A new product called oralized fish serum concentrate (OFSC) was evaluated for a possible effect against various bacterial pathogens in rainbow trout. The OFSC produced from immune trout sera was found to contain fully functional antibodies and complement component C3. The antibodies detected in the serum concentrate were specific to Vibrio anguillarum (O1 and O2) and Aeromonas salmonicida, which had been used for vaccination of the fish prior to serum collection. The functionality of the specific antibodies in OFSC was not reduced after 6 wk storage at -20 C, 5 C, and 20 C. The serum was mixed with commercial trout feed and used for feeding rainbow trout fry (first feed period). After oral delivery of OFSC to rainbow trout for 1 mo, samples of gut content and gut tissue contained functional antibodies. In gutted fish no functional antibodies were found. This suggests that antibodies from OFSC are unable to be transferred across the gut wall in a functional state. Oral administration of OFSC did not increase survival of rainbow trout in an immersion challenge with Vibrio anguillarum.

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