

7th International Conference: Sea Lice 2008

31st March and 1st April, 2008. Puerto Montt, Chile

(To follow on after AQUA SUR exhibition, 26th – 29th March)

Call for papers

In 2008 it is proposed that a 7th international conference be held in the series covering all areas of sea lice research. This conference will follow the major aquaculture fair held annually in the southern hemisphere (AQUA SUR). Given the southern location of the conference it is hoped that there will be a good number of papers dealing with a variety of *Caligus* species, though submissions on *L. salmonis*, (or indeed other Caligidae) are welcome.

Aim and scope

Sea lice continue to be a topic of interest to scientific researchers in all the leading salmon producing countries. The status of *L. salmonis* as a major health threat to farmed salmon in many northern hemisphere locations may have receded over the past decade with the availability of more effective treatment options. However there are many unresolved questions, poorly understood interaction mechanisms and new problems such as the development of resistance to therapeutants. In addition on-going controversy surrounds the impact of farmed salmon on wild stocks, and a number of research programmes looking at the farmed-wild interaction are underway in Norway, Scotland and Canada.

There is also a growing awareness of the importance of understanding the biology of species other than *L. salmonis*. This is perhaps most pressing for the case of *C. rogercresseyi*, given the problems being experienced within the Chilean aquaculture industry. However, *C. clemensi* and *C. elongatus* continue to be of interest in western Canada and in Scotland and Ireland respectively. It is also likely that a better understanding of these non host-specific parasites will become important as part of the emerging research on ectoparasitic infection of novel finfish species in commercial aquaculture (for example, *C. elongatus* has already been reported to be a problem in European cod farms).

The goal of this international conference is to bring together leading researchers from across the globe with interests in a range of sea lice species to advance our understanding of the key biological, environmental and management factors associated with sea lice behaviour in both wild and farmed settings. As was the case with a number of the previous international sea lice conferences in this series presenters will be invited to submit full papers which will be published in a special edition of a leading journal in the area.

Topics

The topics covered by the conference will include (but are not limited to) the following:

Epidemiology

- what data are needed?;
- sampling strategies for monitoring and control;
- novel approaches to lice monitoring;
- lice dynamics in farmed settings;
- lice infections on wild populations;
- sea lice on escaped farmed fish;
- applications of genetic techniques to this area.

Treatment and Control

- techniques for determining efficacy of sea lice treatments through time;
- evidence of tolerance to treatment within lice populations (*in vitro* and *in vivo*);
- advances in chemical control options;
- biological control methods.

Modelling: at fish, farm, local, regional levels

- hydrographic models of the dispersal of larval sea lice stages;
- risk factor analysis for sea lice infestation on wild or farmed stocks;
- modelling of sea lice on wild salmonids in coastal waters;
- models for lice interaction between wild and farmed populations.

Host-Parasite interactions

- host responses to sea lice infestations;
- differences across host species and amongst lice species.

General topics

- sea lice biology (especially related to *Caligus* species);
- sea lice morphology, physiology, and taxonomy;
- sea lice ecology, evolution and behaviour;
- challenge of sea lice and similar ectoparasites in emerging farmed finfish species;
- public management of ectoparasites in the context of aquaculture.

Submission of abstracts and papers

Basic and applied research, as well as policy and position papers are solicited. Material should not have been previously published elsewhere. However, the novelty of a paper may lie in providing new data, perspectives, or critical reviews of current knowledge. A single page abstract is required for review and those accepted (either as conference talks or posters) will be included in the Conference programme and materials. Those authors wishing to do so will have the opportunity to submit full versions of their paper for inclusion in a special issue of a leading journal in the field (likely to be the *Journal of Fish Diseases*).

Electronic submission of abstracts and papers will be required. Detailed format and submission guidelines will be made available on the Conference web site. Abstracts and papers will be accepted in English, though abstracts will be made available in both English and Spanish.

Important dates

Abstract submission: 1st November, 2007
Notification of acceptance: 10th December, 2007
Final version of abstract: 1st February, 2008
Conference: 31st March – 1st April, 2008
(Full papers to be submitted during Conference)

Registration

Details of registration dates and costs will be posted on the conference web site over the coming weeks.

epi.cis.strath.ac.uk/SeaLice2008

The organisers are aware of the higher flight costs of attending a conference held in Chile, especially for less established researchers or graduate students. They are therefore seeking travel bursaries from a number of commercial sponsors – these will be made available on a competitive basis, judged by quality of submitted abstracts from eligible candidates.

Organising Committee

Sandra Bravo Universidad Austral de Chile, Puerto Montt, Chile (*Chair*)
Fiona Lees, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland
Sandra Marin, Universidad Austral de Chile, Puerto Montt, Chile
Gustavo Monti, Universidad Austral de Chile, Puerto Montt, Chile
Crawford Revie, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland

Programme/Scientific Committee

Crawford Revie, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland (*Chair*)
Lars Asplin, Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway
Sandra Bravo, Universidad Austral de Chile, Puerto Montt, Chile
James Bron, Institute of Aquaculture, University of Stirling, Scotland
Mark Costello, Leigh Marine Laboratory, University of Auckland, New Zealand
Richard Endris, Schering-Plough Animal Health, USA
Fu Ci Guo, Novartis Animal Health, Victoria, PE Canada
Larry Hammell, Atlantic Veterinary College, Charlottetown, PE, Canada
Peter Andreas Heuch, National Veterinary Institute, Oslo, Norway
Tor E Horsberg, Norwegian School of Veterinary Science, Oslo, Norway
Simon Jones, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Nanaimo, BC, Canada
Marty Krkošek, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada
Fiona Lees, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland
Gordon Ritchie, Marine Harvest ASA, Oslo, Norway
Hamish Rodger, Vet-Aqua International, Galway, Ireland
Sonja Saksida, Centre for Aquatic Health Sciences, Campbell River, BC, Canada
Jim Treasurer, Viking Fish Farms, Ardtoe Marine Research Station, Scotland
Simon Wadsworth, EWOS, Trondheim, Norway
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(particularly if you find it more natural to communicate in Spanish)

The *Sea Lice 2008* web site can be found at:

epi.cis.strath.ac.uk/SeaLice2008