The DISREF and DISEASES Tables in FishBase

Diseases are a major problem in intensive aquaculture, in the aquarium trade, and in polluted bays, lagoons, or inland waters. Diseases brought in with introduced species pose a major threat to related native species. Computers can help to diagnose fish diseases, and we have implemented a simple web interface for that purpose.

Sources

The DISREF table was originally developed by Imke Achenbach and Rainer Froese (Achenbach 1990; Achenbach and Froese 1990). It contains over 1000 descriptions of diseases or stages of diseases extracted from over 100 references. About 150 macroscopic symptoms have been identified that can be used as diagnostic criteria. It has been shown that the information collected so far can be used to diagnose Northern Hemisphere diseases of marine and aquaculture species (Achenbach and Froese 1990). Heino Möller gave us permission to use photos from his books and slide collections (Möller and Anders 1983, 1986, 1989) and Gerald Bassleer gave us permission to use images from his color guides of tropical fish diseases (Bassleer 1997, 2000, 2003). Additional compilations of fish diseases were made available through FAO and through national experts.

Status

Two experts, Toshihiko Matsusato and Brian Jones, kindly looked at parts of the information collected so far and we incorporated their suggestions and corrections. However, we feel that the table is still in a beta stage and we do not recommend it for professional use. Rather, we would appreciate if an institution working on fish diseases would take over the responsibility for this and the following table—either completely or for certain groups of diseases only—and subject the tables to thorough testing and further development.

The DISEASES table contains reported occurrences of diseases. For each case it states the affected **Species, Disease, Country and Locality, Year, Prevalence, Intensity, Mortality** and additional information. It contains 218 records of 148 diseases reported for 38 species.

As mentioned for the DISREF table above, the table is still in a beta stage and is not recommended for professional use. For more information, please contact the FishBase Project.

Internet

The disease tables are accessible from the **More information** section of the species summary page. A simple Disease diagnosis wizard is available from the **Tools** section of the FishBase search page.

Acknowledgments

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