Agenda Item 6.2

Council

CNL(04)33

Report of the Russian Federation on Application of the Decision Structure for Management of Salmon Fisheries

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At the time when NASCO Contracting Parties agreed to apply a Decision Structure for management of North Atlantic salmon fisheries, on salmon rivers in Russia effective were management measures based on concentrating the fishing at barrier fences in the rivers and establishing quotas for costal fishery. From 1990 for 28 rivers of 129 the total allowable catch was calculated on the basis that no less than 50% of returning adults spawned. The Precautionary Approach was for the first time applied for rivers on the Kola Peninsula in1997, when a conservation limit was defined for the salmon population of the Tuloma river. In 1998-1999 conservation limits were established for 78 salmon rivers on the Kola Peninsula. Over the same time period on the basis of these data commercial fishery was closed on 5 rivers and management target was applied when decisions concerning fisheries were taken.

The following actions were taken in Russia by 2004 to implement the Decision Structure for management of fisheries on salmon rivers:

- conservation limits for 1SW and MSW salmon were set for 85 rivers in the White Sea and Barents Sea basins;
- assessment of the status of these populations was undertaken (total abundance and numbers by age);
- the stocks were categorized and those in unhealthy condition or close to it were identified;
- adverse impacts on the stocks were identified (hydropower development, acid rains, industrial discharges, illegal fishing), however the extent of adverse effect on the stocks (qualitative assessment) was only assessed for illegal fishing and hydropower development;
- a programme was developed for rebuilding the stock of salmon in the Umba river, this included rehabilitation and protection of spawning and nursery areas, stocking. However, this programme is not currently fully underway for lack of funding;
- in order to enhance the production of salmon commercial fishery on rivers of the Kola Peninsula was suspended in 2003;
- a scheme of monitoring and reporting was developed and used, which requires a regular provision of information on fishing effort.

2. Overall, to date the Decision Structure for management of salmon fisheries in Russia is implemented in the following way:

- at the regional level (Murmansk, Archangel and Karelia) on the basis of results from regular monitoring programmes on index rivers and using the data on sea temperature a projection is made for the abundance of salmon, which will return to individual rivers in two years' time;
- at the regional level on the basis of abundance projection, conservation limits, assessment of the impacts and risk assessment a total allowable catch is determined for individual rivers and thereafter for the whole basin of both the White Sea and Barents Sea, including the quota for the coastal fishery;

- at the federal level the advice on the total allowable catch for the basin of the White Sea and Barents Sea and all supporting documents undergo state ecological assessment and after that the TAC is approved by the Government of the Russian Federation;
- at the regional level on the basis of approved TAC and risk assessment for each individual stock recommendations on catch quotas for commercial and recreational fishery as well as on the quota for the coastal fishery in the White Sea are developed;
- at the regional level all of the data referred to in 4 paragraphs above are forwarded to managers for their consideration and then reviewed and approved by the Science and Fisheries Council (Appendices 1,2,3);
- at the regional level authorized federal bodies (Regional Directorates for protection and enhancement of fish stocks and fisheries management) control and enforce the decisions taken.

The efficacy of management measures is evaluated on the basis of results from stock monitoring program, which has been carried out on index rivers since 1990. This program includes collection of data on the biology of adult and young salmon (dynamics of spawning run and seaward migrations, age, size and weight and sex compositions), information on abundance of returning salmon (counts at barrier fences) and juveniles (densities) and catch statistics. This program provides sufficient information for management purposes, therefore, no new programs are envisaged.

3. On the whole Russian managers find the Decision Structure useful, it has covered all schemes and monitoring and control programs developed before in Russia, so far there are no proposals for its improvement.

Appendix 1

Regime of operation of the barrier fence on the Kola river in 2003.

Period of operation of the barrier fence - from 15 May to 01 November. Daily until 25 June sampling of spawners (total 224 fish of them 112 females and 112 males) for hatchery, after 25 June with alternating days of count and release sampling on the day of count. At the time of massive run, from 15 June to 01 August, on the day of count salmon are released from the trap twice a day: at 8.30 and 20.00. Collection of samples for analysis of population structure – on the day of count over the whole season.

Appendix 2

Projected abundance, TAC and recommended catch limits for the Kola river in 2003 (Barents Sea basin)

River	Projected abundance, individuals	Conservation limit, individuals	TAC, t	Recommended catch limits					Fishing for monitoring, sampling for hatchery	
				Commercial fishery		Catch-and-retain		Catch-and-release		
				fish	t	fish	t	fish	fish	t
Kola	9730	1560	5,93	300	1,11	1000	3,70	1600	470	1,18

- - Recommended catch limit for catch-and-release is not included in calculations of TAC

Appendix 3

Decision on catch quotas for the Kola river in 2003 (Barents Sea basin)

River	Projected abundance, individuals	Conservation limit, individuals	TAC, t	Catch limits					Fishing for monitoring, sampling for hatchery	
				Commercial fishery		Catch-and-retain		Catch-and-release		
				fish	t	fish	t	fish	fish	t
Kola	9730	1560	5,93	-	-	1200	4,10	1600	524	1,83