

# Bagging vs Pumping Any effect on fin damage?

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### What is fin damage?

Fin	Undamaged	Damaged, with fin splitting
Caudal fin		
Left Pectoral fin		

Can affect all fins



## How does it affect the fish as a product?



#### Operational perspective:

 Can increase susceptibility to pathogens



- Welfare problem: damage to live tissue
- Implications for perceived product quality e.g. QIM and its use in Norwegian Industry Standard for fish



### **Potential risk factors?**

Risk factor	Study
<ul><li>Knotted nets</li><li>Turbine pumps</li><li>Handling</li></ul>	(Butcher et al., 2010) (Grizzle et al., 1992) (Rutecki and Meyers, 1992, Person- Le Ruyet et al., 2007)
<ul><li>Stocking density</li><li>Feeding regime</li><li>Underfeeding</li></ul>	(North et al., 2006) (Noble et al., 2008) (Hatlen et al., 2006)

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### Bagging vs pumping: which fins did we look at?





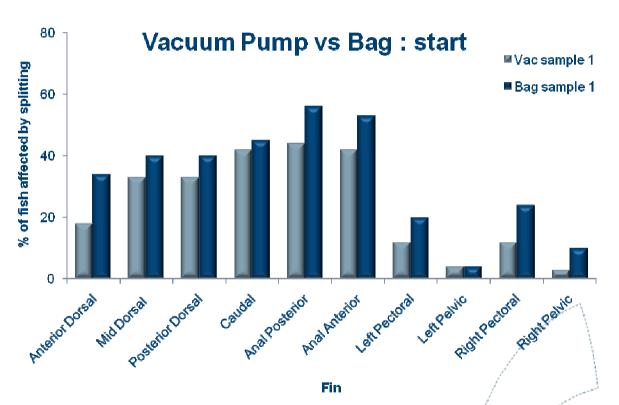
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### Does the transfer method have an effect upon:

- 1. The number of fish affected by fin splitting?
- 2. How many fins on each fish?

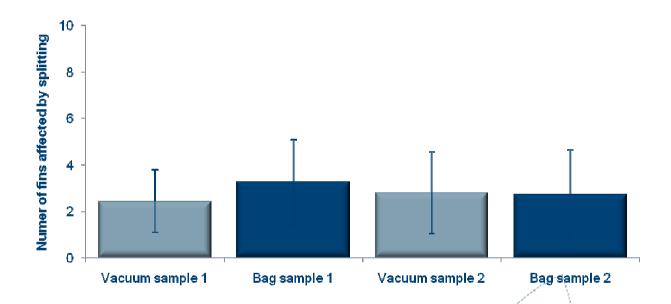


#### 1. The number of fish affected by fin splitting?



Bagged fish have slightly more fin damage than pumped fish, especially their front fins (anterior dorsal and pectoral)

#### 2. How many fins on each fish?



Appears that more fins are damaged (per fish) during bag transfer than vacuum pumping at the start but not 6 weeks later



### In summary:

- The number of fish affected by fin splitting?
   Bagging appears to damage a slightly higher number of fish than pumping at the start, but not 6 weeks later
- How many fins per fish?
   Bagging also damages a greater number of fins per fish at the start, but this also disappears 6 weeks later

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### In summary:

Bagging appears to be a mildly acute risk factor to post-sorted fish immediately after transfer

But fish recover from this minor damage and there are no differences between bagged and pumped fish after 6 weeks

