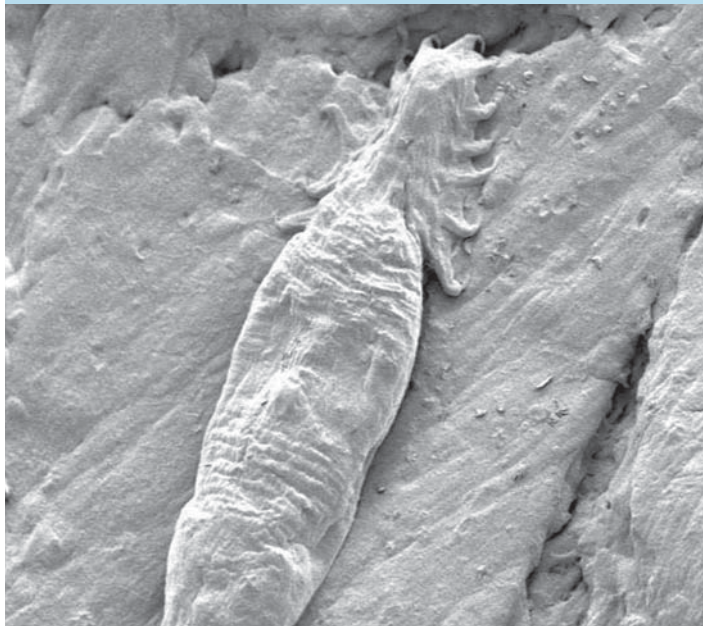


What is the Gs parasite?

The Gs (*Gyrodactylus salaris*) parasite is a highly contagious bug that has devastated freshwater salmon stocks in a number of countries. In Norway for example, salmon stocks in 20 rivers have been virtually wiped out.

Less than half a millimetre long, the Gs parasite multiplies very rapidly, and it only takes one to start an epidemic.

The Gs parasite is not currently in the UK. Please help to protect our £60m freshwater salmon industry in Scotland by drying out any wet water sports or fishing gear or taking the precautionary measures suggested within this leaflet.

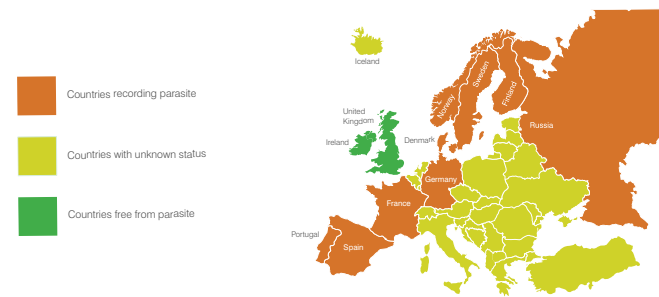


Gyrodactylus salaris parasite magnified

What countries are affected?

**Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy
Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain & Sweden.**

Other European countries have an unknown status. The UK remains officially Gs parasite free - let's keep it that way.



How could it get here?

The Gs parasite is capable of surviving for several days in damp and/or wet conditions (such as on waders, fishing equipment, bags, canoes and windsurf gear).

Therefore it could be accidentally introduced by anyone (fishermen or water sports enthusiasts) who visits rivers in the affected countries - for work or pleasure - and then uses the same equipment in Scotland without taking the necessary precautionary measures.

The Gs parasite can also survive on other fish species including the eel.



Where did the Gs parasite come from?

Gs occurs naturally in the Baltic rivers of Sweden, Finland and Russia. The fish there are tolerant of the parasite, but fish in Norway and the UK are unused to the parasite and have little or no tolerance to it. The parasite was transferred with farmed fish from Sweden to Norway where it spread to wild salmon stocks.

We now have to ensure that it doesn't reach the UK and harm our £60 million freshwater salmon industry in Scotland.

Here's what you need to do

The Gs parasite needs a wet environment to survive. If you are travelling to or from the affected countries make sure any water sports equipment (such as waders, fishing equipment, bags, canoes and windsurf gear) is completely dry before use in Scotland.

To ensure your equipment is not contaminated, please take one of the following precautionary measures:

- **Dry equipment at a minimum of 20°C for at least 2 days**
- **Heat for at least 1 hour at temperatures of above 60°C**
- **Deep freeze for at least 1 day**
- **Immerse in a solution* suitable for killing the Gs for a minimum of 10 minutes**

*Chemical solutions which have been used include Virkon® Aquatic** (1%), Wescodyne** (1%), sodium chloride (3%), and sodium hydroxide (0.2%).

** These chemicals are available from agricultural chemical suppliers. The use of trade names is for illustrative purposes only and does not signify endorsement of any particular product.



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