

# eDNA/eRNA-based Pathogen Detection in Water and Air

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Brief introduction

Sample collection and processing

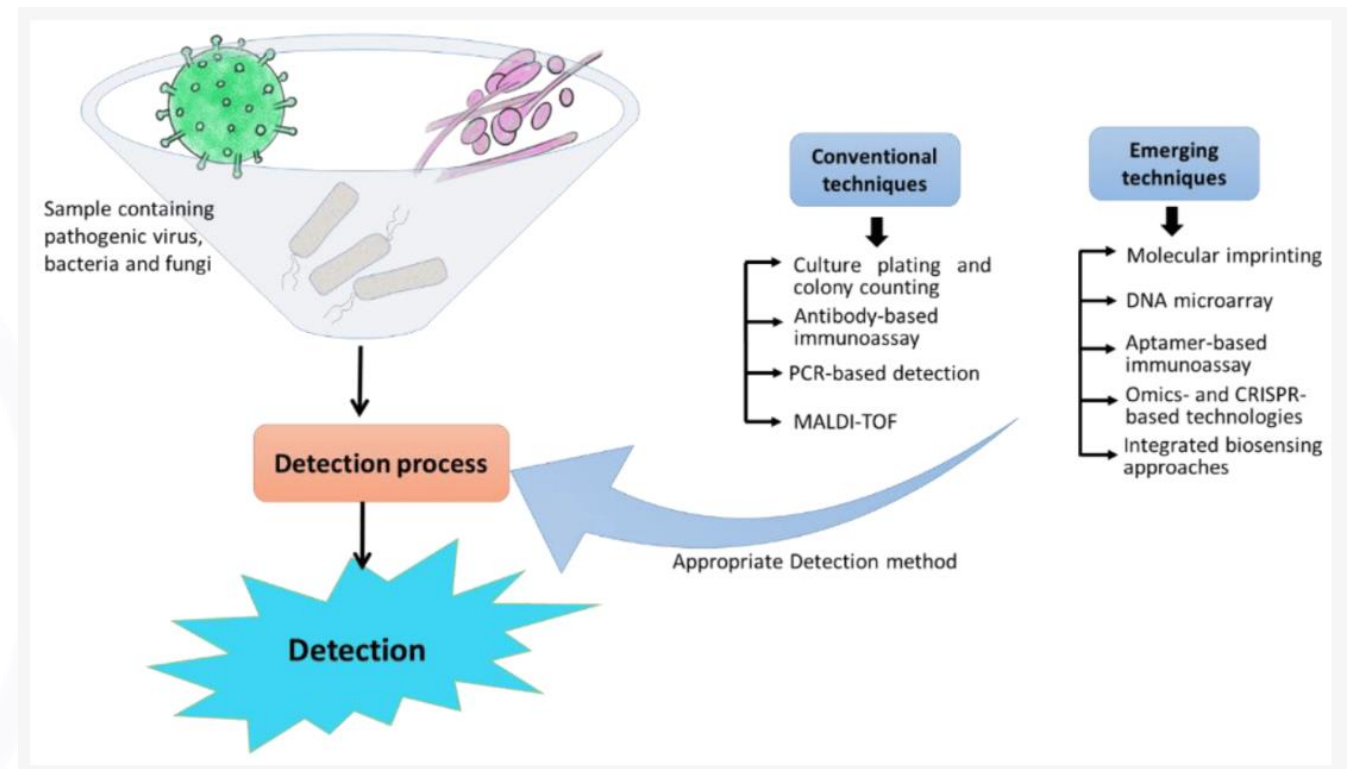
Results

Conclusion



# Pathogen detection methods

- DNA-based (Nucleic acid based)
- Antigen/Antibody detection based
- Culture based



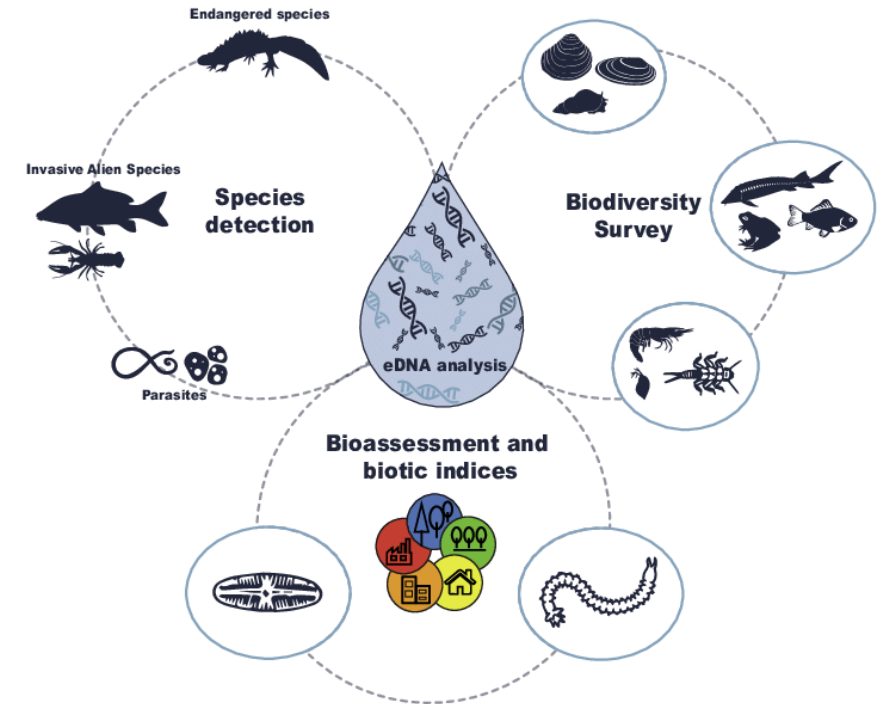
Nehra M, Kumar V, Kumar R, Dilbaghi N, Kumar S. Current Scenario of Pathogen Detection Techniques in Agro-Food Sector. Biosensors. 2022; 12(7):489. <https://doi.org/10.3390/bios12070489>

# eDNA/eRNA: What is it?

“e” is nothing but environmental.

DNA/RNA are the nucleic acids

In simple terms, the use of **environmental DNA/RNA** to detect (or monitor) pathogens/biodiversity



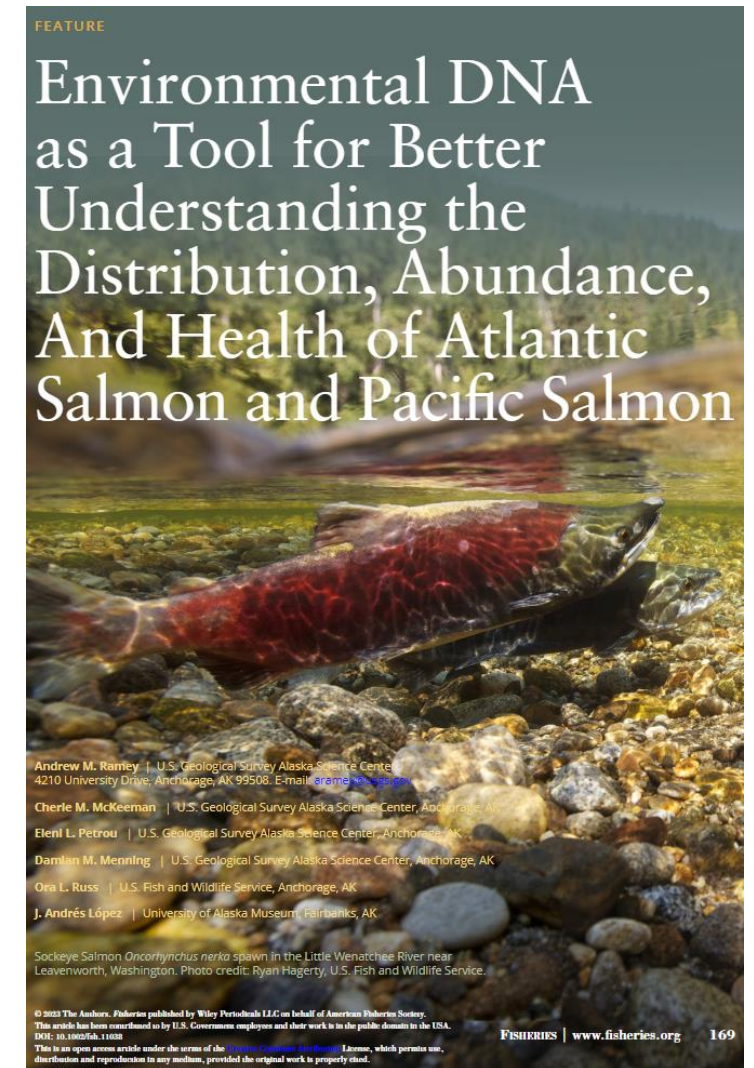
Pawlowski, Jan & Apothéoz-Perret-Gentil, Laure & Mächler, Elvira & Altermatt, Florian. (2020). Environmental DNA applications for biomonitoring and bioassessment in aquatic ecosystems.

# eDNA/eRNA in salmon aquaculture

Salmon eDNA has been used mainly in riverine settings to ascertain species distribution and detect non-native species.

eDNA has also been used to detect pathogens of salmon

Studies have also used eDNA to find an association between salmon farms and wild populations in terms of pathogen transmission



# Sample types

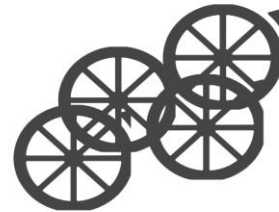
Water



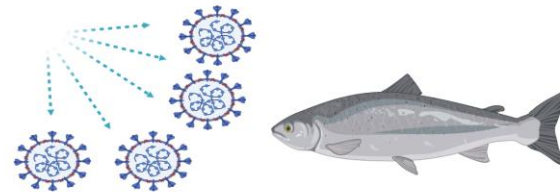
Sludge



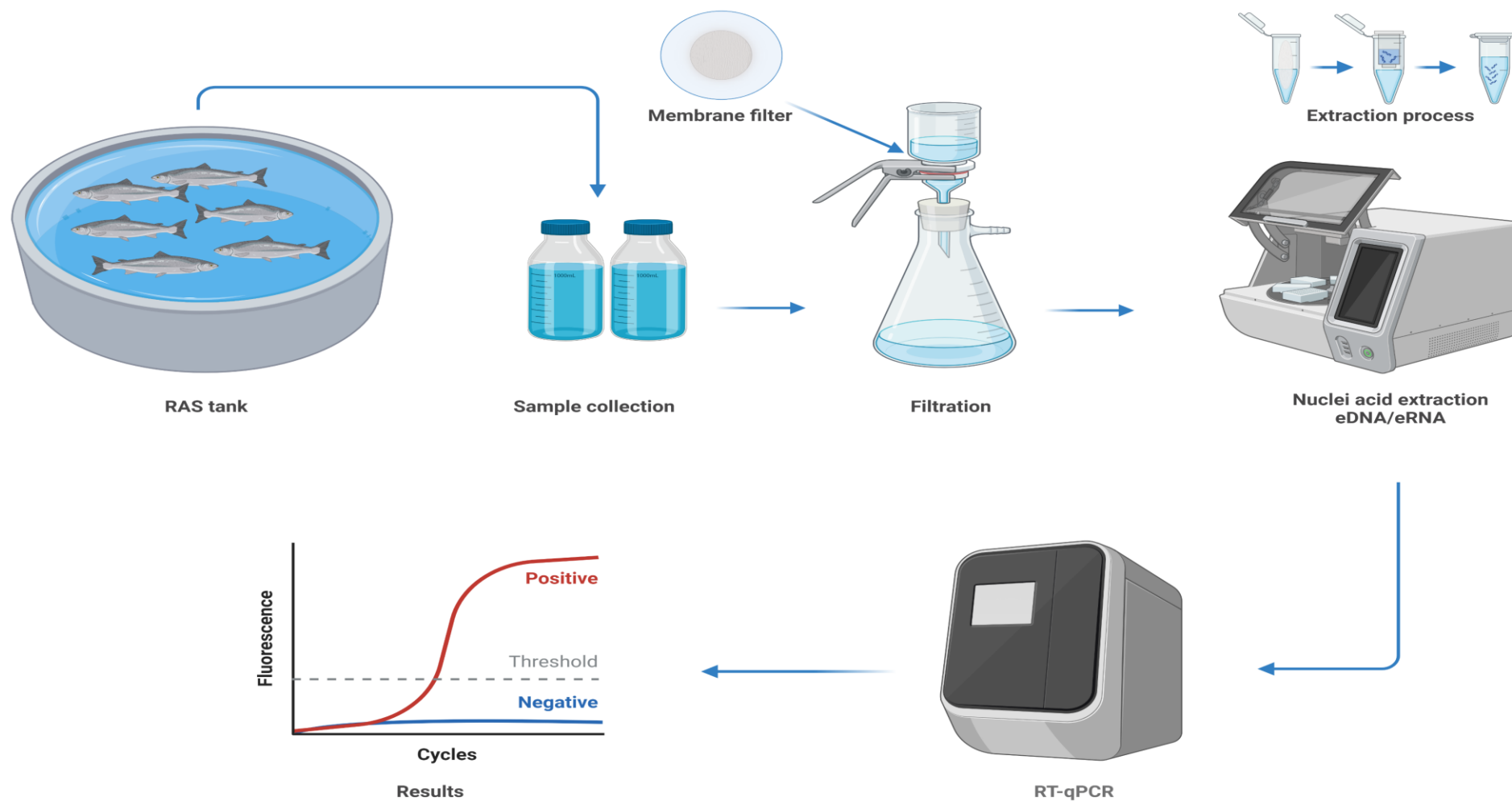
Biofilter carrier



Aerosol?

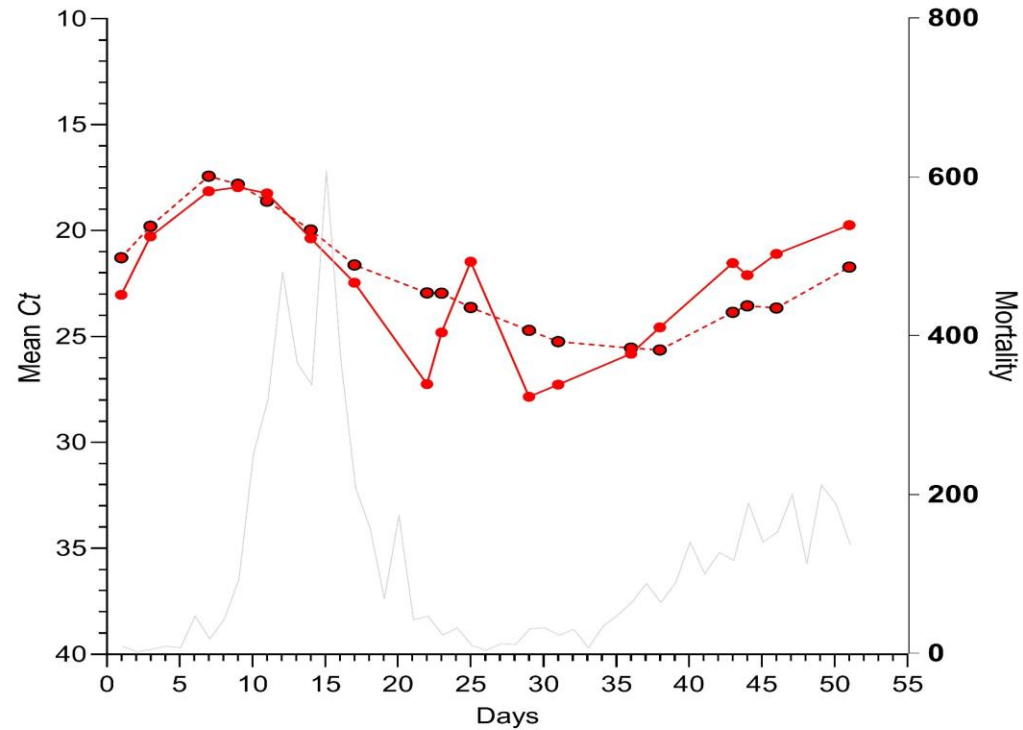


# How is it done?

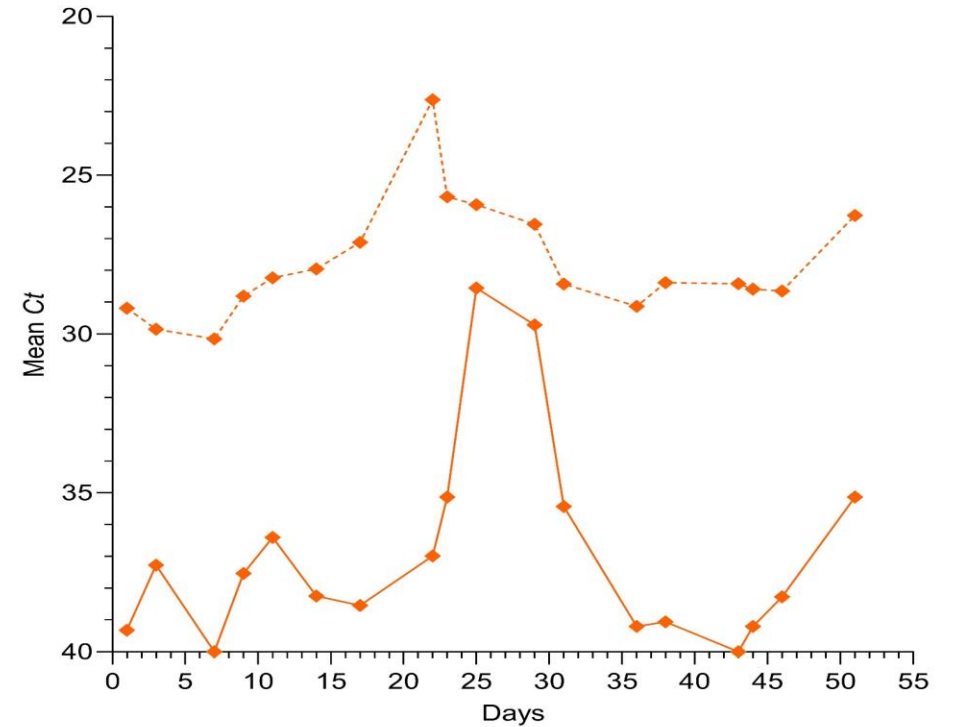




# What do the results indicate?



Salmon Gill Pox Virus



*F. psychrophilum*

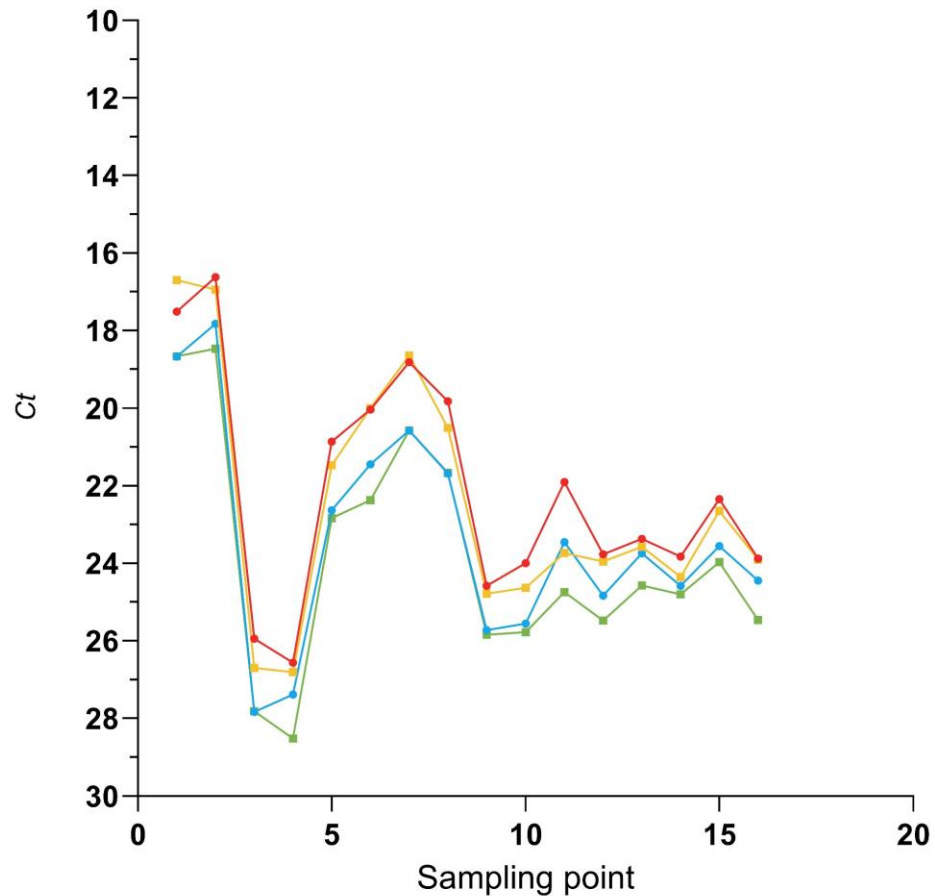
---/--- Water

—/— Fish

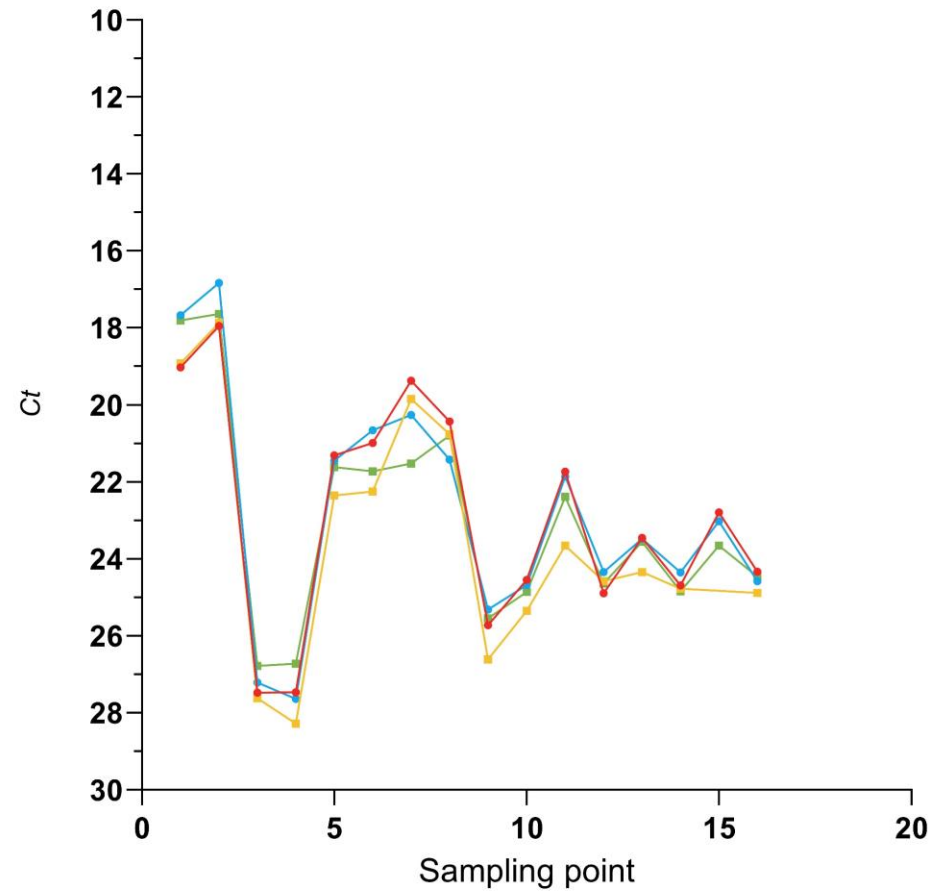
Ct ≥ 40 is considered negative



# eDNA vs eRNA



**SGPV DNA**

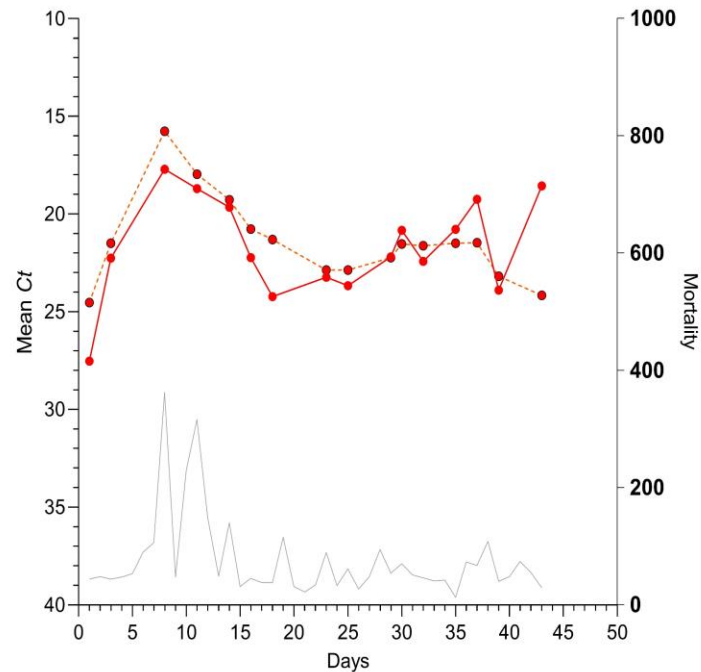


**SGPV RNA**

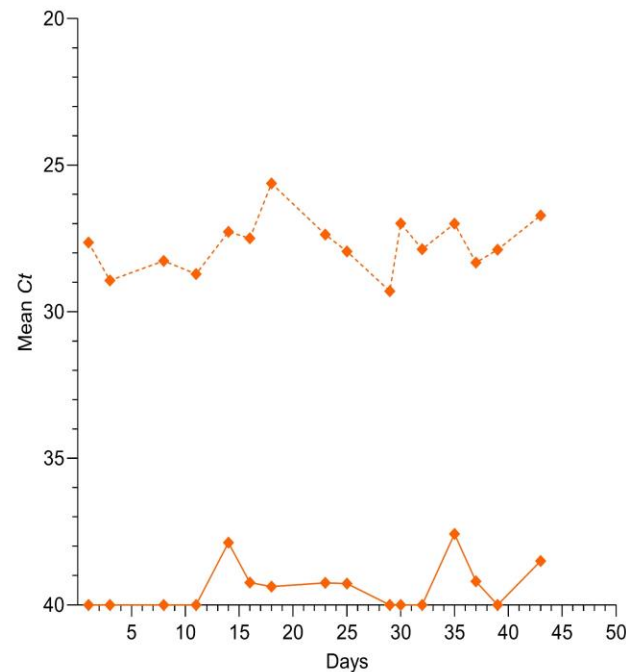
# eDNA/eRNA from the aerosol in Atlantic salmon RAS

## Sample collection

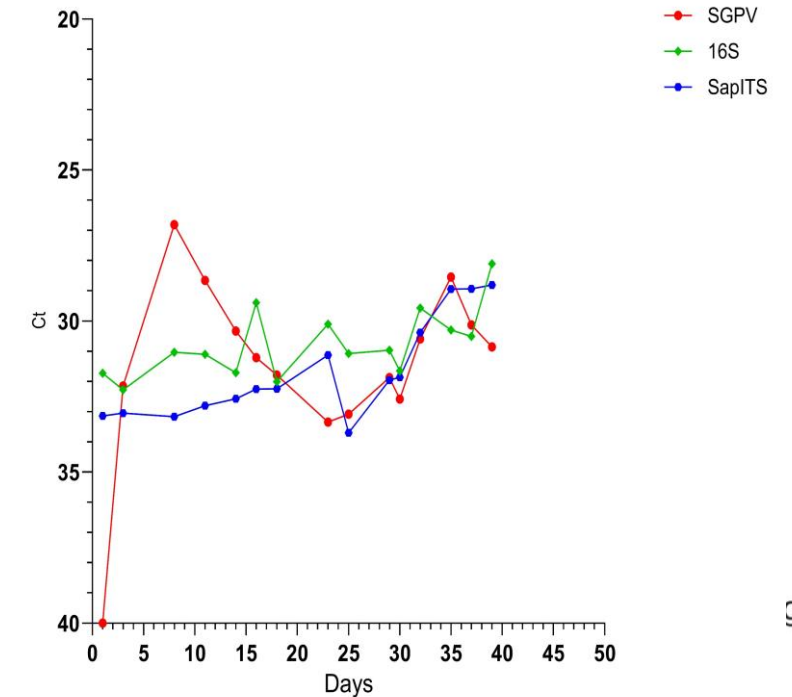
## RT-qPCR



Salmon Gill Pox Virus



*F. psychrophilum*

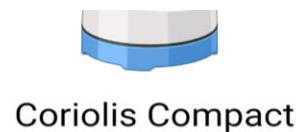


Coriolis Micro

9

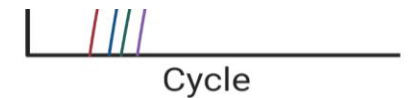
---/--- Water  
—/— Fish

Ct ≥ 40 is considered negative



Coriolis Compact

Extraction procedure  
similar to water/fish  
samples



Cycle

# Is it just eRNA, or do we find **live** pathogens?



Confirmation with RT-qPCR

# Why eDNA/eRNA?

Convenient

Reliable and comparable results to fish samples

Non-invasive

Large quantities of samples can be collected and processed.

Although not used as a confirmation, it indicates the **disease status/early onset**.



# Implementation



## Work package 1: Water quality

Contributors: Fernando Fernando, Sara Sousa e Brito, Sujun Khadka

## Work package 2: Off-flavours

Contributors: Julia Södergren, Pedro Martínez Noguera, Mariana Rodrigues da Silva, Matteo Egiddi

## Work package 3: Fish health and welfare

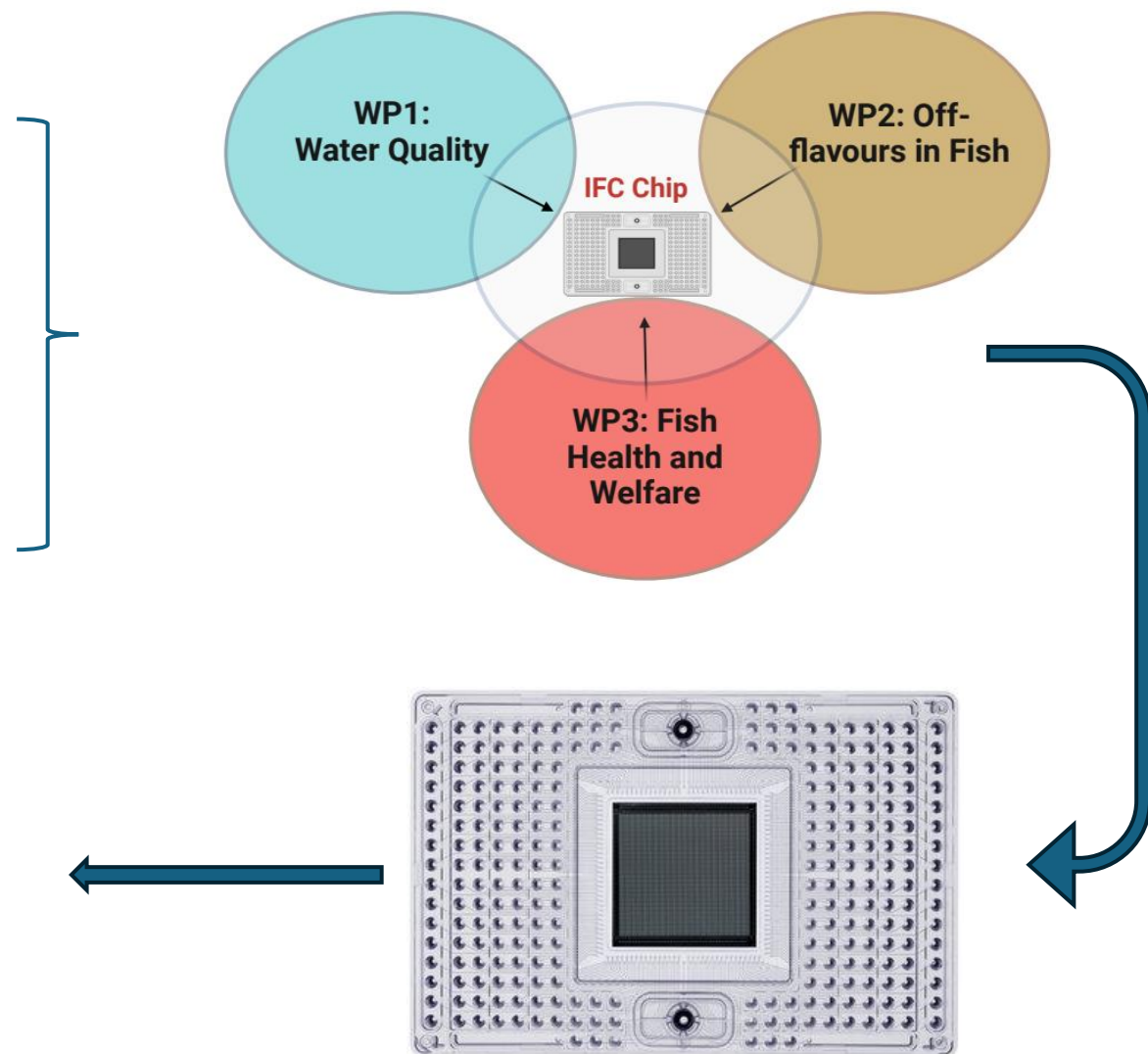
Contributors: Manuel Thibaud Blanc, Dhiraj Krishna, Cyril Henard, Hazim Sajiri, Hanxi Li

48 samples

48 different test/assay

One single output

Fast, efficient and high throughput (as opposed to conventional methods)



# Takk fyri!

Thanks to Debes, Petra and Maria

The PATO team

RASOPTA

EU Horizon 2020

