

Whirling Disease is here – How might this affect the NC Trout Industry?



Jeffrey M. Hinshaw
North Carolina State University
Department of Applied Ecology, 455 Research Drive
Mills River, NC 28759, USA
E-mail: jeff_hinshaw@ncsu.edu

If Whirling Disease is found in the waters supplying your farm.....

- It will be found in your fish (and vice versa)
- Your fish are still safe to eat
- You can still grow trout successfully, but:
 - Your ability to move fish to other areas will be impacted
 - Testing will provide information for management and in some cases may be required, e.g., shipping to other states or even other basins
 - Farm production planning may need to change – How?

If Whirling Disease is found in the waters supplying your farm.....

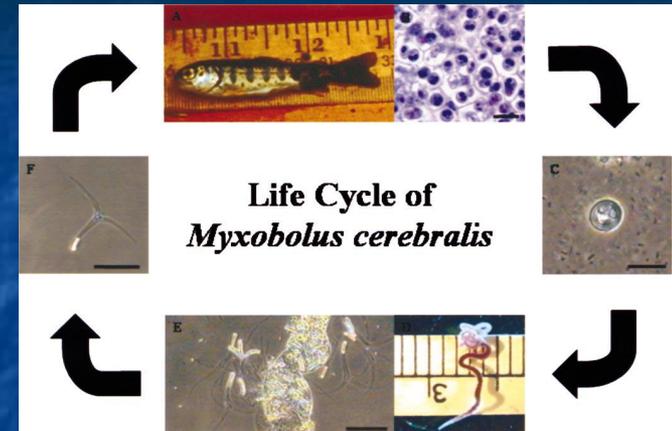
- Stock or Species Selection
 - “Hofer” strain – not available through primary supplier (Troutlodge), but they are resistant.
 - Marker for resistance could be examined and used in selection from existing stocks
 - Brown trout are resistant, and brook trout are reported to be relatively resistant – reports vary
 - Rainbow x Brown trout triploid hybrids – resistance unknown but are viable.
 - Other species/hybrids -



If Whirling Disease is found in the waters supplying your farm.....

- Management Changes

- Concrete and other hard surface tanks, no earthen ponds
- No fish upstream, if possible
- Larger/older trout are more resistant; stock at 6"-7" and larger.
 - Still infected but pathology is not evident or is absent.
- Timing of stocking may be important
 - Peak TAM release at ~54°F (52°-57°F); reported to be insignificant outside this range.



52° – 57°F



Any Questions?

