

Marine Fish: A Guide to Health



95% of health problems experienced by fish, both freshwater and marine, relate to poor water quality. Problems which can be experienced may be Viral, Bacterial, Fungal or Parasitic. All are able to be treated using commercially available treatments, coupled with good maintenance and improved feeding.

Below you will find a broad outline of the health problems which can be experienced by Marine Fish. For more information, visit your Pet or Aquarium retailer. As with any illness experienced by humans or animals, it is important to act swiftly once you notice any symptoms, to improve the chances of a successful outcome.

For more information about the correct water parameters for your Marine Fish, download the free Care Sheets available from the Aquarium Industries website.

Symptoms

Symptoms to look for include:

- Fish behaving abnormally
- Erratic swimming
- Keeping to the top or bottom of the tank
- Scratching or scraping themselves on objects
- Shimmying / Flashing
- Poor balance

Changes to fins

- Eroded or torn
- Colour changes
- Clamped (not fanned out)

Changes in appetite

- Loss of appetite
- Emaciation

Changes to skin

- Abnormalities
- White spots
- Cotton like tufts
- Lesions, grey patches, bleeding

Changes to eyes

- Eyes appear cloudy
- Eyes are protruding

Changes to body shape

- Swelling or bloating of stomach

Parasites

The two most common parasites that affect marine fish are marine white spot (*Cryptocaryon irritans*) and marine velvet (*Oodinium ocellatum*). These are best treated with copper based remedies.

Caution, do not use copper when invertebrates are present.

Other parasites that may affect marine fish are *Brooklynella hostilis*, and *Uronema marinum*. These can be treated with a formalin based multi cure, but be sure to remove any invertebrate from the system prior to treatment. An alternative is to move sick fish to a 'hospital' tank and treat them there.

Bacteria

Marine fish suffer from similar bacterial problems as freshwater fish (Vibrio is the most common). The most effective method of treatment is to use triple sulphur.

Viral

The most common viral problem encountered by marine fish is lymphocystis, which mainly affects angelfish and butterflyfish. It is not lethal and can usually be reversed by reducing stress. The most effective ways to reduce stress are to improve water quality and ensure that the correct feeding regime is followed.

Fungus

This is usually associated as a secondary infection to bacterial problems, and can be treated with malachite green or formalin based products in a tank without invertebrates.

Important advice re Dosages

Always follow the manufacturer's instructions strictly, and never deviate. For any questions, contact your Pet or Aquarium retailer.

For more Care Sheets like this, visit our website: aquariumindustries.com.au