Achieving sustainable use of wrasses as cleanerfish on salmon farms

About 1000 farms
The salmon lice problem
Why use wrasses

- Salmon lice cannot become resistant to cleanerfish
- Cleanerfish delouse continuously without the need to handle the salmon
- They are environmental friendly
Four wrasse species are used in Norway today: goldsinny, corkwing, ballan wrasse, and rock cook.
What do we need to know?

• Population sizes for the different wrasse species used and their distribution
• Growth and recruitment of each species
• Are there locally adapted populations?
• How will transporting wrasse affect their own pathogens?
• How to catch, handle, transport and maintain them in the best possible way
Corkwing

Grønngylt

77%

39%

Antall

Lengde (cm)
Goldsinny

Antall

Lengde (cm)

37%

5%
Three scenarios

3: Mid- and northern Norway. Less wrasse available – need to “import” wrasse

2: West coast. Extensive fishery and use. May be self supplied

1: South and south-east. Extensive fishery, little or no use of wrasse. Need to “export”
23 June 2012
- 97 goldsinny
- 55% escaped
- k-factor mean 1.3
Sample points June – July 2012

Local catch, kept in tanks or small net pens for two weeks before examination and sampling.

Samples are being processed this autumn and winter.

Health status and diseases are poorly known.
Optimizing traps to minimize by-catch and maximize quality.
Most corkwing die shortly after release in net pens if collected during the spawning season.
Responsible use of wrasses

• Modified traps to avoid bycatch
• Right size
• Right time
• Hiding places for wrasse
• Locally caught wrasses
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