

North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(03)8

The Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area

Information on a Workshop to be arranged in Norway in autumn 2003

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In accordance with the Commission's decision last year (NEA(02)7) on further work to minimise the risk of transmission of the salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* within the Commission area, the Directorate for Nature Management in Norway will host a Workshop to be held in the autumn 2003.

The topics for the workshop will include the following:

1. the need to minimise the threat posed by *Gyrodactylus salaris* to Atlantic salmon, particularly in the Fennoscandic region (Norway, Sweden, Finland, and northern Russia), with particular attention on preventing the spread of the parasite in border regions between countries and transboundary watercourses;
2. the need to enhance cooperation on monitoring, research and dissemination of information regarding *G. salaris*, with special regard to the lack of knowledge on distribution and ecology of the parasite;
3. the need to strengthen national and regional legislation to prevent further spreading of *G. salaris*;
4. the need to consider revisions to international guidelines relevant to preventing the further spread of *G. salaris* in the Commission area.

Some of the issues that will be discussed are as follows:

- Better exchange of information across national frontiers;
- Status of the distribution of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the northern part of Europe;
- Development of a joint strategy for monitoring;
- The establishment of a workable scheme for disinfecting fishing gear and other equipment;
- Obtaining better data about the transmission of *G. salaris* in the northern regions;
- Obtaining better data about fish migration, which could be a vector for the transmission of *G. salaris*;
- Avoiding stocking fish species that are susceptible to *G. salaris* in regions where such species do not naturally occur;
- Improved fish health control;
- Implementation of preventive measures in areas where the parasite is prevalent;
- Remedial measures in rivers and fish-farming facilities where this is feasible.

Provisional list of participating institutions

Norway

Directorate for Nature Management
Norwegian Institute for Nature Research
The Norwegian Animal Health Authority
National Veterinary Institute
University of Oslo

Sweden

National Veterinary Institute
National Board of Fisheries

Denmark

Royal Veterinary and Agricultural Univ.
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration

Finland

University of Oulu
Veterinary Institute, Oulu
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Russia

Karelian Research Center
Murmansk Regional Veterinary Laboratory

NASCO

Secretariat staff

IBSFC

Secretariat staff