

INSTITUTE FOR FISHERIES RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN



July 2, 1931

Report No. 75

ON THE CAUSE AND PREVENTION OF DEATH OF CARP IN LIVE BOXES

AT HARBOR BEACH

A letter dated June 24, from Mr. Robert H. Morley, Deputy Warden, Harbor Beach, Michigan, concerning the loss of carp in live boxes at Harbor Beach, has been received. The two specimens sent to us were examined immediately upon arrival.

These fish show no internal abnormalities which would cause their death. Externally they are literally battered to pieces, some injuries being fresh and others old, the latter being fungused which, no doubt, caused their death.

It is possible that fungus will attack and kill most of the injured fish if held any length of time. Fungus spores, water borne, are responsible for these growths on the fish and for some unknown reason are exceptionally abundant this year in all waters. The unusually warm water for this season is favorable for the growth of these spores on the fish.

The largest losses occur in the pens where the fish fed on the ground because they have an opportunity to constantly stir up these fungus spores.

You may receive some benefit by keeping pens off the ground, and in cooler water if this is possible, and by preventing injury as far as possible and by destroying those badly injured and all those in the pens which show growths on them. The growths will probably be black where fish have access to mud, otherwise whitish.

If any benefits are derived from this procedure we shall be glad to know about it.

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CC to Morley, Harbor Beach, Mich.