

DEVELOPMENTS IN WHIRLING DISEASE RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT

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Whirling disease, caused by the myxozoan parasite *Myxobolus cerebralis*, has impacted fisheries in several western states and presents a great challenge to fishery managers and biologists. In the mid- 1990s whirling disease was first implicated in dramatic trout population declines in the American west. Since then, intensive research has increased knowledge about the parasite, its complicated life cycle, and management implications of the disease. Recent developments in risk assessment, gear treatment, parasite and host ecology, parasite detection, and environmental factors have great potential to inform and improve management related to whirling disease. This project summarizes recent developments in whirling disease research and management and describes the current research emphasis of the Whirling Disease Initiative.