Life cycle of *Ceratomyxa shasta*

**HOST**
- salmon or trout

**PARASITE**
- myxospore stage
- actinospore stage

**HOST**
- polychaete worm

Parasite spores attach to gill filaments. Parasites migrate into blood vessels where they multiply. They then travel to the intestine and form myxospores. Clinical signs include abdominal swelling with ascites, swollen vent, intestinal bleeding and lesions in other organs. Parasite myxospores are released into the water with feces and after death of the host.

Free spores in water.

Parasite spores erupt free from the surface of the worm and are shed in mucus.

Mature spores in epithelium.

Heavily infected worm.

High magnification view of maturing parasites.

Immature parasites in worm epithelium (skin).

Manayunkia species polychaetes are free-living worms that live in tubes anchored to algae, rocks and sediment. They probably become infected by ingesting parasite spores while filter feeding.