

2017 Meeting of the Finnish Branch

7-8 February 2017, Oulu, Finland

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This year the annual meeting of the Finnish branch for EAFF was held in the city of Oulu in Northern Finland hosted by the local researchers. Invited speakers to the meeting included Dr. Riikka Holopainen from the Finnish Food Safety Authority, presenting a talk on the use of whole genome sequencing in fish pathogen detection and Dr. Jaakko Lumme from the University of Oulu providing an update on the current knowledge in *Gyrodactylus* taxonomy. As always, the rest of the meeting program was made up of short communications by attendees, including updates on crayfish plaque diagnostics, neglected liver worms, CRISPR immunity of *Flavobacterium columnare*, mysterious river dwelling salmon demise and plans for IPN-research. The two-day meeting included a joint dinner in a local restaurant serving traditional food, with a further possibility for informal knowledge exchange.

Although the number of the members in our small country is not sky-high, the activity of the local branch is exemplary. The yearly meetings have been going on since 1992, varying between the major cities with active members each with a role in taking care of meeting organisation. In 2012, due to organising the International EAFF meeting in Tampere 2013, the Finnish EAFF Branch was additionally organised as an association of the Fish Disease Researchers “Kalatautitutkijat”, although it is possible to choose between the membership of both or one of them. Almost all members of the branch joined the new association as well. The formal association enables the branch to operate well financially without problems.

The EAFF would like to congratulate the committee for organising and hosting such a successful meeting!

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Participants at the 2017 EAFP Finnish branch meeting. Photo by Päivi Rintamäki