

Sedation – the salmon’s salvation?

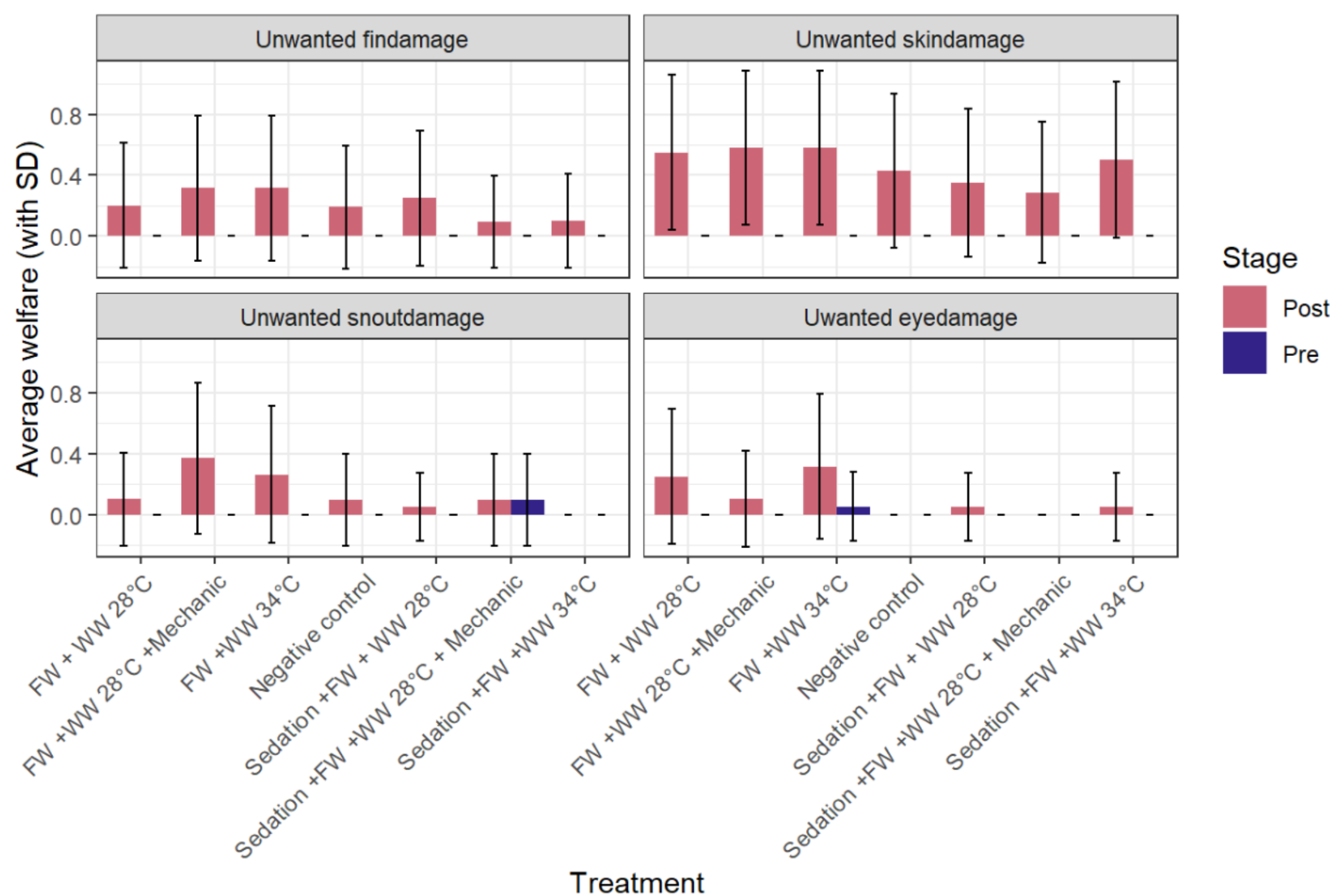
Comparing non-medical delousing strategies with and without sedation on fish welfare and treatment efficiency

Background

Sea lice pressure can lead to heavy delousing. Due to medical resistance non-medicinal methods are in place, despite causing damage to the fish. What are the effects of sedation prior to delousing?



Welfare before and after treatment



Methods

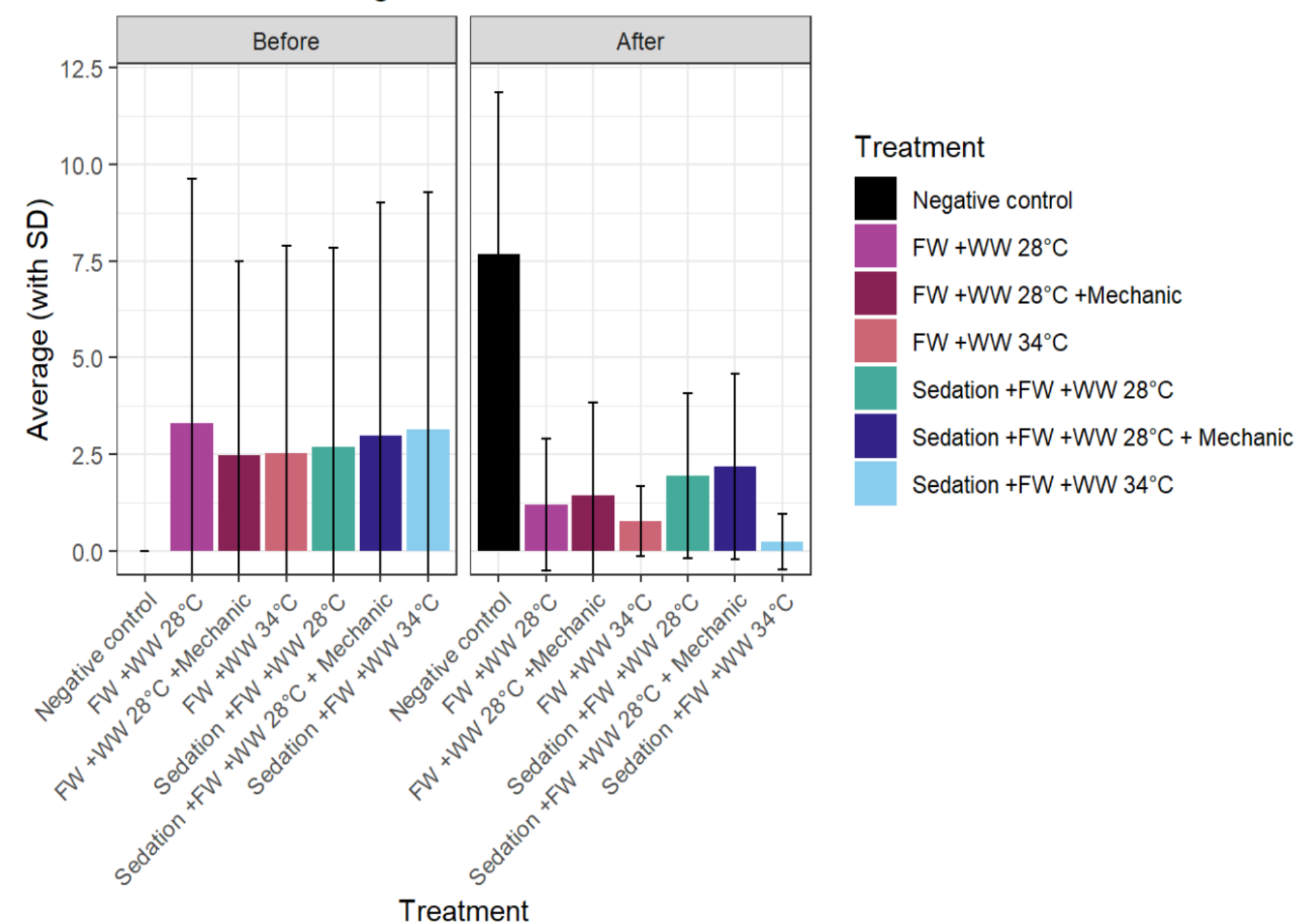
140 fish underwent six different treatments and one control. The study is funded by the Norwegian Seafood Research Fund, with the support from IMR. The data was processed in R-studio.



Results

- Two of the treatments showed significant improvement with the use of sedation:
- The skin was most prone to damage.
- All the delousing methods showed acceptable results.

Effect of delousing before and after treatment



Conclusion

The trend shows a significantly smaller extent of damage to the fish when sedated before treatment. The number of lice was reduced in each treatment, but due to the least reduction with the use of sedation, this needs to be further researched.

