

ATLANTIC SALMON - *MORITELLA VISCOSA*

Introduction

Moritella viscosa is a gram-negative bacterium that is the causative agent of winter ulcer disease. Winter ulcers often appear during periods of cold water and high salinity and the disease is characterized by the formation of dermal and subdermal ulcers. When the temperature increases, or salinity decreases, fish may recover from an outbreak of winter ulcers.

Challenge by immersion

VESO Vikan has long experience in conducting challenge trials with *Moritella viscosa*, and we recommend models based on bath challenge of smolts in sea water which mimic a natural disease situation. Pre-smolts are photoperiod-manipulated to smoltify, transferred to sea water and acclimatized at 8-10°C before challenge. Development of ulcers and mortality is observed throughout a 15-30-day period.

Confirmatory diagnosis of *Moritella viscosa* is based on colony morphology and viscosity following growth on blood agar plates from smears from the pronephros of dead fish. Principal outcome parameters are prevalence and severity of ulceration and mortality.

Available models

Salmon			Water			Challenge model		
Fry	Parr	Smolt	FW	SW	°C	Ip	Bath	Cohab
	X	X	X	X	8-12	X	X	