



Agenda Item 5.3  
For information

**Council**

**CNL(97)22**

***Fishing For Salmon In International Waters***

## **Fishing For Salmon In International Waters**

1. At its Ninth Annual Meeting in Washington DC, the Council unanimously adopted the "Protocol Open for Signature by States not Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean" and the "Resolution on Fishing for Salmon on the High Seas". Developments in relation to the Protocol and actions taken in accordance with the Resolution are detailed below.

### **Protocol**

2. Following adoption of the Protocol by the Council, copies were transmitted to the governments of Panama and Poland in December 1992 through their embassies in London. To date neither of these governments have agreed to sign the Protocol. Nevertheless the diplomatic efforts of the Parties and the Organization have resulted in actions by these two governments as if they had signed it. In 1994 we obtained evidence that Panama had removed the vessel 'Brodal' from its register. A new Polish Sea Fishery Act entered into force on 22 June 1996 under which the Minister of Transportation and Maritime Economy is authorised to forbid or limit catches, transport, landings, sale or storage of marine resources.
3. Following its removal from the Panamanian register, it is possible that the registers of other States could now be sought by 'Brodal' and by other vessels in future so we shall have to remain alert. The action of the FAO in developing an "Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas" is a useful initiative complementary to the NASCO Protocol. This Agreement will enter into force, for those who have signed it, following receipt of the twenty-fifth instrument of acceptance, although this could take a considerable length of time. To date, ten Parties (Canada, St Kitts & Nevis, Georgia, Myanmar, Sweden, Madagascar, Norway, USA, Argentina and the European Union) have deposited instruments of acceptance.

### **Actions taken in accordance with the Resolution**

#### ***Obtain and Compile Information on Sightings***

4. Since 1990, information on the activities of vessels in international waters has been obtained principally from Norwegian and Icelandic coastguard airborne surveillance flights. The following surveillance flights have been undertaken between April 1992 and April 1997:

Icelandic Coastguard						Norwegian Coastguard						
1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996		1997
2 Apr	15 Mar	28 Mar	23 Feb	11 Feb	None	10 Apr	3 Apr	11 Feb	18 Mar	5 Feb	23 May	6 Feb
4 Sep	21 Apr	22 Jun	7 Jun	22 Apr		24 Apr	17 Apr	18 Feb	6 Nov	22 Feb	31 May	12 Mar
15 Sep	14 Jun	8 Aug	12 Jun	7 May		6 May	13 May	26 Feb		12 Mar	3 Jun	
2 Nov	7 Jul	1 Dec	21 Jun	16 May		8 May	19 May	2 Mar		14 Mar	7 Jun	
	16 Sep		18 Aug	12 Aug		24 May	3 Jun	29 Mar		23 Mar	11 Jun	
			10 Nov			5 Jun	28 Jun	27 May		29 Mar	14 Jun	
						22 Jun	23 Jul	16 Jun		12 Apr	21 Jun	
						7 Jul	17 Sep	19 Jun		13 Apr	28 Jun	
								22 Jul		23 Apr	1 Jul	
								25 Aug		26 Apr	4 Jul	
								17 Sep		30 Apr	18 Jul	
										3 May	26 Jul	
										7 May	9 Aug	
										11 May	9 Oct	
										14 May	30 Oct	
										15 May	19 Dec	

It is evident that despite a large increase in the number of surveillance flights during 1996 (associated with the large fisheries for pelagic species in the area) few surveillance flights have been conducted over the last autumn and winter period. It is known that fishing for salmon occurs at this time of year. A report on actions taken to improve cooperation on surveillance is presented separately, CNL(97)23.

5. The information on sightings from airborne surveys which has been received by the Secretary to date is as follows:-

Icelandic Coastguard			Norwegian Coastguard		
Date	Vessel Name	Location	Date	Vessel Name	Location
17/10/90	Brodal	67° 04'N 05° 41'W	28/01/90	Uncle Sam	66°27'N 00°48'W
	Seagull	66° 40'N 04° 22'W	22/02/90*	Unknown	66°51'N 01°09'W
26/01/90	Minna	66° 22'N 04° 15'W		Unknown	66°55'N 00°24'W
	Seagull	67° 41'N 04° 22'W		Unknown	66°05'N 00°20'W
21/02/90	Brodal	66° 49'N 01° 15'W		Unknown	66°56'N 03°02'W
	Seagull	66° 55'N 00° 36'W		Unknown	66°43'N 00°34'W
02/03/90	Brodal	66° 58'N 02° 33'W		Unknown	66°41'N 00°30'W
	Annette Bri	66° 58'N 02° 33'W		Unknown	67°50'N 00°40'W
			10/03/90	Brodal	66°45'N 03°17'W
			24/02/91	Name Unknown	68°33'N 01°08'E
			06/05/92	Brodal	72°00'N 06°00'E
				Netanya	72°00'N 06°00'E
			08/05/92	Brodal	72°17'N 06°25'E
				Netanya	71°57'N 05°28'E
			19/05/93	Brodal	70°30'N 04°02'E
			03/06/93	Brodal	71°35'N 04°20'E
				Sea Gull	71°35'N 06°32'E
			11/02/94	Brodal	66°48'N 03°22'W

\* Photographs taken of Annette Bri, Seagull, Minna, Brodal.

6. In addition the following information has been received from ports about vessels known to fish for salmon in international waters:

Date	Vessel Name	Port
18/1/90	Minna	Torshavn
2/2/90	Minna	Torshavn
28/1/91	Brodal	Bodø
4/3/91	Brodal	Bodø
5/12/91	Brodal	Bodø
5/3/92	Brodal	Bodø
31/01/94	Brodal	Bodø

***Drawing the Attention of Non-Contracting Parties to the Activities of their Vessels***

7. Copies of the Protocol Open for Signature by States not Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean were transmitted to the governments of Poland and Panama through their respective London missions in December 1992 (see paragraph 2). No other non-Contracting Parties are known to have been involved in fishing in international waters but efforts will be made to obtain information on the country of registration of 'Brodal' following its removal from the Panamanian register.

***Obtain and Compile Information on Landings and Transshipments***

8. No new information on landings and transshipments has been obtained since last year's report.

***Obtain and Compile Scientific and Technical Data on the Fishery***

9. To date six vessels are known to have been involved in fishing for salmon in international waters. Their details are given below:

Name of Vessel	Registration Number	Country of Registration	Call Sign	Size of Vessel	
				Weight (GRT)	Length (M)
BRODAL	--	PANAMA	HP5157	133	29
MINNA	WLA69	POLAND	OZTH	84.5	
SEA GULL 1	--	PANAMA	3ELD6	148	--
ANNETTE BRI	WLA12	POLAND	OUIHZ	--	
UNCLE SAM	--	PANAMA	OYXP	--	
NETANYA	SG76	SWEDEN	--	--	--

\* A number of vessels do not display a registration number.

In addition, there are unconfirmed reports that two other vessels, "Bermuda" and "Marie Viking", have also been involved. The vessel "Bermuda" was registered in Panama but it is believed that this vessel may have reflagged to Poland in March 1991. Its call sign is OWRG and its Polish registration number is understood to be LEB72.

10. It is expected that most of the catch from international waters would be salmon of European origin. Information on catches by individual vessels has been obtained as a result of vessels calling at ports and following the boarding of the vessel 'Brodal' by Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency officials. When the vessel 'Minna' called at Torshavn harbour in February 1990 it had 5 tonnes of salmon on board but the Faroese authorities were advised that the intention was to catch 25 tonnes before returning to Poland. When the vessel 'Brodal' was boarded it had 30 tonnes of salmon on board and we have information on landings by this vessel at Polish ports, which indicates catches of 36 tonnes and 11 tonnes. The catch by the vessel 'Netanya' is believed to have been 150kg.
11. Estimates of the catch in international waters by reflagged vessels based on known catches by individual vessels and the number of sightings have been made by ICES since 1989/90. No estimate is available for 1995/96. The time series of information is as follows:

Year	Estimated catch (tonnes)
1989/90	180-350
1990/91	25-100
1991/92	25-100
1992/93	25-100
1993/94	25-100
1994/95	25-100
1995/96	N/A
1996/97	N/A

***Establish Contacts with Other International Organizations with Interests in the Area***

12. We have continued to develop our links with other international organizations who also have concerns about the activities of vessels registered to non-Contracting Parties fishing within their Convention areas.

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
14 April 1997