

NEA(18)08

*‘Road Map’ to enhance information exchange and cooperation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced*

Recommendation	Proposed Action
1. Preventive measures and contingency planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Appropriate steps should be taken to prevent the spread of <i>G. salaris</i> on fishing equipment, boats, etc. by use of approved disinfection methods. b) All movements of live fish should be recorded so that movements can be traced in the event of an outbreak of <i>G. salaris</i>. c) The risk of <i>G. salaris</i> introduction through the processing of fish carcasses should be assessed and, where appropriate, mitigated through control of processing. d) Physical barriers to fish migration should be considered as a measure to prevent the spread of <i>G. salaris</i> within a catchment and to uninfected catchments. e) Where possible, routine breaks in production and disinfection on rainbow trout and salmon freshwater aquaculture sites should be implemented as part of a control programme in infected areas. f) Permission to stock fish into infected river catchments should be based on an assessment of the increased risk of transmission of the parasite to non-infected rivers (e.g. through migration and other routes). g) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should have contingency plans in place for treatment, containment or eradication. These plans should be developed in consultation with stakeholders. A legal base for the use of rotenone or other treatments, containment and eradication measures should be put in place. Contingency plans should be tested periodically and updated as required. h) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should endeavour to ensure that adequate resources are available for the implementation of measures to contain and eradicate <i>G. salaris</i>.
2. Cooperation on management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The North-East Atlantic Commission (NEAC) should retain an item on <i>G. salaris</i> on the agendas for its annual meetings. This would facilitate reports by its Parties and their relevant jurisdictions and by the Working Group on measures to prevent the further spread of the parasite and to eradicate it in areas where it has been introduced and on other aspects of this ‘Road Map’.

	<p>b) The Working Group on <i>G. salaris</i> in the North-East Atlantic Commission Area should meet again in 2018 and then every 3 years thereafter, or more frequently if circumstances require, to provide a forum for more detailed information exchange and review of progress in implementing this ‘Road Map’.</p> <p>c) Contingency plans developed by NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should be made available to the Working Group at its next meeting with the view to sharing information on approaches and challenges. The plans should be made available on the websites of the Competent Authorities with links to them from the NASCO website.</p>
3. Monitoring methods for use in watercourses, lakes and in aquaculture.	The Working Group should review new developments with regard to monitoring for, and detection of, <i>G. salaris</i> , and develop recommendations for their inclusion in international guidelines.
4. Distribution of <i>G. salaris</i> in the NEAC area and adjacent areas.	<p>a) Existing monitoring programmes on salmonids in the wild and in aquaculture environments undertaken by NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should be retained and expanded as necessary. They should provide genetic data for all <i>Gyrodactylus</i> species isolated during monitoring. Reports on these programmes should be provided to the Working Group at their next meeting.</p> <p>b) Information should be requested from all NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions which have wild Atlantic salmon but which have not participated in the Working Group to date.</p> <p>c) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should identify <i>G. salaris</i> as an impact factor in the NASCO river database for those rivers infected by the parasite.</p> <p>d) The NASCO Secretariat should make a request to the OIE reference laboratory for <i>G. salaris</i> seeking information on the distribution of <i>G. salaris</i> in countries that have wild and/or farmed susceptible species, but which do not have wild Atlantic salmon.</p>
5. Research to inform the effective management of <i>G. salaris</i>.	<p>a) The NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should conduct applied research to inform the effective management of <i>G. salaris</i>, particularly the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the distribution and genetics of <i>G. salaris</i>; - the effects of salmon genetics on susceptibility to <i>G. salaris</i>; - the effect of environmental factors on pathogenicity; - to clarify the classification of <i>G. salaris</i> and <i>G. thymalli</i> and then develop a reliable method to distinguish between pathogenic and non-pathogenic strains; - general biology and mechanisms of spread of the parasite; - effect of environmental parameters and ecology on the distribution of <i>G. salaris</i>; - detection and diagnostic methods for <i>G. salaris</i>; - new environmental friendly treatment methods in rivers and lakes, e.g. acid aluminum and chloride.

	b) The Working Group should keep research requirements and monitoring needs under review and report regularly to the NEAC.
6. Classification of <i>Gyrodactylus</i> species.	NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should only support any future proposal to synonymise <i>G. salaris</i> and <i>G. thymalli</i> if, in parallel, OIE standards and national legislation recognize the different pathogenicity and host predilection of these two species.
7. Publicity, education, and awareness.	<p>a) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should develop publicity material on the threat of the parasite to wild Atlantic salmon and specify measures to prevent its spread; strategies for the effective dissemination of this material should be developed particularly with regard to targeting high risk groups. Existing material should be reviewed and updated as appropriate in the light of current knowledge. The NASCO Secretariat should develop standard text as a basis for such publicity material.</p> <p>b) This material should be made available on the web sites and promoted on the social media platforms of the Competent Authorities and NASCO with a view to highlighting the serious risks posed by the spread of the parasite.</p>
8. Continuity of current measures in the EU Animal Health Law.	Relevant NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should seek to ensure continuity in the provisions related to <i>G. salaris</i> in current EU animal health legislation (Regulation 2016/429) which should be retained, in particular with regard to additional guarantees.
9. Criteria for diagnosis and establishing <i>G. salaris</i>-free zones.	NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should implement the diagnostic standards in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals.
10. Trade in live susceptible fish species.	<p>a) Trade in disinfected eggs is preferable to trade in live susceptible fish species. However, where movements of live susceptible fish species are approved, NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should ensure that trade in live susceptible fish species only takes place between areas of equal <i>G. salaris</i> status or from a higher to lower status area.</p> <p>b) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should ensure the health status of the traded live susceptible fish species and/or their eggs, and the competence of the certifying Authority.</p>
11. Shared catchments.	NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions with shared catchments or having catchments in close proximity should implement appropriate mechanisms for cooperation, including the establishment and strengthening of inter-country working groups and the development of common contingency plans to control and eradicate <i>G. salaris</i> .