

Norway salmon farms ravaged by algae bloom: authority

May 22 2019

Millions of farmed salmon have died in northern Norway due to an algae bloom that the authorities are struggling to bring under control, the Norwegian Fisheries Directorate has said.

More than 10,000 tonnes of salmon have died in their pens in fjords in the counties of Nordland and Troms since mid-May, the authority estimated late Tuesday.

That represents several million [fish](#) and a financial loss for fish farmers of hundreds of millions Norwegian kroner (tens of millions of dollars or euros), it said.

Stocks are being decimated by an alga of the Chrysochromulina family, a phytoplankton common in Norwegian water but which can under certain conditions bloom and asphyxiate fish in their cages.

The fisheries directorate warned that "the algal bloom is not over" and the mortality could become much higher, industry experts said.

The development has led to a sharp rise in salmon prices, which have shot up by 5.7 percent over the past week to more than 65 kroner (6.70 euros).

Norway is the world leader in farmed [salmon](#), with a total production of 1.3 million tonnes in 2018, and experienced a similar event in 1991.

© 2019 AFP

Citation: Norway salmon farms ravaged by algae bloom: authority (2019, May 22) retrieved 24 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-05-norway-salmon-farms-ravaged-algae.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.