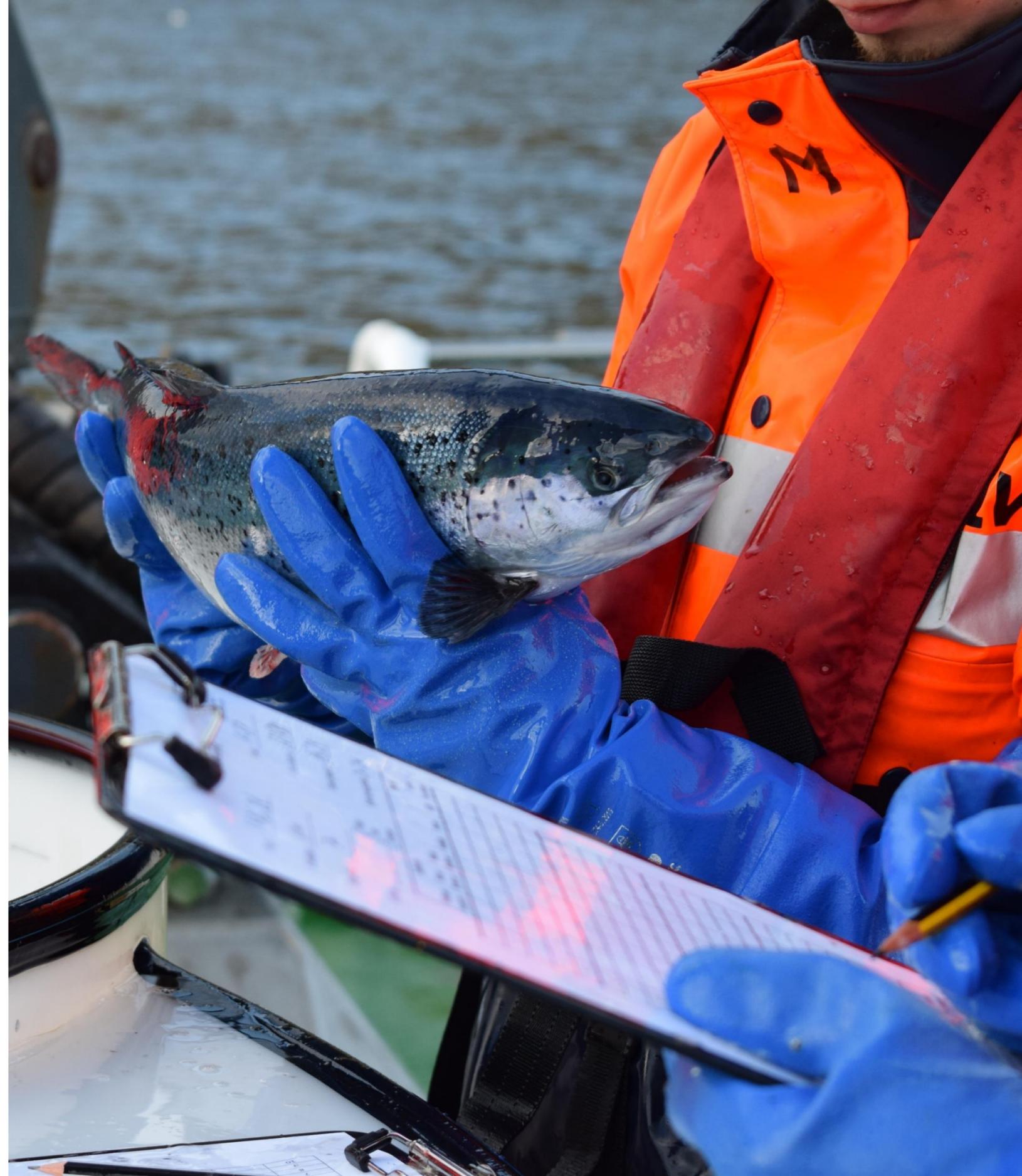


Erfaringer med uafhængig telling på Færøeyene

Gunnvør á Norði and Kirstin Eliassen

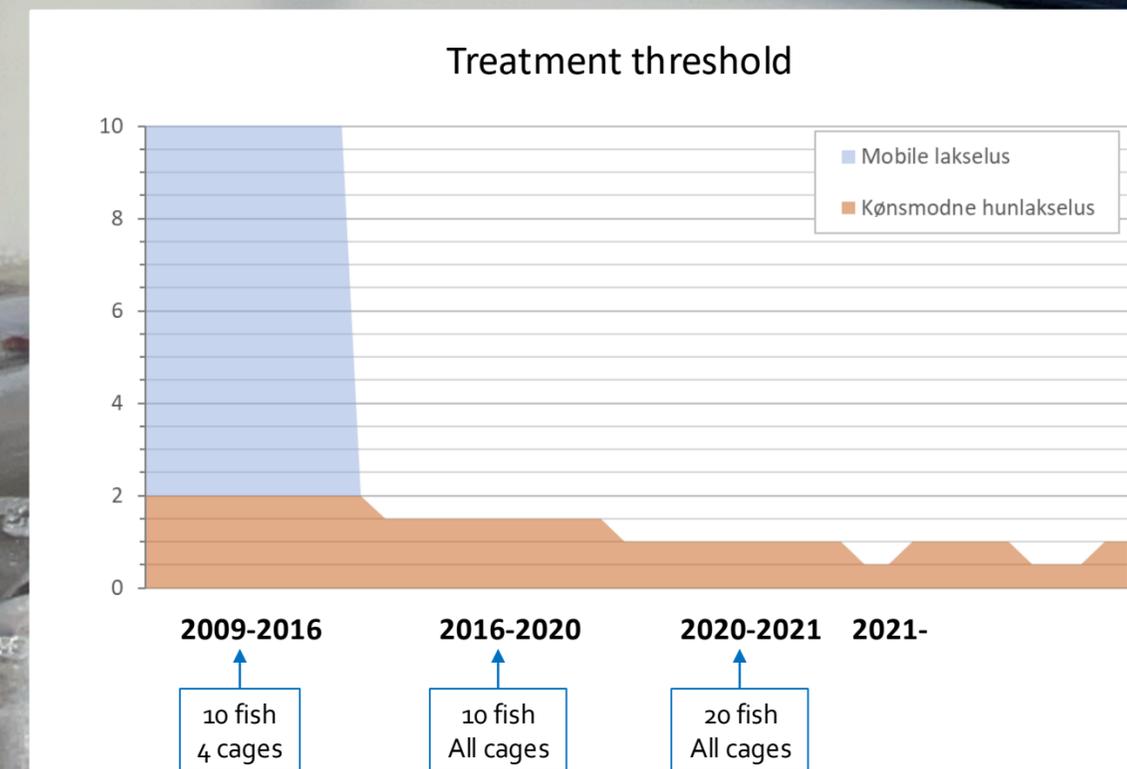
Lusekonferansen 2026

4. februar



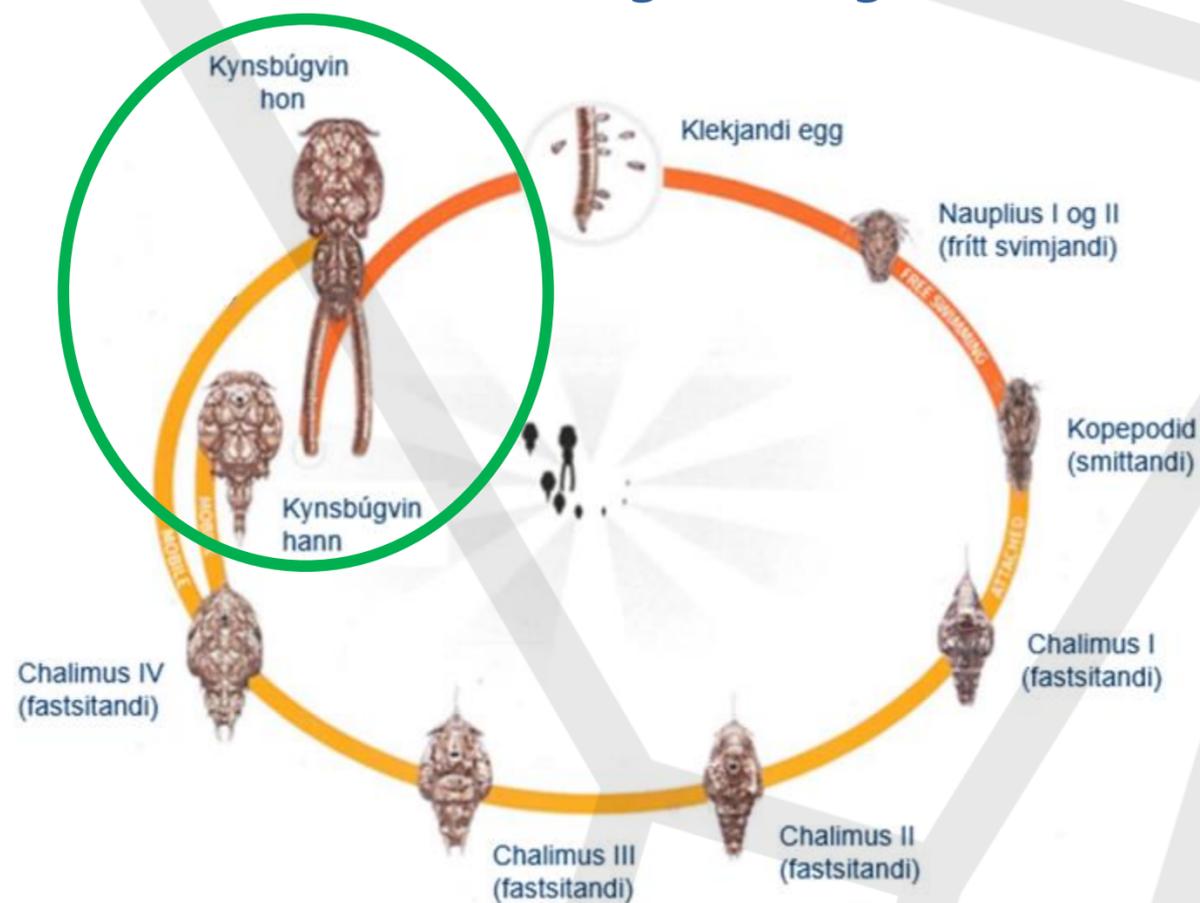
Regulations

- Count sea lice at least every 14 days (Firum)
- Start within 1 month of first fish deployment
- Continue until final harvested
- Follow approved counting equipment specs
- Sample 20 fish per cage
- Record all visible lice (incl. *Caligus elongatus*)
- Include lice detached during sedation in mean

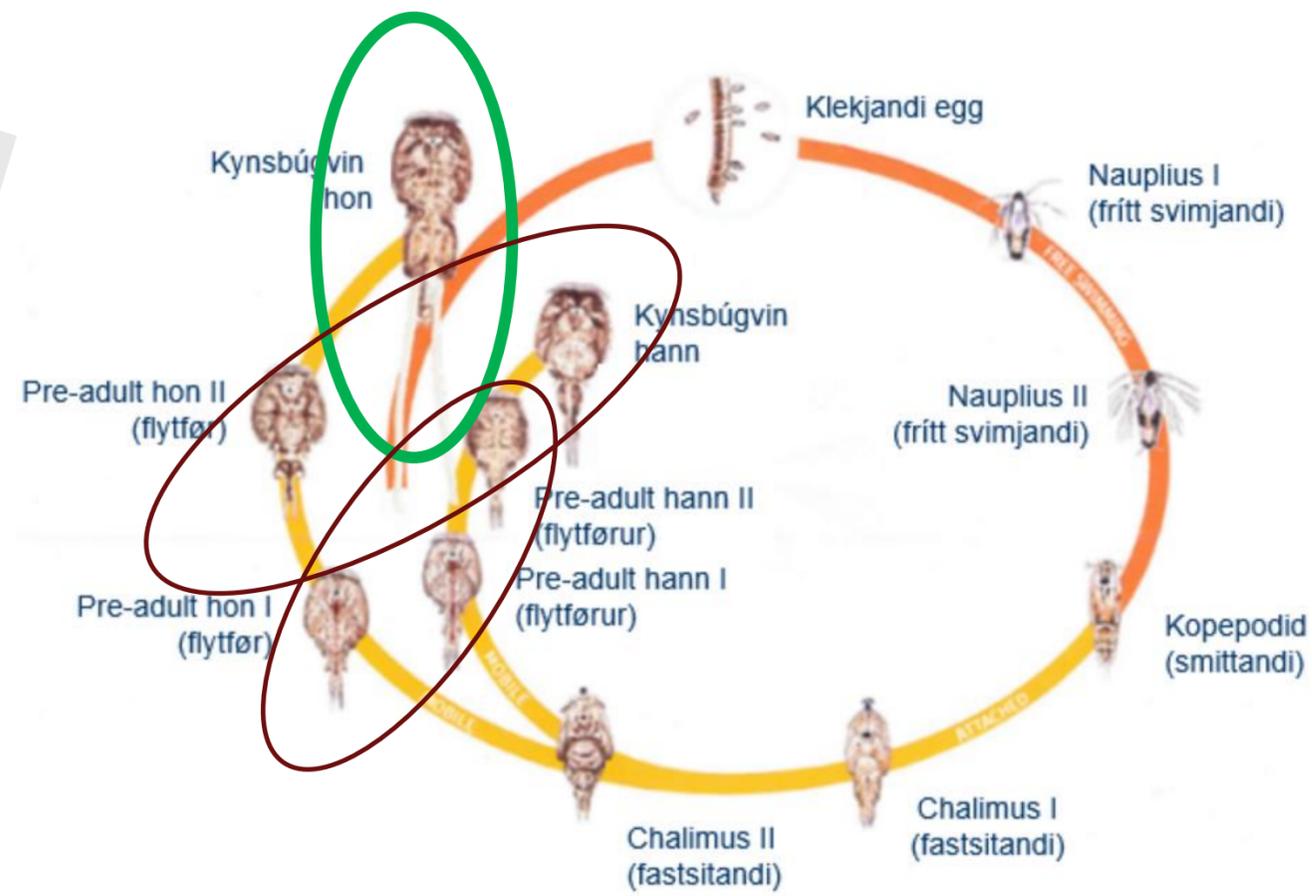


Registered sea lice groups

Caligus elongatus



Salmon lice



All sedentary lice in same group

Registered as adult females

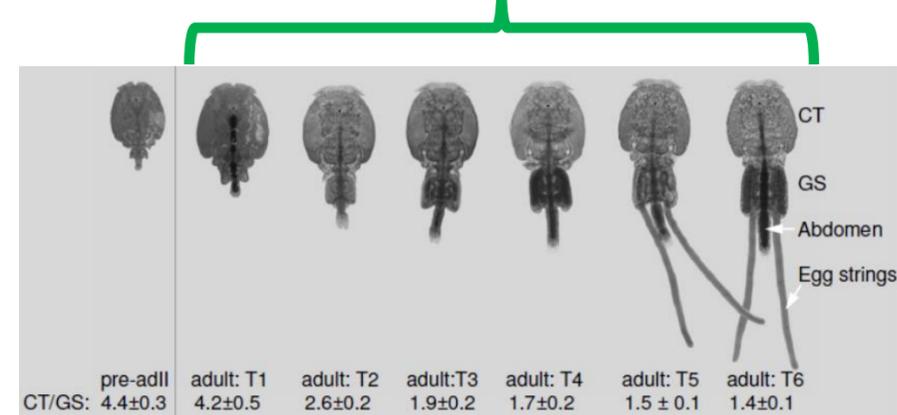
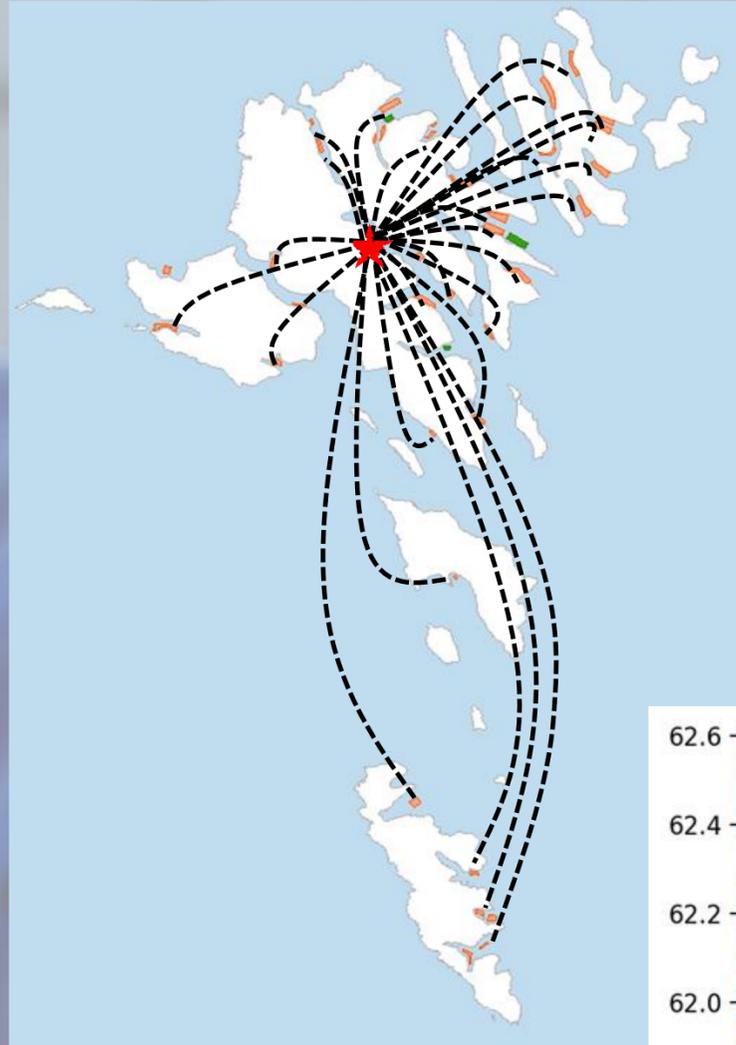
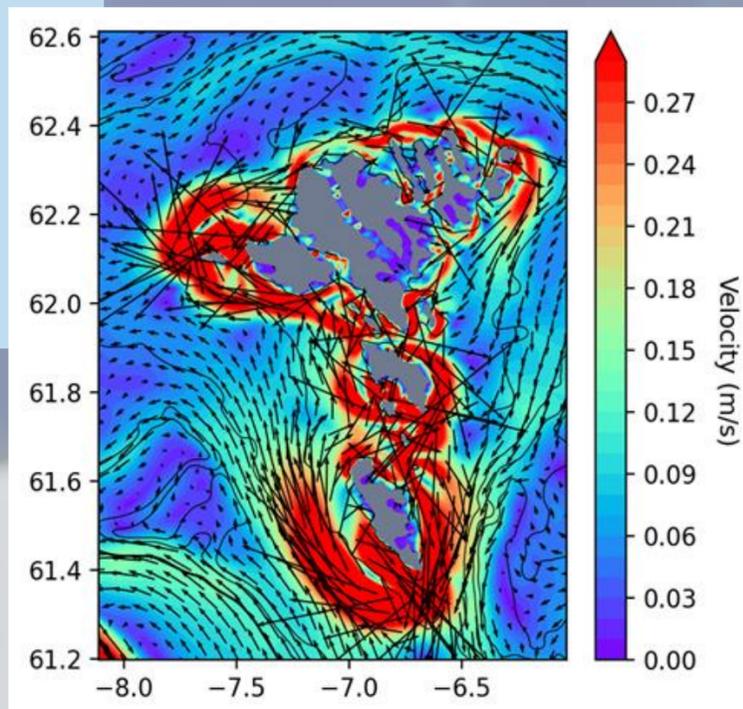


Figure from Eichner et al. 2008 <https://doi.org/10.1186/1471-2164-9-126>.

Lice counts by a third party



- Small environment
- 3 fish farming companies
- 21-25 fish farming sites simultaneously in operation
- Few people managing lice
- Individual farm sea lice counts shared with all fish farming companies on the day of counting



- Manages the sea lice order
- Intervenes as necessary to ensure regulatory compliance
- Audits lice counts



- Perform the sea lice counts
- Reports to authorities and fishfarming companies

Fish farming companies

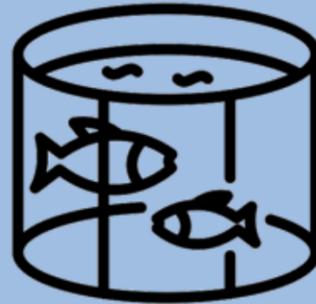
- Cover sea lice count costs
- Preparations
- Provide boat and crew

Data collection

Fish farming companies

Daily Production data

- cage id
- number of fish
- biomass
- feed use



Tracking

- smolt station stock
- movement between cages
- harvest

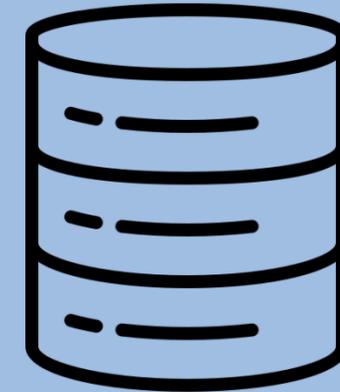
Treatments

Reported weekly



HEILSUFRØÐILIGA STARVSSTOVAN
FAROESE FOOD AND VETERINARY AUTHORITY

Database:



- cage id
- Lice count per counted fish
- Gill health



*Biweekly counting:
20 fish in every cage*



*Within 24 hours
of counting*



The third party



Service minded

- Flexibility
- Good communication with farm managers
- No more than 14 days between sea lice counts

Staff

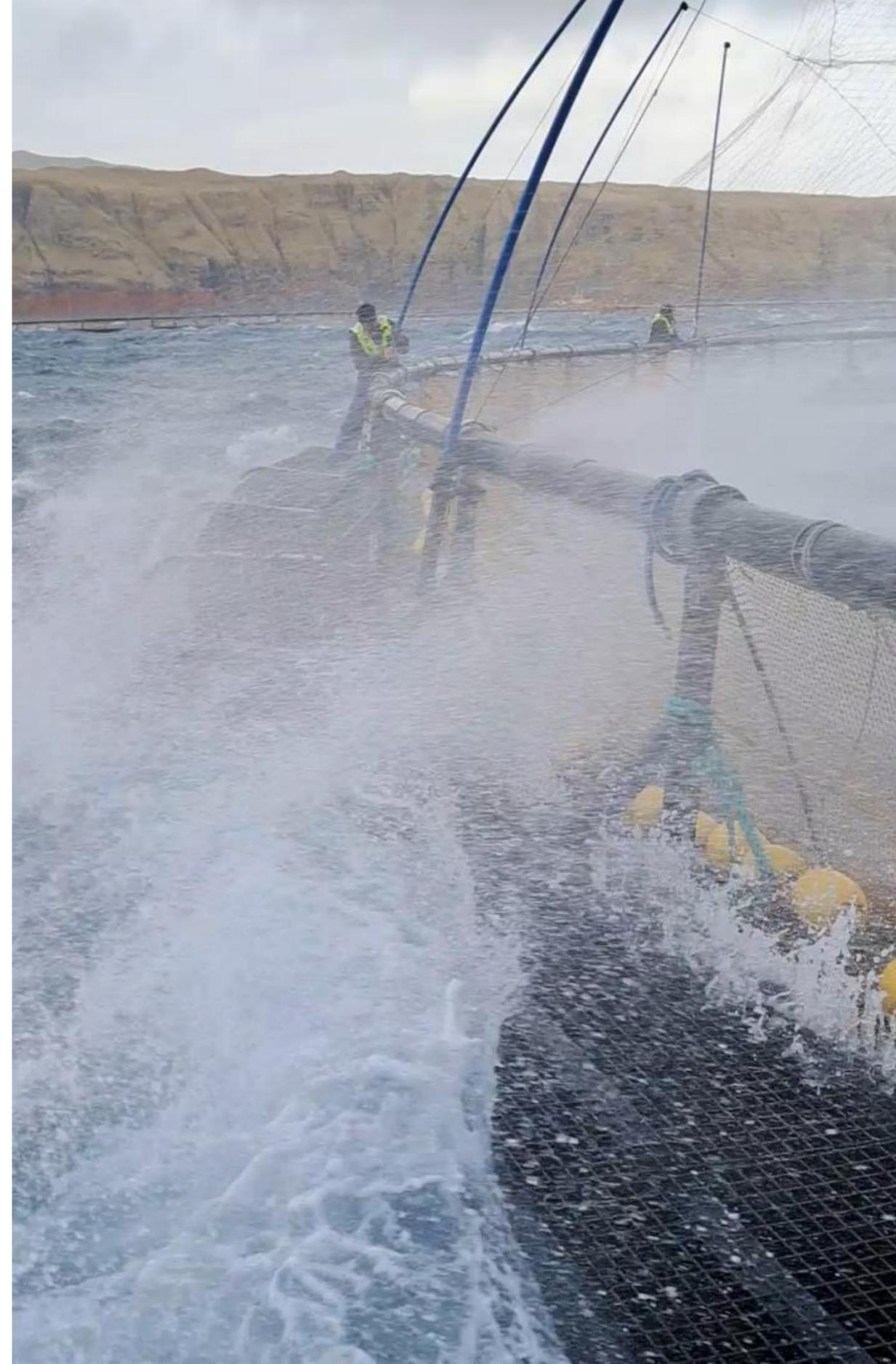
- Rotating between fish farms
- Training
- Annual blind tests
- Annual fish welfare course

Controverses

- Dealt with by manager
- Communication with fish farming companies and authorities

Quarterly meetings

- Firum, sealice managers at fish farming companies



Importance of accurate data

Regulation

Penalty points for sea lice abundance above the threshold

- 1 x higher than threshold = 1 penalty point
- 2x higher than threshold = 2 points etc.
- Chemical treatments = 2 points

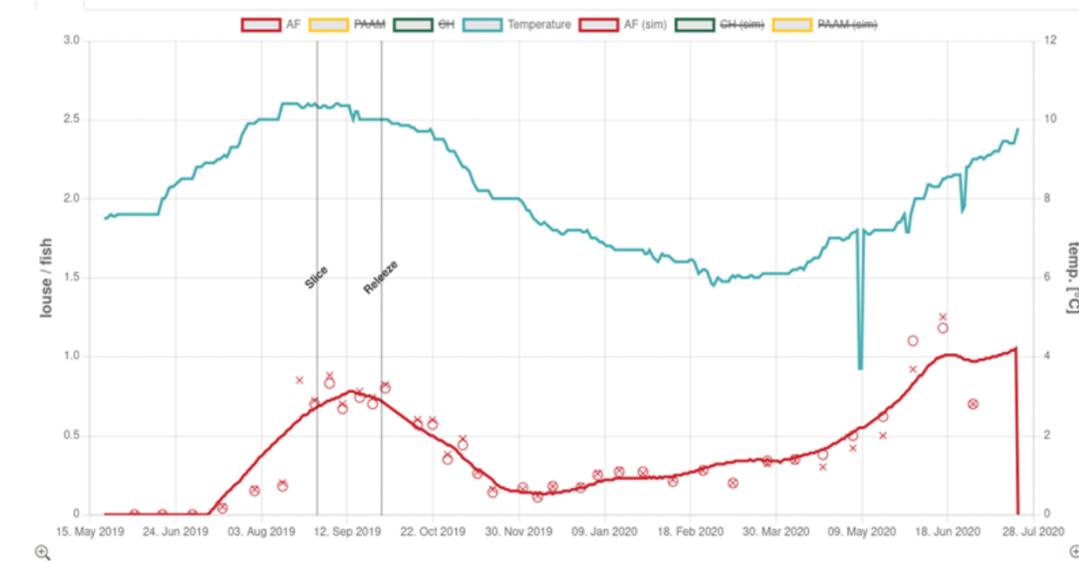
Consequences

- < 7 points in production cycle = more smolts are allowed in the next production cycle
- 7-12 = no changes
- >12 = Reduction in smolt number

Fish farming companies

*Strong focus and investment in sea lice management
Coordinated by experienced academic staff*

Lusim



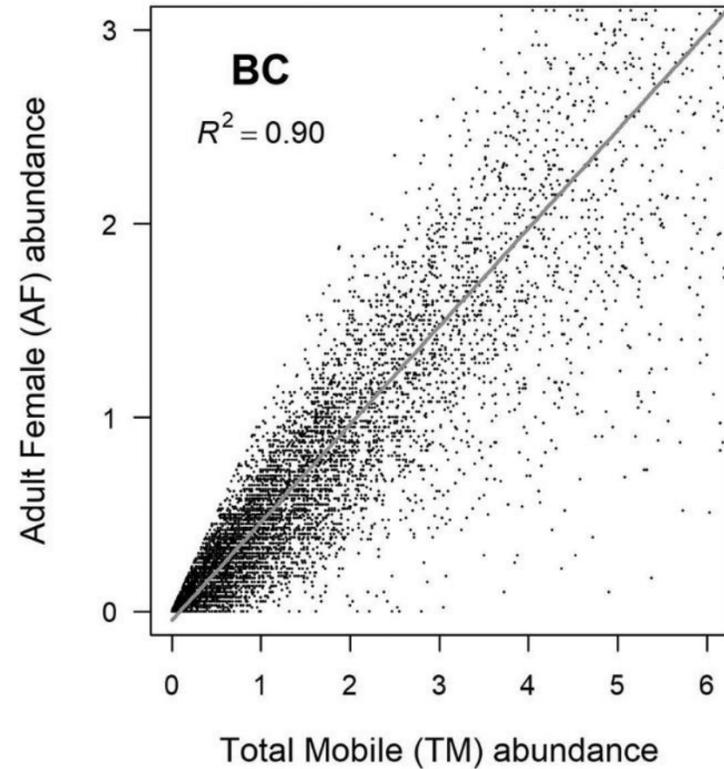
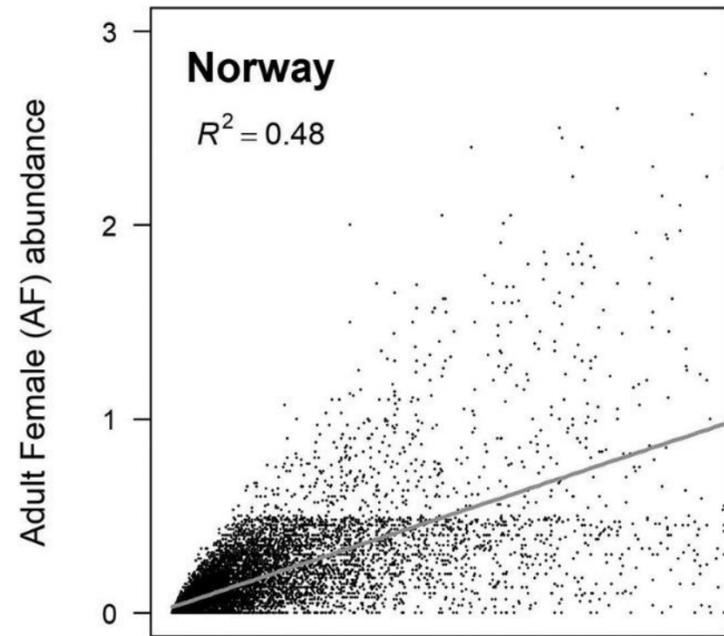
Strategy name: FA_A89_2019_aliraðstevna
Total EI factor: 0.0024064
Temperature strategy: aliringi

Save changes

Infections

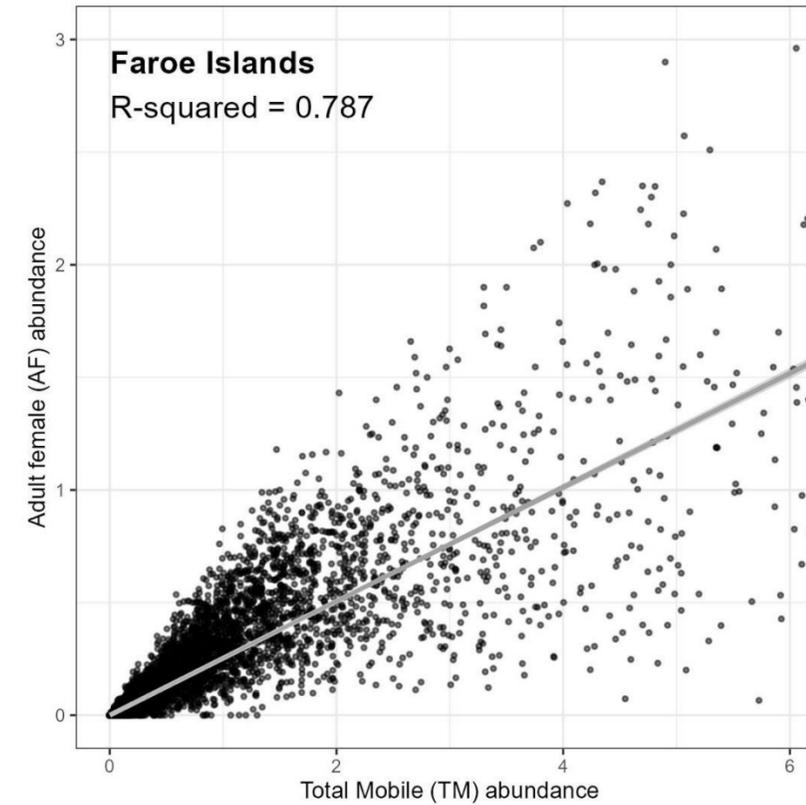
Date	Delay	Internal infection (0-100 %)	External infection [Lice/day]	
22. May. 2019	39	0	0.0029691875	

Developed at Firum



- **Norway**
 - Threshold
 - 0.5 adult females most of the year
 - AF/TM ratio 0.15
 - Monitoring
 - Farm staff

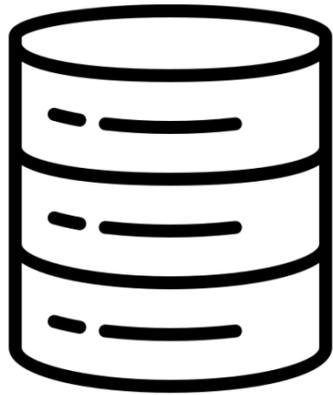
- **BC**
 - Threshold
 - 3 mobile salmon lice from March to June triggers intervention, the rest of the year it triggers a louse notification event to the regulators
 - AF/TM ratio 0.51
 - Monitoring
 - Farm staff



Data from Faroese Food and Veterinary Authority

- **Faroe Islands**
 - Threshold
 - 1 adult females most of the year
 - AF/TM ratio 0.25
 - Monitoring
 - 3. party

The database an asset for R & D



LiceDetached

FHF – project 901782



Aquaculture

Volume 616, 15 April 2026, 743683



The contribution of host transfer in the infection dynamics of *Caligus elongatus* and salmon lice (*Lepeophtheirus salmonis*) in a salmon farming network

Gunnvør á Norði ^a, Birgitta Andreassen ^a, Kirstin Eliassen ^a, Tróndur J. Kragestein ^a, Signar P. Dam ^b, Lars Are Hamre ^c

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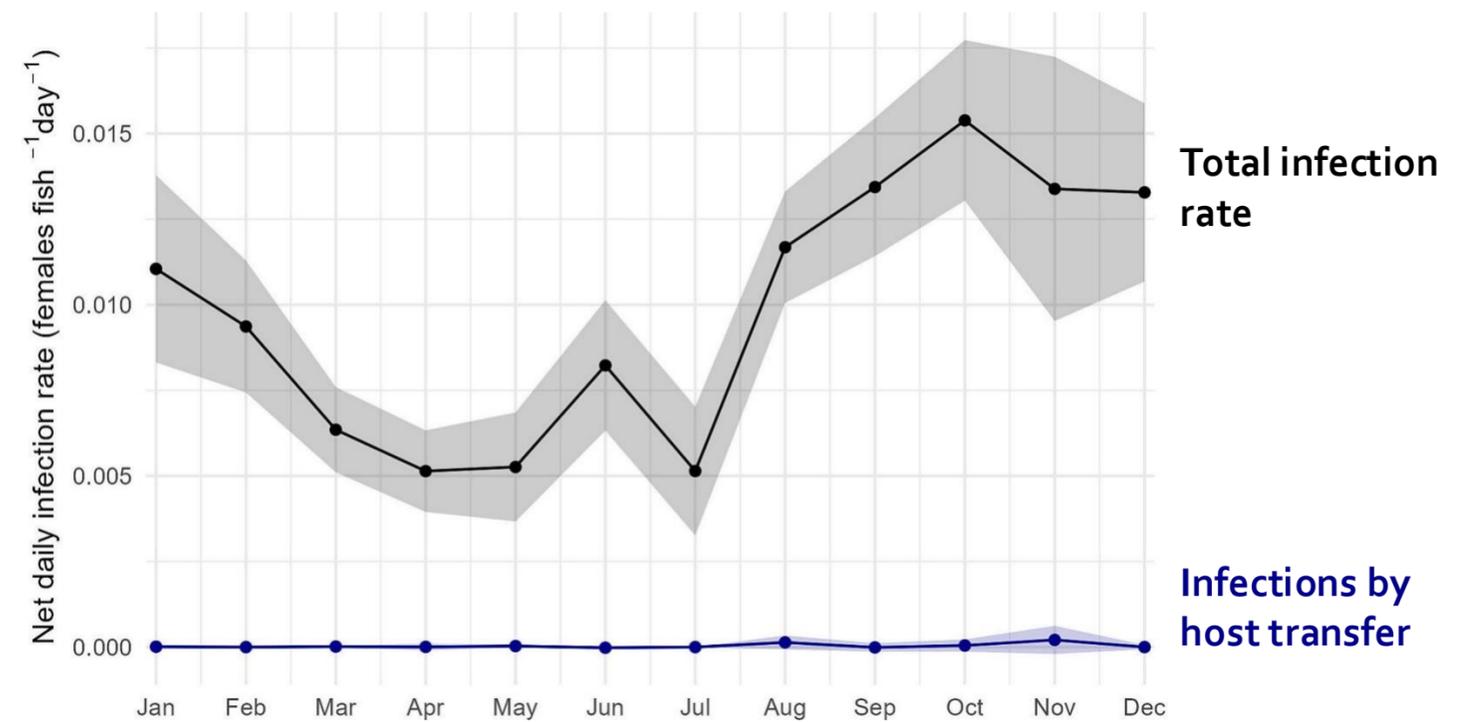
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.aquaculture.2026.743683>

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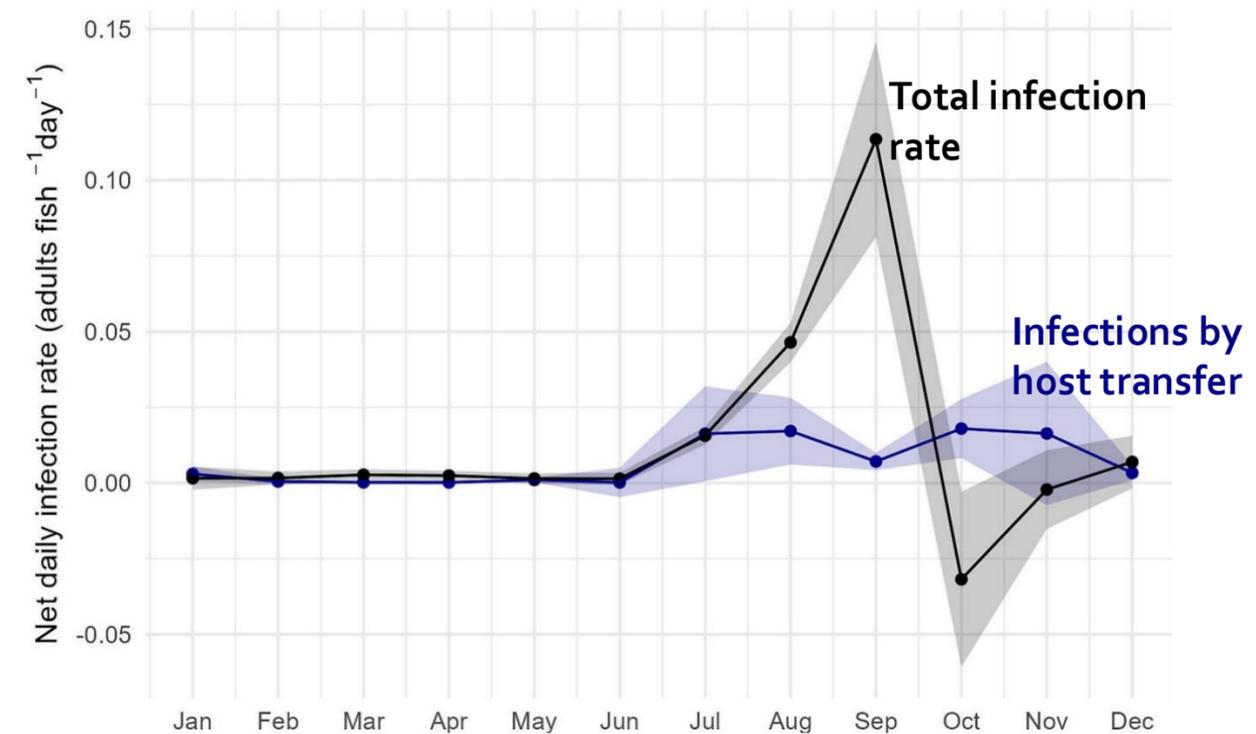
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Salmon lice infection rate



C. elongatus infection rate

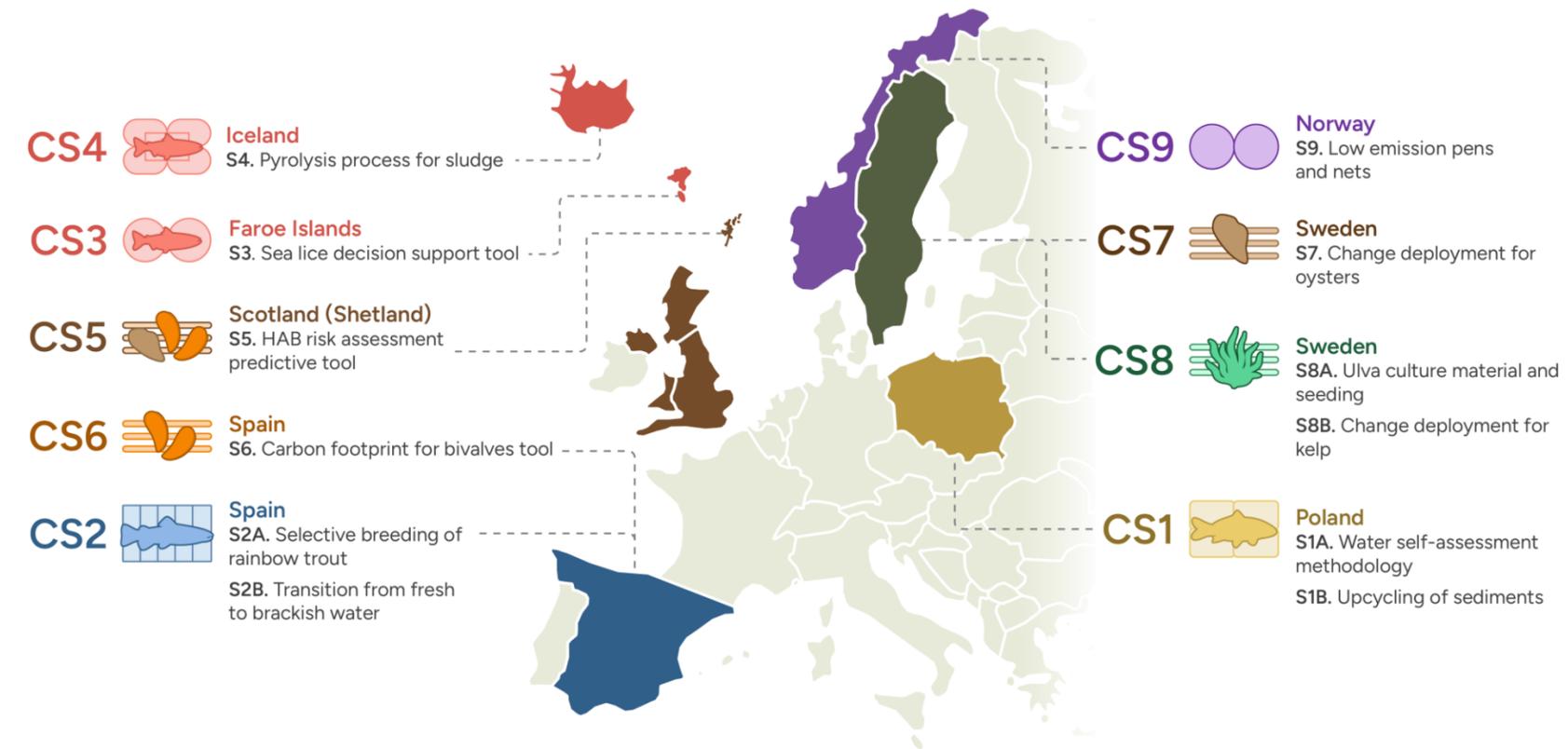




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Operationalising Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation for aquaculture



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Conclusion

- The Faroese aquaculture ideal for 3. party lice counts
- The system has evolved over time
- Same approach at all farms -> uniform data -> perfect for R&D
- The strict Faroese regulation requires uniform approach at all farms