

Longitudinal study of AGD on three Atlantic salmon farms in Norway

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Background and aims

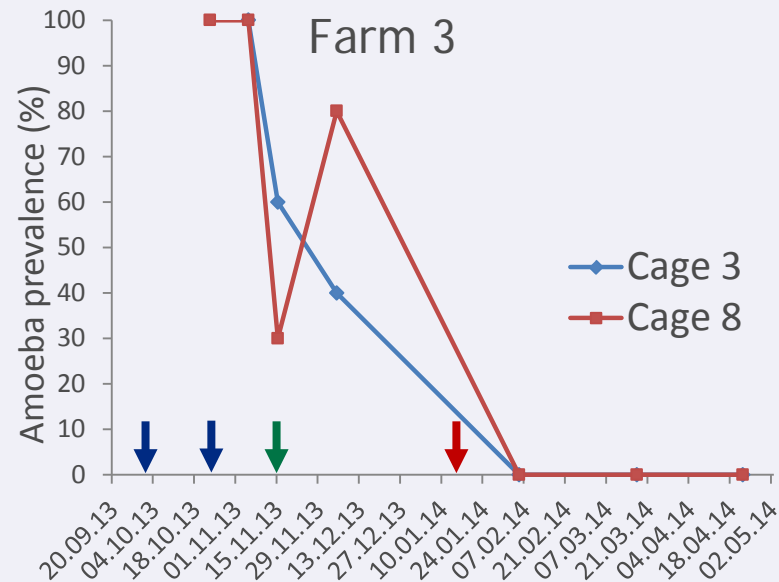
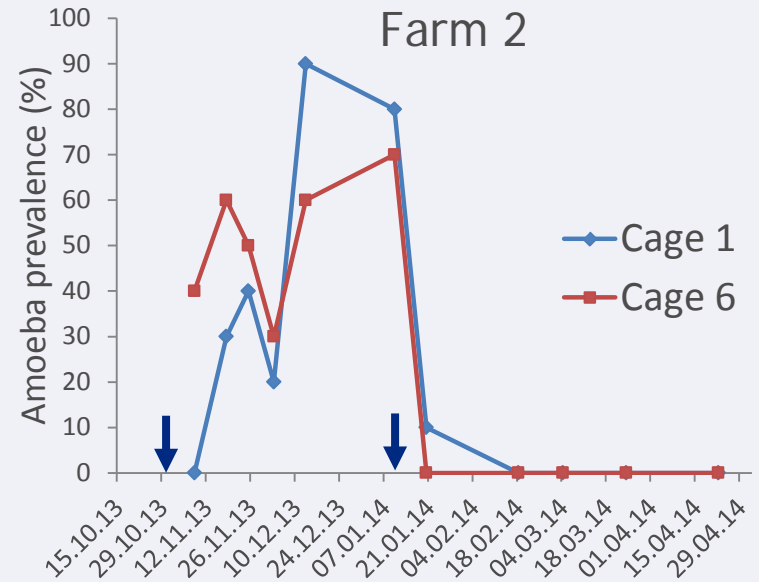
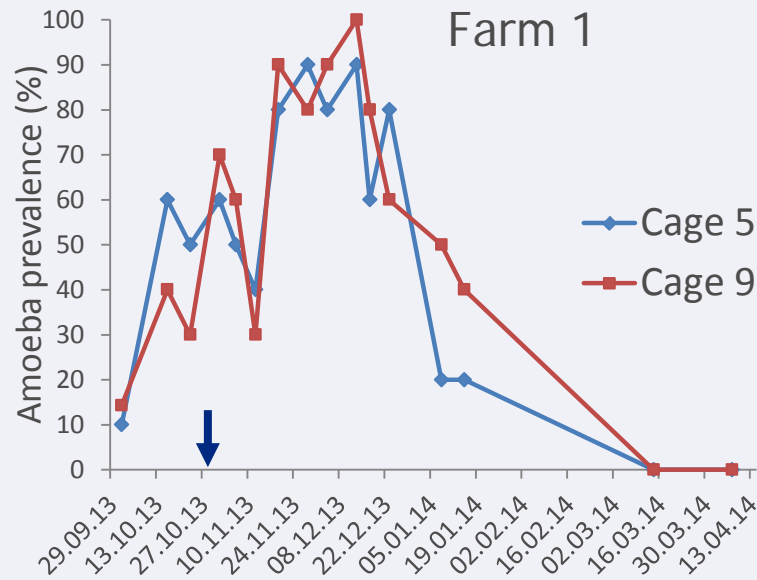
- Amoebic gill disease is an emerging disease in Norwegian aquaculture
- In 2012, a few AGD outbreaks were reported south west in Norway
- Norwegian farm owners were concerned about the northwards expansion of AGD, and feared numerous outbreaks in Norwegian fish farms in 2013
- Knowledge about AGD development under Norwegian environmental conditions was asked for
- Aims
 - Study *Paramoeba perurans* infections in Atlantic salmon farms in Norway
 - Study development of AGD under Norwegian environmental conditions

The study

- Project period from late September 2013 - late April 2014
- Three farms located in south-west of Norway
- Sampling every second week, 10 fish from two cages at all three farms
 - Gill score, fish length and weight
 - Gill samples for real-time PCR and histology
 - Internal organ samples for histology
 - Fish mortality
- Water temperature and salinity were recorded



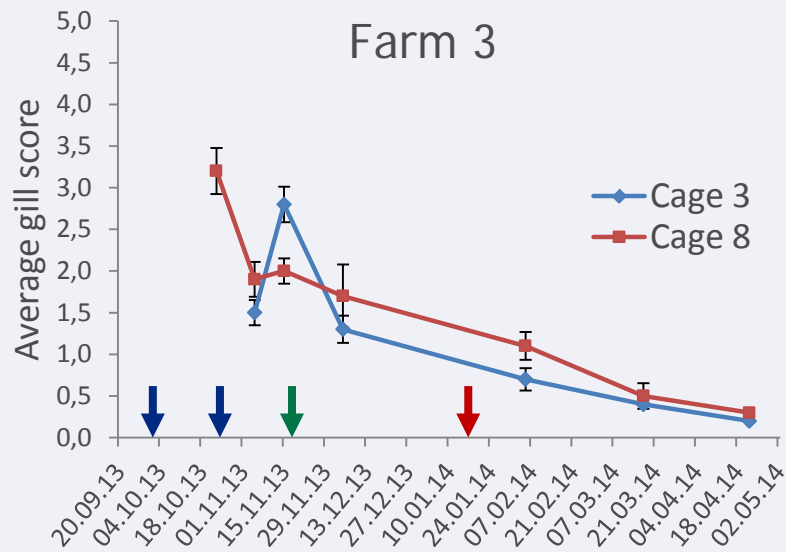
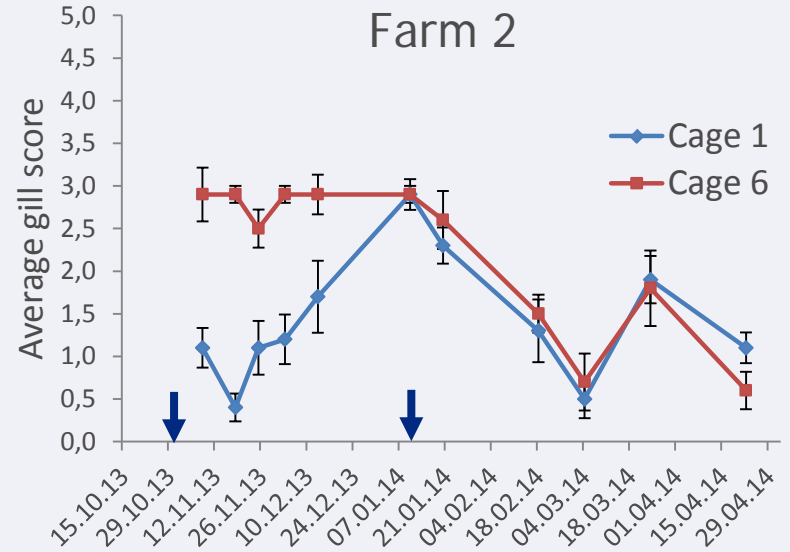
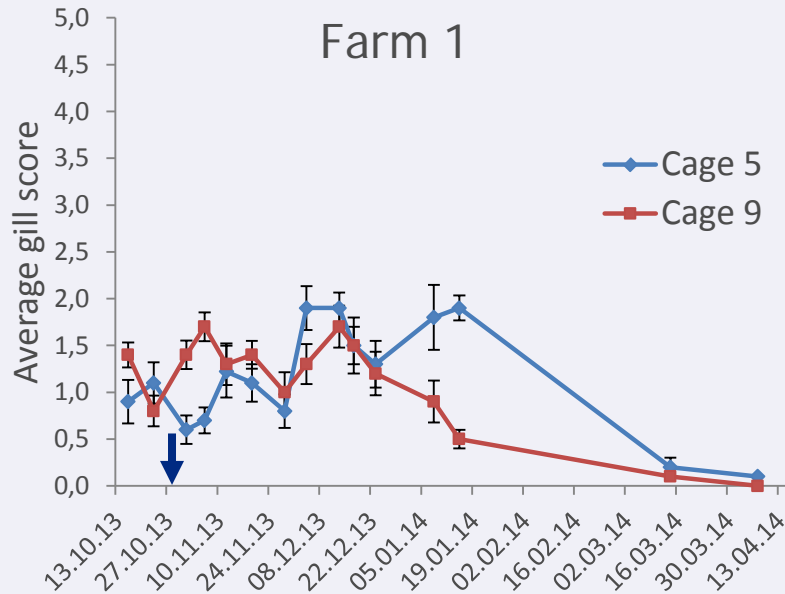
Results - Amoeba prevalence (Real-time PCR, Fringuelli *et al.*, 2012)



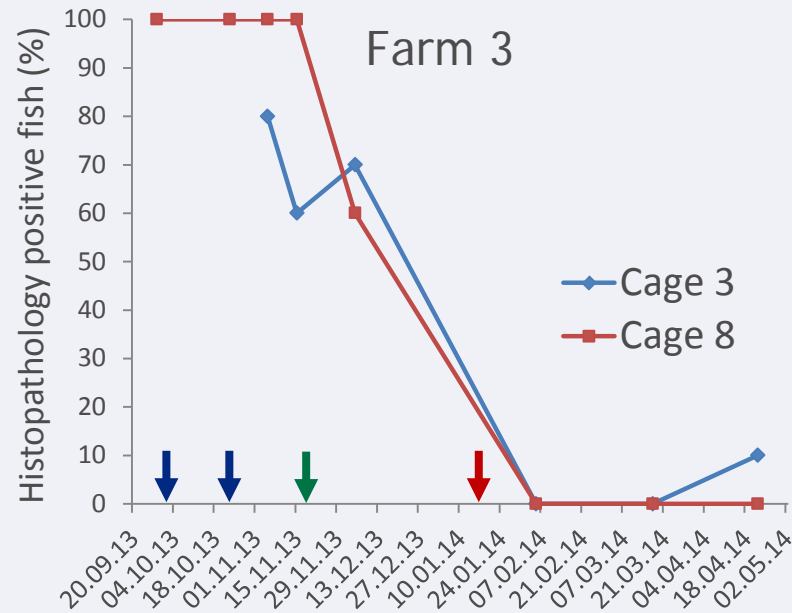
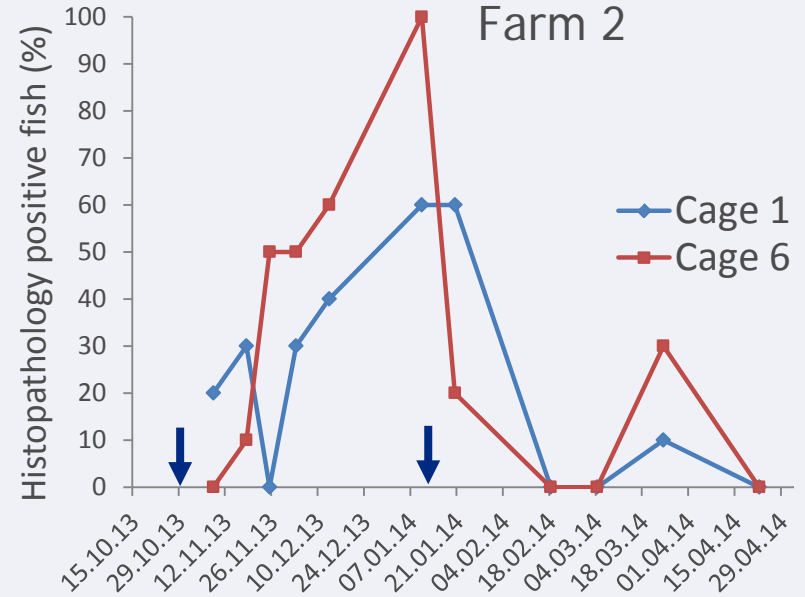
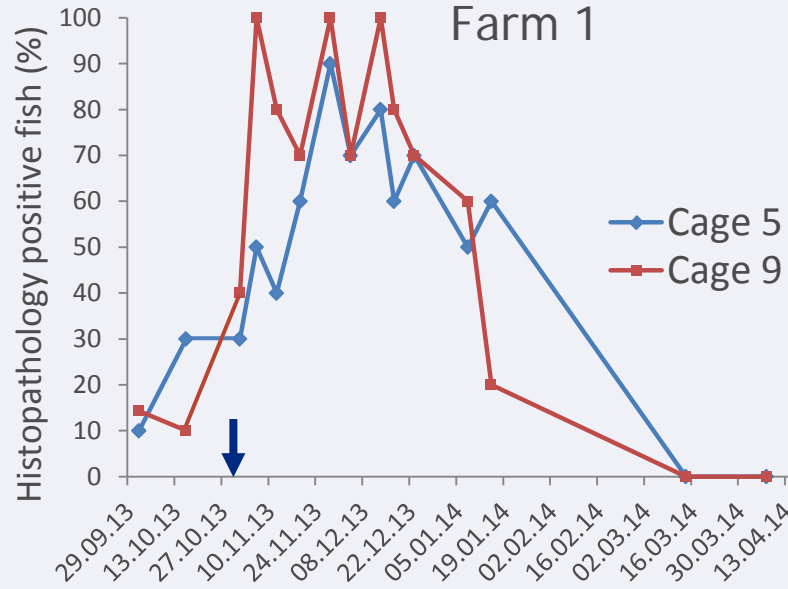
- Blue arrow indicates H₂O₂-treatment against P.p.
- Green arrow indicates fresh water treatment against P.p.
- Red arrow indicates H₂O₂-treatment against sea lice



Results - gill score

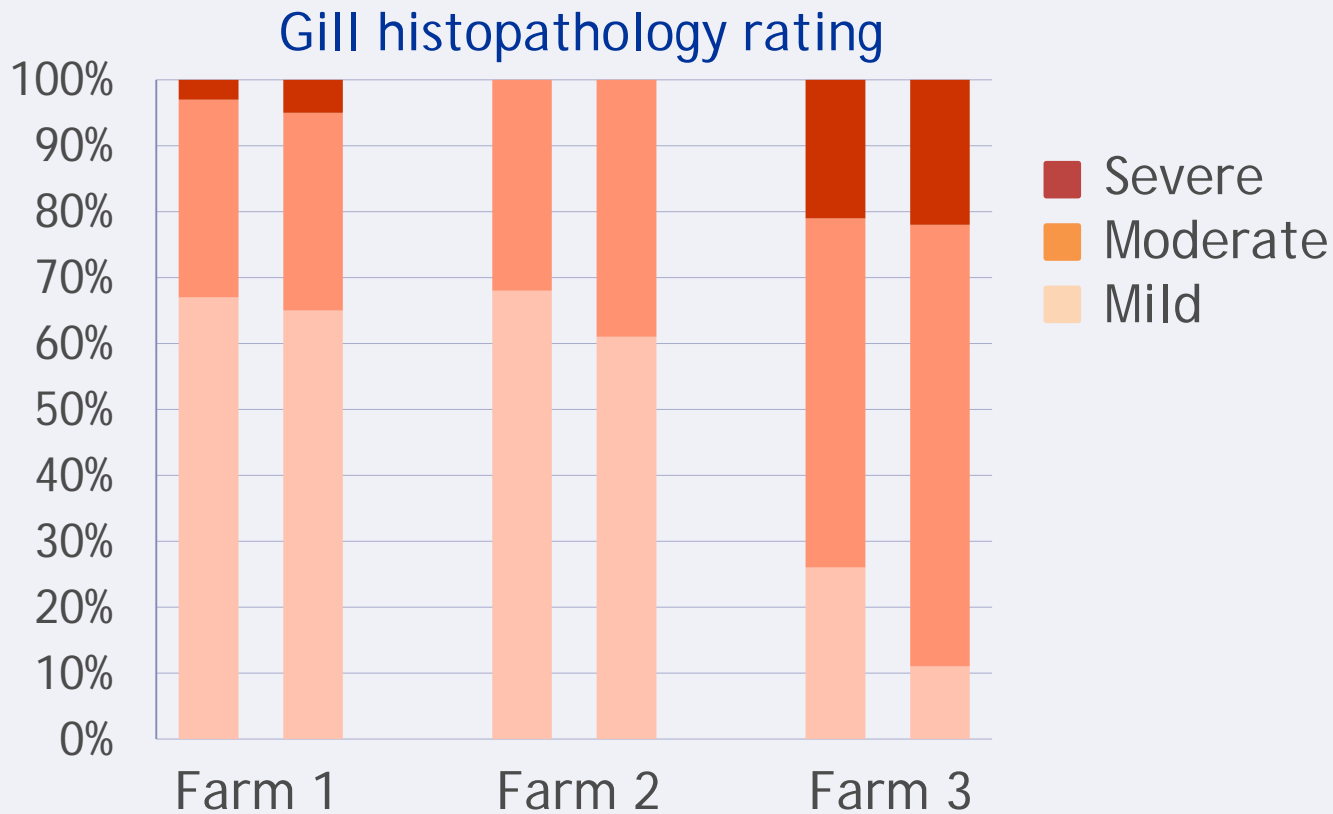


Results - gill histopathology



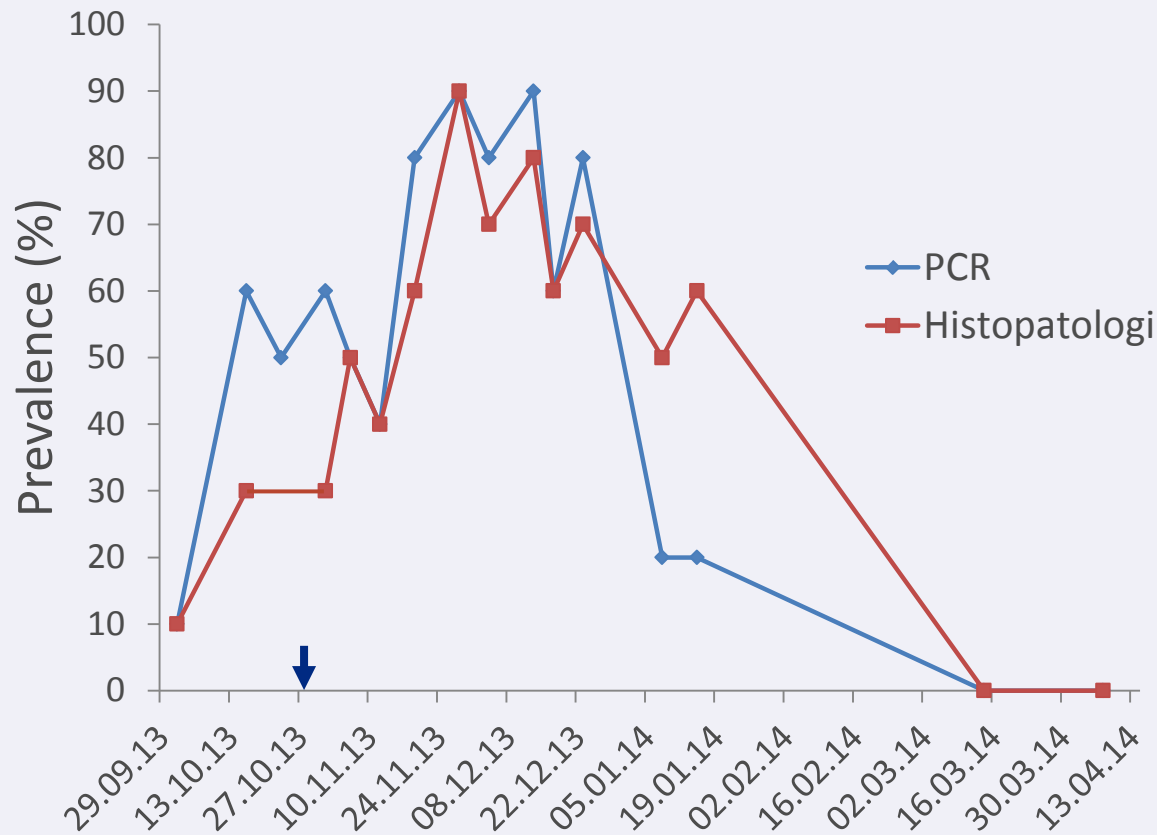
Results - gill histopathology

- How severe was the gill pathology?



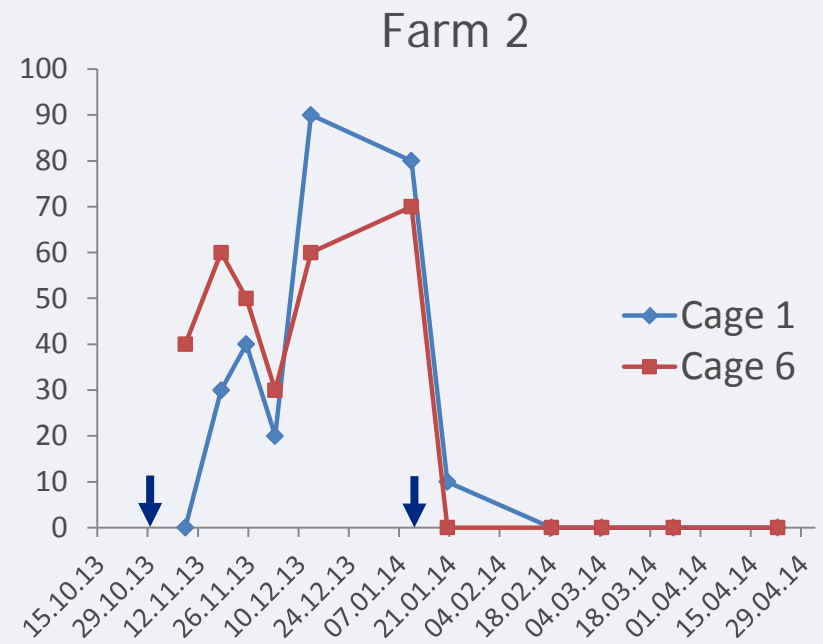
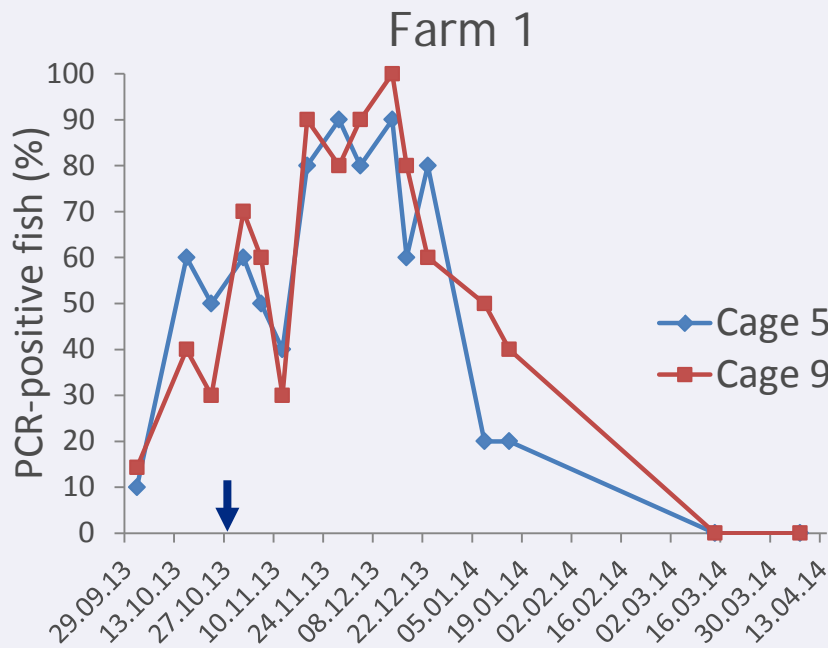
Amoeba prevalence vs gill histopathology

- The amoeba prevalence and AGD-histopathology developed almost synchronously
- A delay between PCR-positive and histopathology positive fish



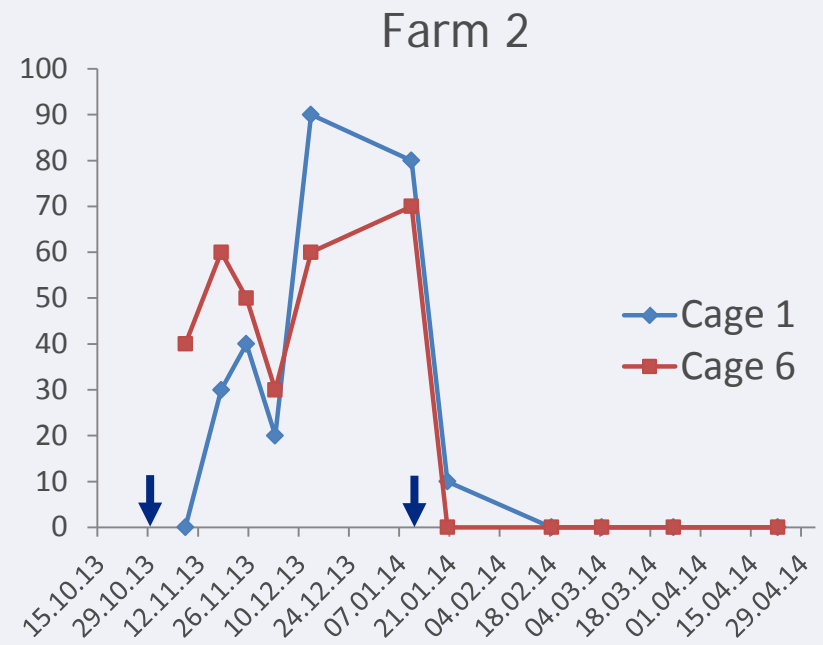
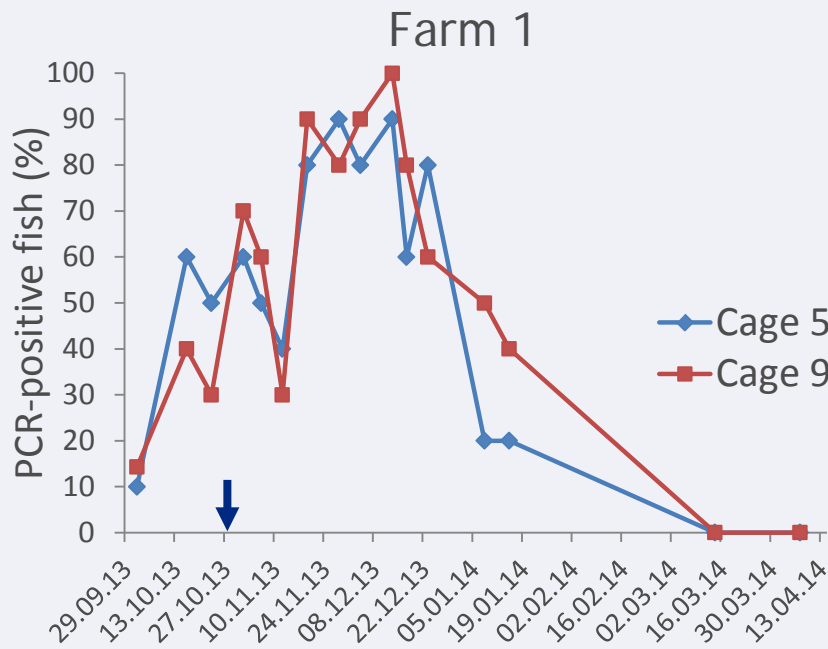
Between cage variations in amoeba prevalence

- Amoeba prevalence developed almost synchronously in the two cages at all three farms



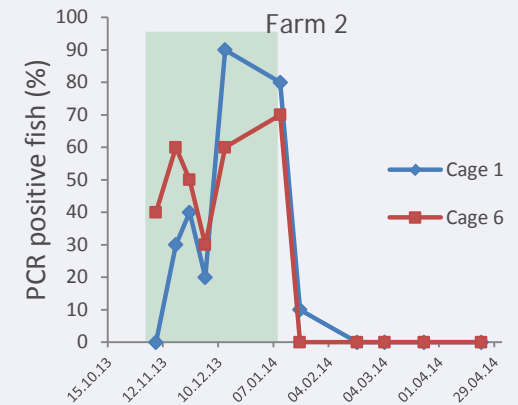
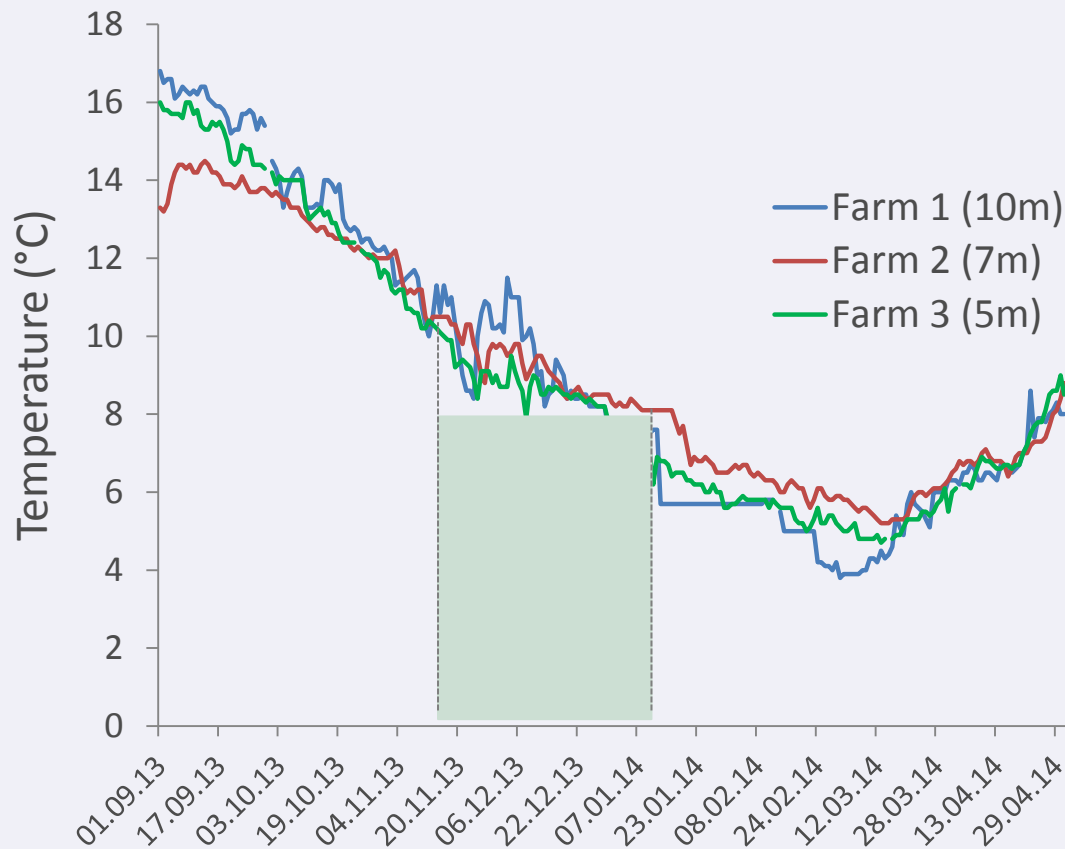
Treatment effects

- Different effect from H₂O₂-treatments in farms, Why?
 - Different implementation of treatments?
 - Different fish size and breeding lines?
 - Different sea temperatures at time of treatment?



Temperature and salinity

- Same temperature development in all three farms
- Lowest temperature was recorded in mid March
- Average salinity was 28 ‰ in Farm 1 and 30,1 ‰ in Farm 3



Conclusions

- AGD outbreaks lasted from September to January in all three farms
- The amoebae and AGD gradually disappeared in late winter
- Two farms had a predominance of fish with mild AGD pathology, while the pathology was more severe in one farm
- Amoeba prevalence and AGD histopathology developed almost synchronously
- *Paramoeba perurans* causes AGD in Norwegian fish farms at lower temperatures (6-8 °C) than observed in other countries

