

Using Antimycin –A (Fintrol) for controlling unwanted fish species in catfish production ponds

A number of PAAC catfish growers have reported the presence of unwanted scaled fish species in their catfish ponds. Recently, I assisted with the treatment of a four acre pond with the antibiotic Atimycin-A, which goes by the brand name Fintrol. Fintrol is used as a whole pond treatment for the removal of scaled fish from catfish ponds. Fintrol is added to the pond at a rate of 5 to 10 parts per billion (ppb) of active ingredient, depending on the water temperature and pH. This chemical will not kill bullhead catfish.

Fintrol is registered by FDA to use in food fish ponds and is now registered with the KDA Division of Pesticides to use in Kentucky. The chemical is expensive! One unit of Fintrol costs approximately \$400.00. A unit will kill scaled fish in 7.5 acre feet of water at a treatment rate of 5 ppb provided the water temperature is greater than 60°F and the pH is less than 8. The pond treatment I assisted with required four or more units.

Fintrol uses acetone as a diluent and a detergent surfactant. These chemicals must be mixed together first than diluted in about 10 gallons of water per unit. The chemical can be dispersed into the water through the boat's prop-wash via a chemical tank or barrel, a 12 volt bilge pump and a section of hose. Fintrol is a restricted use pesticide. In Kentucky, you will need a private pesticide applicators license to buy it and apply it legally on your own property. Gloves and goggles must be worn while mixing and applying the chemical. The chemical is extremely flammable, is a poison and it smells bad. Fintrol binds to the heme portion of the hemoglobin in the fish's blood and interferes with oxygen uptake thus killing the fish. Aerators should not be run during treatment as this will prematurely break down the chemical.

Fintrol will kill fish in two hours to 12 days depending on the water temperature and other water quality factors. The chemical degrades in 2 to 7 days. Restocking of fish can normally take place within 7 days of treatment. For more information contact my office 270-247-2334 or fwynne@uky.edu

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