



## ***Report on Gyrodactylus salaris Road Map in 2023***

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

### **Surveillance**

Three surveillance programs were performed by the Norwegian Veterinary Institute during 2023. *Gyrodactylus salaris* was detected from two new Norwegian rivers, River Gylelva in the Driva region and River Ebbestadbekken in the Drammen region. Both detections are in regions where infection has already been detected. River Gylelva was chemically treated in 2023 along with the other infected watercourses in the Driva region. The River Ebbestadbekken is now included in the plans for combating together with the other infected rivers in the Drammen region, work that will start in 2025. No *G. salaris* was detected from fish farms. The surveillance program includes a post treatment program that monitors the rivers for about 5 years before they can be declared free from *G. salaris*. 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 contains 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 have 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 neighboring 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 an upgrade of the existing brochures and posters was carried out.

### **Eradication**

At the end of 2023, only 10 of the originally 53 infected watercourses still have the presence of *G. salaris*. 5 rivers in the Driva region and 5 rivers in the Drammen region. In 2022 and 2023, the Driva region (consisting of the rivers Driva, Litldalselva, Usma, Batnfjordselva and Gylelva) 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, Gylelva and river Usma, traditional rotenone treatment was used. The treatment of the five infected rivers in the Driva region was carried out in accordance

with the eradication plan. Due to the use of a new method for combating *G. salaris* and uncertainties related to the age of smolts upstream of the fish barrier in Driva, supplementary treatment will be carried out in 2024.

In the Drammen region (consisting of the rivers Drammenselva, Lierelva, Sandeelva, Selvikelva and Ebbestadbekken), work on mapping and planning was continued in 2023 with the aim of start the eradication in this region in 2025. This is the last infected region in Norway.