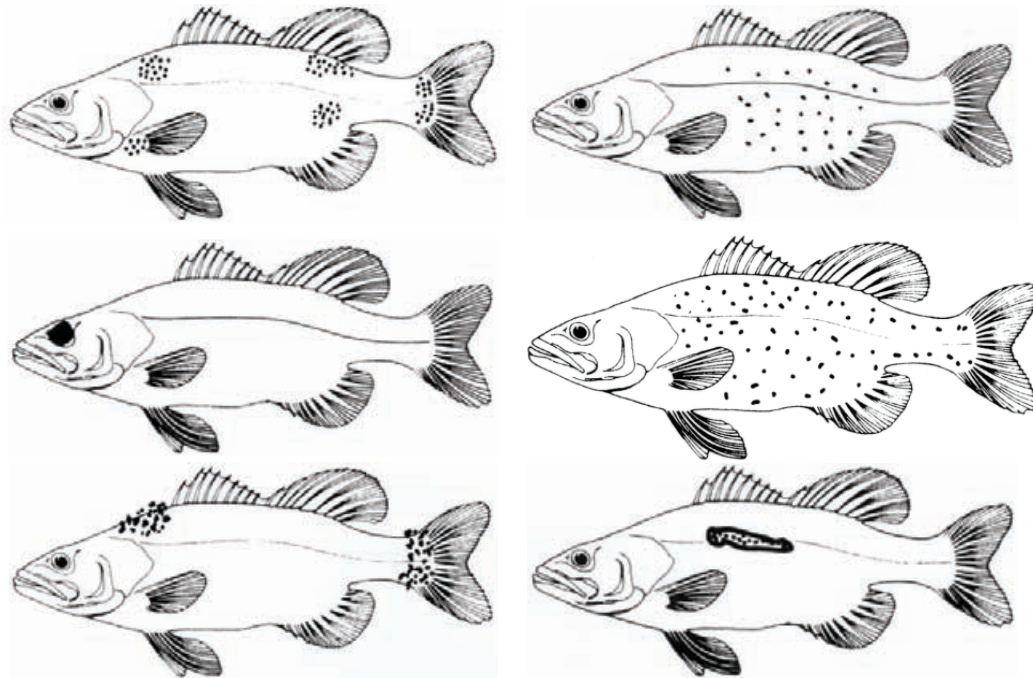
Chemicals like Copper sulphate, Potassium permanganate, Formaldehyde, and Brine (common salt) baths at recommended rates can be used to treat most fish diseases. However, these chemicals can be harmful to fish and human health if not used correctly.

- They can be expensive to treat sizeable fish farms, and sometimes unavailable to local fish farmers.
- In essence, it is best to treat infected fish ponds rather than to treat the fish themselves

The following points should be followed in treatment of infected fish in a pond

First determine the cause of fish disease, check and fix any obvious problems such as water quality, figure out which disease your fish has by closely observing the symptoms and then commence treatment if necessary. If you don't have the knowledge to do this get someone who does. It is far better (and in the end cheaper) to learn how to treat fish in a pond, tank or holding facility by watching an experienced person doing this at least once. If you don't, and you get the concentrations of chemical wrong or carry out the process incorrectly then you can actually kill and lose all of your fish costing you a lot of money.

Observed Externally



Disease / Problem	Symptoms	Treatment
Ammonia Poisoning	Red or inflamed gills. Fish are gasping for air at the surface.	Ensure that your pond has cycled?? and fresh water is brought in. Remove infected fish immediately and transfer to freshwater. Try to increase aeration of the pond water – however try not to stress your fish doing this.
Dropsy	Bloated fish, scales are raised, possible loss or lessening of body coloration. Can cause severe damage to Liver and Kidney	This is not really a disease, but a symptom of a bacterial infection and possibly malnutrition. Try to increase the quality of the water by performing a 25% water change every other day and increase the quality of fish food given.
Ich, Ick or White Spot (Ichthyophthirius)	Small white spots showing up mainly on the fins but also on the body. It looks like your fish has salt all over it.	Ich usually arises due to poor water quality. Easily preventable by using a quarantine tank for a few weeks before introducing new arrivals into your pond and observing the new fish carefully
Fin Rot	Rotting fins, loss of appetite and laying on the bottom. This is due to a bacterium that infects the fins of the fish.	There are medications available such as Tetracycline. Before using medication though try increasing the quality of the foods you are feeding your fish.
Fish Fungus	Cotton like growths on the body or base of tail or other fins that may appear white or grey in color.	Be sure to give your fish the best water you can by performing frequent water changes. If your fish gets a disease they may develop secondary fungus infections.
Oxygen Starvation	Most or all of the fish are usually found at the water surface. They may be gulping at the surface with their mouths.	Check the temperature of the water. Higher water temperatures require higher levels of oxygen. If the pond is over fertilized stop fertilizer application Don't feed the fish
Pop-Eye	One or both eyes appear to be, protruding abnormally, "popping" or bulging sticking out.	This is usually the result of a bacterial infection. Try to give your fish the best water possible by performing frequent water changes. To treat this problem you can use a treatment such as Tetracycline. Supplement added to your pelleted feed -with vitamin enriched foods. Take proper advice on how you should "coat " the feed pellets with the ab powder. Don't use ab if you are soon to be harvesting your fish to eat.
Swim Bladder Disease	Fish have a difficult time staying upright and may hang in the water. Goldfish are especially prone to problems with the swim bladder.	Stop feeding the fish for a few days; give the fish optimal water conditions. Change about 10% of water every week and see if the problem clears up.