North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(17)7

Mixed-Stock Fisheries

(Tabled by the European Union)

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1) Brief description of existing MSFs

EU-Finland
Salmon fishery in the main stem of the large River Teno, including both various netting methods and angling, is exploiting c. 30 genetically different salmon populations from different tributaries and areas of the main stem.

CLs are established for 24 populations of the Teno stock complex. Target attainment evaluations are currently available for ten tributaries (partly including and combining lower order tributaries), the main stem, and for the Teno system as a whole.

EU-France
The only estuary where salmon is fished by professional fishermen in France is the one of the river Adour. 25-30 professional fishermen capture around 1000 to 1200 salmon every year (exploitation rate estimated at 40%). Fishing is authorised from May to July, but forbidden for 25% of the week.

		Pêcheurs professionnels			
		Marins pêcheurs côtiers	Marins pêcheurs de l'estuaire	Pêcheurs professionnels en eau douce	Pêcheurs de loisir aux filets
		Pêche interdite en mer	Zone maritime de l'estuaire	Lots Adour 23 et Gaves réunis	Estran landais
Effectifs de pêcheurs	période 2010-2013	méconnu	env. 12	env. 15	env. 6
	période 2000-2007	*méconnu*	*30*	*10*	*méconnu*
Niveau de capture annuel (en nombre de saumons)	période 2010-2013	captures accidentelles quelques dizaines à centaines	env. 1000	env. 200	anecdotique
	période 2000-2007	*méconnu*	*800 à 1000 avant 2002 1800 à 2000 depuis 2003*	*env. 80 avant 2001 env. 200 depuis 2002*	*anecdotique*

The Bay of Saint Michel is a vast area with exceptional biodiversity, which receives 3 rivers estuaries (Selune, See and Couesnon). Salmons swim upstream at low tide in very small streams. Although there is no professional fisherman, there is recreational fishing.

EU-Ireland
There are currently two managed mixed-stock fisheries in Ireland, Killary Harbour and Castlemaine Harbour. A third mixed-stock fishery, Tullaghan Bay, operated until 2013.

Killary Harbour
In the case of the Killary Harbour fishery, there are two contributing river stocks (Bundorragha (Delphi) and Erriff) both of which are meeting and exceeding their conservation limits (CL). The Standing Scientific Committee on Salmon (SSCS) undertake a

risk assessment for the common estuary which results in a higher requirement for spawners in both rivers than simply combining the CLs for the rivers to ensure simultaneous attainment of CL in both rivers.

Castlemaine Harbour
The mixed-stock fishery in Castlemaine Harbour, Co. Kerry was closed over the 2007 to 2010 period as the fishery was perceived to exploit salmon from a range of rivers entering Castlemaine Harbour. A pilot fishery was conducted in the mixed-stock area of Castlemaine in 2010 to provide genetic samples for analysis of the rivers contributing to the fishery. Results revealed that the Castlemaine fishery almost exclusively exploited salmon from three rivers entering Castlemaine Harbour, the Laune, Caragh and Maine, all of which were meeting and exceeding CL. The Castlemaine fishery has operated since 2011 from the total available surplus of the three contributing rivers. For the mixed-stock Castlemaine fishery to operate, the total available surplus for the three rivers combined was reduced in a common estuary analysis to ensure that each river would meet CL simultaneously. The mixed-stock Castlemaine fishery and the draft net and rod angling fishery on the three rivers all exploit salmon from this reduced surplus calculation.

Tullaghan Bay
A draft net fishery operated in Tullaghan Bay up to 2013 predominantly exploiting stocks from the Owenmore, Carrowmore and the Owenduff rivers which were exceeding their CLs. A common estuary risk assessment was also undertaken for Tullaghan Bay, resulting in a higher requirement for spawners than simply combining the CLs for the rivers to ensure simultaneous attainment of CLs.

The SSCS reviewed the operation of Tullaghan Bay draft net fishery in 2012 and noted that the fisheries are mostly confined to the immediate vicinity of the Owenmore/Carrowmore and Owenduff river mouths and there was only a relatively small mixed-stock fishery in the bay. The SSCS advised that it was therefore not appropriate to apply risk analysis for a mixed-stock fishery in Tullaghan Bay. In its advice provided for the 2013 & 2014 seasons, the SSCS therefore did not advise a common estuary surplus for Tullaghan Bay. With regard to the SSCS 2015 scientific advice, the Owenmore River was only meeting 90% of CL (209 salmon deficit) and management advised that no commercial fishery should take place in the upper part of Tullaghan Bay in the vicinity of the Owenmore River. The Owenmore River has not exceeded CL over the period 2016-2017 based on scientific advice and therefore no mixed-stock commercial fishery took place in Tullaghan Bay in 2016 or will proceed in 2017 as one of the contributing stocks (Owenmore) failed to meet its CL.

EU-Sweden
Mixed stock fisheries is existing in the two rivers (River Lagan and Göta älv) with releases of reared salmon in the main watercourse and natural smolt production in tributaries. New fishing rules is planned to be implemented in 2018 or 2019.

EU-UK (England and Wales)

Fishery	Method	No. nets in 2016	Status
Anglian Coast:	Drift and non-drift nets	18	Being phased out
Severn Estuary	Putchers	5 [a]	Historic rights apply
	Lave nets	25 [a]	Being reduced to 15 nets
	Draft net	1 [a]	Being phased out
North East Coast:	Drift nets	11 [b]	Being phased out; due for closure in 2022
	T&J nets	48 [b]	Being phased out

[a] Subject to catch limits in 2016
[b] 2 joint licences included in both categories

EU-UK (Scotland)
Last year a prohibition on coastal netting was put in place.

2) Recent catch data

EU-Finland
Salmon catch in the River Teno in 2016: Total catch 84 t (Finland 48 t, Norway 36 t), c. 75% caught in the main stem (MSF), 25% in tributaries (little or no MSF).

EU-France

Provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2016 (tonnes)	Adour Estuarine
	0,81T
Confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2015 (tonnes)	0,88T

EU-Ireland

- Killary Harbour mixed-stock fishery (Erriff and Bundorragha rivers)
  - mean 5 year catch = 328 salmon (0.9t)
- Castlemaine Harbour mixed-stock fishery (Laune, Caragh and Maine rivers)
  - mean 5 year catch = 815 salmon (2.2t)
- Tullaghan Bay mixed-stock fishery (Owenmore, Carrowmore and Owenduff rivers)
  - mean 5 year catch = 136 salmon (0.4t)

EU-Sweden

(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2016 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	9.03	0	0	9.03
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2015 (tonnes)	17.688	0	0	17.688
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2016 (tonnes)	0.5	0	0.5	1

EU-UK (England and Wales)
(provisional declared catch of salmon in 2016)

- Anglian Coast: 0
- Severn Estuary: 155
- North East Coast: 18,767

EU-UK (Scotland)
In 2016, both catch and effort in the fixed engine and net and coble fisheries were the lowest since records began in 1952.

(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2016 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	16.8	9.8	0.2	26.8
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2015 (tonnes)	27.7	9.4	30.9	68.0
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2016 (tonnes)				3

3) Updates to the Implementation Plan (IP) related to MSF

EU-Finland
Parliaments in Finland and Norway have accepted the new bilateral fishery agreement, which will come into force for the fishing season 2017. The agreement concerns river fisheries, including MSF in the main stem, but the coastal MSF is the responsibility of Norwegian national management.

Conservation limits are established for 24 populations of the Teno stock complex, and attainment has been assessed for 11 individual populations. Exploitation of these populations in MSF of the Teno main stem can be assessed through genetic stock identification. Annual monitoring programme will also be updated in the near future as a part of the implementation work of the new agreement.

EU-France
N/U

EU-Ireland
The Irish Implementation Plan was updated in May 2014.

EU-Sweden
N/U

EU-UK (England and Wales)
The Implementation Plan (IP) for UK (England and Wales) was updated in 2013/14 to clarify the management of fisheries within estuaries. The updated IP states that all fisheries, including MSFs, operating within estuary limits are assumed to exploit predominantly fish that originated from waters upstream of the fishery. These fisheries are carefully managed at a local level to protect the weakest of the exploited stocks, guided by a decision structure and taking into account socio-economic factors and European Conservation status where applicable. This includes the fisheries in the Tamar/Tavy/Lynher and the Taw/Torridge estuaries and the Solway Firth.

EU-UK (Scotland)
N/U

4) Changes or developments in the management of MSFs in this IP period to implement NASCO's agreements

EU-Finland
New regulation regime for salmon fishing is based on biological reference points and scientific assessments of their attainment, including a reduction of fishing pressure by c. 30%. The reduction of fishing pressure is especially focusing on salmon stocks with the weakest status in the Teno stock complex by tailored fishery regulations in time and space, and on specific fishing methods. According to the new agreement, a recovery plan will be made to ensure the recovery of the weakest stocks in a time-frame of 2-3 salmon generations.

EU France

In Normandy (Mont Saint Michel area) salmons are captured both in rivers and estuaries. The regulation applying to the maritime domain allows for the capture of one salmon per day and per fisherman, but there is currently no TAC.

EU-Ireland
Closure of the Tullaghan Bay mixed-stock fishery due to one contributing stock failing to meet CL.

EU-Sweden
Sweden has taken following management measures to phase out mixed stock fisheries on wild salmon stocks.

- Sport fishing at sea is mainly targeting sea trout. The fishing mortality for salmon was estimated to be very low in this fishery even before a bag limit was introduced in 2014. It is estimated that the bag limit will result in nearly no fishing mortality for salmon in sport fishing at sea.

- There have been commercial trap net fisheries at the Swedish coast until 2011, situated near or in the estuary of a river with compensatory (hydropower stations) releases of fin-clipped smolt. Only catches of fin-clipped salmon is since 2013 allowed in trap net fisheries and all wild salmon shall be released alive. This was earlier partly a MSF but is not expected to be a MSF as only catches of fin-clipped salmon are allowed. Since 2012 there has been no trap net fisheries operating.

- Gill net fishing in the sea at depths <3 m is not expected to be a MSF. Since 2013 it is strictly regulated with respect to effort, period and mesh size. Marine protected areas are located nearby wild salmon rivers. In these areas, no gill net fishery is allowed irrespective of the depth.

- A ban on gill net fishing for salmon in remaining coastal waters with a depth >3m has been implemented from 2014 to phase out mixed stock fisheries targeting salmon stocks. There has not been any reported MSF or illegal gill net fisheries during 2016 in coastal waters with a depth > 3m.

EU-UK (England and Wales)

Anglian Coast: a new Net Limitation Order (NLO) was introduced in 2016 continuing the phase-out of this fishery.

Severn Estuary: new NLOs for the draft and lave nets were approved in May 2014. For both fisheries, the number of instruments was capped at 2013 levels. The draft net fishery is now subject to a phase-out (zero nets) and the lave net fishery is subject to a reducing order to 15. Catch limits are applied to all nets and putchers.

North East Coast: the NLO was updated in 2012; both drift nets and beach (T&J) nets are being phased out, and the drift net fishery will be closed in 2022. An investigation into the possibility of capping catches in the fishery (drift nets and T&J nets) to prevent exceptionally high landings has been completed and is under consideration. The Environment Agency will be conducting a mid-term review of the NLO in 2017; this will include an evaluation of the potential to maintain a limited T&J net fishery after 2022 that complies with NASCO guidelines and the need to safeguard the weakest stocks. Consideration of other possible management actions will be taken forward as part of the Environment Agency's new five-point approach to deliver a better future for salmon by addressing the pressures that they face through their life-cycle (see 2017 APR).

National measures: further action in relation to the management of net and fixed engine fisheries is under consideration in both England and Wales (see 2017 APR).

EU-UK (Scotland)

There were no recorded changes in the gears used to fish for salmon in the 2016 season. However, statutory conservation measures are in place to regulate both the killing of salmon in the early months of the fishing season (http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/spring), in coastal waters and on stocks with poor conservation status (http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/licence/status).

These regulations will have an impact on the catch and effort data reported by Scottish salmon fisheries. In particular, the retained catch of salmon in coastal nets for 2016 was restricted to reports from a single haaf net fishery which was licenced as part of a science programme studying geographic variation in fecundity in relation to run-timing.