

## Fish Dying Report

findings from the necropsy report from UF:

*I have attached reports that I have received relating to the die off of tilapia in your area. The bottom line is that the fish died of a very acute bacterial infection caused by Streptococcus agalactiae. This bacteria has been reported as causing bacterial meningitis in wild and farmed tilapia, and has been reported to cause disease in other species of fish and some mammals, including humans in rare circumstances. This bacteria has been associated with occasional fish kills on the Gulf Coast of Florida, Alabama and Louisiana that were first documented in the 1970s. Warm water seems to be one predisposing factor, and once an outbreak is in progress the disease is spread from fish to fish.*

No way to know how long this might last. In 2020, we first started seeing it in May and it rolled through other communities through the summer. Some lakes lasted 3 to 4 weeks.

It's been explained that this bacteria is naturally present but conditions such as temperatures and tilapia densities contribute to the spread and tilapia decline. Bass, bluegill, and tilapia, while they are all fish, are distinctly different genus and species. Similar to dogs, horses and humans in the Class Mammalia. A disease or bacteria may affect one genus and/or species and not the other. Hope this helps shed some light on your situation.