

## Letter to the Editor

In the article “Acute and Sublethal Toxicity of Thallium to Aquatic Organisms” (Bull Environ Contam Toxicol 66: 94-101 [2001]), J. Pickard and coauthors refer to a paper by myself and Carson (Bull Environ Contam Toxicol 14: 530 [1975]). Our article does not deal with the toxicity of thallium. The toxicity of thallium is described in a article entitled “Thallium: Occurrence in the Environment and Toxicity to Fish” by myself, Carson, and Carson (Bull Environ Contam Toxicol 13: 23-30 [1975]).

We found that thallium is as acutely toxic as copper on a weight basis, and much more toxic than zinc, to Atlantic salmon. The incipient lethal level of thallium may exist at approximately 30 ug/L and the highest concentration tested was 20 mg/L.

Our results do not support the statements in the paper by Pickard et al. that the toxicity of thallium is “approximately equal to that of copper and zinc and cadmium.” Similarly, we did not report that “thallium is known to kill fish slowly at concentrations of 1-60 ppm,” and that the LC50 of thallium is 10-15 mg TI/L for rainbow trout.

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