

2015 NCRAC ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

Project Title: Snail Management/Grub Control* [Termination Report]

Key Word(s): Other

Total Funds Committed: \$20,500

Initial Project Schedule: September 1, 2007 to August 31, 2009

Current Project Year: September 1, 2013 to August 21, 2014

Participants: Richard D. Clayton, Iowa State University, Iowa; Christopher F. Hartleb, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Wisconsin; Todd Huspeni, University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, Wisconsin; Joseph E. Morris, Iowa State University, Iowa State University; Gregory W. Whitlege, Southern Illinois University-Carbondale, Illinois

Extension Liaison: Joseph E. Morris, Iowa State University, Iowa

Industry Liaison: Rex Ostrum, Nebraska

Project Objective

2. Assemble an updatable snail management guide which includes a literature review of known control options, a method of determining snail infestation levels in any water system, and a set of standard operating procedures to reduce snail populations and trematode infestations based on the research cited in Objective 1.

Project Summary

With the long history of trying to control snails in fish ponds and types of control mechanism being used (mechanical/chemical/predatory), a literature review was undertaken to compile the information to date. This list of references is from journal articles only. The references are subdivided by the type of control that the researcher's evaluated or commented on: mechanical, chemical, or biological control. This information was then combined with information garnered from this project to produce a detailed presentation that is now available to North Central Region (NCR) aquaculture community.

Technical Summary and Analysis

Objective 2. — A search has been completed by Iowa State University staff to review literature to date concerning the three main control methods for snails: biological, chemical, and mechanical. This information was combined with information garnered from this research project to develop detailed on-line presentation for fish producers to access and obtain information potentially relevant to their snail problems. Among the various options, information regarding effectiveness, legal implications, and potential for impact on pond general ecology, e.g., zooplankton dynamics in fish fingerling ponds, will be listed. The detailed presentation 'Snail Management in Culture Ponds' is hosted on the revised North Central Regional Aquaculture Center (NCRAC) Web site – Aquatic Biological Management

<http://www.ncrac.org/files/presentation/file/Snail%20Management%20in%20Culture%20Ponds.pdf> The literature review 'Review of Snail Control in Fish Ponds'

http://www.ncrac.org/files/biblio/snail_control_litrev.pdf is also available on the same web site.

* This Progress Report is for the second objective of this project. A Project Component Termination Report for the first objective is contained in the 2009-10 Annual Progress Report. This is a project that had two years of funding and is chaired by Gregory W. Whitlege. It began September 1, 2007.

Additional information on grubs in freshwater fish is available in the NCRAC Technical Bulletin #115 'Biology, Prevention, and Effects of Common Grubs (Digenetic trematodes) in Freshwater Fish', <http://www.ncrac.org/files/biblio/TB115.pdf> . Since the initiation of this project, an updated factsheet on snails and associated grubs has been developed at Texas A&M University and is available at <http://fisheries.tamu.edu/files/2013/09/My-fish-have-grubs-final.pdf> .

Principal Accomplishments

Results from this project have been used to provide an updated review of snail control methods available to the aquaculture community. Although to date there is no one ideal management solution to controlling the snail population in aquaculture ponds, aquaculturists should consider the following:

- Prevention of snail infestation when possible.
 - Use of approved aquatic herbicides or grass carp (consult state-specific regulations to decrease the amount of submerged vegetation including filamentous algae.
 - Drying pond bottoms between crops.
 - Use of flow in side tanks to limit infestations.
- Use care in the use of chemical controls as many will affect the cultured fish directly.
 - Chemical treatments often effective along pond margins but small fish may be susceptible.
 - Use of lime to modify water pH can affect both adult fish and their offspring through direct and indirect effects as well as low oxygen levels associated with decaying vegetation.
 - Applications copper sulfate (combined with citric acid) are effective control measures but can direct or indirect effects on cultured fishes; previous research notes the effect of 0.25 mg/L of copper sulfate can kill desired zooplankton prey for larval fishes.
 - Prior to chemical control use, culturists need to check total alkalinity of the culture ponds to help decrease deleterious effects from lime or copper sulfate applications.
- Consider use of biological controls for long-term controls.
 - Redear Sunfish are effective in controlling Physa but not rams-horn snails until they are fully matured.
 - Use of hybrid Redear Sunfish can help to reduce snail populations over the culture period.
 - Other possible predators include crawfish, blue catfish, freshwater drum and freshwater prawns.

Recommended Follow-Up Activities

A yearly review of literature pertaining to grub and snail management should be undertaken

Publications, Manuscripts, Workshops, and Conferences

See the Appendix for a cumulative output for all NCRAC-Funded Other activities.