BEST PRACTICE GUIDANCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF *GYRODACTYLUS SALARIS* CONTINGENCY PLANS

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NASCO

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

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1 Introduction

The following best practice guidance from NASCO's Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* highlights the core points that should be considered in developing Contingency Plans.

Note that Contingency Plans should also be developed in accordance with the relevant Chapters of the World Organisation for Animal Health Aquatic Animal Health Code (currently Chapters 4.10 (Emergency Disease Preparedness) and 4.11 (Disease Outbreak Management)).

2 Roles and Responsibilities

a. Contingency Plans should clearly identify the key actors (such as government bodies, competent authorities, Indigenous Peoples, landowners and other key stakeholders) involved in the execution of the Plan.

b. The roles and responsibilities of each of the key actors should be clearly defined within the Contingency Plan.

c. The Contingency Plan owner should ensure full agreement between the key actors on their designated roles and responsibilities and processes to ensure that key persons are aware of these.

d. Roles and Responsibilities within the Contingency Plan should be reviewed annually to ensure details and agreements for the key actors remain up-to-date (e.g. department names, contact details, etc.).

3 Eradication, Monitoring and Control Measures

3.1 Monitoring and Control Measures

a. Where possible, only 1+ or older juvenile salmon[1] should be used for sampling.

b. Salmon restoration programmes[2] should consider the threat posed by *Gyrodactylus salaris* and undertake appropriate surveillance and mitigation measures.

c. Any suspicions or positive detections of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in an area previously free of the parasite must immediately be reported to the Competent Authorities of the jurisdiction.

d. Samples must be investigated through a designated laboratory. Samples should be available for investigation by the Competent Authority.

3.2 Eradication Measures

a. Fast action is extremely important on detection of the parasite. Legislation should be in place which provides for eradication of the parasite.

b. Eradication programmes should consider:

   i. At present, the use of rotenone is considered essential for the successful eradication of the parasite;

   ii. Where rotenone is not considered a feasible option as the principal treatment method, chlorine can be used in conjunction with rotenone. Sole use of chlorine without rotenone will not result in successful eradication of the parasite;

   iii. Members should consult relevant legislation to ensure that the use of rotenone or other chemicals is permitted, e.g. in the EU Biocides Regulation 528/2012.

[1] Juvenile salmon older than one year

[2] See NASCO's Guidelines on the Use of Stock Rebuilding Programmes in the Context of the Precautionary Management of Salmon Stocks, CNL(25)50

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