

## **Facts about Bacterial Kidney Disease (BKD)**

BKD is an infectious disease in salmonid fish caused by the intra cellular bacterium *Renibacterium salmoninarum*.

- The disease has a systemic and slowly progressive development.
- The disease was found in both wild and farmed Atlantic salmon in the nineteen eighties in Norway. During the last 10 years the occurrence has been at a low level, from 0 to 3 diagnoses per year.
- Mortality from the disease can be high in juveniles and smolt, but is often low in older fish.
- The disease can be transmitted horizontally and vertically through eggs. Because vertical transmittance can occur, the supervision of the brood fish for carrier status is a very high priority for egg producers. It is most likely that the bacteria exist in both wild and farmed salmonid fish, and healthy carriers are an important infectious reservoir.
- There is no effective vaccine or treatment available for this disease.
- BKD is a list III disease, meaning that official restrictions are enforced.
- BKD occurs in different salmonid producing countries, for example on the west coast of North-America, the Faroe Islands and locations throughout Europe. The most important measure that can be taken to control the disease is by destruction of carrier brood fish.