

BOOK REVIEW

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Book Review

HANDBOOK OF TROUT AND SALMON DISEASES

(168 p illustrated) by R. J. ROBERTS and C. J. SHEPARD, Fishing News (Books) Ltd., 23 Rosemont Avenue, West Byfleet, Surrey, England. Price £ 5.25 (\$13.80).

This is a long awaited book by two authors from the Unit of Aquatic Pathobiology, University of Stirling, in Scotland. The extensive training of the authors also includes veterinary medicine and years of experience in fish culture and fish diseases. This book "is intended for the practical trout and salmon hatchery man, fish farmer, angler, and resource manager." With a few minor reservations, it also contains profitable information for a professional fish pathologist.

The text is concise with language that is crisp, free from scientific jargon, and very lucid. The book is limited to essentials important to practical fish culturists or fishery biologists. The book consists of 13 chapters, appendix and index. The first 42 pages cover general information on cultured salmonids, their anatomy and culture. Infectious diseases are described and illustrated on 32 pages and this is followed by 5 pages of "Disease Diagnosis on the Farm." The use of a microscope is described in the appendix.

In addition to general descriptions of common diseases, there are separate chapters on diseases of eggs and sac-fry, diseases of early feeding and diseases of growers (one to several year old fish). This is followed by concise information on diseases common in mariculture, nutritional diseases, fish kills, and diseases of broodstock. Methods of prevention and treatment of diseases are included. This type of arrangement is convenient for a practical fish culturist but requires some repetition of information on diseases occurring at various ages and conditions.

Dr. Roberts did a great deal of research on the pathology of fish integument, and the short section on "Diseases Characterized by Skin Lesions" (pages 132-140) is very informative. This section describes degenerative lesions occurring in pre-spawning and spawning salmonids, "autumn aeromonad disease" caused by *Aeromonas liquefaciens* and ulcerative dermal necrosis (UDN). The latter has caused much concern in Ireland and in the United Kingdom during the past 10 years. Dr. Roberts, with his associates, did much research on this disease. It occurs chiefly in prespawning Atlantic salmon and the etiology is still unknown.

The unpleasant duty of a reviewer also is to look for errors. There are few but not important. Two were caught by the authors and have been corrected in the enclosed erratum. I have to add that formalin and copper sulfate, which are often mentioned in the text, are neither listed in the list of drugs and chemicals nor in the index.

Visceral granuloma of brook trout and nephrocalimosis in rainbow trout, which are associated with diets containing cottonseed, are considered by the authors as diseases common in soft water. In the U.S. they are more often found in areas with hard water.

This book meets its goal admirably as a source of information for the practical fish culturist and should be well received.

S. F. Snieszko