



# The current and proposed legislative tools in controlling sea lice (*L. salmonis*)

Ragnar Thorarinsson  
Senior fish health advisor  
Norwegian Food Safety Authority  
Hotel Scandic Bergen City 10.02.2010

# The Norwegian sea lice challenge

---

- **The current sea lice situation and outlook is very serious and represents the biggest challenge the Norwegian aquaculture industry has ever faced.**
- **The remaining wild salmonid stocks in Norway will not be allowed to be “sacrificed” in the event of the industry’s sea lice problem coming out of control.**

# **Key sea lice management “tools” in current legislation (in effect since Aug '09)**

- **Regular sea lice counts and reporting**
- **Set maximum sea lice levels allowed**
- **Mandatory reporting of reduced sensitivity & resistance against drugs (suspected and confirmed cases)**
- **Mandatory reporting of strategic sea lice control plans for neighboring sea cage sites (area management)**
- **Only tarpaulins or equivalent treatment setups allowed for bath treatments (comes into effect 01.01.2011)**
- **If necessary, the NFSA can demand emergency slaughtering.**
- **NFSA is granted the authority to propose and implement specific zonal regulations;**
  - **synchronized treatment over extended geographical areas**

# Key legislative sea lice management “tools” currently under consideration

- **Zonal regulations** (areas with biggest resistance problems)
  - South Hordaland county and Hardangerfjord.
  - North Trøndelag county (possibly S. Nordland county).
  - “Ryfylke” basin in Rogaland county.
- **Specifically...**
  - Synchronized fallowing of extended geographical areas
  - Large geographical areas treating against sea lice in a synchronized manner only – requires a maximum area sea lice threshold levels.
  - Filtering out and destruction of sea lice from well boats and transfer/effluent water from slaughter houses.

# **NFSA's needs for scientific know-how in order to improve legislative sea lice and fish health management**

---

- **Gain extensive practical understanding of the complex current movements of seawater along the Norwegian coastline.**
- **Map and identify the coastal areas that are best suited for large volume salmon production (“crop rotations with “all in/all out” and synchronized fallowing) where the “cross-contamination” between such areas is as little as possible.**

# The “take-home” message

---

- **NFSA responsibility is to inspect and control that the fish health and fish welfare regulations are being adhered to.**
- **It's the industry's responsibility to comply to the set regulations.**

Thank you for your attention

