

# Carp pox *cyprinid herpesvirus 1* (CyHV-1)

By Duncan Griffiths

This will be a short article since for carp pox there is no cure and it is generally not a life threatening disease. Carp pox is indeed a herpesvirus just as KHV (CyHV-3) is a herpesvirus.. Unlike KHV (CyHV-3) where mass mortalities prevail, carp pox is more a disfigurement than a killer except in very young fish.

Just as with all or most herpesvirus, once the host becomes infected the virus will never completely leave that host. Carp pox appears as shiny opaque white waxy lumps on the fins, skin and lips. They are quite firm to the touch and the lumps can appear in grouped bunches or they can be singular and usually occur when the carp is in the winter months and the immune system is impaired due to low temperatures. The fact is that any event that causes the immune system to be impaired may trigger latent pox or make naïve fish susceptible to it

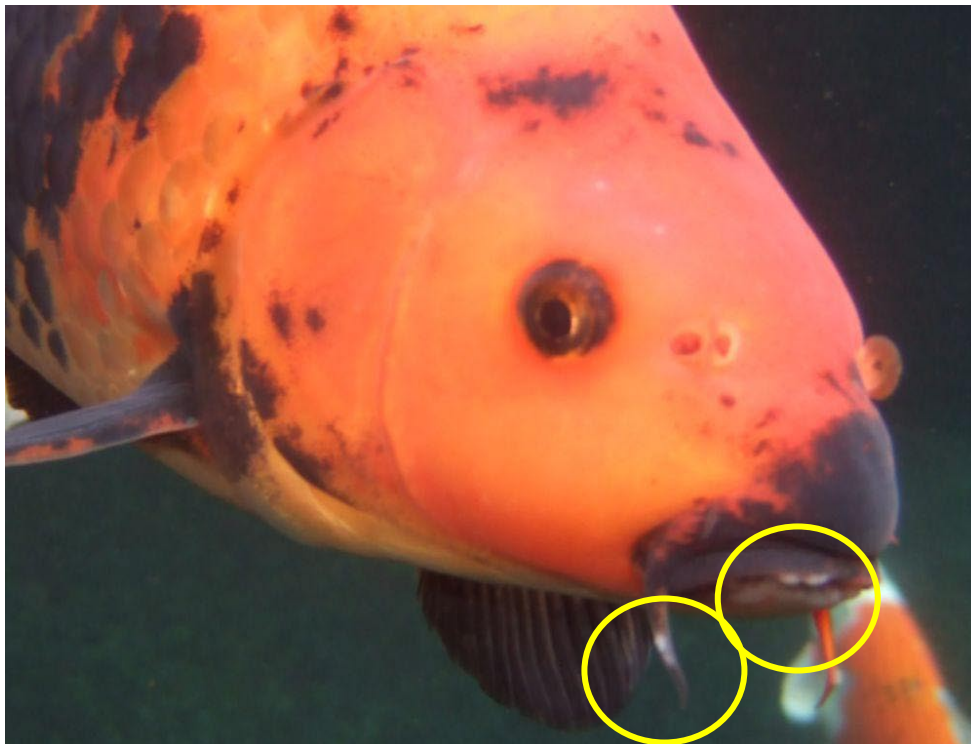
Carp pox can be highly infectious in over crowded condition but, as mentioned, is not generally known as a killer of adult koi/carp. However in fry it can be quite devastating as young carp possess an immature and incomplete immune systems

Treatment: Carp pox is not life threatening and usually goes away of its own accord when temperatures rise, heat can be helpful. The practise of cutting pox lesions off should be discouraged as this could aid further spread of the disease by releasing viral particles.

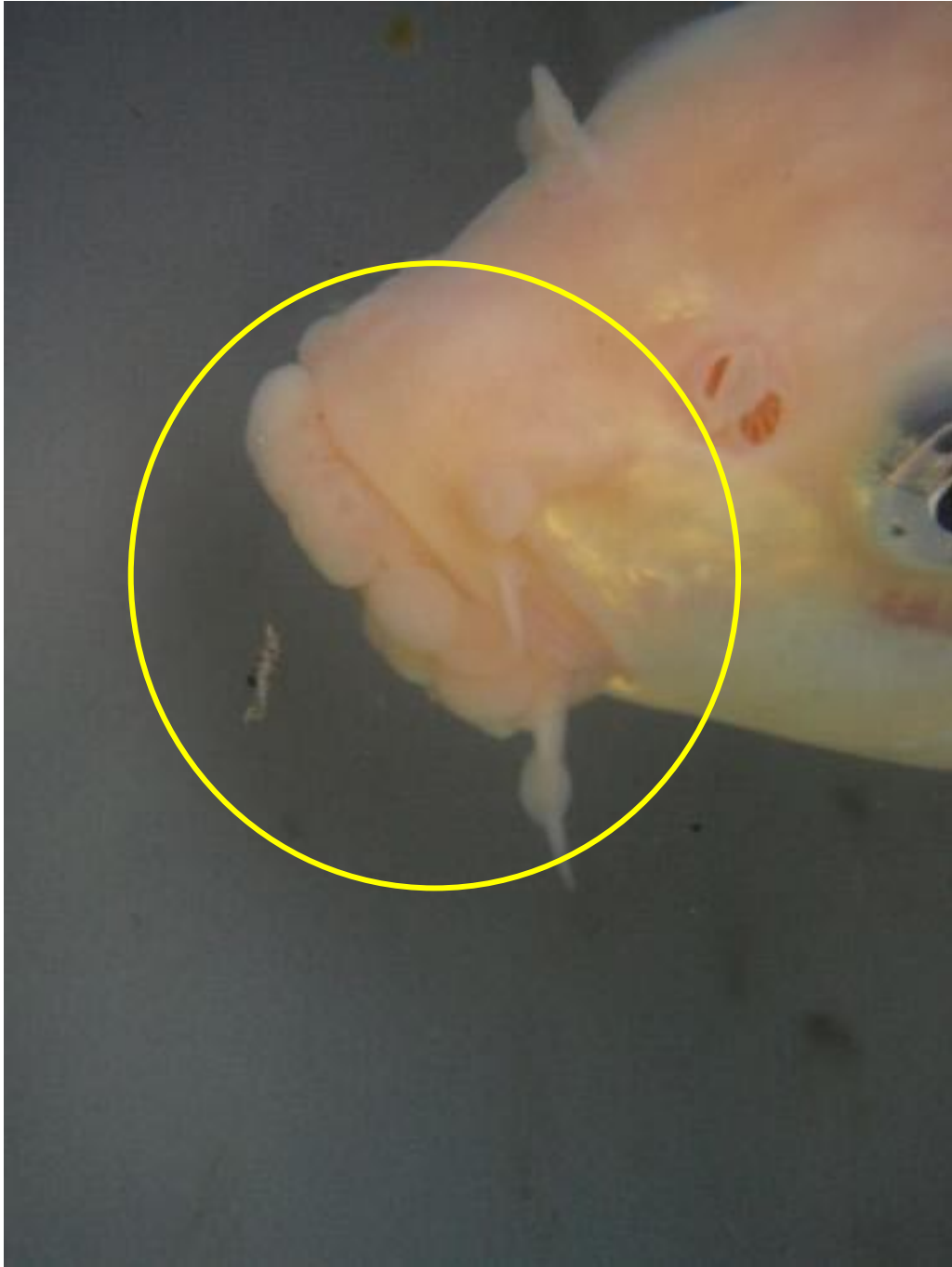
The problem arises in identifying carp pox as it presents itself in many different ways. What follows is a series of pictures typical of the appearance and locations of pox in koi carp

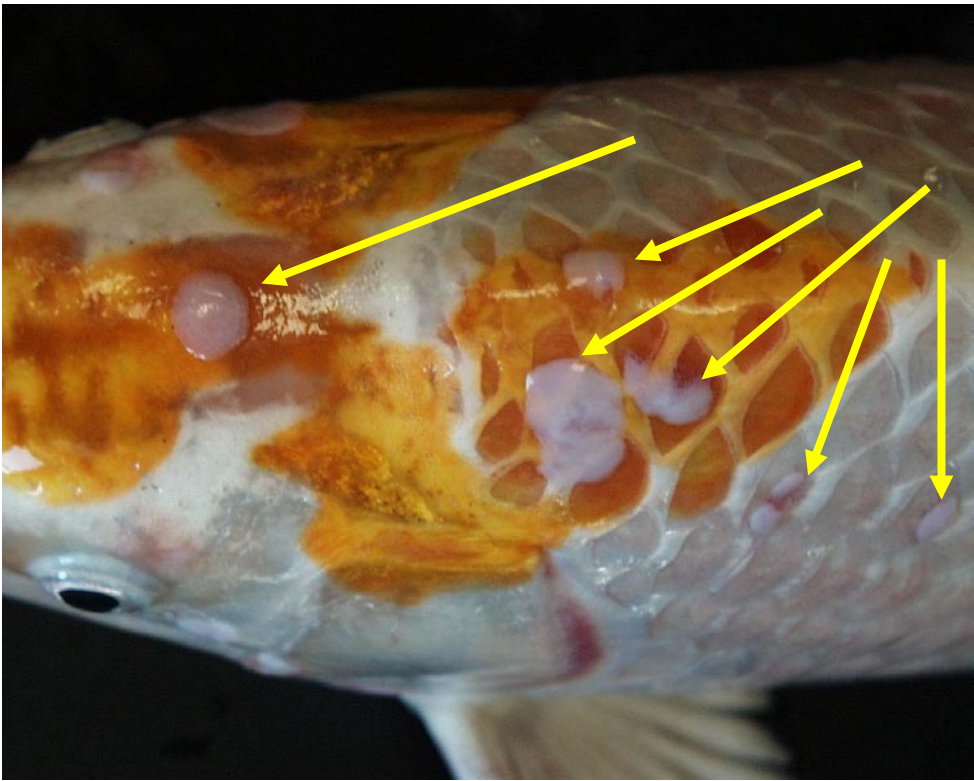
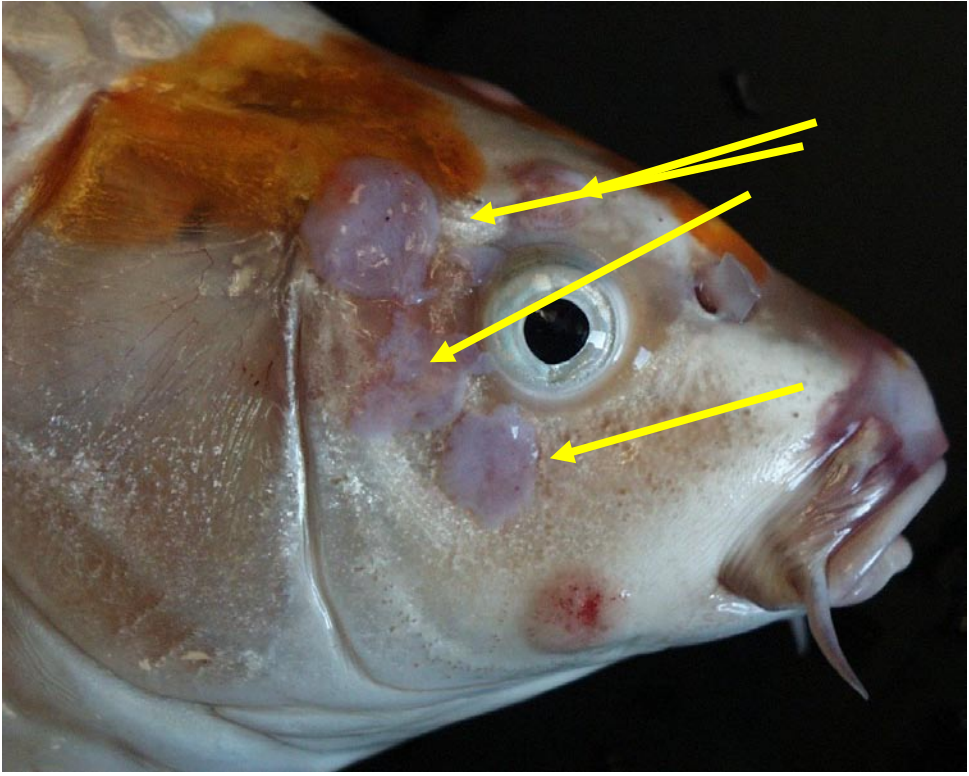
## The many faces of the beast

From something is miniscule as this

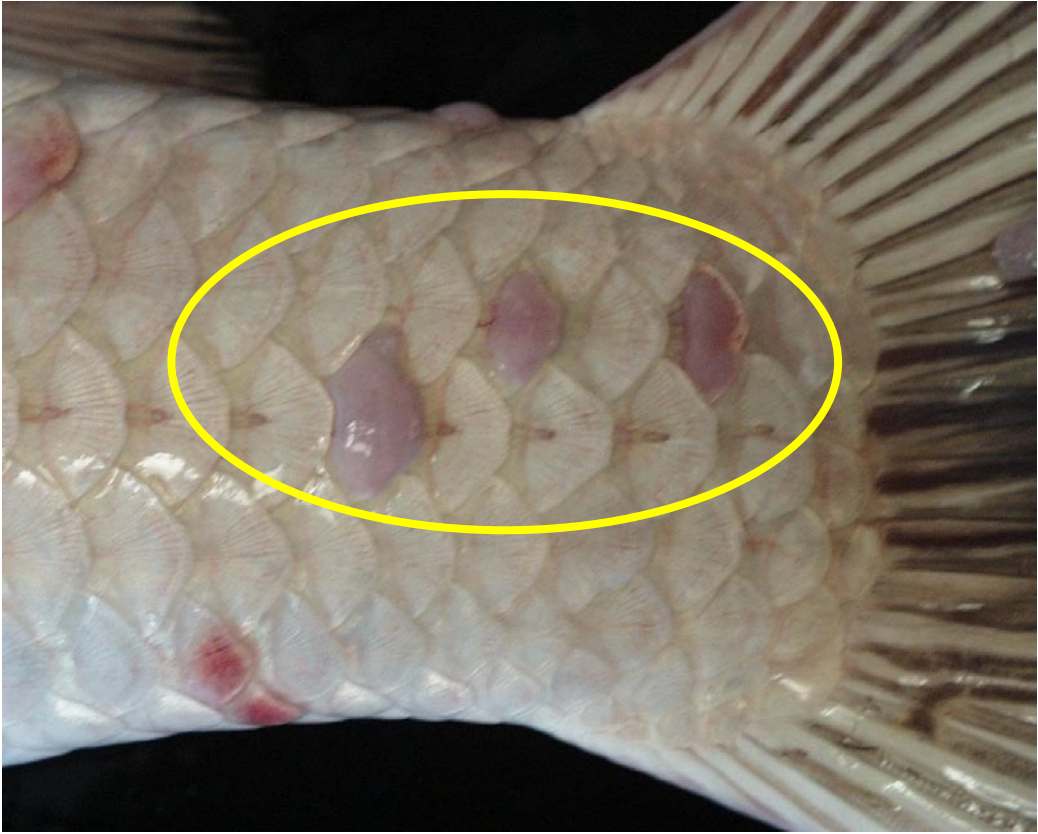


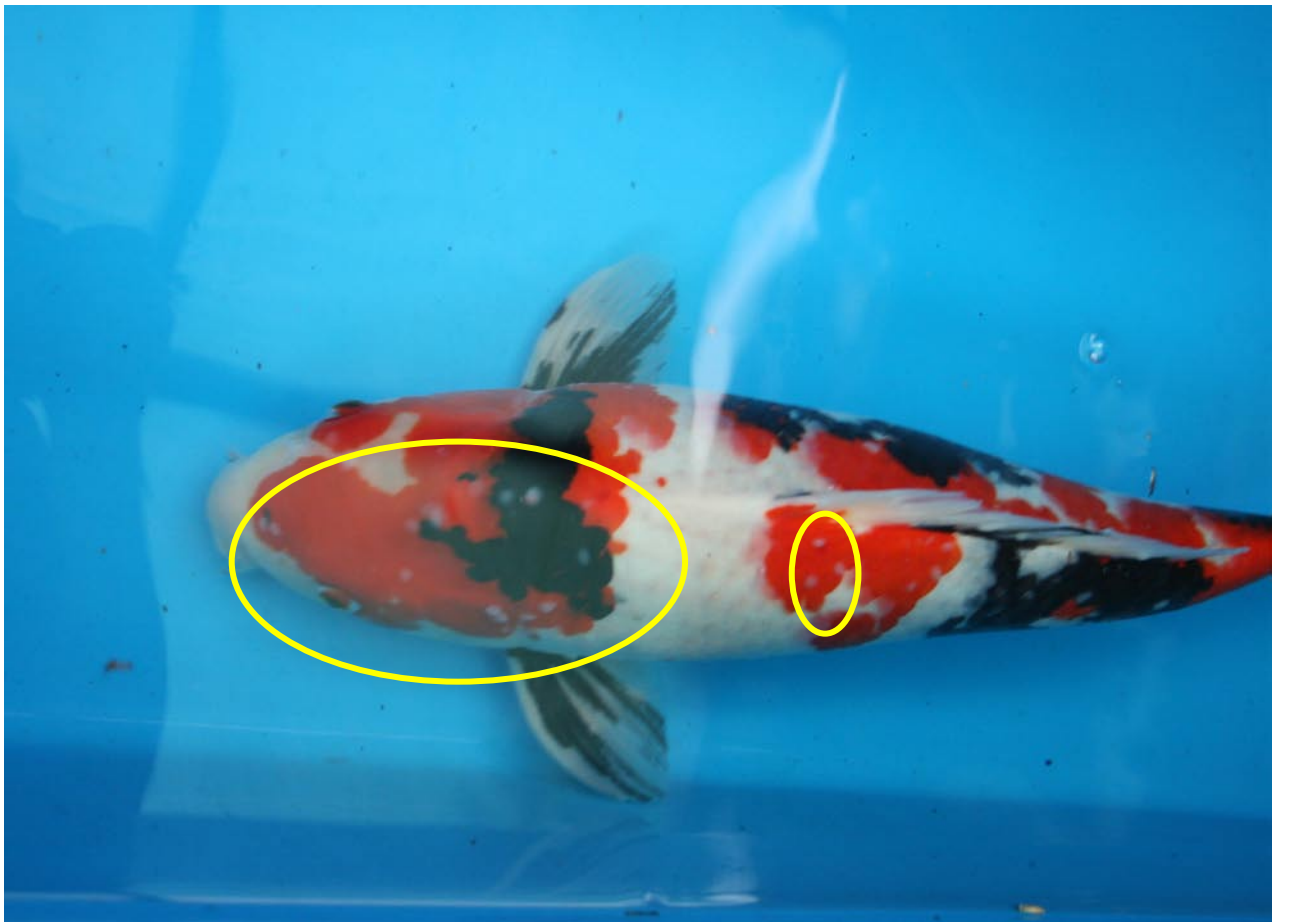
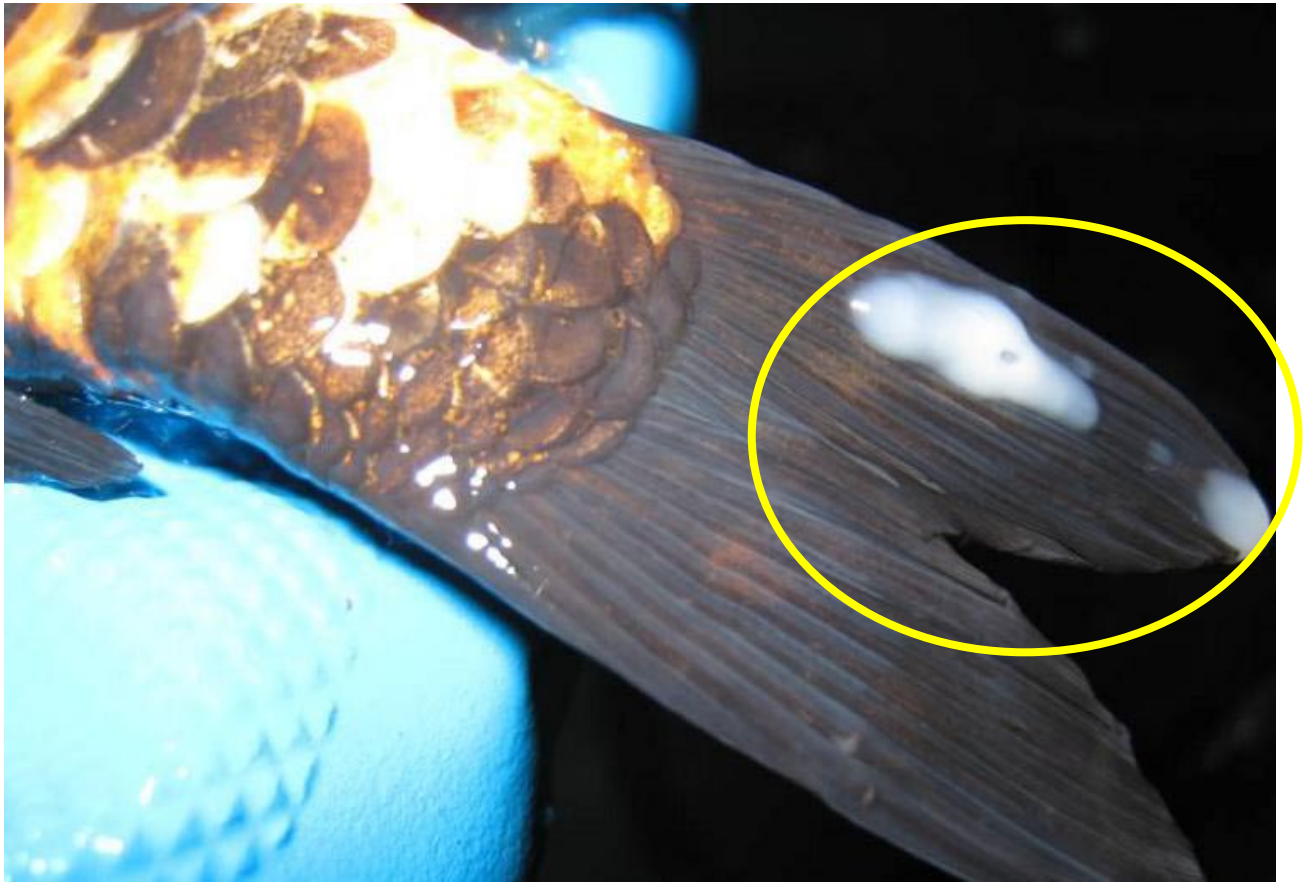
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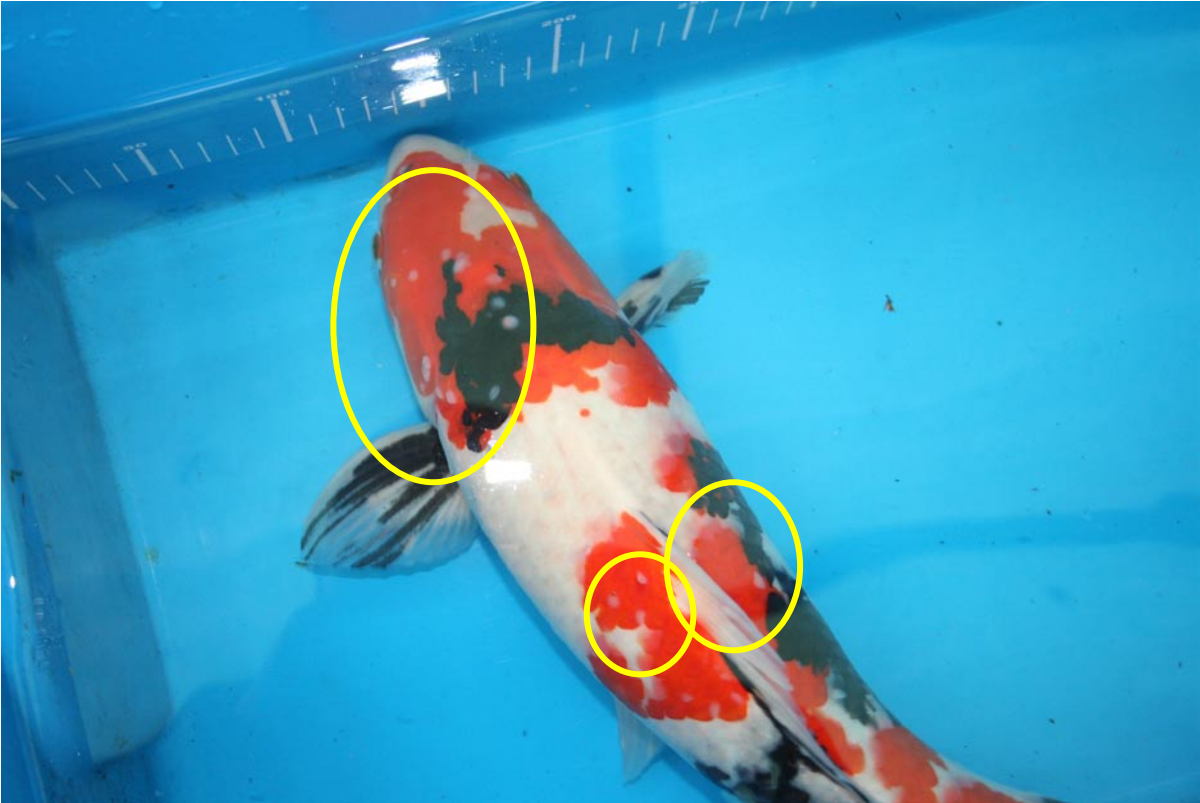




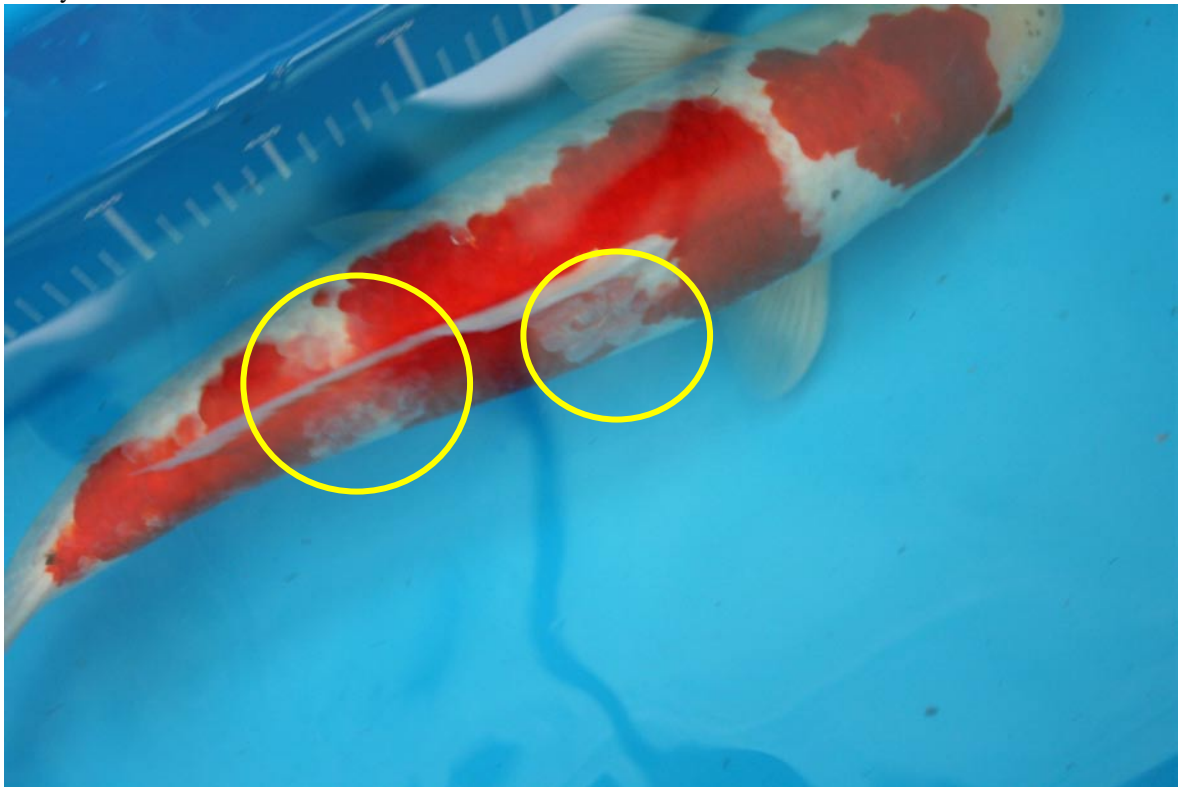








Finally



Pictures kind courtesy of  
Andy Goodwin  
Cindy Badder  
Duncan Griffiths  
Dave J  
MattA