

## **What should I do if I find a dead fish in my pond or tank? How can I control fish diseases and parasites?**

**Prepared by:** Tsang Lin, Professor of Veterinary Pathobiology, Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory, Purdue University

If you find a dead fish in your facility, take it out immediately, and look for other fish with abnormal behavior or clinical signs. You should also check the water quality immediately. Fish swimming slowly or erratically and not eating are symptoms that fish is sick. You should also take samples of live fish and check for discolored skin, ulcerated skin, bulging eyes, distended abdomen, or any abnormality in the physical appearance of the fish. If any of these symptoms are present, contact the Purdue diagnostics laboratory at:

Purdue University  
Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory  
406 South University Street  
West Lafayette , IN 47907-2065  
Tel: 765-494-7440 Fax: 765-494-9181

Depending on the nature of diagnosis to be done, Purdue may charge \$50 for necropsy of fish. The diagnosis includes histopathology, bacteriology, virology, and one toxicological test. You can get more information from the Purdue Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory's web site: <http://www.addl.purdue.edu/TestsFees/Index.aspx>

To control fish diseases and parasites in your facility, the most important rule is to maintain good water quality and avoid or reduce stress to fish. Chemicals may not always be necessary for treating sick fish. However, if needed, copper sulfate can be used at 0.0019 grams per gallon of water to control external parasites. Salt can also be used at 0.5 to 1.0 percent to reduce stress and control water molds, parasites, and bacteria.