

## **Gill Health Initiative meeting Oslo 2023, sluttrapportering av prosjekt 901893**

Norsk oppsummering:

Gill Health Initiative (GHI)sitt hovedmål er å bringe sammen industri og forskere for bl.a å formidle forskningsresultater som kan bidra til beste praksis for håndtering av gjellesykdom. I 2023 ble Gill

GHI ble etablert i et forsøk på å bringe sammen industri og forskere for bl.a. å formidle forskningsresultater som kan bidra til beste praksis for håndtering av gjellesykdom hos oppdrettslaks. Det første GHI-møtet ble arrangert i Stirling i Skottland i 2013. Årets GHI konferanse ble arrangert i Oslo 25-26 oktober og Veterinærinstituttet organiserte møtet i samarbeid med styringsgruppen til GHI. Det var over 90 deltagere og kolleger fra Skottland, Irland, Chile, Australia, Færøyene og Norge. Gjellesykdom er ett av de største sykdomsproblemene i oppdrettsnæringen og informasjonsdeling på tvers av bransjen og over landegrenser er nødvendig for å løse problemene.

Informasjon fra møtet tyder på at nye typer avlusningsmetoder og klimaforandringer trolig er med på å forklare noe av årsaken til gjellesykdomsproblematikken. Standardisering av metoder og i enda større grad jobbe interdisiplinært og å se helheten er viktig.

English summary:

Gill Health Initiative (GHI) aims to bring together industry and researchers to disseminate findings that can contribute to best practices in the management of gill diseases. In 2023, GHI was established in an effort to unite industry and researchers to convey research results that can enhance best practices in handling gill diseases in farmed salmon. The inaugural GHI meeting took place in Stirling, Scotland, in 2013. This year's GHI conference was held in Oslo on October 25-26, organized by the Veterinary Institute in collaboration with the GHI steering committee. There were over 90 participants and colleagues from Scotland, Ireland, Chile, Australia, the Faroe Islands, and Norway. Gill disease is one of the major health challenges in the aquaculture industry, and sharing information across the industry and international borders is necessary to address these issues. Information from the meeting suggests that new delousing methods and climate changes likely contribute to explaining some of the causes of gill disease issues. Standardizing methods and, to an even greater extent, working interdisciplinary and considering the bigger picture are crucial.

### **Introduction**

Gill disease is one of the major health challenges in the aquaculture industry. Sharing information across the industry and international borders is necessary to combat the problem and find effective ways to prevent these, at times, complex issues. GHI was established in an attempt to bring together industry and researchers to, among other things, convey research results that can contribute to best practices in handling gill diseases. The inaugural GHI meeting was held in Stirling, Scotland, in 2013, and interest has increased year by year. In 2023, the GHI conference was organized in Oslo on October 25-26, and the Veterinary Institute volunteered to organize the meeting in collaboration with the GHI steering committee. To execute the event, project funding was sought to cover hours for project management, costs for organizing the GHI meeting 2023 in Oslo, as well as working hours for updating/upgrading the GHI website, overseen by the steering committee's leader, Christine Huynh. The GHI steering committee consists of Christine Huynh, Barbara Nowak, James Wynne James, Annette Boerlage, Iain Berrill, Hamish Rodger, Farah Manji, Patricio Bustos S. Alejandro Hessinger, and Mona Gjessing. The organizing committee in Oslo includes Ingunn Sommerset, Mona Gjessing, and Brit Tørud.

### **Problem and purpose**

The aim of the project was to organize the Gill Health Initiative meeting in Oslo on October 25-26. This will contribute to bringing together industry and researchers to, among other things, convey research results that can contribute to best practices in handling gill diseases. Målet med prosjektet var å arrangere Gill Health Initiative møte i Oslo 25-26 Oktober.

### **Achieved Results, Main Findings, Discussion, and Conclusion**

The presentations and feedback from the GHI Conference 2023 indicate that there is a significant and important ongoing effort to address and prevent gill problems. New types of delousing methods and climate changes, including increased sea temperatures and altered biological conditions as a consequence, likely play a role. Further work to standardize methods, both in the field and in the lab, and to avoid silo thinking, but to an even greater extent, to consider the bigger picture, is important. We likely have much to gain from interdisciplinary collaboration where there is a close connection between observations from field veterinarians and net pen operators, the operational overview of the fish group by those in charge, and colleagues who receive samples and analyze them in the laboratory

### **Deliveries**

Information about the conference was published on kyst.no, VI's (Veterinærinstituttet) website, LinkedIn, and FHF's (Fiskeri- og havbruksnæringens forskningsfinansiering) website. The conference program was communicated to all conference participants, and highlights from the meeting are scheduled for publication in norsk fiskeoppdrett (Norwegian Fish Farming) from December 19 to 23. This will be published on kyst.no and norsk fiskeoppdrett in January 2024