

15.0 Health Management

Script:

If you pay attention to how you handle your fish you are going to improve your efficiency and your profitability, because a stressed fish is not gonna perform as well as a fish that has been taken care of. Fish-help managed protocols start at the hatchery. Ideally you have good quality brood stock that have produced good quality fry, and throughout the production cycle the fry to the fingerling stage, they're actually paying attention to the basics, so in some species vaccination makes sense. Other species prophylactic treatments for parasites may be required, so maybe a formalin bath or something like that. But when it comes to the basics, the basics are really ensuring that as you move the fish from being born, the egg stage to the fry, the advanced fry to the juvenile stage, that they're being paid attention to in terms of their treatment.

Maintaining fish health in these raceways is so much simpler and so much less expensive than doing it in an open pond-type setting. That's not even a fair comparison to make. When we're treating a raceway that have fish in it already, we're using only a very small fraction of some legal therapeutics that you might ... if you're trying to treat the whole pond. So you're only talking about 250 cubic meters in that raceway, and accordingly you only use a small amount. So we can do that and we can do it in a more robust treatment that might only go on for an hour, as opposed to one that we might apply in open water that might be what we call an indefinite treatment, but it's much better to apply a higher concentration in the raceway to get what we're after, as opposed to the open water approach.

So what we've often found is there's a lot of lack of understanding. People say, "Oh I can just throw the fish around and there's no problem, and the fish don't die." But they've been stressed so much that now when they get into the pond or the raceway system, that that stress has already been built into them and they may actually express a disease that they had but wouldn't have expressed had they not been so stressed. So it's really important to us to see that as they're doing grading, as they're doing movement between ponds, between different systems, that they're really paying attention to temperature, maintaining constant temperatures. Identifying if there was issues for things like parasites, and if there are parasites, treat them right away prophylactically to ensure that you get rid of any initial parasites, and then, again grading those fish and ensuring that those fish are of the same size and the same quality going in, because that's really the most important part to get a consistent production.

Key Points:

- A stressed fish is not going to perform as well as a fish that's been taken care of.
- It's important to take care of your fish through every stage of development.
- Because the raceway is enclosed you can use significantly less legal therapeutics to treat your fish.
- Maintaining a consistent temperature is crucial to the health of your fish.