GillRisk FHF 901515

Arbeidsmøte om gjelleutfordringer i laksenæringen. Trondheim, Mars 2023

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Agenda

- Article 1: Cohort study
- Article 2: Net cleaning
- Article 3: Thermal and mechanical delousing
 Conclusions





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RESEARCH ARTICLE | i Open Access | i (i (i)

A cohort study of gill infections, gill pathology and gill-related mortality in sea-farmed Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.): A descriptive analysis

Liv Østevik 🔀, Marit Stormoen, Hege Hellberg, Marianne Kraugerud, Farah Manji, Kai-Inge Lie, Ane Nødtvedt, Hamish Rodger, Marta Alarcón

First published: 16 June 2022 | https://doi.org/10.1111/jfd.13662

Design cohort study



Design cohort study



Design cohort study



Histology n=4247 , qPCR n=4311 , gross gill score n=15553, water samples n=323



Temporal development of these infections follow different patterns

Daily gill-related mortality

Fish (%) >5% of gill tissue affected (histology)

N. perurans



High loads of *N.perurans* coincide with gill pathology and gill-related mortality



Temporal developement of gill infections

- D. lepeophtherii and Ca. B. cysticola
 - All fish-groups infected after sea-transfer
 - Infections persists through out production
 - No clear seasonal variation
- N. perurans and amoebic gill disease (AGD)
 - Clear seasonal variation in pathogen prevalence and load
 - All fish-groups positive by PCR, most AGD on histology
 - Disease resolve with fallling temperatures
- SGPV
 - Tendency for seasonal variation, disappearing and reapparing within groups
 - All fish-groups infected independent of infection status in freshwater
 - Horizontal transfer at sea



Gill disease, plankton and gill infections

• N. perurans

- Most important cause of gill pathology
- Moderate association with epithelial hyperplasia
- SGPV, Ca. B. cysticola and D. lepeophtherii
 - Low or no association with extent gill pathology
 - Exception: epithelial cell necrosis and apoptosis clearly

associated with SGPV (and Ca. B.cysticola)

- Jellyfish and phytoplankton
- Pasteurellose
- Co-infections





Aquaculture

Volume 545, 15 December 2021, 737203



Assessment of acute effects of *in situ* net cleaning on gill health of farmed Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar L*)

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Net cleaning

- Design historical control trial
 - 3 pens
 - ≤24 hours pre- and post-treatment
 - 8 days after treatment
 - 30 fish per time point/pen
- Microscopic assessment
- Data on daily total mortality, specific feed rate and specific daily growth rate



Net cleaning and gill health

- Across all groups no significant difference
- More fish with gill thrombi at one day after net cleaning of moderately fouled pens
- No difference at eight days
- No difference in total daily mortalities, specific feed rate or specific daily growth rate



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Effects of thermal and mechanical delousing on gill health of farmed Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.)

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Thermal and mechanical delousing

- Design historical control trial
 - 3 pens
 - ≤24 hours pre- and post-treatment
 - 6-9 days after treatment
 - 30 fish per time point/pen
- Microscopic assessment
- Total daily mortality data
- PCR-analysis microbes (thermal delousing)
- Gene-expression (thermal delousing)



https://scaleaq.no/produkt/thermolicer/

Thermal delousing

Mechanical delousing





Increased mortality during and after delousing

Thermal delousing

Mechanical delousing

Thermal and mechanical delousing and gill health

- More vascular and hyperplastic gill lesions
- More fish with microorganisms
- More Ca. B. cysticola
- Altered gene expression
- Daily mortality and mortality rates increased





Conclusions GillRisk (epidemiologisk artikkel pågående)

- Seasonal pattern or tendency for seasonal pattern N. perurans and SGPV
- Persistent infection Ca. B. cysticola and D. lepeophtherii
- Neoparamoeba perurans most important cause of gill disease
- Phytoplankton and gelatinous zooplankton no impact on gill health
- Increased risk of lamellar thrombi after in situ net cleaning
- Thermal and mechanical delousing
 - Acute gill damage
 - Differential gene expression
 - Changes in pathogen prevalence and load

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Main supervisor: Marit Stormoen

Co-supervisors: Ane Nødtvedt, Kai-Inge Lie and Hamish Rodger

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