

WATER QUALITY OF DIFFERENT FISHING DAMS IN THE FCAV, UNESP, JABOTICABAL

(QUALIDADE DA ÁGUA DE DIFERENTES REPRESAS DE PESCA NA FCAV UNESP
JABOTICABAL)

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Fish can harbor pathogens due to the permanent contact with water and, naturally, this can trigger animal diseases in fish cultures. Water contamination of fishery systems can occur by direct entry of feces coming from animals (poultry, pigs, cattle, dogs and cats) in the proximity of fishing lakes or even dust. This experiment evaluates the microbiological quality of water from 5 different fishing dams at the Faculdade de Ciências Agrárias e Veterinárias, UNESP, Jaboticabal. Water samples were collected directly from the dams using sterile bottles (APHA, 1998). The determination of the most probable number (MPN) of coliforms (*Escherichia coli*) was performed by the chromogenic-fluorogenic hydrolysable-substrate (Colitag) (APHA, 1998). Thermotolerant coliform content in water was: from dam 1, 1350 MPN/100 mL; dam 2, 1710 MPN/100 mL; dam 3, 300 MPN/100 mL; dam 4, 1600 MPN/100 mL; and, dam 5, 100 MPN/100 mL. The CONAMA Resolution 357/05 allows up to 1,000 MPN of thermotolerant coliforms per 100 mL for freshwater, class 2, therefore, only dams 3 and 5 are within this parameter. The results show that water in 60% of the University dams intended for fishing, does not meet the standards required by law and water quality is not efficiently maintained. Probably, this is due to improper management of dams, such as lack of sanitary management in relation to fish, dams, nurseries, equipment and, also, lack of employee training. The presence of thermotolerant coliforms (*E. coli*) is identified as one of the main dangers that compromise the quality of aquaculture products. Its occurrence is related to improper breeding practices, environmental pollution and cultural habits during food preparation. From the point of view of public health, an education campaign within the University, with the participation of sport fishing goers regarding good management practice in these environments is important and necessary. This campaign should be related to the presence of other animals near the cultivation tanks, incorrect prophylactic measures, improper feeding of fish, the use of inadequate baits and condition of the water used in the tanks.

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