

## Disinfection for Anglers

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Angling tourism is becoming popular. This brings with it serious risks of transferring very dangerous fish diseases between countries. Most of the major angling countries have strict laws regarding the disinfection of tackle by tourists. In Iceland for example, unless visiting anglers can produce a valid veterinary certificate of recent disinfection, their tackle will be disinfected on arrival, at considerable cost.

Pathogens that need to be killed by disinfection of tackle include IPN and ISA viruses of salmonids, carp dropsy and KHV virus of carps, the BKD bacterium and the Gyrodactylus salaris parasite. All of these can cause serious diseases in wild fishes as well as fish farms. Gyrodactylus has actually eliminated salmon from some Norwegian rivers and BKD is feared in all rivers where salmon are found. All can be spread with fish mucus blood or scales, on tackle or waders.

The only disinfectant that is recommended in all countries with tackle disinfection regulations is Virkon® Aquatic, which was specially formulated for destroying fish pathogens.

The disinfectant must be freshly made up as a 1% solution. This is best achieved by adding Virkon® Aquatic tablets to fresh water in a plastic bucket, or other container, at a rate of two tablets per litre (2 pints) of fresh water. Once the tablets have dissolved, the tackle (reels, lines, nets, waders and used traces and lures) should be immersed in the disinfectant. Rods should be wiped down with a wet cloth, well soaked in the 1% solution. After immersion for five minutes, the tackle can be rinsed in tap water and wiped down with a dry cloth. Reels should be immersed in fresh tap water after disinfection to ensure all disinfectant is removed from the mechanism and thoroughly dried.

Rubber gloves should be worn while handling the 1% disinfectant.