

Defining the risk of sea lice infections: Analysing the early life history population dynamics of sea lice on Atlantic salmon aquaculture sites in the Bay of Fundy

17-M-01

Description

This project sought to better understand the distribution and dynamics of sea lice larvae on Atlantic salmon farms in the Bay of Fundy. This information could help identify specific times for treatment or farm management techniques to target sea lice larvae and reduce the overall frequency and/or severity of sea lice infestations on salmon farms. As sea lice are currently one of the major issues affecting salmon farming in the Bay of Fundy, very little is known on the early life history of this species, making this study crucial to successfully managing this industry. The project was designed to combine both lab and field components to understand the mechanisms behind the infection dynamics of larvae attaching to their host fish.

There are signs on the east coast of Canada that resistance of sea lice to the current suite of therapeutic treatments is developing, resulting in more intense infection pressures on farmed salmon. A better understanding of the early life history of sea lice may allow for the development of more effective alternative approaches to parasite control.

Years

2017 – 2020

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