

A MinnFinn Moment, Vol. IV: July 2009

By: Paul A. Curtis

MinnFinn Max continues to grow in popularity and the number of stores carrying product continues to bloom. Our goal is that most folks wanting to purchase MinnFinn Max will not have to drive far.

One area that I think we should be more diligent in marketing is the environmental and non-toxic properties of MinnFinn. The sister product to MinnFinn used in the medical trade as a sterilant for medical equipment, has both an EPA and FDA registration. MinnFinn is simply the same bottle with a different label so no chemical changes to change chemical action. The EPA certificate is for direct discharge to the environment and the FDA is for blood contact. This means if there is blood contact say in a dialysis machine there is no toxic risk for the patient. There are few effective medications on the market that have no environmental effect or toxicity effect to the user and the fish.

I again encourage the submission field results please so we can build a better product and move forward to FDA labeling. Please submit at www.minnfinnmax.com or with the document attached and e-mailed to paultrout@aquasolver.com.

As with the introduction of any product there are the successes that we thrive on but then there are often problems. It is the goal of us at MinnFinn to understand the problem and determine what caused it and then do what is required to avoid a repeat in the future. The following will explain some of the problems and probable causes and what we are doing to make MinnFinn a better quality product. We take MinnFinn use very seriously and the main goal is to have healthy fish in an environmentally and user friendly manner.

Tech Notes:

Know Your Pond Volume

When adding anything to your pond, this is the most critical piece of information to have. There have been a great number of fish killed with almost every substance ever thrown in the water since the start of fish keeping because folks did not know the volume of their pond or tank. MinnFinn is no different and before you start a treatment make sure you know how much water you are treating. This can be done through calculation, meter readings during a fill and measuring the salinity with a known amount of salt added to the pond.

Another thing to remember is that things in the water will displace water so the actual volume may be less than anticipated. It is not that important with the odd rock etc. in the pond. Where it does matter is when the pond volume is estimated prior to a large region being filled with gravel for filtration. In some instances the gravel filled area may take up as much as 50% of the volume thus turning a 2000 gal pond into a 1000 gal pond. You can see then if you treat a 2000 gal pond you have twice as much medication as specified. Now MinnFinn has a safety factor and a small over dose of 10%-20% should not be an issue, but a 100% is problematic as it is with many other medications.

Dechlorinator

There have been a few incidences where the MinnFinn Max user had reported absolutely no effect on the parasite being treated. The only way for this to occur would be to have large quantities of dechlorinator or bicarbonate in the water. The level of chlorinator would have to be 5 to 10 times the required dose to affect treatment and even at that it would potentially reduce and not neutralize completely. The amount that would cause an effect is completely pond dependant as each pond will use up dechlorinator at a different rate. It is not only chlorine that will use up these products in your pond. There are many other free radicals that will use up dechlorinating compounds. As Dechlor products are not harmful, these products may be applied far above the required amount which could affect efficacy in some instances.

Large quantities (dependant on pond size) of bicarbonate could also affect efficacy. If bicarbonate was added at 250 g per 1000 gal a few days prior to treatment, the treatment may be compromised. As with the dechlorinator the effect is going to be pond dependant due to the alkalinity in the pond at the time and how the alkalinity is used up or dispersed. It is best to therefore avoid large additions of bicarbonate to the system prior to treatment and also ensure that the appropriate quantity of dechlorination agent is added when a water change is done.

Hazmat Certification

If you are interested in becoming certified to ship a hazmat like MinnFinn Max please follow the link www.mastery.com. Here you will find a class that will certify you to ship any hazmat product. My colleague Don Gressly has done the class and the certificate was accepted by FedEx and UPS. The best part is it only costs \$30 and takes a few hours to complete.

Hot Spots

In one of the last newsletters I wrote about the caution needed for preventing hotspots or areas of high concentration when adding both the MinnFinn Max and the NeuFinn. If there is an area of high concentration that a fish swims through, it can cause great distress and possibly death to the animal. If the animal already has a pre-existing condition then the affect may be accentuated more. Although MinnFinn is non-toxic and environmentally friendly, it is a medicine and can kill fish when administered in such a

way that creates areas of high concentration or hotspots. The same is true for NeuFinn, in high concentrations fish can experience a pH shock if exposed. It is important to remember this for anything that you put in your pond. Even salt can cause trauma to fish if they swim through an area of high concentration.

In reports from users over the last month, it appears that treatments done in smaller tanks and aquariums may have increased the occurrence of hotspot incidents. With a smaller tank and more confinement of the fish, even with the addition of the diluted medication, there is still a greater chance of fish contacting hotspots. As the fish do not have as much room to swim, chances of encountering a hotspot as mixing occurs is much higher.

To counter the hotspot effect we need to ensure that the medicine is well diluted and added in small quantities over a wide area of the pond or tank. In a smaller tank this is even more important. There is also a need to increase the aeration in the pond and tank to ensure the oxygen levels stay high. The extra aeration also allows for more rapid mixing. When adding either MinnFinn or NeuFinn to the tank, adding a significant portion on top of the air column will really help mixing as material will be distributed in all directions in turbulent fast moving water. We will continue to monitor reports and relay new information in the future.

Label changes

In the beginning we realized that lessons would be learned after MinnFinn use started outside of our testing. With what we have learned we will be updating the label with the following.

In Section:

APPLICATION OF MINNFINN MAX

- 1) One bottle treats 8000 gallons
- 2) It is recommended that the user wear gloves and eye protection when applying MinnFinn Max.
- 3) **Make sure you have an accurate pond volume to avoid over dose and under dose.**
- 4) Increase aeration to tank/pond to maximize oxygen levels and to ensure proper mixing of treatment.
- 5) When treating Flukes and Costia use filter online for the first treatment. When treating other diseases placing filter on bypass is optional. If left online expect small impact on nitrification for 2 to 3 days. Bypass filter for further treatments
- 6) Dilute the required quantity of MinnFinn Max in a ¾ full 5 gallon bucket(s) using water from the pond to be treated or tap water for up to 250 ml of MinnFinn. Use a separate bucket for each 250 ml of MinnFinn to be applied.
- 7) Spread the mixture around the entire edge of the pond to ensure good mixing and reducing the potential of an area of high concentration fish may pass through.
- 8) Let MinnFinn Max treatment run for one (1) hr.
- 9) Normal behavior will be lethargy, mild to moderate increase in respiration, and possible mild agitation.
- 10) See required NeuFinn directions for preparation prior to the end of the treatment.
- 11) If fish appear severely distressed indicated by rolling over and appear to be falling asleep, apply NeuFinn immediately anytime during the treatment
- 12) Do not use with any other treatments.

APPLICATION OF NEUFINN REQUIRED

- 1) Same
- 2) In the same 5 gallon bucket(s) used to distribute the MinnFinn Max treatment, mix the required amount of NeuFinn neutralizer in a ¾'s full bucket using pond or tap water. Use a separate bucket for each ¼ bag (325 g) of NeuFinn applied.
- 3) Same
- 4) Same

MinnFinn MAX is Effective for

- 1) Control of Protozoal Parasites; eg. Trichodina and Chilodonella in one (1) treatment and Costia in two to three (2-3) treatments.
- 2) Control of Flukes in one (1) to three (3) treatments (Species dependant)
- 3) Control of Ich in three (3) to five (5) treatments (Each case of Ich is unique and must be evaluated during treatment program for number of needed doses)
- 4) External Bacterial Infections such as Bacterial Gill Disease, Columnaris, Mouth Rot and Fin Rot in one (1) to three (3) treatments
- 5) Leave one day between treatments

APPLICATION RATES

3 measured teaspoons (17.25 g) of NeuFinn Neutralizer

STATEMENT OF PRACTICAL TREATMENT

At the beginning of the section add:

"It is recommended that the user wear gloves and eye protection when applying MinnFinn Max."

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):

Chuck Mills

Paul,

We took your advice and put the MinnFinn directly on the sores after diluting it about 4 to 1. The spots turned white almost immediately. The fish is almost completely healed 5 days later. Thanks for your assistance.

Chuck mills

Steve Hodgkin

I hope I won't confuse the issue with a new experience but I'm on day 4 of a 3 treatment over 5 days run. For a quick overview the pond is a couple of months old with 1 14" Chagoi, 1 5" goldfish and 1 4" nursery koi. The Chagoi was showing signs of gill/skin flukes (spitting, clamped fins, flashing) and obviously not a big fish load. I left the filters running.

1st treatment was "Easy Peazy" (as Mary would say! Thanks again Mary for helping me along the way!!). I mixed with a 5 gal bucket and poured along the edge like the instructions say but of course, the chagoi was curious and followed me around like a hawk, so I ended up trying to pour most into the air from the bd's. The fish acted like nothing happened, besides coming to the top, not gasping, just cruzin' looking for bites to eat.

Neutralized, and quite a bit of foam produced when I turned the waterfall back on... but all was gone within an hour. Two days later (before treatment #2) I tested PH 8.1 (normal for my water), nitrites 0, nitrates 0, ammonia 0. The chagoi is no longer flashing and she eats about 10-15 pellets, but then starts spitting them out. This might be normal as I've not had Koi before! She has no clamped fins, and she is much more active than ever before (I've only had her a few weeks). The little koi and goldfish are both acting normally and eating normally.

I took some pics of the pond during treatment #2. You can see in the first pic that the chagoi and goldfish are just doing their usual cruise, checking out nooks and crannies for leftovers. I have the air on my Alita 80 on full blast to the 2, 9" diffusers.

Tomorrow is day 3 of the treatment. To this point, I'm pretty happy with the results! From a rookie's standpoint, I don't have a way to scrape/scope (yet), so I wasn't positive what I was treating for so this seemed like a good alternative because it treated for many different things, and so far, it's been great.

Thanks again Mary for all your help and support!

Just a quick update. The 3rd treatment went without incident last night. The fish is eating like a horse, hasn't spit since treatment number 2, and flashing has totally stopped since #1. I've never used Prazi or some of the other treatments, but the total time from treatment of MinnFinn to finish neutralizing, starting waterfall back up and feeding was about 90 minutes.

Barbara TheFishLady

Hi Paul,

OK, shoot me - I did what I had to do !

Got a call from a nice lady last week, not a regular client. She described her fish of 30 years as lethargic, perhaps it was water temps as we have had unusual weather, I kept asking questions and popped the big one: gee, by any remote chance; have you added fish ? Yes, weeks ago...quarantine maybe ? Oh no...I rushed over as I suspected a major catastrophe and possible serious fish losses.

My eye can recognize signs of various afflictions, there was little time as the fish had already developed the white coating which often accompanies a Costia affliction, fish

were stressed, fins clamped, eyes lifeless. I called one of my tech to bring salt, we got the pond to 4 PPM. I scheduled to come back and start the MinnFinn treatment. Fish were slightly better thanks to the salt, I was determined to get them better & save them.

We did MinnFinn on Thursday 6/11, I had them do it again on Friday 6/12, report back was that the fish were acting & looking better. To be on the safe side, I went back on Monday 6/15 and did one third & last treatment. What a difference when I saw the fish, amazing...they almost looked totally back to normal.

Of course, in the rush; I did not scope them, I need to have my second scope in the car at all times. Anyway, I will have the client write you a note and tell you about her experience.

Just thought I would let you know...

Take care,

Barbara

Bill at Mystic Koi, CA

Bill here from Mystic Koi. We've been fighting a stubborn case of flukes over here in one of our tanks (2,800 gallons). We've already treated twice with Prazi over a week period, with zero results. Just last Friday, we received a case of MinnFinn Max from our pal Anthony at Koi Enterprise, and so decided to give it a shot. We performed a 30% water change on Saturday morning, treated with Amquel, and then shortly afterward treated with MinnFinn for one hour (per instructions). Today I performed another scope, and instantly found gill flukes. They appear to be taunting me through the microscope! LOL

From your instructions, I noticed that it may require more than one treatment. I plan on doing another treatment on Monday, and am hopeful that we can eliminate these buggers. Otherwise, I'm going back to the "never fails" Fluke Tabs.

Good news... the second treatment (Monday) appears to have cleared the fluke infestation. I am, therefore, going to add MinnFinn to our product mix and recommend it to our customers.

Kind Regards,

Bill

Mary Nielson

I was having fish jump and flash in April, scraped and scoped, found flukes and treated three times with Prazi, one week apart. It did not seem to have any effect; I was still seeing jumping and flashing during and after the treatments. During this time, pond temps were in the 60-65* range.

I s/s'd again June 6 and found nothing; temp by this time was around 70*, ammonia and nitrite were 0. On 6/7, I added MinnFinn after bypassing filter and shutting off skimmer circuit; I also added a third 40L air pump. The fish schooled near the bottom but I saw no other unusual behavior during the hour treatment. I added NeuFinn, and everything was back to normal within an hour.

I re-treated on June 9, with the same results (ammonia had raised to .25). I again re-treated on June 11, and the only difference was one koi who started to hang in the water slightly tail-down at about 35-40 minutes into the treatment. I did cut that treatment about ten minutes short. Ammonia the following day was 0 but rose to .25 again by 6/15. I have been feeding fairly heavily, so it's quite possible that could account for the ammonia spikes. I have not seen any flashing, though I am seeing jumping again, once or twice a day.

Best regards,

Mary

For Availability Contact Your Local Retailer or Distributor

**For more Technical Information
Please call 800-955-0221 or visit our website at
www.minnfinnmax.com**