

The Experiences and Learnings of Using Chloroquine to Treat Cryptocaryon Within SEA LIFE

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Cryptocaryon is a commonly known and aggressive pathogen found in public aquaria worldwide that has proven very difficult to manage in mixed species exhibits such as ocean displays.

Traditionally combinations of treatments such as copper , hyposalinity , increasing temperatures and medicated diets are used to ‘control’ and minimise levels of this disease, but this presents challenges with large, mixed species tanks containing invertebrates and elasmobranchs of which many cease to feed.

In response to recent experiences in dealing with Cryptocaryon in ocean tank displays the need for an effective pharmaceutical that is fast acting, measurable, and has minimal impact on target and non-target species, or effect the clarity of the water is desirable.

SEALIFE investigated and researched the use of Chloroquine to combat the pathogen. After discussion with veterinarians and other SEA LIFE sites and aquarium institutions, it was applied as a bath treatment to the main, mixed species Tropical Marine System in SEA LIFE Chongqing.

This presentation explores the experiences, both positive and negative in using this treatment method; this includes dose rates, operational challenges, accurate testing equipment, impact on fish health and the removal process.