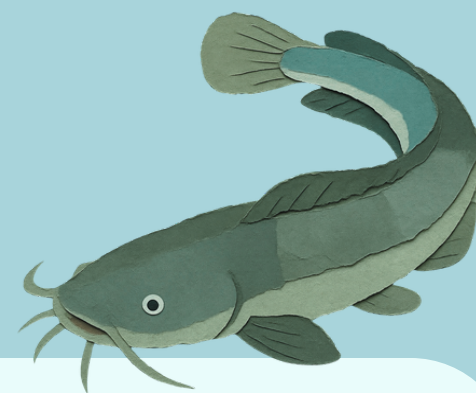


FISH KILLS

AND WAYS TO PREVENT THEM

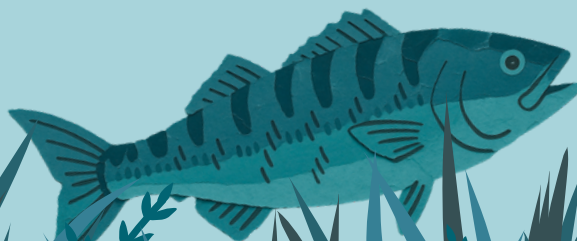


Occasional dead fish along the shoreline of a pond is natural, but large numbers observed at one time should be cause for concern.

The most common cause of fish kills is suffocation from lack of dissolved oxygen.

More information can be found here:

https://pubs.nmsu.edu/_w/W105/index.html



IN SUMMER

Many consecutive warm, cloudy, and windless days can deplete the oxygen to dangerous levels.

Heavy, cold rains cause the oxygen-filled and oxygen-poor layers of the pond to mix, lowering overall oxygen availability.

To prevent lack of oxygen, aerate throughout the whole summer and prevent excess nutrient and organic matter build up.





IN WINTER

Snow cover on iced-over ponds can prevent sunlight from reaching the plants underneath, preventing photosynthesis.

Remove 30-50% of snow cover if the ice is safe to stand on (at least 4 inches thick). If not, remove snow from the shorelines.

ALL YEAR

Pesticides can cause fish kills; read labels carefully as many pesticides and herbicides are toxic to fish, including some approved for use in water.

Fish kills can also be caused by disease, which stress makes them more susceptible to. Stressful conditions can be avoided by taking proper care of the pond.