**Fish Mycobacteriosis**

**Causative Agent:** *Mycobacterium marinum* or *Mycobacterium*

*fortuitum*.

**Mode of Transmission:** A longstanding progressive disease in fish. Direct

invasion from contaminated water (environment)

and by contact with infected fish. Site of infection

for humans is usually at minor hand wounds.

**Incubation Period:** Human: 2-4 weeks

Animal: variable ranging in years of development.

**Clinical Signs Human:** Sores or hard lumps, generally on hands, reddish or tan. Can spread to deeper tissues and cause joint or bone infections. Can become life threatening in immunocompromised individuals.

**Clinical Signs Animal:** Skin lesions or ulcers. Eyes may bulge and enlargement of abdomen may occur. Spine deformities may also occur.

**Control and Prevention:** Keep fish healthy, monitor water quality and change the water regularly. Sick and dying fish need to be removed quickly. Equipment used to clean tanks should be disinfected after use.   
Humans should wear gloves when contacting fish, fish water, and equipment. Wash hands thoroughly after using gloves.

**Comments:** Rarely affects humans. Outbreaks most common

in tropical aquarium fish.