



## *Newsletter No. 10 – April 2012*

### **Introduction**

Welcome to another newsletter, as we make double figures.

The fish world keeps rolling on, with some exciting moments to keep us on our toes. Amoebic Gill Disease has been causing problems in Ireland and Scotland. Christmas Day saw twelve cages break from their moorings in Unst in the north of Shetland. It was a few weeks before eight of them were recovered (four sunk on the way) without any fish.

I was at the Scottish Sea Lice Symposium in Edinburgh in November, where all topics to do with sea lice were discussed. Included were semiochemicals, which showed potential in the fight against lice.

### **Fish Veterinary Society Meeting, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

Spring, and for the Fish Veterinary Society that can only mean the Spring Scientific Meeting. Once again, it was a two day meeting, which will be our standard from now on, held at the Norton House Hotel near Edinburgh. There was a very full two day programme.

Hamish Rodger kicked off proceedings with a description of Amoebic Gill Disease. This has caused major problems all over the world, especially in Tasmania. However, there were a number of outbreaks in Ireland and 26 in Scotland last year. Treatment is by freshwater baths for 2 – 3 hours, or hydrogen peroxide baths. Some sites have had to be retreated.

Next came two papers from CEFAS. John Hulland discussed the enforcement role of the fish health inspectorate and the problems they encountered. Organised crime gangs are moving into fisheries, and illegally importing large carp from France, where Spring Viraemia of Carp (SVC) is widespread. He gave a case of 122 large carp (ten kg up to 25kg) which were crowded into a van in ATBs. These lovely big fish had to be destroyed, as they could not be allowed into the UK or sent back to France.

Nick Stinton then gave a case history of SVC in Northamptonshire in 2011, the first since 2007. Nick took us through the difficulties of removing fish from the lake, which was electrofished and then drained. Many species were in the fishery.

After tea, Professor Felicity Huntingford discussed behaviour and fish health. She gave examples of how “proactive” and “reactive” behaviour changed exposure of fish to pathogens, susceptibility to pathogens, recovery from disease, and exploiting behaviour to reduce disease, such as having a thin layer of pyrethrum through which fish jumped to be treated.

Mark Braceland from Glasgow University next gave a presentation on using proteomics to follow the course of Pancreas Disease. The protein markers were separated using electrophoresis, then cut out and identified. The change in intensity of the protein markers were followed using a computer programme, and the course of the disease cross referenced histopathologically by Marian McLoughlin. This should help in understanding the disease better, and even give us new markers to test the health status of fish.

After lunch, Trygve Poppe gave us an update on fish health in Norway. Some of his points were that fish were to be included in a new Animal Welfare Act, which would include mandatory welfare courses for fish farm staff. He also said that lumpsuckers were being looked at as possible cleaner fish for salmon. He followed this with a presentation on the health of wild salmonids, mentioning PKD, Anisakis, red vents, and the problems of treating rivers with Rotenone for *Gyrodactylus salaris*.

Willie Wildgoose gave the last presentation of the day on the use of *Garra rufa* in foot spas to give foot pedicures. These have sprung up all over the place in the past two years, giving rise to various welfare concerns about feeding and the care they receive from people who are not necessarily experienced or knowledgeable about keeping fish. However, a recent press scare had greatly affected the trade.

The day was finished off with a Clinical Club. I presented some HSMI cases, David Bassett of BTA gave a handout on Puffy Skin Disease, and Trygve Poppe told us about an invasion of Norway by Sinclairs of Caithness in 1612, despite a mermaid telling them not to.....

After all this science, we were ready for a good meal, and Norton House certainly supplied this. Most of the delegates attended.

The second day started off bright and early with Marian McLoughlin telling us about the geographical distribution of Salmonid Alphaviruses. Different subtypes predominate in different areas, with some areas being very mixed.

Trygve Poppe came back to tell us about cardiac disease in salmonids. He gave many examples of strange hearts, and also asked about “Blue Droplets” (possibly a metabolic disorder) that they had seen. He also presented a case of a triple infection of PD, HSMI and CMS – all in ONE FISH!!

A change to ornamental fish, as Mark Stidworthy presented some histopathology of these fish. He presented several conditions, but concentrated on two cases. One was a protozoal disease (*Scuticocilicosis*) causing a fatal systemic infection of sharks, and

the other an Iridovirus infection of Banggai Cardinal fish. Certainly something different from the usual!

Charles McGurk gave us the results of some studies on functional feeds and PD. This had reduced losses when given along with the PD vaccine. He also demonstrated his software, which gave a whole new outlook to looking at histopathology.

After lunch came the AGM. Peter Scott summed up another busy year. Jimmy Turnbull took over from Peter Scott as President, and Jimmy thanked Peter for staying an extra year. Peter becomes Senior Vice-President, and Neil Robertson Junior Vice-President. Fiona Macdonald is continuing as Secretary and she and Keith Treves-Brown were both made Honorary Life Members in recognition of their long service and valuable contribution to the Society

Marta Gamiero told us about fish farming in the Mediterranean. This is predominately Sea Bass and Sea Bream, with Greece and Turkey the largest producers. There are still many disease challenges. The financial crisis has created challenges, but opportunities remain.

For the final presentation, Sandy Murray of Marine Scotland had us contributing toward a survey into the prevalence of BKD on keypads, which was novel.

All in all, a very successful meeting, and we had a record attendance. The weather was splendid, the venue was good, and we were able to drink our coffee outside (maybe should have been doing some site visits with the fine weather, but you can't have it all!)

David Sutherland  
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*Delegates at Edinburgh*