



WARNING ALL ANGLERS: UDN IDENTIFIED ON THE SPEY

What is UDN?

- Ulcerative dermal necrosis (UDN) is a serious fish disease which has been confirmed in the river Spey catchment.
- The disease is characteristically found in adult wild fish as they congregate at sea prior to entering fresh water and during their upstream river migration and is noticeable on the head region of the fish.
- On entry to fresh water lesions rapidly ulcerate and may become infected with a number of opportunist pathogens.
- Once this occurs the lesion is extended by fungal activity, death being due either to secondary bacterial infection of the ulcer or, more often, circulatory failure resulting induced by the large area of ulceration.

What does it do?

- Salmon and grilse (*Salmo salar*) and sea trout (*Salmo trutta*) are susceptible and there is evidence that some brown trout may also show clinical signs.
- The afflicted fish develop severe skin lesions over large parts of their bodies that penetrate into the muscle. The onset of symptoms only occurs after migration into fresh water. Lesions quickly become infected with *Saprolegnia* fungus, and this gives infected fish the appearance of being covered in slimy, white pustules & fungus.
- The fungus can penetrate visceral organs, such as the kidney and liver, after it has penetrated through the musculature.
- Frequently, the most severely affected fish die before spawning.



What is its history?

- It was first reported in the 19th century. It probably occurred prior to 1868 but the main epizootic was first defined in 1877, when it was referred to as Salmon Disease.
- The disease largely disappeared until the mid-1960s, when it first occurred in southwest Ireland and then gradually spread to almost all rivers of the British Isles and subsequently to neighbouring areas. It had disappeared again by the mid-1970s.
- The condition is primarily found in the colder months of the year and usually persists at high levels for 3 or 4 years in a river system after which it gradually disappears.

(Notes taken from: Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis (UDN) in Wild Salmonids by R J Roberts; Biological Sciences; Ichthyology Papers Volume: 17, Issue: 1-2, Pages: 3-14 Fisheries Research (1993))



How do you identify an infected fish?

Look for the appearance of small bleached areas on the head, back and tail, which are covered in a slimy bluish-grey growth.

Is it infectious?

Although there is little evidence to suggest that this is an infectious disease Marine Scotland however has issued the Trust this biosecurity advice:

"Although it is not yet proven whether UDN is an infectious disease or not, we would recommend a precautionary approach and to treat it as if it is infectious. Therefore, we would recommend that anglers and other water users disinfect equipment before and after use on the river (especially if they have been on other rivers). A broad spectrum disinfectant such as iodophor, hypochlorite or Virkon would be recommended as without knowledge of the agent (if there is one) there is no data on efficacy of disinfectants. With infectious diseases we would also recommend the removal of dead and dying fish which should be safely disposed of in accordance with The Animal by-products (Enforcement) (Scotland) Regulations 2011."

(Sonia Duguid Senior Fish Health Inspector Marine Scotland – Science. 31/05/2012).

What are the Trust's precautionary biosecurity measures?

- ✓ The Trust has decided to offer a free disinfection service to all concerned anglers.
- ✓ Anglers that have visited the Spey or any other river should disinfect all angling equipment upon arrival and departure of river Deveron fishing.
- ✓ There are 3 main disinfection facilities located at throughout the district: Turriff Tackle & Trophies, The Trust Offices; Avochie House, Rothiemay or Greenmount Guest House, Huntly.
- ✓ Some beats will however be issued with a bottle of Virkon S disinfectant. Anglers must spray onto angling equipment and allow to dry for 10minutes before entering the water.
- ✓ If you catch a fish that has signs of the disease this fish must be reported to the Trust so that it can be reported and disposed of appropriately.
- ✓ After handling all fish hands must be thoroughly washed to prevent spread.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT A SIGHTING PLEASE CONTACT:

DBIRCT

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