Fish Rescue & Welfare

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Aquarium salt the bad truth.

Aquarium salt the bad truth. So many fish keepers back in the day and some even now reach for aquarium salt for prevention and treatment of several freshwater fish diseases. Some hobbyists religiously use salt in fresh-water set-ups. The 'claim' is 'supposed' to be a noticeable health improvement of certain fish. It is also 'claimed' to be safe and should be used as a preventive measure against various parasitic infestations

PLEASE THINK TWICE. This group and the fish rescue are very much against the use of this salt for a number of reasons.

Salt essentially causes death by dehydration. By raising the salinity of the aquarium water, water is sucked out of the bacteria, fungus, or parasite as osmosis seeks to balance the salt concentration on each side of its membrane or skin.

A high salt concentration can make them lose their equilibrium and they will simply roll over.

Too much salt may lead to an overactive slime coat and in severe cases can lead to dehydration especially in scale less pleco, catfish and loach.

Too much of salt will kill your fish damaging fish's kidneys because the kidneys are responsible for maintaining the proper salt content in the blood.

Salt should never be used in aquariums with live plants.

Salt does not evaporate, it can only be removed by water changes and plants

will not survive higher concentrations. The reason is similar to what we can observe with fish that cannot survive higher salt concentrations. Once again osmosis is the reason. Freshwater naturally moves from an environment with a low salt concentration, (inside the plant or animal) to one with a higher salt concentration (the water). As a consequence the diversity of plants and animals decrease. This is because they cannot keep the water and salt content of their bodies at the right concentrations for them to survive this environment.

Because of the potential hazards to the health of your fish and plants we do not recommend the use of salt in freshwater aquariums.