Information on monitoring of Gyrodactylus salaris

(Tabled by the Russian Federation)

In Russia, *Gyrodactylus salaris*, as a pathogenic parasite in Atlantic salmon river, was first recorded in the Keret River (Republic of Karelia, the White Sea basin) in 1992. There are different views on how this parasite invaded into the river, but the most likely reason is an introduction of the parasite due to the fish transfers for hatcheries. This resulted in reduction of adult Atlantic salmon stock in the Keret River over 25 times.

Gyrodactylus salaris, therefore, has been monitored since 1993 in the salmon rivers of the Barents and White Seas. Since 2009, monitoring has been carried out on a regular basis within the framework of the Program of State Monitoring of Aquatic Bioresources of Inland Water bodies in the Murmansk region and the rivers of the Republic of Karelia in the White Sea basin. In the Murmansk region, the surveillance has been conducted in the Barents Sea basin – in the Kola River and tributaries of the Lower Tuloma (Nizhnetulomskoye) Reservoir (rivers Pak, Pecha, Shovna, Pyaive, and in the White Sea basin – in the Kanda River and Kovda River.

In the Murmansk region the parasite was recorded for the first time in the Pak River in 2015 and in the Shovna River in 2017. As a source of infestation of Atlantic salmon juveniles, an infected rainbow trout was considered which escaped the cages of aquaculture farms operated in the Lower Tuloma reservoir.

The brief description of monitoring program and its results in 2017-2020 was provided to the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the North-East Atlantic Commission Area in 2021 (GSWG(21)05).

Results of *Gyrodactylus salaris* monitoring program in the Murmansk region in 2021-2023 showed no spread of parasite outside the Lower Tuloma reservoir. No *Gyrodactylus salaris* surveillance has been carried out in Atlantic salmon rivers of the Arkhangelsk region, the Nenets Autonomous Okrug and in the Pechora River. The presence of the parasite in these areas is unknown.