

Fish Diseases in Aquaculture

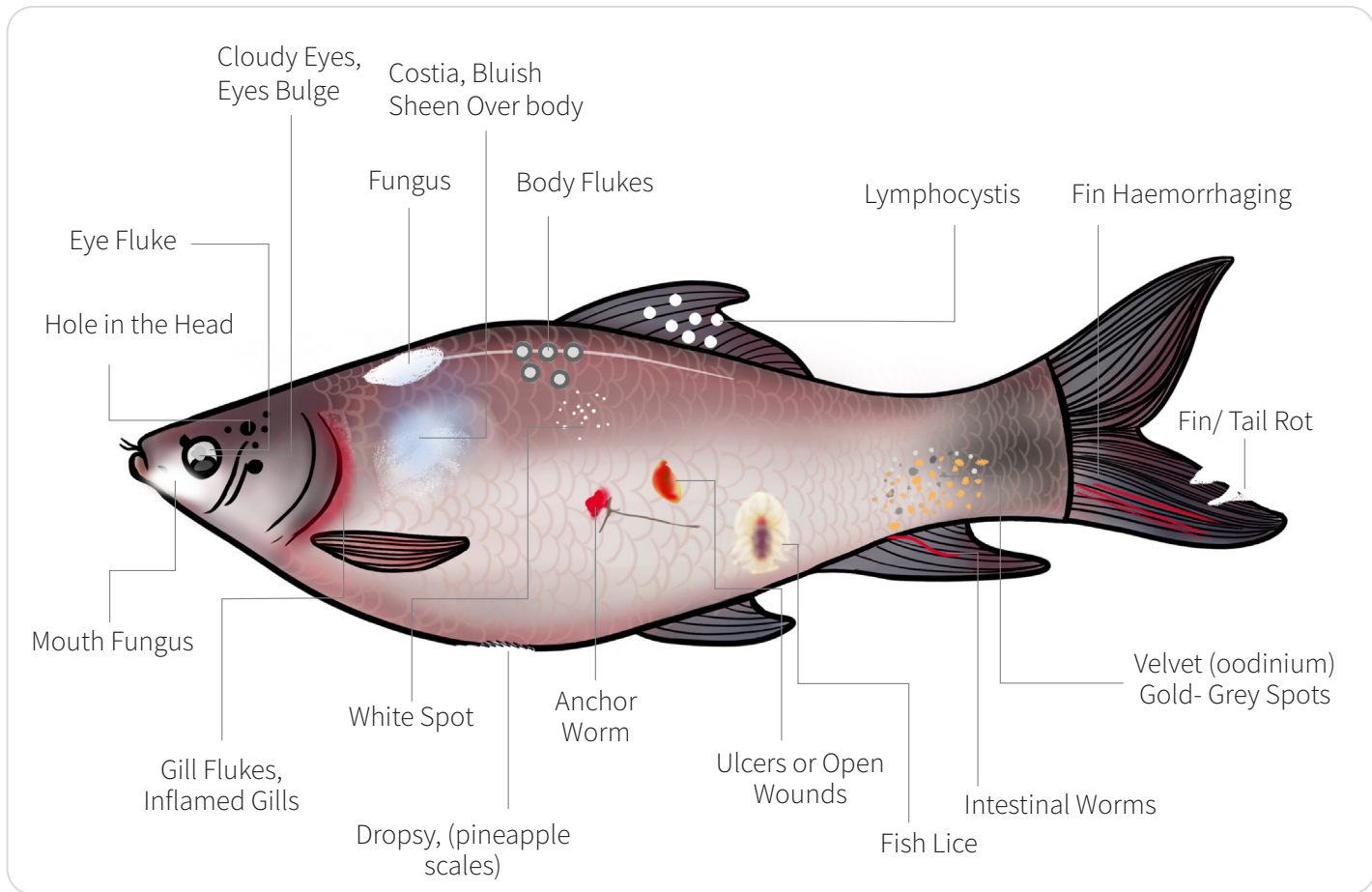
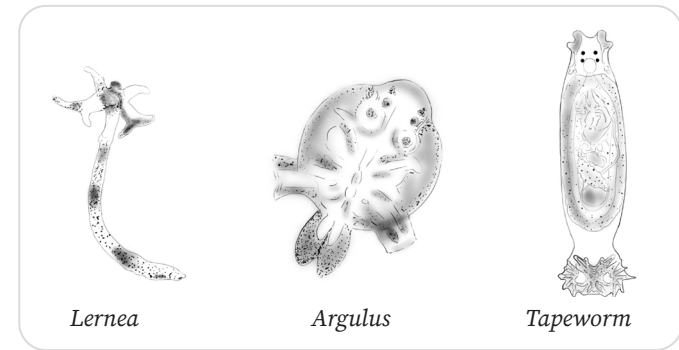
Management of fish health in aquaculture pond is very important for sustained production of healthy fish as they live in a very complex environment. The production of carps often is hampered as they are vulnerable to different types of diseases & particularly so in intensive aquaculture. Normally high stocking density, under feeding or over feeding and poor pond environment, use of excess additional inputs are major factors that stress the fish and make more susceptible to diseases. Further, this practice also favors the growth and proliferations of pathogens in the environment.

Estimated loss of fish production (as percentage of total production) and total economic loss (in INR) were estimated to be around 10.8% (30,770.00 per ha) in Assam and it may be similar in other states also. This estimated economic loss could be reduced by following better management practices in pre stocking, stocking and post stocking stages of farming.

Types of Fish Diseases:

- Protozoan diseases
- Helminth
- Crustacean diseases
- Bacterial diseases
- Fungal diseases
- Environment medicated/
genetics related

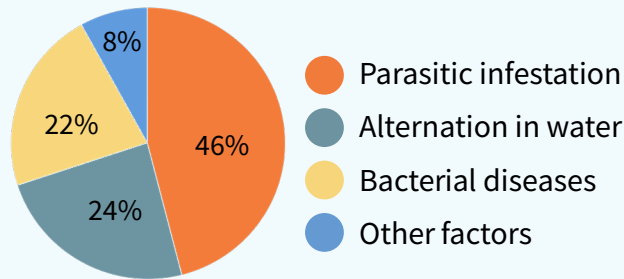
Parasitic infestation by parasites like *lernea*, *argulus*, *tapeworm* etc. prominently affect fish health.



General Causes for Fish Diseases

- Fish seed with **low genetic immunity**
- Malnutrition due to **under-feeding**.
- **Deteriorated water** and sediment conditions favouring fast spread of pathogens.
- **Overcrowding** pond with very high stocking density resulting stress and physical injuries leading to secondary infection.
- **Infected fish seed**, equipment, feed, birds & other external sources.
- Biosecurity lapses.
- **Presence of Mollusc/Snail** in fishery tank

Causes for Fish Mortality



Treatment Strategies

- Knowledge on the disease development process, pathogens, the host & about the fish environment is very important for developing treatment strategies & health management in pond aquaculture.
- If only few individuals are affected & can be isolated, they can be treated individually & avoid further spreading.
- In most cases pond treatment is practiced for mass treatment of all the fishes.

Managing Fish Diseases

- A sound health management program requires good management practices at all stages of aquaculture operations.
- Treating a diseased fish in isolation is difficult unlike land animals, & hence, prevention is always the best approach in aquaculture to control the disease outbreak than treating the disease.
- Prophylactic measures specially during winter months like maintaining water total alkalinity, proper water depth, avoiding over feeding will help in managing of fish health.



Maintain required water depth (5-7 ft) at all times



Clean excess aquatic plants & weed



Clean off branches over the pond



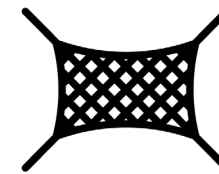
Clean algae blooms from the pond



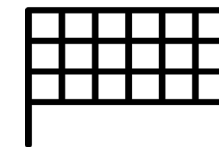
Reduce feeding during excessive rain & winter

Biosecurity Measures

- Bio security is a set of management practices, which reduce the potential for the introduction, and spread of disease-causing organisms into and between sites.
- Bio-security procedures, particularly disinfection and sanitation, should be combined with selection of pathogen-free seed and strategic treatments to either eradicate or reduce these pathogens to non-infectious levels.
- Proper quarantine of stocks, isolation of affected stocks, personal hygiene, control of movement of people are essential biosecurity measures.
- Bio-fencing is also a method of biosecurity measure.



Cover pond with a net to avoid bird predation & bird faecal droppings



Provide a net fence around the pond to prevent entry of predators



Provide a foot-bath facility at entrance of the farm