

TRANSPORTING FISH FOR FISHPOND STOCKING

BIOLOGY JOB SHEET TX-1

APRIL 1995

I. Season of Year: Transport fish when water temperatures are cool, generally from October through May. Avoid handling fish in the summer.

Time in Transit: Stock fish in the pond as soon as possible. Properly packaged fish may be safely transported for many hours, but several factors affect transit time. Fish in transit the shortest time possible will enter the pond in best physical condition.

III. Number of Fish Per 2 Gallons (17 Pounds) of Water

Length (inches)	<u>Black Bass</u>	<u>Catfish</u>	<u>Sunfish</u>	<u>Fathead Minnows</u>	<u>Golden Shiner</u>	<u>Threadfin Shad</u>
1-2	400	400	250	4 lbs.	4 lbs.	4 lbs.
3-4	150	200	60	4 lbs.	4 lbs.	4 lbs.
5-6	40	100	30	---	4 lbs.	4 lbs.
6-8	20	50	--	---	---	---

Methods of Transport:

A. Plastic Bags

1. Most fish farmers put two gallons of water in each bag.
2. Use at least 4 ml. polyethylene bags. Double bags when transporting catfish; spines may puncture inner bag.
3. Inflate with pure oxygen.
4. Lay bags in wide, shallow boxes (24 inches long by 15 inches wide by 12 inches high). Styrofoam boxes are preferable to cardboard, but not essential.
5. Do not smoke around oxygenated bags.
6. Do not place bags in direct sunlight.
7. Do not stack boxes and bags.

B. Containers ice chests, tubs, barrels, garbage cans, etc.

1. Bring pond water to fish pick-up point. Bring 5 gallons for each (1) 100 fish 4 inches or shorter, (2) 25 fish 5-6 inches long, (3) 12 fish 6-8 inches long, and (4) 2 lbs. of minnows, shiner, or shad.
2. Do not use chlorinated water.
3. Maintain containers' water temperature at 60 F. from pick-up point to pond. Ice can be used. One half pound of ice per gallon of water will lower temperature 10 F. Long-lasting "blue" ice may be used, but no rate has been determined.

V Releasing Fish Into Pond:

- A. Temper water in bag or container by ...
 1. Laying bag in pond for several minutes before releasing fish or ...
 2. Pouring 1/4 water from bag or container and replacing with pond water. Repeat until water in bag or container feels same temperature as pond water.
- B. Release fish in water at least 1 foot deep