

FISH AND CRAYFISH DISEASES IN LATVIA

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Fishery in Latvia is rather young, less than 100 years old. The main trends of this branch are fish and crayfish breeding in ponds or hatchery tanks for reproduction and restocking in natural reservoirs, natural reservoirs are stocked with fish from gender Salmonidae, Coregonidae, Thymallidae, Esocidae, Cyprinidae, Percidae and Petromyzontidae, fish and crayfish breeding in freshwater under food production and fish breeding in ponds for angling and hobby. The fish fauna during last years has changed due to climate warming that definitely influenced the water fauna composition in Latvia.

Significant role in fish and crayfish breeding has welfare of aquatic animals, including feeding, preventive measures against diseases. The most significant fish diseases are caused by bacteria. They can cause disease problems in cultured as well as in wild fish, especially following handling, stocking or transport. Predisposing risk factors contain also high temperatures, overcrowding, organic pollution and hypoxia.

The most important infectious fish diseases in Latvia are furunculosis of salmonids, aeromonosis of carp, myxobacteriosis of salmonids and many invasion diseases caused by parasites (Kirjusina et.al. 2007) and some crayfish disease – crayfish plague, white spot disease.

That is reason why is more important to provide welfare management for aquatic animals and to protect disease outbreaks than to treat them.

References

Kirjusina M., Briede I. & Bondad-Reantaso M.G. 2007. Extention manual on Some Important Viruses, Parasites and Bacteria of Aquatic Animals in Latvia. NDC/LZRA/FAO. Riga, Latvia. 70 p.