



Report on Gyrodactylus salaris Road Map in 2022

Measures carried out in accordance with the recommendations in the "Road Map":

Surveillance

Three surveillance programs were performed by the Norwegian Veterinary Institute during 2022 and no *G. salaris* was detected in the sample material from Norwegian rivers and fish farms. The surveillance program includes a post treatment program that monitor the rivers for about 5 years before they can be declared free from *G. salaris*. The rivers Skibotnelva, Signaldalselva and Kitdalselva in the northern part of Norway were declared free from *G. salaris* in autumn 2022. The results from the monitoring programs are published annually.

Monitoring methods for use in watercourses, lakes and in aquaculture

A method using environmental-DNA for detection of *G. salaris* has been developed that is more effective when screening a watercourse than traditional sampling and morphological methods. This method has been used for some years, and we gain more and more experience with the use of this method.

Contingency planning

Norway has made a contingency plan for regional and central level that states who will do what, when and how in case of detection of *G. salaris*. There is also an action plan that contain measures and collaboration between different institutions and government levels involved.

The Norwegian Food Safety Authority follows the Contingency Plan established in 2021 to summarize EU regulations, preventive measures and monitoring the status of the rivers.

Information

Posters, brochures and internet pages in different languages has been developed to inform about the risk of introducing *G. salaris* and how to avoid such introduction to the public. We collaborate with all our neighbors' countries to avoid the parasite being spread from these countries.

The information to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* is in a continuous process. Information material has been distributed to anglers, local representatives of watercourses and to the public in general throughout the whole country. In 2023, we will upgrade the existing information from brochures and posters.

Eradication

At the end of 2022, only 8 of the originally 51 infected watercourses still have the presence of *G. salaris*. 4 rivers in the Driva region and 4 rivers in the Drammen region. In 2022, the Driva region (consisting of the rivers Driva, Litldalselva, Usma and Batnfjordselva) was treated with a combination of chlorine and rotenone. This is the first time that chlorine has been used as an eradication agent. Chlorine was used in the main river and the largest tributaries/streams in river Driva and river Litldalselva. In the peripheral areas, rotenone was used. In river Batnfjordselva and river Usma, traditional rotenone treatment was used. The treatment of the four infected rivers in the Driva region was carried out in accordance with the eradication plan. A similar treatment in this region will be carried out in 2023. Two treatments are the standard procedure for combating *G. salaris*.

In the Drammen region (consisting of the rivers Drammenselva, Lierelva, Sandeelva and Selvikelva), the work on mapping and planning for eradication will continue in 2023.

The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research has prepared a report entitled "Have the authorities succeeded in the fight against *Gyrodactylus salaris*?"

From the conclusion you can read: "The Norwegian authorities' long-term work to halt the spread of *G. salaris* and to eradicate it in infected rivers is thus a great and unique success, both nationally and internationally. The work of eradicating *G. salaris* from Norwegian salmon rivers is in the final phase and in a few years, *G. salaris* can hopefully be removed from the list of threats to Norwegian Atlantic salmon."