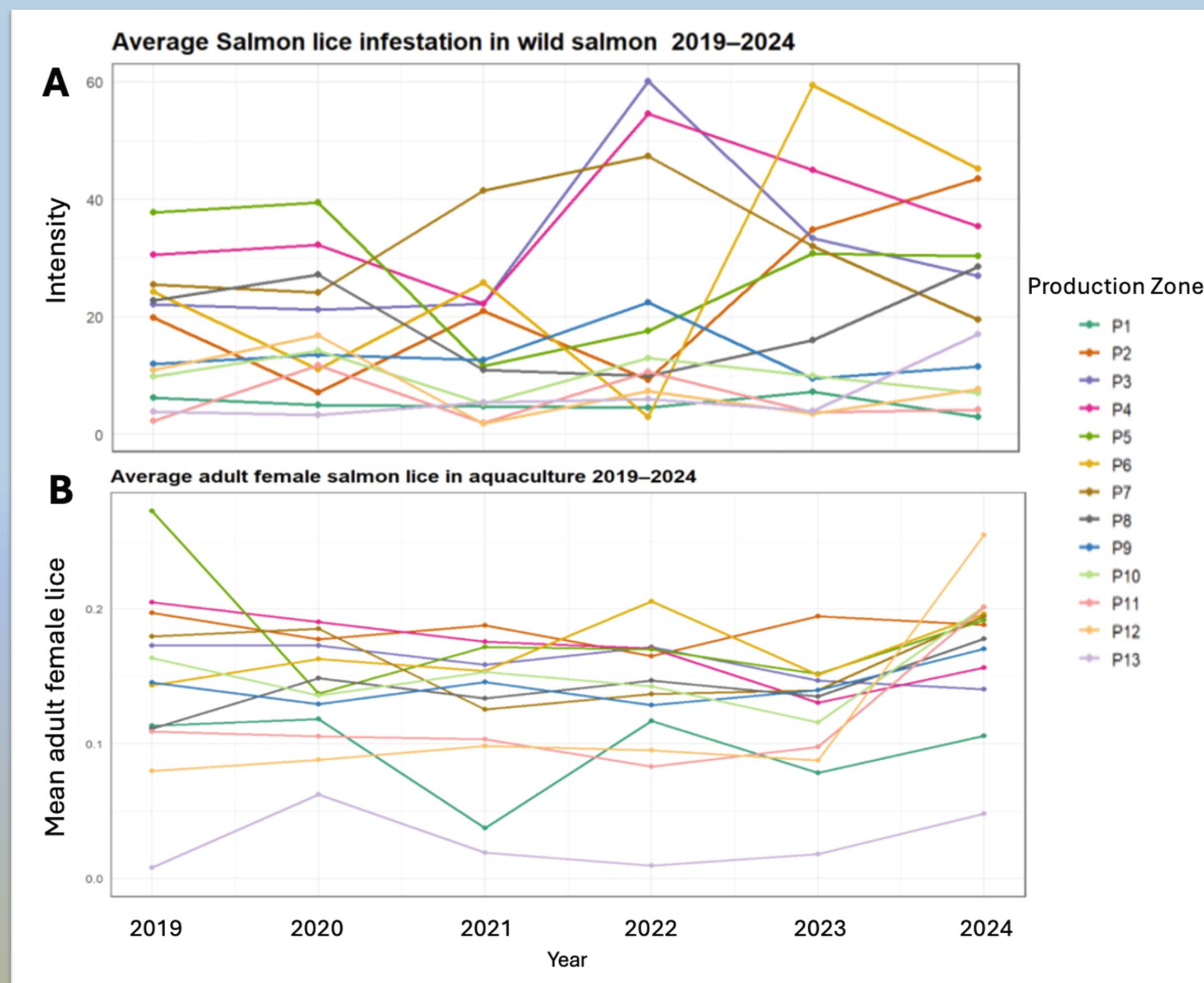


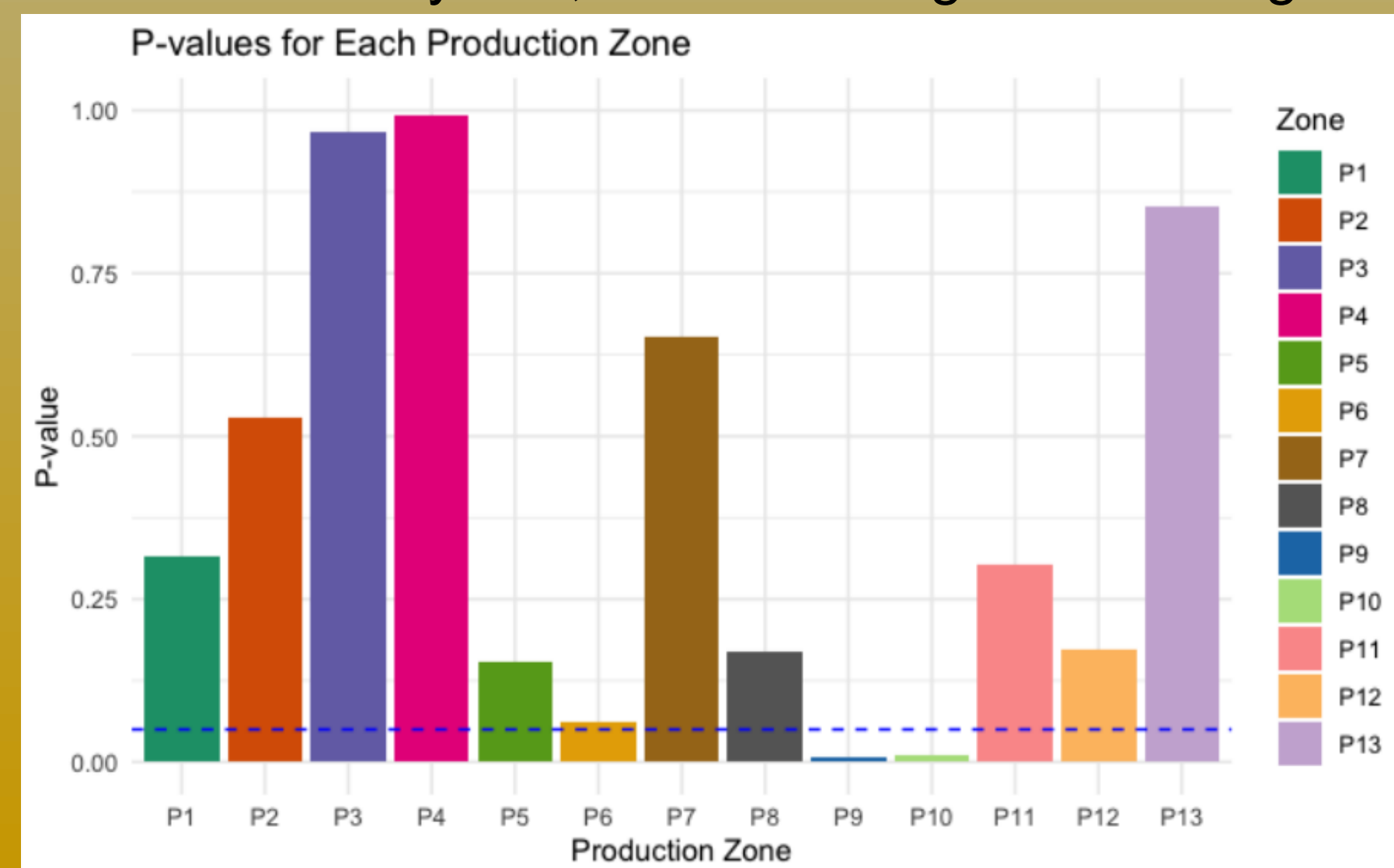
Do farmed salmon drive lice levels in the wild?

The mean number of adult female lice per farmed Atlantic salmon and the mean number of lice on infested wild Atlantic salmon was gathered from BarentsWatch (2019-2024).

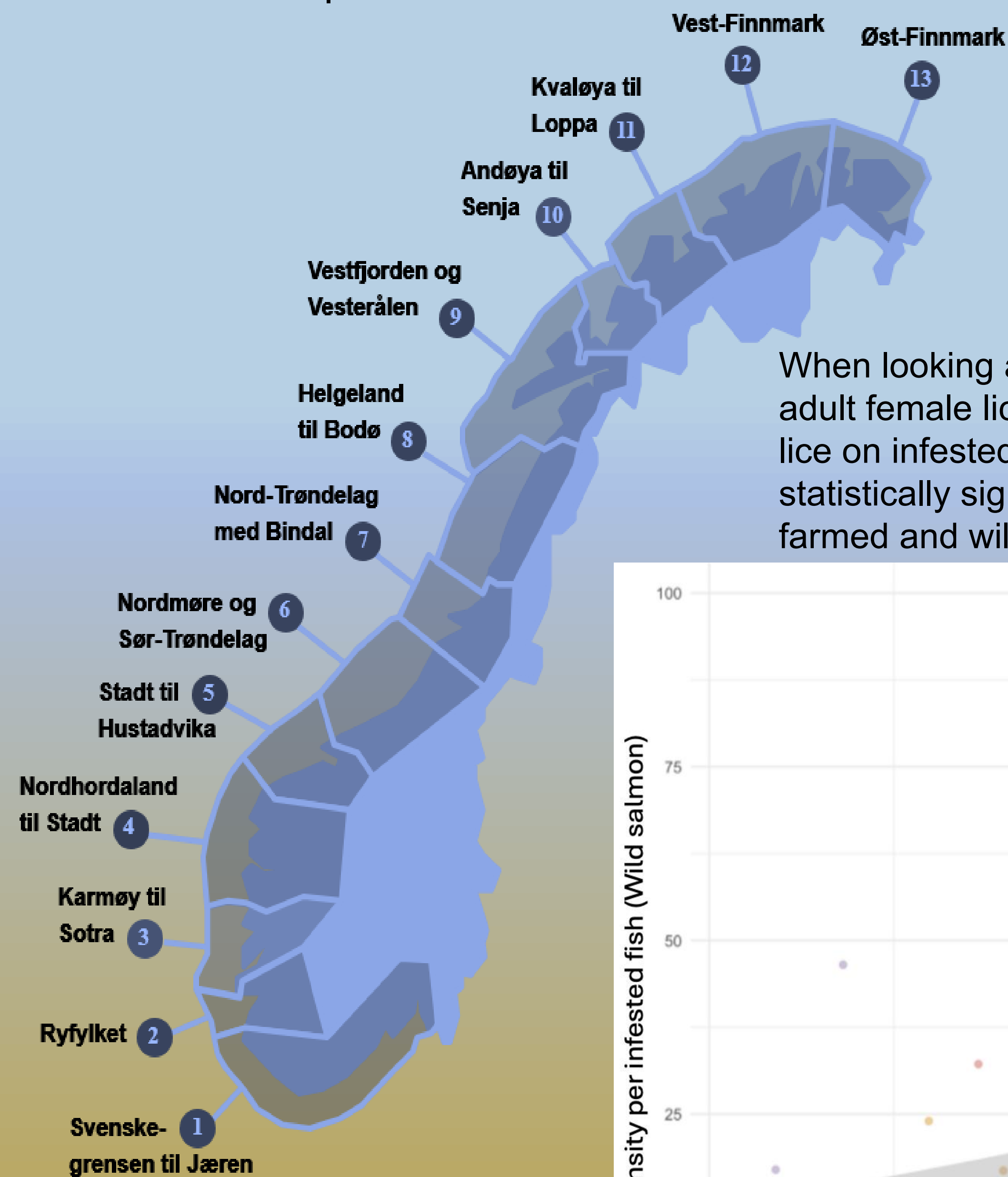


For the mean number of lice on infested wild Atlantic salmon (fig A), the patterns were characterized by higher interannual variability and more pronounced peaks in specific regions and years.

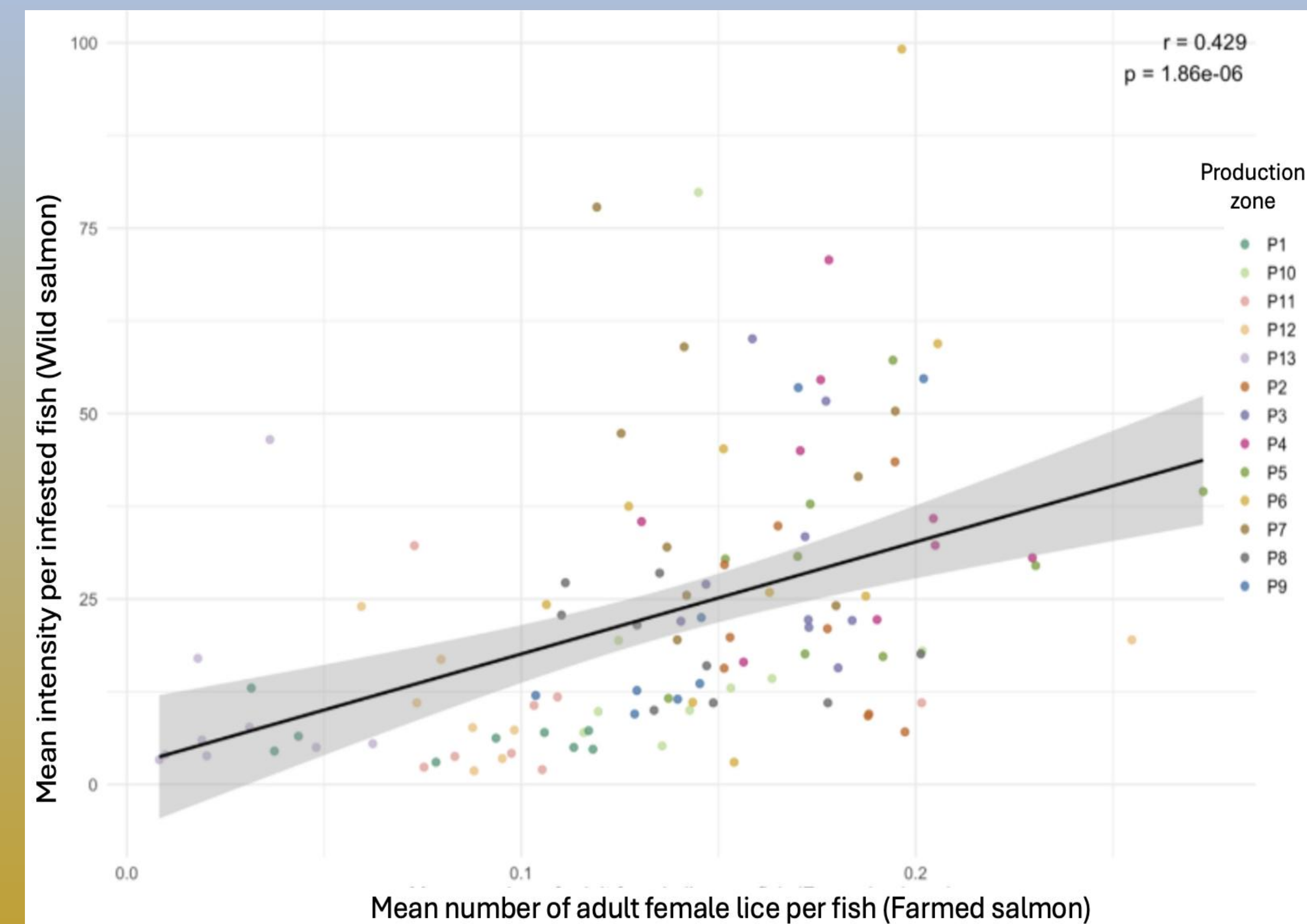
For the mean number of adult female lice per farmed Atlantic salmon (fig B), most production areas exhibited moderate fluctuations in lice levels over the years, with some regions showing occasional spikes.



Some areas had a strong correlation, whilst others were less statistically significant.



When looking at a correlation between the mean number of adult female lice per farmed salmon and the mean number of lice on infested wild salmon over all of Norway as a whole, a statistically significant positive Pearson's correlation between farmed and wild salmon lice levels was detected.



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