

A MinnFinn Moment, Vol III: May/June 2009

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With the start of the pond season underway and the inevitable popping up of disease organisms MinnFinn Max continues to grow in its presence in medicine tool boxes. There continues to be success in the field and growth of the product for both Koi and goldfish. Treatments for flukes, Costia, Trichodina among others have been reportedly taken care of in one to two, one hour treatments. I continue to get reports of how easy it is to use and how effective it is.

There has been a lot of discussion about MinnFinn from users and those researching on a Koi information site called Koiphen.com. If anyone is interested I would encourage you to visit the site and search on MinnFinn and read the threads. There has been some interesting discussion and speculation which is always healthy when trying to develop a new product.

Tech Notes:

What is in MinnFinn and the Hydrogen Peroxide myth.

There are many people that think the main active ingredient in MinnFinn is hydrogen peroxide. As this is the active ingredient that is in highest concentration it makes sense. It is however the peracetic acid that is the real workhorse and is what makes MinnFinn so effective.

I have used hydrogen peroxide in the aquaculture industry for 15 years and am very familiar with what it can and cannot do. It does work well on some protozoa but needs to be at approximately 100 ppm to work.

Now if we look at MinnFinn, the dose on the bottle is a 10 ppm dose, far lower than hydrogen peroxide. Then if we look at the percentage of active ingredient in the bottle, hydrogen peroxide would be 8 ppm which is hardly enough to treat an infection of anything, particularly in 1 hour.

Hydrogen peroxide is essential for peracetic acid to exist and will always be present though its contribution to the treatment is limited at best.

Data Collection and registration (food fish) FDA-CVM

In the development of MinnFinn, we plan to have it available for use in other fish in the salt and fresh water aquarium trade and eventually for use in food fish. In order to have a product registered for food fish there is a lengthy and expensive process to follow through the Food and Drug Administrations Center for Veterinary Medicine. The first step is to open what is called an Investigational New Animal Drug (INAD) registration. Through this and through strict regulation, the new compound can be used in the field for the collection of data so as an eventual label can be assigned. A large part of the process involves the execution of many large and expensive controlled experiments.

Another part is where users now can help is to supply data for treatments done in the field. By providing this supportive data, it can help reinforce efficacy and help the process along. If you would like to contribute your data please fill out the online form at www.minnfinnmax.com

Aeration and Treating With MinnFinn

As with any treatment it is important to maintain adequate oxygen levels in your pond/tank and to ensure good mixing of the treatment chemical. It is therefore encouraged that users have good heavy aeration during the treatment of MinnFinn. One of the observations in fish being treated with MinnFinn is an increased respiration rate. There is a temporary physiological response from the fish which appears to alter oxygen uptake until neutralization. There is no damage to the gills. During my testing, there was healing observed during a series of three treatments. When oxygen levels are kept high the response is less than if levels are low. With rigorous aeration and oxygen levels near saturation there should be less of an increase in respiration rate. Heavily infected fish with severe gill may still have issue depending on the level of damage and the fishes ability to get oxygen from the water under normal conditions.

Salt, Koi and MinnFinn

We are often asked what you can use MinnFinn in conjunction with. We do not recommend that MinnFinn be used with any other medications. As MinnFinn is an oxidizer it will break down many other compounds in the water. Compounds like antibiotics would most likely be deactivated.

MinnFinn does however work well in fish that are in water with salt. The salt may in fact enhance treatment with some pathogens. The salt will in many cases weaken the pathogen so the effectiveness of MinnFinn may be enhanced.

Skin contact and MinnFinn

Although MinnFinn is non toxic users still need to be aware that you want to avoid contact. What makes MinnFinn safe is that it is not going to cause cancer or systemic toxic effects to you like so many other products might.

If you do happen to get some on you, there may be a little burning sensation and the contact area will turn white as you see with peroxide. In case of contact, flush the area well and apply some of the neutralizer to the area. The burning sensation will stop quickly and the white will go away in a few hours.

Even with contact this is the worst you will have to deal with. The contact with formalin and malachite green there is always the scare of cancer down the road.

Other treatments have other toxicity issues such as the organophosphates. The following was taken from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources website (http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-10370_12150_12220-27249--,00.html)

“Organophosphate compounds include some of the most toxic chemicals used in agriculture. Included in the organophosphate group are disulfoton, phorate, dimethoate, ciodrin, dichlorvos, dioxathion, ruelene, carbophenothion, supona, TEPP, EPN, HETP, parathion, malathion, ronnel, coumaphos, diazinon, trichlorfon, paraoxon, potasan, dimefox, mipafox, schradan, sevin, chlorpyrifos and dimeton. These insecticides are esters, amides, or simple derivatives of phosphoric and thiophosphoric acids. Some of the less toxic compounds are used as systemic insecticides in animals against internal and external parasites. These include chlorthion, thichlorphon, diazinon, fenchlorphos,

and dichlorvos. The organophosphate insecticides can be grouped according to their toxic action on insects. Malathion, paraoxon, parathion, and potasan have an action similar to chlorinated hydrocarbons and act as contact poisons, while others such as dimefox, mipafox, and schradan are selective systemic insecticides”

Wholesalers and Retailers on minnfinnmax.com

We are planning to have all of the distributors that carry MinnFinn product on our website minnfinnmax.com. Along with this we would also like to have a list of retailers who carry our products so potential customers can find a location to buy. If you would like to be listed please send us an e-mail with your contact information.

Treatments (In the Field):

John Seifert

“For you that keep fancy goldfish, you probably know the symptoms: starting to not swim upright, then upside down most of the time, then floating upside down at the surface and finally dying. Over the last few (many) years I have had tried to treat fancy goldfish with various antibiotic injections, green pea diet, medicated food, massive water changes etc. All fancy goldfish I had with this condition eventually went bye-bye.

One evening and one treatment per directions with MinnFinn, the next morning the goldfish was energetic, swimming perfectly, like it had never had a problem. A week later, the goldfish is still doing great.

Where was this product ten years ago? It could have saved me lots of \$ and much pain with all the goldfish I have lost. Plus, my wife might be happier when I brought home a new goldie!”

John Seifert

Vickie Vaughn, Director KoiLab

“In one of the worst cases of flukes I have seen, MinnFinn showed how effective it is. The first treatment attempted to resolve this case was with an organophosphate. After three treatments the level of infection was still the same. Following that a 10 times dose of praziquantal was tried and again with no affect. I recently became a distributor for MinnFinn and thought this would be a good tough field test. After one treatment the scope count went from 35 to 2 flukes per field of view and after the second treatment zero. MinnFinn truly works and without having to handle chemicals toxic to the user or harmful to the environment.”

Vicki Vaughan, Director of KoiLab

Mary Bailey

"I ordered a case of MinnFinn right after the San Diego show. I didn't think that I would have cause to use it, but I wanted it on hand just in case. I got two new Koi that arrived with flukes. I used the MinnFinn with excellent results. It was easy to use, zero problems with the Koi, easy to reverse and zapped those flukes better than anything I've tried in the past.

I keep promising Paul I'd write a short note about my results, but illness in the family has kept me too busy.

I would recommend to anyone-----even a newbie since it is that easy to use and has excellent results."

Mary

David and David

"Here are the results from the MinnFinn treatment we did this afternoon. We did not have such great luck. Prior to treatment, I lowered the volume from 6000 gals to 4000 gals. I placed the bead filter on recirculate and we had the fountain running. I had the skimmer offline as the water level was too low. I mixed and then treated the pond and we continued working around it so that I could watch the fish.

After 25 minutes, the first Koi we had purchased back in 2001, began swimming erratically. I ran to toss in the neutralizer and then we grabbed a show tank which I filled with tap water and Amquel + so that we would have a place for him. We netted him and placed him in the show tank with an aerator. Within 10 minutes the fish was dead. The other 12 in the pond did not seem to be affected, but I am being watchful. No idea what happened. This Koi had survived the bout of bacterial gill disease that killed off most of our Koi a couple of years ago.

I had spoken with many folks that used this treatment successfully. So I am not sure what went wrong. I will have to think about this before I try it again.

If there is a lesson here, it is to be very aware of the fishes' behavior while treating and be ready with the neutralizer. I had followed the directions and mixed the neutralizer right after adding the MinnFinn so I had that ready. This may have saved the rest or the fish or the one that died may just have fatal reaction. "

'First, let me say that the dosage instructions on the bottle were fine. My only recommendation might be to be more specific about the mixing bucket volume. The current directions state to fill a bucket 3/4 full of pond or tap water. If you use a 5 gallon bucket or a 2 1/2 gallon bucket you do get different concentrations.

I used the same calculations that I use when adding PP or any other medication to the

pond. That leads me to believe that the concentration level was not out of line and certainly not at the 50 ppm. I used half a bottle for 4000 gallons which I measured in ml.

It is entirely possible that even though I distributed the product around the pond perimeter there could have remained a hot spot.

We did notice a few small ulcers on the fish after it died and there seemed to be some discoloration beneath the scales on the side. Nothing you would have spotted from looking at the fish in the pond. In a perfect world I would have had a necropsy performed, but that did not occur.

The others are fine this morning and are eating well. The flashing has subsided so it seems that even the short exposure may have helped that (the purpose of treating).

As I said in my first post the main reason for this was to point out the need to follow the directions and to remain vigilant while performing the treatment.” David and David

Marilyn

“I wanted to share my experience with using the MinnFinn. I have a couple of suggestions for ponders in applying it based on my experiences.

Know how many gallons you are treating but that is true of any medication.

I would recommend dosing the NeuFinn (neutralizer) by gram scale. I was a nervous nelly and checked if the amount came out the same if done by teaspoon vs gram scale in my application amounts. It didn't, the gram measurement was more and since this is an oxidizer that needs neutralized, I erred on the additional NeuFinn and thus used the gram scale amount.

Have all doses measured out and ready to go.

Use separate containers to mix the MinnFinn and NeuFinn or rinse the MinnFinn container very well before mixing the NeuFinn.

Definitely distribute the MinnFinn around the pond to reduce the chance of hotspots.

Bypass filtration or be prepared for a stumble in established filter bio bugs. Since both of my systems are coming online, I bypassed the filters.

I also suggest you let the NeuFinn cycle in the pond for the amount of time it takes to make a full circuit before re-establishing normal filtration through the filters.

I used it in both my pond and qt. The pond has fish from 12-24" and the qt has fish from 4"-16". The pond has fish that were flashing intermittently, losing a few scales and fish lice. I s/s with some help (3x) and found nothing.

The qt had bacterial issues, mouth rot and pre-ulcer conditions.

The qt has had two treatments as I wanted to make sure I took care of any flukes. The

pond has had two treatments and will be getting a third since lice are the goal for eradication.

During the MinnFinn, the fish schooled and did breach once or twice and once the neutralizer went in they did go to mid-level for a couple of hours. They were fine after that.

I am very pleased to say I lost no fish during the treatments. The bacterial issues already appear to be resolving.

The filters still stumbled a bit but not too much. AMM under .25 and nitrites under .25.”

Marilyn

Jeannette

5 16 09

“Ok, you cannot use me as an example for MinnFinn; I am too faint of heart and a real scaredy cat. But I can say the neutralizer definitely works This is in no way saying that this product does not work. I am sure it does do the job it says. It's just me. Last night we dosed the pond. Measure out the MinnFinn, turned off the bio and put in the recommended amount. Hubby did the figuring being that he is from Europe and is a math wiz and understands about liters and such. Everything happened the way that Marilyn said...the fish schooled...well that alone scared me. No one was trying to jump out of the pond, though. One thing I need to tell you is that DO NOT get it on your skin. It burns! This was before it was put in the pond. Hubby got some on his finger and it turned white (like hydrogen peroxide would do but it also burned). He then stuck his finger in the neutralizer and that does work. Pretty much right away. Finger is back to normal. So, now the fish are swimming around kinda like there is something in the water they don't like, but not enough to jump out. Some started just hanging with their fins out, some were down at the bottom, but what I noticed was the smaller goldfish were at the surface trying to get some air. That bothered me. I am wondering if there should be different doses for different size fish. But what really made me stop after 15 mins. was Aspirina. She is only about 10 inches. She was just hanging under the surface and hardly swimming at all. I was so scared that if something happened to her or any of them for that matter I would not be able to forgive myself, so in when the neutralizer. It took a while but they finally started to go back to normal somewhat but Aspirina was still near the surface. Prince my male shusui did get red streaks in his tail so he was stressed some. I waited about 45 mins before turning on the bios. After about an hour I did a couple hundred gallons water change which they seemed to appreciate. Today everyone is up and eating and frisky. No losses. Prince's tail is back to normal. It is just me, scaredy cat..I never use chemicals in my pond like that. The reason I did, was because I know that Princess is a flasher at times and few other but not all the time. I am sure there are some buggies in my pond but not enough to really do any damage. (But you never know) . I am sure this is a good product but I think I would be better using it in a QT tank with the affected fish and not dosing the whole pond.”

5 17 09

“Basically the fish did exactly what you said, schooled and then were lethargic sort of, just scared me and I wasn't sure what would happen so I put in the neutralizer. I have never done this before; it was a first for me. When fish start acting in a way I have never seen I get scared. It's just me, not the product. Everybody is up and frisky and eating and they look good, maybe even better. I wanted to use something non toxic and this seems like a good thing.”

5 18 09

"It has been almost 2 days that I used the MinnFinn and even though it was a short period of time something good has happened. One of my beautiful little fancy tails that I had was having a problem trying to get to the surface to eat and she would sink back down. Hubby even asked when we applied the MinnFinn, "What's wrong with that fish?". I told him. Well today she is swimming as though nothing was wrong, actually yesterday too. And the fantastic news is that when Eclipse woke up this Spring, he did not look good, I was sure I was going to lose him. Not really swimming, just floating and for about 2 weeks now I haven't seen him, I figured someone might have picked him off. Well, today he surfaced! He is up and running! I am elated! Something good must have happened even in the short time that the MinnFinn was there. Also, the edge of my waterfall is spotless! No Algae. So I have to say I do believe the product is good. Next time I will not be so timid."