Whirling Disease: Reviews and Current Topics: Proceedings of the Seventh Annual Whirling Disease Symposium Held at Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, 8-9 February 2001, ISSN 0892-2284; 247 pages; American Fisheries Society, 2002; 9781888569377; 2002; American Fisheries Society

Myxobolus cerebralis is the myxozoan parasite responsible for causing whirling disease in salmonid fish. Although the parasite was first described nearly 100 yr ago, it received relatively little attention until the discovery of its 2-host life cycle in the mid 1980s. This was the first, complete, m & E. Subsequent research efforts have dramatically increased the understanding of the biology of M. cerebralis and the numerous factors that affect the severity of whirling disease in salmonid hosts. These efforts also have provided a great deal of new information concerning interactions between M. cerebralis and its aquatic oligochaete host Tubifex tubifex. This review examines the current state of M. cerebralis in relation to 3 categories: the life cycle, the salmonid hosts, and the oligochaete host. Whirling disease is a disease of salmonid fish that has infected some trout and whitefish populations in Alberta. The severity of whirling disease depends largely on the age and size of the salmonid host. Young fish are most vulnerable, with mortality rates reaching up to 90%. Signs of infection. Fish infected with whirling disease may show the following signs: A 'whirling' swimming behavior may be observed as the parasite invades cartilage and impairs the nervous system. Changes in physical appearance, including (but not limited to): skeletal deformities of the body or head. This occurs when the cartilage of the spine or head is infected at a young age. Based on a symposium held in Salt Lake City, Utah, 8&9 February 2001. American Fisheries Society Symposium, Volume 29. Edited by Jerri L Bartholomew and, J Christopher Wilson. Bethesda (Maryland): American Fisheries Society. $69.00 (paper). x + 247 p; ill.; no index. ISBN: 1&888569&37&9. 2002. Whirling disease is a chronic disease caused by Myxobolus cerebralis, a parasitic protozoan that affects mainly juvenile salmonids. Where and When Might it Occur? Susceptibility to the disease is influenced by water temperature, age and species. Young fish are highly susceptible as the parasite attacks their soft cartilage, resulting in nerve damage, skeletal deformities and sometimes death. Signs of the disease often include mass mortalities in fry, convulsive movements, increased rate of breathing and jerking backwards movements. Fish also tend to swim in a whirling motion (tail chasing) and show erratic then nervous darting movements until exhausted. Gross pathological signs are: darkening of the skin from the vent to the tail (blacktail), spinal curvature.