Diseases of fish in the Tvärminne area

Since 1987 diseases and anomalies in fishes from the western part of the Gulf of Finland were recorded and registered within a large monitoring programme concerning the health situation of the fishes in the Baltic Sea.

With the exception of the macroscopic and s.c. "normal" infestation-parasites, the more severe microscopic infection-parasites have not occurred in a greater scale among the fishes in Tvärminne area. However, different kinds of ulcers might be increasing in the fishes (e.g. in Esox lucius, Perca fluviatilis, Gadus morhua, Clupea spp. and Anguilla anguilla). The lymphosarcoma of Esox lucius seems to be as common here as it is among the pikes in the Archipelago Sea, but the frequency of lymphocystis among flounder, Platichthys flesus, is lower at Tvärminne.

The less harmful epidermal papillomatosis has been observed in pikes and one severe case of lateral line necrosis has been registered from a haddock, Gadus morhua.

Anomalies such as deformities of the vertebral column, scoliosis, in Esox lucius and deformations of the head bones causing "pug heads" among haddocks were observed in a few cases.

In the spring and early summer 1991 the herrings, Clupea harengus var. membras, were in remarkably poor condition. Reasons for this are still unknown, but changes in zooplankton fauna have been suggested as such. Similar observations have been made in the archipelago waters of western Estonia, southern coast of the Gulf of Finland.