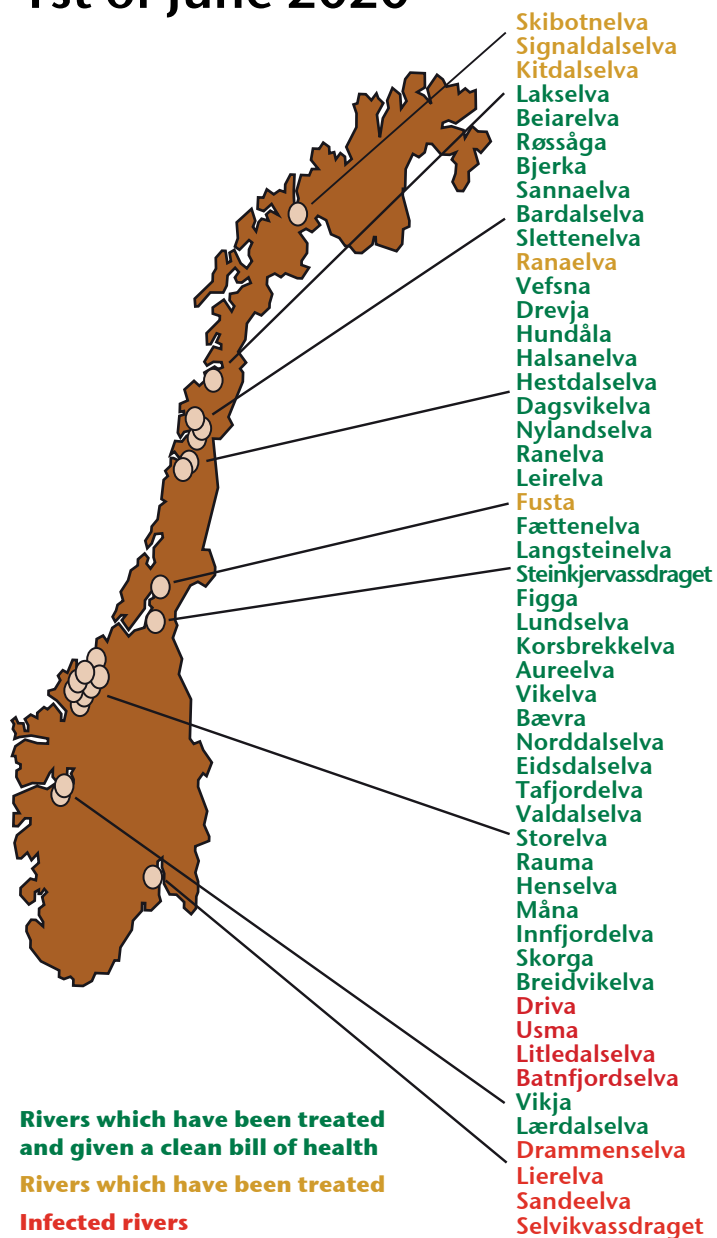


# Status of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in Norwegian watercourses at 1st of June 2020



heining - 2020



# Help us keep our fish healthy

If you have any questions about *G. salaris* and the spread of infection, please contact Mattilsynet at phonenumber **22 40 00 00** [www.mattilsynet.no](http://www.mattilsynet.no)

## Help to stop the spread of *Gyrodactylus salaris*



Norwegian Food Safety Authority



# What is *Gyrodactylus salaris*?

*Gyrodactylus salaris* is a small parasite (approx. 0.5 mm) that is fatal to Norwegian salmon. It uses small hooks to attach itself to salmon smolt and then eats the fish's skin. *G. salaris* can reproduce asexually, and there may be several thousands of them on a salmon smolt before it dies. The parasite is often referred to as the "salmon killer" or just "Gyro".

## Why should this concern me?

The effect of this infestation is so severe for the salmon that they may disappear completely from infected rivers. If we spread the parasite, fishing for wild salmon in Norway could become history. It is therefore very important that everyone who spends time on rivers or in fresh water knows what to do. We must all do what we can to stop the parasite spreading to more rivers.

## Where does *G. salaris* come from?

*G. salaris* has probably been present for a long time in Baltic rivers in Finland and Russia, and possibly also in Eastern Sweden. Baltic salmon are more resistant to the parasite than our salmon are. In Norway, the parasite was first identified in 1975 following the import of fish from Swedish hatcheries. This underlines how important it is not to release fish into new water systems or to move fish within or between water systems.

## Can salmon become resistant?

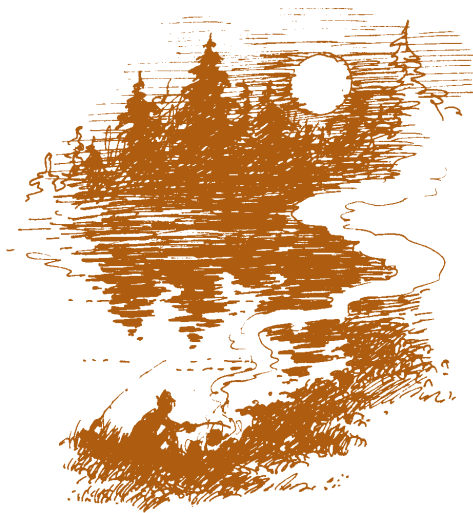
The Norwegian salmon has very little resistance to the parasite. We do not know how long it will take for it to develop sufficient resistance for the parasite to no longer represent a threat to salmon stocks. Experience from Norwegian water systems infected by *G. salaris* shows that the parasite causes almost total eradication of salmon.

## How does the parasite spread?

The parasite can be spread by fish, tackle, nets and water from infected watercourses and water systems. In most spreading where the parasite has been introduced into new parts of Norway this has been the result of infected fish being moved and then released, but it can also be spread through tackle which is used on several watercourses. *G. salaris* can survive for several days in damp surroundings, for example in plastic bags, on dead fish, in other packaging and equipment, such as waders, nets, lines and landing nets. It is not just fishing tackle which can cause infection, but everything we use in and near fresh water: rubber dinghies, lilos, canoes and kayaks.

## FOR THIS REASON:

- The transfer and release of fish is prohibited without permission from The Norwegian Food Safety Authority or the County Governor.
- Do not wash or gut fish anywhere other than where you caught it.
- Moving equipment between or within water systems without first drying or disinfecting it is prohibited.
- Do not pour water out anywhere other than where it was collected.



## Make sure to do the following before moving equipment between/within water systems:

Visit a disinfection station and have the equipment disinfected,

or disinfect it yourself using Virkon-S (available from e.g. Felleskjøpet). Dissolve Virkon-S in water to make a 1% solution, apply to the equipment and rinse off after at least 15 minutes. Virkon-S is known not to damage equipment. Follow the instructions on the packaging or contact The Norwegian Food Safety Authority for more information,

or make sure that all equipment is dry before moving it to the next water system. This applies to fishing tackle, landing nets, boats, boots and any other equipment that has been in contact with water.

**REMEMBER:** any movement of water and fish between watercourses involves a danger of infection.

**DO NOT** wash and gut fish anywhere other than where you caught them.

**DISINFECT** and/or dry equipment before it is moved within or between water systems

