



The salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*

What is *Gyrodactylus salaris*?

It is a small parasite that attaches itself to the skin of juvenile salmon and eats them alive! It was accidentally introduced from Sweden to Norway in the 1970s and thus it does not belong to the Norwegian nature. The goal is to eradicate the parasite in whole Norway. So far, it was possible to remove the parasite from 43 of originally 50 infected rivers!

Why should I care?

The parasite is highly infective and can survive for days in moist environments. That is why it is possible to infect a new river by items that had contact with water from the river Driva. The following items have a high potential for carrying the infection: Fishing rods and reels, landings nets, waders, fishing lures (spoons, flies, etc.), boats, kayaks, swimwear, toys, water tanks in caravans, dead fish.

What does the law say?

- Fishing equipment, boats and other items that have been used in the river **have to be disinfected** before they are transported to other waterbodies or other parts of the same river
- It is **illegal to fish** or to do **water sports** in the infected part of the river
- The Norwegian Agency for Food Safety ("Mattilsynet") may open for fishing if the **fishing rights owner (fishing clubs, landowners) organize** the necessary precautions to prevent the spread of infection, including **disinfection of equipment**
- Any water sport activities can be allowed if the performing sportsmen can demonstrate the necessary prevention of spread of infection by a **written statement** and a **valid identification of their equipment**
- River water from the anadrome river stretch of the may **not be transported to other water courses or to parts of the river above the anadrome stretch**

Measures to prevent spreading the parasite:

- **Do not release live fish into the wild unless you have permission from the County governor ("Fylkesmannen")**
- **Do not wash and gut fish anywhere else than where you caught them**
- **Do not take equipment from one waterbody to another without disinfecting it**
- **Do not throw water out into another waterbody than the one it was fetched from**