

Assessment of smolt index

Smolt index is assessed for fish going through the smoltification process. Smolt index is visually evaluated to estimate visible morphological changes related to smoltification in Atlantic salmon.

Assessment is done on euthanized fish immediately after being removed from anesthetic bath, and before other sampling or registration is done.

Criteria for smolt index

Parr marks				
INDEX	Clear	Visible	Weak	None
Points	1	2	3	4

Silver colouration				
INDEX	None	Weak	Visible	Silver
Points	1	2	3	4

Fin margins (dark/black margin on fins)				
INDEX	None	Weak	Visible	Black margins
Points	1	2	3	4

Parr \longrightarrow Smolt

Calculation of smolt index: Every fish is evaluated for parr marks, silver colouration and fin margins. The sum of all three factors are divided by three = final score for smolt index.

