

GLOSSARY OF FISH HEALTH TERMS

Abrasion:	a localized area denuded of skin, mucous membranes, or superficial epithelium caused by rubbing or scraping.
Abscess:	a localized inflammation and swelling, frequently filled with necrotic debris and white blood cells.
Acclimation:	the process through which fish become fully adapted to new environmental circumstances; such as being placed into water of different quality, temperature, or different holding situations.
Acid fast:	bacteria that retain red phenolic fuchsin stain after being treated with acid alcohol solution.
Acute:	severe or crucial, often progressing rapidly; i.e., acute inflammation.
Adhesion:	the abnormal fibrous union of an organ or part to another.
Adjuvant:	a material administered with and enhancing the action of a drug or antigenic substance.
Adipose (tissue):	fatty animal tissue.
Aerobic:	said of an organism or life process that utilizes or can only exist in the presence of oxygen.
Anadromous:	fish that leave the sea and migrate to fresh water to spawn.
Anaerobic:	said of an organism or life process that flourishes in the absence of oxygen.
Anemia:	a condition characterized by a deficiency of hemoglobin or red blood cells (erythrocytes).
Aneurysm:	a sac formed by the dilation of the walls of an artery or a vein and filled with blood.
Anthelmintic:	an agent that destroys or expels parasitic worms in the gut.

Antibiotic:	a chemical substance produced by living organisms, usually mold or bacteria, that is capable of inhibiting other organisms.
Antibody:	a specific immunoglobulin molecule produced by an organism in response to an antigen.
Antigen:	a high molecular weight protein or polysaccharide which stimulates the formation of specific antibody with which it will react. Examples include killed bacterial cells or flagella.
Baeteremia:	the presence of living bacteria in the blood, with or without significant response on the part of the host: usually refers to a generalized bacterial infection in the blood.
Bacterin:	a vaccine prepared from bacteria that have been inactivated by heat or chemicals without altering the cell antigens.
Bacteriocidal:	having the ability to kill bacteria.
Bacteriostatic:	having the ability to inhibit or retard the growth or reproduction of bacteria.
Benign:	not endangering life or health.
Boil:	a furuncle; a localized infection or abscess within subcutaneous tissue that drains externally.
Carcinogen:	any agent or substance which produces cancer or accelerates the development of cancer.
carrier:	an individual harboring the specific organism(s) which can cause a disease, without indication of signs of the disease.
Catadromous:	fish that leave fresh water and migrate to the sea to spawn.
Cataract:	partial or complete opacity of the crystalline lens of the eye or its capsule.
Chemotherapeutic:	a chemical agent used for the prevention or treatment of disease.
Cilia:	short hair-like processes on protozoans by which they move or produce currents.

Clinical:	when applied to a disease or signs of disease, a term that indicates a condition is readily apparent, overt, or obvious by gross inspection.
Coagulation:	the process of clotting.
Communicable disease:	a disease that is naturally transmitted directly or indirectly from one individual to another.
Complement:	factors present in the serum of normal animals which enter into various immunologic reactions.
Culture:	population of bacteria grown on artificial medium.
Culture media:	material (solid or liquid) on which bacteria are grown .
Disease:	a pathological condition of the body that presents a group of signs indicating the existence of an abnormal histological or physiological entity,
Disinfectant:	an agent which will destroy infective agents.
Ectoparasite:	a parasite that lives on the external surface of the host.
Edema:	excessive accumulation of fluid in the tissue space or body cavities.
Embolus:	undissolved material carried in the bloodstream, such as a blood clot, air bubbles, cancerous or other tissue cells, fat, clumps of bacteria, or a foreign body.
Endogenous:	originating in the cells or tissues of the body.
Endoparasite:	a parasite that lives within the host.
Enteritis:	any inflammation of the intestinal tract.
Enzootic:	a disease which is present in an animal population at all times.
Epizootic:	outbreak of disease attacking many animals in a population at the same time and rapidly spreading.
Etiology:	the study of the causes of a disease.

Exophthalmos:	abnormal protrusion of the eyeball from the socket.
Facultative fish pathogens:	occurring naturally as non-pathogens in the environment but capable of causing disease outbreaks under conditions of stress.
Flagella:	whip-like organelles of locomotion on protozoans.
Free-Living: :	not requiring a host to survive.
Furuncle:	a localized infection of skin or subcutaneous tissue which develops a solitary abscess that may or may not drain externally.
Gram-negative:	bacteria which lose the purple crystal violet stain when treated with alcohol solution in the Gram-staining process.
Gram-positive:	bacteria which retain the purple crystal violet stain when treated with alcohol solution in the Gram-staining process.
Gross pathology:	pathology that deals with the superficial or overt appearance of organs and tissues.
Hematocrit:	volumetric relationship of the cellular elements of blood to the total blood volume; sometimes referred to as the packed cell volume.
Hemoglobin:	the respiratory pigment of erythrocytes capable of taking up and giving off oxygen.
Hemolysis:	destruction of erythrocytes.
Hemorrhage:	an escape of blood from the vessels, either through intact blood vessel walls or through ruptured vessels.
Histopathology:	the study of microscopic changes in diseased tissue
Host:	an animal or plant which harbors or nourishes another organism.
Hyper-:	a prefix denoting excessive, above normal or situated above.

Hyperplasia:	abnormal increase in the number of cells in a tissue or organ accompanied by enlargement or an increase in the size of the tissue or organ.
Hypertrophy:	enlargement of an organ due to an increase in the size of cells rather than in the number of cells.
Hypo-:	a prefix denoting a deficiency, less than normal, below or beneath.
Immunity:	resistance to disease; lack of susceptibility.
Immunization:	the act or process of rendering immune by the introduction or administration of an antigen.
Incubation:	period of time between exposure or introduction of pathogens into the host and development of typical signs of disease.
Inflammation:	the reaction of the tissues to infection or injury characterized clinically by swelling and redness.
Inoculation:	the introduction of a pathogenic organism into the tissues of a living organism or culture medium.
Intra- :	within or between layers of same tissue.
In Vitro:	used in reference to tests or experiments conducted in vessels or in an artificial environment.
In Viva:	used in reference to tests or experiments conducted in or on living organisms.
-itis:	a suffix indicating inflammation.
Lesion:	any visible alteration in the normal structure of organs, tissues, or cells.
Lordosis:	dorso-ventral curvature of the spine.
Lysozyme:	an enzyme which is capable of destroying certain bacterial cell walls.
Melanin:	a dark pigment responsible for the yellow to black coloration of fishes.
Moribund:	obviously progressing towards death, nearly dead.

Morphology:	the study of the form and structure of animals and plants.
Mortality:	the death rate, also the ratio of dead to living individuals in a population.
Mucus:	the slime produced by mucous membranes or by special cells in fish skin.
Necropsy:	a medical examination of animals to ascertain the cause of death.
Necrosis:	the process of death of cells or tissues within the living body.
Non-pathogenic:	refers to an organism which does not cause disease.
Obligate fish pathogens:	disease-causing organisms that cannot survive in nature unless susceptible or carrier fish are present.
-oma:	a suffix used to denote tumours, i.e. fibroma.
Overt disease:	a disease, not necessarily infectious, that is apparent or obvious by gross inspection; a disease exhibiting obvious clinical signs.
Parasite:	an organism that lives in or on another organism (the host), that depends on the host for its food, and that is suspected of harming the host when present in large numbers.
Pathogen, opportunistic:	an organism capable of causing disease only when the host's resistance is lowered or when unusual circumstances favor its growth and development.
Pathogenesis:	the origin and process of development of any disease or morbid process.
Pathogenic:	causing disease.
Petechia:	a minute hemorrhage on a surface.
Predisposing factors:	physical, chemical or biological factors which increase the susceptibility of an organism (host) to disease; sometimes called stressors.

Prophylaxis:	actions taken to prevent disease or measures taken to prevent the development or spread of disease.
Putrefaction:	the enzymatic decomposition of organic matter, especially proteins, by anaerobic micro-organisms.
Resistance:	a natural ability of an organism to withstand the effects of various physical, chemical, and biological agents which might otherwise cause disease in the organism.
Sensitive, drug:	susceptibility of a micro-organism, usually a bacterium, to be controlled (inhibited or killed by use of a drug).
Septicemia:	generally involving the significant invasion of the bloodstream by micro-organisms; a severe bacterial infection in the blood.
Sign:	any manifestation of disease, such as an aberration in structure, physiology, appearance or behaviour, as interpreted by an observer.
Specificity, host:	extreme host requirements that limit a parasite to one host species only. Loose host specificity indicates a parasite can infect many hosts.
Subcutaneous:	beneath the skin.
Synergism:	refers to an interaction wherein two agents produce a greater effect than would be predicted from the sum of their individual effects.
Scoliosis:	lateral curvature of the spine.
Therapeutic:	serving to heal or cure.
Toxicity:	ability of a substance to kill or cause an adverse effect.
Ubiquitous:	universally or widely distributed.
Ulcer:	an open sore or a break in the skin or a mucous membrane with loss of surface tissue; localized disintegration and necrosis of epithelial tissue.

- Vaccine:** a preparation of nonvirulent or killed disease organisms administered into the body to stimulate the production of antibodies against them.
- Vector:** a living organism which carries an infectious agent from one infected individual to another, directly or indirectly.
- Virulence:** the relative capability of a pathogen to produce disease.