An Overview of Columnaris: Diagnosis and Treatment

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Delta Diagnostic Cases 2001 - 2014

Average Number of Cases/Temperature (°C)

- Monthly Average Water Temp.
- Monthly Diag. Cases

2005 and 2011, not included
General Information

- Columnaris is a bacterial infection of numerous fish species.
- Generally an opportunistic pathogen – associated with other infections and/or periods of stress for fish.
- Infections may be chronic or acute depending on the isolate.
- As water temperatures increase, an outbreak becomes more likely, > 20 °C.
Photographs courtesy of ODFW Fish Health Services
Mixed infection with columnaris lesions

Photograph courtesy of ODFW Fish Health Services
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*Flavobacterium columnare*, causative agent of columnaris is a significant pathogen of many freshwater fish.
Management Considerations

Stress:
- Environmental
- Mechanical

Immune Function (Health)
Therapeutic Treatments

Terramycin® (Oxytetracycline)

INAD 10 grams/100lbs – 2 weeks
Labelled 3.75 grams/100lbs – 10 days
Thanks