

North-East Atlantic Commission

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***'Road Map' for Taking Forward the Recommendations from the Workshop
on Gyrodactylus salaris in the Commission Area***

'Road Map' for Taking Forward the Recommendations from the Workshop on Gyrodactylus salaris in the Commission Area

Recommendations concerning opportunities to enhance cooperation on monitoring research and exchange of information				
Paragraph in Report	Recommendation	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
7.2	Increase cooperation in both research and management among the NASCO Parties.	The North-East Atlantic Commission (NEAC) may wish to retain an item on <i>G. salaris</i> on future agendas to facilitate reports by its Parties and their relevant jurisdictions and by the Working Group (see 7.3.3) 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.	NEAC	From 2004 (input from Working Group in 2005)
7.3.1	Introduce standardised targeted monitoring methods in watercourses, lakes and in aquaculture.	a) The Oslo Workshop anticipated that standardised monitoring methods would be based on forthcoming OIE recommendations. These recommendations should be implemented by NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions (see 7.5.1). b) The extent of harmonisation of monitoring methods, as detailed in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Aquatic Animals and the Aquatic Animal Health Code and in the EC Directive, might be explored by the Working Group (see 7.3.3).	a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions b) Working Group	a) Following development of OIE recommendations b) From 2005
7.3.2	Map the present and natural distribution of <i>G. salaris</i> in the NEAC area and adjacent areas.	a) Existing monitoring programmes on salmonids in the wild and in culture environments undertaken by NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should be retained and expanded as necessary and as resources permit (see 7.4.6 and 7.5.1). Reports on these programmes should be provided to the Working Group (see 7.3.3). Mapping of <i>G. salaris</i> is also a recommendation in the Council's Williamsburg Resolution and reports should continue to be made to the Council in the annual reporting by the Parties. b) Opportunities for obtaining information from countries which do not have wild Atlantic salmon should be explored (see 7.4.6).	a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions b) Working Group to consider possible approaches	a) From 2004 b) From 2005
7.3.3	Establish an international Working Group.	The NEAC should establish an international Working Group, the Draft Terms of Reference for which are contained in Annex 1.	NEAC	Agree ToRs in 2004. First meeting of the Working Group in 2005

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7.3.4	NASCO should encourage the Parties to conduct research in relation to <i>G. salaris</i> .	<p>a) The NEAC should recommend that its Parties and their relevant jurisdictions undertake research, as resources permit, on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the natural distribution and genetics of <i>G. salaris</i>; - the effects of salmon genetics on sensitivity to <i>G. salaris</i>; - general biology and mechanisms of spread of the parasite; - effect of environmental parameters and ecology on the distribution of <i>G. salaris</i>. <p>b) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should maintain and expand existing research programmes in accordance with these recommendations, as resources permit.</p> <p>c) The Working Group (see 7.3.3) should keep research requirements and monitoring needs under review and report to the Commission.</p>	<p>a) NEAC</p> <p>b) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions</p> <p>c) Working Group</p>	<p>a) From 2004 (research already ongoing)</p> <p>b) From 2004</p> <p>c) From 2005</p>
7.3.5	Publicity, information and cooperation with other authorities.	<p>a) The Parties could develop publicity material (on the dangers of the parasite and measures to prevent its spread) and strategies for the effective dissemination of this material (particularly with regard to targeting high risk groups for the spread of the parasite) and report back to the Commission each year. Existing material should be reviewed and updated as appropriate in the light of current knowledge.</p> <p>b) The Secretariat could develop, for consideration by NEAC, a standard text for an information leaflet, as it has done in relation to catch and release, for use by the Parties. This information could be made available to the public and on the Organization's website.</p> <p>c) A number of recommendations in this road map call for cooperation with OIE and the EC Commission. The responsibilities for taking forward this cooperation are detailed in the relevant sections of this road map.</p> <p>d) There may be a need for improved coordination of research funded by the EU, national programmes and research undertaken at universities and other research facilities. This aspect might be considered by the Working Group.</p>	<p>a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions</p> <p>b) Secretariat</p> <p>c) Various (as detailed elsewhere in road map)</p> <p>d) Working Group</p>	<p>a) From 2005 (some Parties have already developed such material)</p> <p>b) Report to NEAC in 2005</p> <p>c) Various (as detailed elsewhere in road map)</p> <p>d) From 2005</p>

Recommendations concerning the need for revisions to international guidelines and other measures to prevent the further spread of *G. salaris*

EU fish health legislation is currently under review. Directive 91/67 will be replaced in the next few years. A draft of the new Directive is currently with EU Member States for their consideration. The World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) guidelines are reviewed annually. NASCO seeks to contribute recommendations for the control of G. salaris to the OIE, the European Community and the Russian Federation. The provisions of EC Directive 91/67 apply to Member States of the EU, members of the European Economic Area (EEA) and, under a bilateral agreement between the EU and the Faroe Islands, to the Faroe Islands. The recommendations below in relation to this Directive should be considered by the Russian Federation in considering the need for amendments to its disease legislation. Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation and all EU Member States with Atlantic salmon interests are members of the OIE.

Paragraph in Report	Recommendation	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
7.4.1	Article 1 of EC Directive 91/67 provides for measures for conservation of species and this should be retained in any replacement legislation.	a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions to which EC Directive 91/67 applies should make representations to the Commission (DG SANCO) proposing that this provision be retained in any new legislation. b) The Secretariat might also be requested to make representations to the Commission (DG SANCO) on behalf of the NEAC.	a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions b) NASCO Secretariat	a) From 2004 b) From 2004
7.4.2	<i>G. salaris</i> should be placed on list II in the new fish health directive since the parasite can cause severe ecological consequences and it is present in parts of the EU and other areas are free of it.	a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions to which EC Directive 91/67 applies should make representations to the Commission (DG SANCO) proposing that this provision be included in any new legislation. b) The Secretariat might also be requested to make representations to the Commission (DG SANCO) on behalf of the NEAC.	a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions b) NASCO Secretariat	a) From 2004 b) From 2004
7.4.3	Diagnosis of <i>G. salaris</i> by morphology should be confirmed by the use of molecular techniques.	NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should implement the molecular diagnostic techniques in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Aquatic Animals, as resources permit (see 7.5.2).	NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions	From 2004
7.4.4	The minimum approved zone size should be a river catchment; individual farms should not be given <i>G. salaris</i> -free status.	a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions to which EC Directive 91/67 applies should make representations to the Commission (DG SANCO) proposing that this principle be included in any new legislation. Representations might also be made to OIE in relation to the Aquatic Animal Health Code. b) The Secretariat might also be requested to make representations on behalf of the NEAC.	a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions b) NASCO Secretariat	a) From 2004 b) From 2004

Paragraph in Report	Recommendation	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
7.4.5	Surveillance programmes should include all potential host species. On farms with both salmon and rainbow trout both populations should be tested. Since the expected prevalence is lower in rainbow trout higher sample sizes will be required for this species.	<p>a) NEAC Member Parties should maintain and, where appropriate, enhance existing monitoring programmes in accordance with this recommendation.</p> <p>b) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should make representations to the OIE proposing these principles are incorporated in the Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Aquatic Animals.</p> <p>c) The Secretariat might also be requested to make representations to OIE on behalf of the NEAC.</p>	<p>a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions</p> <p>b) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions</p> <p>c) NASCO Secretariat</p>	<p>a) From 2004</p> <p>b) From 2004</p> <p>c) From 2004</p>
7.4.6	The geographic distribution of <i>G. salaris</i> should be established with a view to minimising its spread to uninfected areas.	<p>a) Existing monitoring programmes on salmonids in the wild and in culture environments undertaken by NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should be retained and expanded as necessary and as resources permit (see 7.4.6 and 7.5.1). Reports on these programmes should be provided to the Working Group (see 7.3.3). Mapping of <i>G. salaris</i> is also a recommendation in the Council's Williamsburg Resolution and reports should continue to be made to the Council in the annual reporting by the Parties (see 7.3.2).</p> <p>b) The Working Group (see 7.3.3) should be asked to consider options for obtaining information from EU Member States and other countries which do not have wild Atlantic salmon stocks (see 7.3.2).</p>	<p>a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions</p> <p>b) Working Group</p>	<p>a) From 2004 (monitoring ongoing)</p> <p>b) From 2005</p>
7.4.7	Criteria for diagnosis and establishing <i>G. salaris</i> -free zones should be based on international standards laid down by OIE.	NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should implement the diagnostic standards in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests and Vaccines for Aquatic Animals.	NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions	From 2004
7.4.8	Trade in live fish should only take place between zones of equal <i>G. salaris</i> status or from a higher to lower status zone.	<p>a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions to which EC Directive 91/67 applies should make representations to the Commission (DG SANCO) proposing that this principle be included in any new legislation.</p> <p>b) The Secretariat might also be requested to make representations on behalf of NEAC.</p> <p>c) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should implement this principle (see 7.5.3). This principle is also included in the Council's Williamsburg Resolution and reports on any deviations from this principle should continue to be made to the Council in the annual reporting by the Parties.</p>	<p>a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions</p> <p>b) NASCO Secretariat</p> <p>c) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions</p>	<p>a) From 2004</p> <p>b) From 2004</p> <p>c) From 2004</p>

Paragraph in Report	Recommendation	Proposed Action	Responsibility	Timeframe
7.4.9	The guidelines on transportation of fish in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code should be implemented.	NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should implement these provisions through national and regional legislation (see 7.5.6).	NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions	From 2004
7.4.10	Trade in gametes is preferable to trade in live fish.	<p>a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions to which EC Directive 91/67 applies should make representations to the Commission (DG SANCO) proposing that this principle be included in any new legislation.</p> <p>b) The Secretariat might also be requested to make representations on behalf of the NEAC.</p> <p>c) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should implement this principle (see 7.5.10) and record all live fish movements (see 7.5.14).</p>	<p>a) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions</p> <p>b) NASCO Secretariat</p> <p>c) NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions</p>	<p>a) From 2004</p> <p>b) From 2004</p> <p>c) From 2004</p>
7.4.11	Countries with shared catchments should cooperate in the control and eradication of <i>G. salaris</i> .	NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions with shared catchments should implement appropriate mechanisms for cooperation, including the establishment and strengthening of inter-country working groups (see 7.5.12).	NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions	From 2004

Recommendations for strengthened national and regional legislation and measures to prevent the further spread of *G. salaris*

The new EU fish health directive will provide guidance on minimum measures for trade and disease control. The recommendations below are additional measures that NEAC Member Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should consider, from 2004, for the control of *G. salaris*.

Paragraph in Report	Recommendation
7.5.1	The geographic distribution of <i>G. salaris</i> should be established with a view to minimising its spread to uninfected areas (see 7.3.1, 7.3.2, 7.4.5, 7.4.6).
7.5.2	Within a country, criteria for diagnosis and establishing <i>G. salaris</i> -free zones should be based on international standards (see 7.4.3, 7.4.7).
7.5.3	Trade in live fish should only take place between zones of equal <i>G. salaris</i> status or from a higher to lower status zone (see 7.4.8).
7.5.4	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).
7.5.5	In regions where the introduction of the parasite would lead to the extinction of Atlantic salmon population there should be no movement between river catchments of fish from infected farms.
7.5.6	Guidelines on the transportation of fish in the OIE Aquatic Animal Health Code (2003) should be implemented through national and regional legislation (see 7.4.9).
7.5.7	Countries should have contingency plans in place for treatment, containment or eradication. A legal base for use of rotenone and other treatment, containment and eradication measures should be put in place.
7.5.8	Where possible, routine breaks in production and disinfection on rainbow trout and salmon freshwater sites should be implemented as part of a control programme in infected areas.
7.5.9	There should be good containment to prevent escapees (see NASCO Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon, Annex 3 of Council document CNL(03)57).
7.5.10	Trade in gametes is preferable to trade in live fish (see 7.4.10).
7.5.11	Physical barriers to fish migration should be considered as a measure to minimise the risk of spread of <i>G. salaris</i> within a catchment and to uninfected catchments.
7.5.12	Countries with shared catchments should cooperate in the control and eradication of <i>G. salaris</i> and inter-country working groups for the control of <i>G. salaris</i> should be encouraged and strengthened (see 7.4.11).
7.5.13	Appropriate steps should be taken to minimise the spread of <i>G. salaris</i> through movement of anglers, boats, etc. by use of approved disinfection methods.
7.5.14	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> (see 7.4.10).
7.5.15	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.
7.5.16	Countries should ensure that adequate resources are available for the implementation of measures to contain and eradicate <i>G. salaris</i> .

Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Gyrodactylus salaris in the North-East Atlantic Commission Area

The North-East Atlantic Commission (NEAC), recognising the very serious damage that has been caused to the wild Atlantic salmon by the parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* and the need for enhanced cooperation to prevent its further spread and eradication in areas in which it has been introduced, agrees to establish an international Working Group with the following Terms of Reference:

- to provide a forum for exchange of information among the Parties and their relevant jurisdictions on research on, and monitoring and control programmes for, the parasite;
- to develop recommendations for enhanced cooperation on measures to prevent the further spread of the parasite and for its eradication in areas where it has been introduced. Such measures would include, but would not be limited to, contingency plans and methods of eradication in the wild (e.g. barriers, chemical treatment) and at aquaculture facilities;
- to develop recommendations for workshops and seminars to facilitate improved exchange of information (including input from academic and other research institutes) and to develop recommendations for research requirements;
- to undertake cost benefit analyses in support of research, guarantees, policy decisions, publicity, etc.;
- to consider other fish health issues of relevance to wild Atlantic salmon.

The Working Group should meet initially on an annual basis under Norwegian Chairmanship. The Working Group will comprise representatives of the Member Parties of the North-East Atlantic Commission. Representatives of the USA and Canada may also participate in the meeting. A representative of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) should be invited to participate in an observer capacity in the work of the Group. The Secretariat will provide administrative support to the Working Group. The Working Group will report to the Commission at its Annual Meetings.