

*NEA(10)5*

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In autumn 2009, *Gyrodactylus salaris* was found on landlocked Arctic char (*Salvelinus alpinus*) in a lake above the anadromous part of the river Vefsna in Northern Norway. According to Norwegian plans, the chemical treatment of this river to eradicate *G. salaris* should be started this year. A closed fish ladder has prevented anadromous salmonids from entering this lake for nearly 20 years, and this finding, therefore, was quite unexpected. Genetic studies at the Norwegian Veterinary Institute identified two different species of *Gyrodactylus*, one of which is *G. salaris*.

From earlier investigations in Southern Norway it is known that *G. salaris* may appear in a form not pathogenic to Atlantic salmon. This year, the Veterinary Institute will conduct infection tests to determine whether the parasites found in the lake are harmful to Atlantic salmon.

Should it be verified that those parasites are deadly to Atlantic salmon, Arctic char might have to be considered on an equal basis as rainbow trout in terms of risk of spreading the parasite. A review of existing regulations may also be required.