Fish On!!

A newsletter for fee-fishing (catch-out) and carp pond operators to provide information for better management.

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North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Stocking Permit Information

As of July 1, 2005, anyone interested in stocking inland, public fishing waters with fish, mollusks, or crustaceans must obtain a stocking permit issued by the Wildlife Commission. The purpose of this permit is to protect native, or legally established aquatic species from the potentially damaging effects of unauthorized stockings. Fish stocked into public waters have the potential to escape into adjacent waters and create problems for existing aquatic communities by feeding on eggs, fry, or adults of existing fishes. They may compete for food and habitat. Stockings may also introduce diseases and parasites, and possibly interbreeding.

The only waters not affected by this rule are private ponds, which by statute is defined as bodies of water arising within and lying wholly upon the lands of a single owner or group of joint owners or tenants in common, and from which fish cannot escape, and into which fish of legal size cannot enter from public waters at any time.

Since most ponds in western North Carolina are built by impounding streams, they are considered public waters. The term public does not imply that the general public has the right to fish these waters without landowner permission. It means that the waters flowing through the pond are contiguous with adjacent streams.

There is no charge for this permit. You can find out how to apply by visiting http://www.ncwildlife.org/fishing/fish_stocking_permit.htm or by calling 919-707-0226. I can also help you getting an application for the stocking permit.
Last year’s happenings

Time to plan for the New Year...

Last year, I offered a Carp Pond Workshop in Surry County in March where I discussed fish basics, water quality parameters, and common problems with treatments. I also offered a Water Quality Testing Workshop in November in Surry County. At the Water Quality Testing Workshop, water quality parameters were discussed with an opportunity to have hands-on with water quality testing equipment. In addition to the Water Quality Testing Workshop in Surry, I offered another one in Lincoln County. Aquaculture Tours in December showcased aquaculture facilities and gave participants an opportunity to see exactly what it takes to operate a facility.

I also offered a Small-Scale/Home-Use Aquaculture in May in McDowell County. I had participants from different counties all interested in using their ponds as a resource. Some of the topics discussed were species, open pond culture, and cage culture.

Now it’s time again to schedule workshops, tours, and newsletters. If you have a suggestion on a class, tour, or newsletter topic, please call 828-652-7874 or email Molly_Sandfoss@ncsu.edu. I rely on your comments to tell me the educational needs of the industry.

WINTER MANAGEMENT TIPS

Winter time is a good time to lime. Lime increases alkalinity. pH will stay fairly stable at higher alkalinity. Also, alkalinity reduces the toxicity of some chemicals in water. If you have to treat with copper sulfate this Spring or Summer, copper sulfate is less toxic at higher alkalinity.

Treating your pond with salt also is recommended before stocking your pond with a new load of fish. Fish are stressed during harvest and transport. Salt acts to reduce this stress.

If your pond has little inflow and outflow, it may be necessary to break the ice. With a pond that has little inflow, most of the oxygen in the water is resulting from contact with the air during the winter. If the pond surface is completely frozen for an extended period, this can act as a barrier to replenishing the oxygen in the water. This is especially true if there is snow covering the ice. Most ponds have constantly flowing water so this is usually not a problem.
Green Scum

Some pond owners get a green scum that can cover their pond or parts of their pond. It is a type of planktonic algae that is unattractive. One pond owner had this unsightly pond scum this past year. They tried an algaecide that was quite effective. It was a beautiful site to see. If you have this unsightly green scum on your pond, call me, and we can discuss the treatment.

EVENTS

North Carolina Aquaculture Development Conference, January 22-23, Atlantic Beach—An annual program that updates attendees on the status of aquaculture in North Carolina as well as research updates. The conference will also address topics on seafood safety, aquaculture effluent, niche markets, and more. For a detailed look at the agenda, http://www.ncaquaculture.org

Preventing a Recall: Protecting Your Food Business, January 26, Morehead City-- The workshop is designed for small food entrepreneurs and food producers who sell directly to the public, seafood processors and retailers, meat handlers producing and selling meat products, individuals interested in developing food recall plans to protect their businesses, and those who want to expand market outreach and are required to obtain liability insurance to enter new markets. For more information, http://www.ncagr.gov/markets/agbizmarketing.htm

Basic Seafood HAACP, February 16-18, Morehead City-- This annual, two-and-a-half-day workshop is designed for personnel in regulatory agencies, the seafood industry, particularly distributors and processors, and others who are required to have an FDA Seafood HACCP Plan in place for handling fresh seafood and seafood products. Cost is $150 per person which includes training, course books and certification fee. Here is the link to the website http://www.ncsu.edu/foodscience/workshops_training.htm
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North Carolina State University and North Carolina A&T State University commit themselves to positive action to secure equal opportunity regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, age, veteran status, or disability. In addition, the two Universities welcome all persons without regard to sexual orientation. North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and local governments cooperating.

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