

A MinnFinn Moment Vol. VIII

By Paul A. Curtis

The Myth of MinnFinn

In some parts of the MinnFinn market, MinnFinn is viewed as a dangerous medication or a last resort. The thought is that it can easily kill fish and it is dangerous. Perhaps this perception grew from the fact that MinnFinn max must be transported as a toxic chemical. But nothing could be farther from the truth. It's true that fish may die if the medication is used incorrectly or there is some unforeseen interaction with another toxin or medication, but this is no different than most any other medication on the market.



In the many conversations with koi and goldfish growers, retailers and keepers over the years, I have heard many stories of fish mortalities associated with the use of all types of medications. All medications can be toxic if used incorrectly or if there is a negative interaction with another medication or other substance in the water.

Fish have died from the misuse of malachite green and formalin mixtures, such as using these treatments when there is salt in the water. In rare cases, fish have died from overdoses of MinnFinn or improper application. MinnFinn however is far more effective at treating for a far wider range of problems than malachite green and formalin, not to mention safer for you. MinnFinn also works more quickly and therefore has a much higher potential of saving fish than any other medication.

When the wrong medication is selected, or the one selected did not perform as specified or took too long to perform, fish can die unnecessarily. The owner may then need to go back for another medication and try again. What harm has occurred in this time? How many fish were lost? MinnFinn works fast and on anything on the outside of your fish.

Another factor that is often over looked is the passing of fish during a treatment due to the disease. Sick fish are already under tremendous stress. The treatment can be stressful, so those close to succumbing may die during the treatment, sooner than they would have died if left untreated. This can happen with any medication.

There are many that swear by MinnFinn and have switched over to it entirely. MinnFinn is now being used to treat freshwater tropical fish at farms and distributors in Florida. Protocols have been developed to treat the most sensitive fish including scaleless varieties like the clown loach.

When you couple this with the fact that MinnFinn is not toxic and is safe for the environment, MinnFinn should be the only choice for treating your fish.

MinnFinn Expiry Dates Extended to 24 Months

Most of our customers are well aware of the expiration date on bottles of MinnFinn. MinnFinn products are stabilized and the chemical in the bottle has a very long shelf life. Product three years old has still worked well on all those problems we see in ponds. The expiration dates placed on our products are due to the decay of the bottle they are packed in. MinnFinn Max testing demonstrated that the bottle will break down over time due to the oxidizing properties of the chemical. The bottle used at present was registered to have a 12 month life after which it may become more brittle and be more likely to break if handled roughly or dropped. The regular strength MinnFinn was given the same expiry as MinnFinn Max since it was a new product and effects were unknown. With only 12 months on the label for expiration, stock left at the end of the season would expire prior to or shortly into the following Koi season. Luckily this is all about to change.

We asked our manufacturer to research the problem and see what can be done to give us more time before product expiry. They now have a new bottle for MinnFinn Max which has extended the shelf life from 12 to 18 months. This is great news for all, as now the expiry will last through two seasons. The new bottles will be in production by Spring 2012 and will show the new “Best Before Date”.

We’ve also completed testing concentration persistence and bottle strength in Regular MinnFinn, and concluded that the date of use can be extended out to 24 months. There is no need for a bottle change. If you have Regular MinnFinn product on your shelf with a 12-month expiry, you can extend the expiry to 24 months.

As of this fall, both products will start carrying the new expiry dates.

Tech Notes – Products in Development

MinnFinn for Aquarium

We are getting much closer to having a product for freshwater aquarium fish. It has proven to be effective for reducing the same types of diseases it treats in koi and goldfish with minor changes to the treatment protocols. Many tropical fish producers have already tried it and some are now using MinnFinn exclusively or for the majority of their treatment needs.

A unit of MinnFinn aquarium will treat 220 gal of water and will contain a 50 ml bottle of MinnFinn, 11 1.75g pouches of NeuFinn (each pouch neutralizes 20 gal of treated water), plastic pipette to measure out the MinnFinn, and a card insert with treatment directions. Tropical fish have been responding well to treatments at half the dose used in koi and goldfish.

MedFinn Medicated Feed

We are ready to spring a new medicated feed onto the market. MinnFinn treats everything on the outside of the fish and now we will bring products for eliminating internal bacterial infections.

The use of antibiotics in the aquaculture industry is very highly regulated and restricted. There are only 3 antibiotics legal for use in food fish: oxytetracycline, Romet and florfenicol. All of these must be used under strict guidelines and only for specific pathogens to avoid creating antimicrobial resistance which could make treatments in the future ineffective. On a farm with lab facilities or at a diagnostic lab, the sensitivity of the organism affecting the fish to various antibiotics can be tested and an effective treatment with the most effective antibiotic can be established.

In the world of home ponds, it is usually impossible to determine the most effective antibiotic, so medicated feeds currently on the market have included many antibiotics to maximize effectivity. This is very dangerous as the antibiotics that are not effective or in too low a dose will enhance antimicrobial resistance. If this is occurring, treatment of internal bacterial infections could become much more difficult or even impossible in time.

In the development of MedFinn, we have been careful to use the required dose and number of treatment days outlined by the FDA to minimize antimicrobial resistance. We will have a Romet-TC based food available in several sizes. To make it easier for the customer to determine how much feed they need, we will have an online worksheet available. On this sheet all the customer has to do is enter the length of the fish in their pond and the sheet will calculate the amount of food needed for the 10 day treatment.

If you are interested in MedFinn please give me a call or e-mail me and I can tell you more.

Alternate Application Protocol

In the application of MinnFinn, the label has you apply the entire dose at one time. An alternative method that has worked well is to add it in steps. First add a half dose and watch the fish for 10 minutes. If all is going well, continue with another quarter dose and then the final quarter dose 5 minutes later. For a first time user, it gives them the ability to observe the fish' behavior in steps and to become accustomed to the changes. For severely infected or stressed fish, it will make the acclimation to the treatment easier and reduce the treatment stress. When fish are already stressed, we need to ensure we minimize any added stress when we can.

MinnFinn Topical Treatments

MinnFinn has been used very successfully as a topical treatment for severe lesions on the outside of Koi and goldfish. For example, serious mouth rot will be accompanied by a lot of dead tissue, which makes it difficult for a bath treatment to get at the cause or the problem. By using a cotton swab soaked in MinnFinn, you will clean the wound of debris which can protect pathogens and allow the medication to get at the infected site, eliminating the problem organisms and speeding healing. Swabbing has worked very well on some stubborn lesions.

If you are using Regular Strength MinnFinn, you can use it directly from the bottle. Just pour a small quantity into a small glass container and dip your cotton swab into that. If you are using MinnFinn Max, you will need to dilute before you swab. Mix 1 (one) part MinnFinn Max with 3 (three) parts water. You do not need much so just mix about one milliliter of Max with three milliliters of water in a small glass container and swab as described above.

Medication Interactions

As with any medication, it is impossible to understand all of the interactions between different fish medications. For this reason we state on the label “Not to be used with any other medications”.

The problem with interactions was brought to light by a customer not long ago. I received a call from someone using the product with horrific results. Fish were dying quickly during and after treatment. After a great deal of time on the phone trying to determine what may be occurring, it came to light that the fish had just finished a treatment with the antimicrobial Nitrofurizone or similar product a couple of days prior to the MinnFinn treatment. Nitrofurizone is a pretty powerful antimicrobial and will reside in the fish for many days. I suggested that this may have been the cause as it will cause physiological changes in the fish and thus effect how the fish react to MinnFinn. I also suggested that if they had some fish that had not been exposed to Nitrofurizone, to try a MinnFinn treatment. The user did just that and the fish reacted as expected with no loss and normal behaviors seen during treatment.

It is incredibly unfortunate that this occurred and it goes to show how little we do know about the effects of all medications on our fish. As we continue to learn about these types of issues, I will pass them on to prevent future events. Because of these unknowns is why we say on the label “Not to be used with any other treatments”.

Treatments From the Field

Catherine Neville at The Pond Clinic wrote:

“When our very own Nicholas Bott and Catherine Neville found they had some sick pond pets, they tried out this product.

Catherine said ‘We treated our sick fish in a 100 gallon hospital tank, so we followed the directions for this volume (1Tbsp = 15ml). This treatment can, and is, meant to be

applied directly to the pond, but you must turn off the circulatory pump first, so that the product does not come into contact with the biological filter. After neutralization, the pump can be turned back on. Gloves are recommended during the product handling process. Gasping at the surface at the end of the one-hour long treatment of MinnFinn was alarming, but it is normal and the gasping stopped with the addition of NeuFinn.'

After their treatment the Koi were back in top condition, and safely back in the pond. To be honest, they looked better than ever!

'I've NEVER seen a one-time treatment work like that! I mean ONE TREATMENT, and the fish were perfect!' Nicholas gushed."

See the original article at <http://pondclinic.com/Articles/MinnFinn.html>.

Bill Mancini from Fisheries Technology Associates, Inc. wrote:

Paul,

I want to give you some feedback about my most recent experience with MinnFinn.

First, I will tell you that all of my aquarium fish appear to be free of Ich and are doing very well.

I pulled all fish from my 55-gallon aquarium and treated them in a 10-gallon aquarium. They all had a significant Ich infection and I feared they would die. After moving the fish, I cranked up the temperature on the empty aquarium to speed the life cycle of the parasite, in preparation for the return of cured fish. In the smaller aquarium, I began treating them with MinnFinn as per your instructions.

After 11 days, treatments were complete and I moved all fish back to the large aquarium. Three weeks after all of this activity began, the fish are doing very well (knock on wood). I did lose two rainbows and a clown loach during the treatments, but they were badly infected. The other nine fish are apparently happy and healthy, thanks to your help.

MinnFinn is a great product, and I wish you could get it into more stores. As Donald Trump would say, "You never, never, ever give up!"

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To see more independent product reviews, go to <http://www.pondproductreviews.com/Parasitic-Koi-Medications/MinnFinn-p-1005.html>.



For Availability Contact Your Local Retailer or Distributor

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