

Research project IZSve 07/14

Multidisciplinary approach to the study of wild fish population in the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region, (northern Italy): health status, possible pathogen exchange between wild and farmed fish and genetic characteristics

Project coordinator: Amedeo Manfrin

To our knowledge pathogens distribution in freshwater environment, is an issue which needs to be further investigated considering the limited studies available on the prevalence, in freshwater fish population, of the most common viruses and bacteria circulating in farmed fish.

In Italy the surveys carried out to characterize and map the geographical distribution of infectious agents (virus and bacteria) in wild freshwater finfish species are lacking.

More than 40 native species of fish in the Friuli Venezia Giulia freshwater have been identified mainly on the basis of phenotypic and morphologic characteristics.

Aims of this project are:

1. to evaluate the health status of wild fish in the rivers of the Friuli Venezia Giulia Region (FVG) in relation to viral and bacterial diseases of major impact in fish farming;
2. to describe the risk factors which favor the exchange of pathogen between farmed and wild fish through the combination of epidemiological and spatial data;
3. to obtain a highly specific identification of the wild fish species by means of a genetic identification that would permit to update and implement the regional fish chart.