# NEA(26)16

## Gyrodactylus Salaris *Action Plan*

*Not all of the sections of this Action Plan apply in areas where the parasite is endemic. In areas where the infection status of the parasite is not known, NASCO's Precautionary Approach should be applied.*

| Recommendation Area | Action |
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| **1. Preventive measures and contingency planning** | a) Steps should be taken to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* on fishing equipment, boats, etc. by use of approved disinfection methods.<br>b) All movements of live fish, both domestic and international, should be recorded so that movements can be traced in the event of an outbreak of *G. salaris.*<br>c) Routine fallowing and disinfection on rainbow trout and salmon freshwater aquaculture sites should be implemented as part of a control programme in infected areas.<br>d) 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).<br>e) North-East Atlantic Commission (NEAC) members and their relevant jurisdictions should have contingency plans in place for treatment, containment or eradication. These plans should be developed in consultation with stakeholders. A legal base for the use of rotenone or other treatments, containment and eradication measures should be put in place. Contingency plans should be tested periodically and updated as required.<br>f) NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should endeavour to ensure that adequate resources are available for the implementation of measures to contain and eradicate *G. salaris*.<br>g) NASCO's 'Best Practice Guidance for the Development of *Gyrodactylus salaris* Contingency Plans', NEA(26)15, should be taken into account in developing Contingency Plans. |
| **2. Co-operation on management** | a) The NEAC should retain an item on *G. salaris* on the agendas for its Annual Meetings. This would facilitate reports by its Parties, their relevant jurisdictions and the Working Group 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 'Action Plan'. |

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| | b) The Working Group on *G. salaris* in the NEAC Area should meet every 3 years, or more frequently if circumstances require, to provide a forum for more detailed information exchange and review of progress in implementing this 'Action Plan'.<br>c) Contingency Plans developed by NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should be made available to the Working Group at its next meeting with the view to sharing information on approaches and challenges. The plans should be made available on the websites of the Competent Authorities with links to them from the NASCO website. |
| **3. Monitoring methods for use in watercourses, lakes and in aquaculture** | The Working Group should review new developments with regard to monitoring for, and detection of, *G. salaris*, and develop recommendations for their inclusion in international guidelines. |
| **4. Distribution of *G. salaris* in the NEAC area and adjacent areas** | a) Existing monitoring programmes on salmonids in the wild and in aquaculture environments undertaken by NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should be retained and expanded as necessary. New information from monitoring, including new detections of, or changes in the distribution of, the parasite should be reported to NASCO; either through the Working Group or, in years between Working Group meetings, through the annual reports to the NEAC. Where possible, information on the probable cause of any new detection and the impact on any wild salmon stocks should also be provided. Note: This does not replace any reporting requirements to the World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH).<br>b) Information should be requested from all NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions which have wild Atlantic salmon but which have not participated in the Working Group to date.<br>c) NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should identify *G. salaris* as an impact factor in the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas for those rivers infected by the parasite.<br>d) The NASCO Secretariat should make a request to the WOAH reference laboratory for *G. salaris* seeking information on the global distribution of *G. salaris*. |
| **5. Research to inform the effective management of *G. salaris*** | a) The NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should conduct or collaborate in research to inform the effective management of *G. salaris*, particularly the following:<br>- the distribution and genetics of *G. salaris*;<br>- the effects of salmon genetics on susceptibility to *G. salaris*;<br>- the effect of environmental factors on pathogenicity;<br>- to clarify the classification of *G. salaris* and *G. thymalli* and then develop a reliable method to distinguish between pathogenic and non-pathogenic strains; |

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| | - general biology and mechanisms of spread of the parasite;<br>- effect of environmental parameters and ecology on the distribution of *G. salaris*;<br>- detection and diagnostic methods for *G. salaris;*<br>- new treatment and control methods in rivers and lakes.<br>b) The Working Group should keep research requirements and monitoring needs under review and report regularly to the NEAC. |
| **6. Classification of *Gyrodactylus* species** | NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should only support any future proposal to synonomise *G. salaris* and *G. thymalli* if, in parallel, WOAH standards and national legislation recognize the different pathogenicity and host predilection of these two species. |
| **7. Publicity, education and awareness** | a) NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should develop publicity material on the threat of the parasite to wild Atlantic salmon and specify measures to prevent its spread; strategies for the effective dissemination of this material should be developed particularly with regard to targeting high risk groups. Existing material should be reviewed and updated as appropriate in the light of current knowledge.<br>b) This material should be made available on the websites and promoted on the social media platforms of the Competent Authorities and NASCO with a view to highlighting the serious risks posed by the spread of the parasite. |
| **8. Continuity of current measures in the EU animal health legislation** | Relevant NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should seek to ensure continuity in the provisions related to *G. salaris* in current EU animal health legislation, which should be retained, in particular with regard to additional guarantees. |
| **9. Criteria for diagnosis and establishing *G. salaris*-free zones** | NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should implement the diagnostic standards in the WOAH Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals. |
| **10. Movement of live susceptible fish species** | a) Movement of disinfected eggs is preferable to movement of live susceptible fish species. However, where movements of live susceptible fish species are approved, NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should ensure that any such movement only takes place between areas of equal *G. salaris* status or from a higher to lower status area (e.g. from a disease-free area to an infected area). |

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| | b) NEAC members and their relevant jurisdictions should ensure they are satisfied with the health status and certification process of the moved live susceptible fish species and / or their eggs before any movement takes place. |
| **11. Shared catchments** | NEAC members and all relevant jurisdictions and actors (including non-NASCO members) with shared catchments, or having catchments in close proximity, should implement appropriate mechanisms for co-operation, including the establishment and strengthening of inter-country working groups and the development of common measures to prevent, control and eradicate *G. salaris*. |