

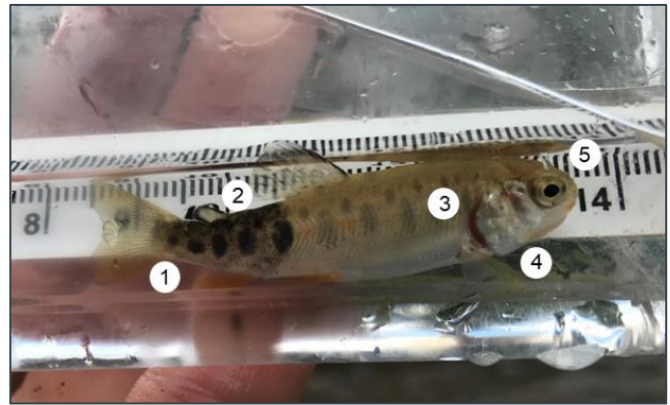
# Whirling disease

Clinical signs of whirling disease in Rainbow Trout (RNTR) fry

*Healthy RNTR fry:*



*Whirling disease impacted RNTR fry:*



- ① Spinal deformities can appear as a crooked spine or bent tail.
- ② Black pigmentation can occur throughout the body, but typically occurs in the tail.
- ③ Edges of the operculum may appear shortened and frayed with gill filaments exposed.
- ④ Cranial deformities can include distortions of the jaw.
- ⑤ Other obvious cranial deformities can include bulging eyeballs and a shortened snout.

## What can you do to help?

If you suspect you witnessed a fish with whirling disease, please email [aep.whirl@gov.ab.ca](mailto:aep.whirl@gov.ab.ca). We ask that you **do not disturb or remove any suspected fish** – if possible, a photo, location, date, time and a few notes about what you saw (i.e. species, abnormalities, how many fish you saw) will help us better direct our surveillance program efforts.

Always remember to **clean, drain and dry** your watercraft and equipment between waterbodies:

- Clean your watercraft and equipment that has been in contact with water
- Drain all water onto dry land before leaving the shore – it is **illegal** to transport a watercraft with the drain plug still in place
- Dry your watercraft and equipment completely between trips



To report aquatic invasive species and diseases, please call our hotline at 1-855-336-BOAT (2628)