

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>North-East Atlantic Commission</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><i>Report on Gyrodactylus salaris Roadmap in 2024 – Norway</i></b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEA(25)11</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agenda item: 7</p>
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## ***Report on Gyrodactylus salaris Roadmap in 2024 – Norway***

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

### **Surveillance**

Three surveillance programs were performed by the Norwegian Veterinary Institute during 2024. *Gyrodactylus salaris* was detected from one new Norwegian river, River Bergerelva in the Drammen region. This detection is in a region where infection has already been detected. Both River Bergerelva and River Ebbestadelva were treated with rotenone in 2024 to prevent further spread of *G. salaris*. Both rivers are now included in the plans for combating 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 monitor the rivers for about 5 years before they can be declared free from *G. salaris*. The results from the monitoring programs are published annually.

### **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 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 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.

### **Eradication**

In 2022 and 2023, all 5 infected rivers in the Driva region were chemically treated to combat *G. salaris*. 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. After the treatment was completed in 2023, there was still uncertainty about whether infected salmon fry was still present upstream of the fish barrier in Driva. Therefore, supplementary chlorine treatment was carried out on the entire stretch where salmon previously had the opportunity to migrate, both upstream and downstream of the fish barrier, in 2024.

In the Drammen region (consisting of the rivers Drammenselva, Lierelva, Sandeelva, Selvikelva, Ebbestadelva and Bergerelva), work on mapping and planning continued in 2024 with the aim of starting the eradication in this region in 2025. Eradication of the parasite in this region is planned to be carried out over a 4-year period (2025-2028).

This is the last infected region in Norway. At the end of 2024, only 6 of the originally 54 infected rivers still have the presence of *G. salaris*.