

Experience with AQUAFLO[®] in North Carolina Trout

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S U M M A R Y

- Coldwater disease has been a growing problem in North Carolina trout, resulting in mortality, size variation and slower growth.
- Trout on 12 North Carolina farms were treated for coldwater disease with AQUAFLO[®] (florfenicol), an in-feed antibiotic.
- After one AQUAFLO treatment, mortality declined to acceptable levels and coldwater disease did not recur in treated raceways.

Introduction

Coldwater disease has been a growing problem in North Carolina trout over the past 3 or 4 years and tends to be seen in trout less than 5 to 6 inches. In the past, mortality escalated rapidly and producers lost anywhere from 5% to 20% of fish and, in some cases, 50% to 60%.

Caused by the pathogen *Flavobacterium psychrophilum*, the disease had also led to considerable size variation, slower growth and longer times to market by 1 or 2 months, despite treatments with oxytetracycline.

AQUAFLO[®] (florfenicol), the first new in-feed antibiotic licensed for aquaculture in more than two decades, was approved in March 2007 for controlling mortality in freshwater-reared salmonids with coldwater disease. This paper summarizes the experience with AQUAFLO on 12 North Carolina farms. In total, 28 treatments were administered.

Results

- As in previous studies¹, mortality in fish treated with AQUAFLO declined to acceptable levels within 4 to 5 days of initiating the 10-day treatment (Figures 1 and 2).
- In the N.C. experience², fish treated with AQUAFLO did not have a recurrence of coldwater disease.
- AQUAFLO potentially saved up to 600,000 to 700,000 trout in North Carolina in 2007 with an estimated value of \$245,000 (~15% of total NC production). On one medium-sized trout farm, losses due to coldwater disease after the use of AQUAFLO were only a few hundred fish — down from 70,000 fingerlings (28% of the producer's production) the previous year, before AQUAFLO was available².

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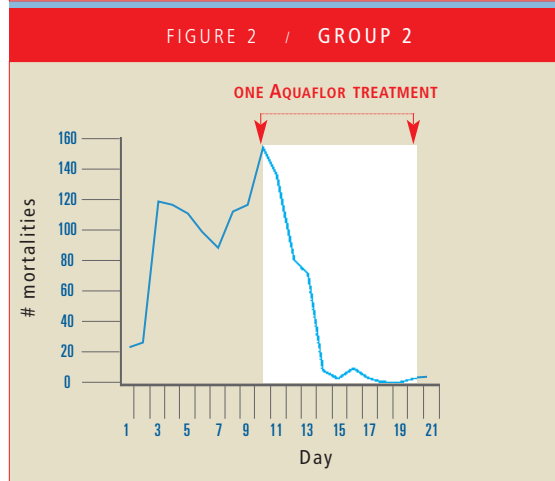
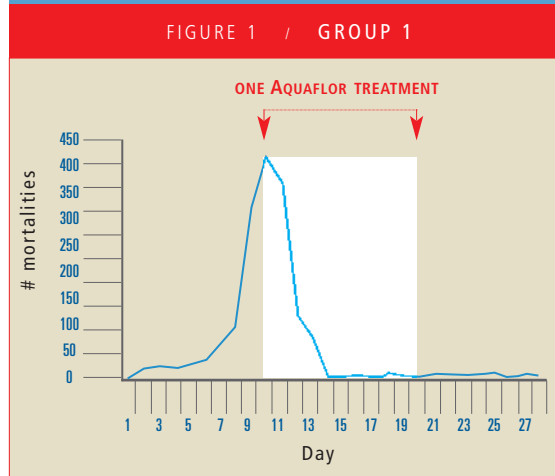
Discussion

Even though mortality is often observed to decline within just a few days after initiating AQUAFLO[®] treatment, AQUAFLO[®] must be used for 10 consecutive days to provide full therapeutic benefit.

Trials have shown that fish consume feed medicated with AQUAFLO[®] at the same rate as unmedicated feed¹. Trials have also shown that fish continue to gain weight throughout the treatment period¹.

For more information on AQUAFLO[®], contact your fish health specialist, veterinarian, diagnostician, extension representative, feed mill or Schering-Plough Animal Health.

FIGURES 1 AND 2. Representative results from one farm show mortality before and after one treatment with AQUAFLO[®], administered days 10 through 19. Each group consisted of fish in multiple raceways. Day 1 represents 10 days before initiation of treatment.



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¹ Target Animal Safety (TAS) Study on Florfenicol Administered in Feed to Rainbow Trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss* Walbaum). (Study No. X00-241-01).

² Thompson, Skip. Efficacy of AQUAFLO[®] in North Carolina. United States Trout Farmers Association Mid-Year Meeting, Sept. 2007, Twin Falls, Idaho.

CAUTION: Federal law limits this drug to use under the professional supervision of a licensed veterinarian. Animal feed bearing or containing this veterinary feed directive drug shall be fed to animals only by or upon a lawful Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) issued by a licensed veterinarian in the course of the veterinarian's professional practice.

Salmonid feeds containing AQUAFLO[®] (florfenicol) must be withdrawn 15 days prior to slaughter. The effects of AQUAFLO[®] on reproductive performance have not been determined. See product label for more information.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL
1.800.521.5767 OR GO TO
WWW.AQUAFLO-USA.COM

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