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Sexual maturation in Atlantic salmon induces a constitutive Mx protein production and influences the infectious pancreatic necrosis virus carrier-status

M.C.S. Fourrier, M.M. Monte, E.S. Munro

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Sexual maturation in Atlantic salmon induces a constitutive Mx protein production and influences the infectious pancreatic necrosis virus carrier- status.

M.C.S. Fourrier[1], M.M. Monte[2] and E.S. Munro[1]*

[1] Marine Scotland Science, Aquaculture and Fish Health Programme, Marine Laboratory, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen AB11 9DB, UK.

[2] School of Biological Sciences, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB24 2TZ, UK.

Corresponding author: Eann Munro,
Marine Scotland Science, Scottish Government, 375 Victoria Road, Aberdeen AB11 9DB, UK
Tel: 01224 425527
E-mail address: eann.munro@gov.scot

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Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPNV) is an Aquabirnavirus which can cause disease outbreaks in Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar* L.) first feeding fry and post-smolts 4 to 12 weeks after sea water transfer; adults can be asymptomatically infected and become carriers [1-3]. Over a three year study as part of an extensive broodstock screening programme, Munro and Ellis [4] reported that in general, the percentage of IPNV positive Atlantic salmon was significantly higher during pre-maturation than at the time of egg/milt stripping. However, the potential factor responsible for this decrease in prevalence and change in IPNV carrier status at the time of maturation remained unknown.