

Returns under Article 15 of the Convention

1. Laws, Regulations And Programmes Adopted Or Repealed Since The Last Notification (*Article 15, Paragraph 5(a)*)

Germany

In Baden-Wuerttemberg:

No new measures but *S. salar* is still protected by law.

In Brandenburg:

- Restocking programme for salmon and sea trout in Brandenburg
Started: 1999: river system Stepenitz (Elbe) – salmon and sea trout
2000: river system Ucker (Baltic Sea) – only sea trout
2004: river system Schwarze Elster/Pulsnitz (Elbe) – only salmon
- Regulations enacted for fisheries (conservation times and size limits)

In Northrhine-Westfalia:

No new measures.

2. Other New Commitments Relating To The Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement And Rational Management Of Salmon Stocks Subject To The Convention (*Article 15, paragraph 5(b)*)

Germany

In Baden-Wuerttemberg:

No new commitments. Suitable rivers or parts of them are classified as salmon rivers and receive special protection.

In Brandenburg:

No new commitments.

In Northrhine-Westfalia:

No new commitments.

3. Other Factors Which May Significantly Affect The Abundance Of Salmon Stocks Subject To The Convention (Article 15, Paragraph 5(c))

Germany

In Baden-Wuerttemberg:

- a) Numbers of stocked fry, pre-smolts or smolts continue to increase and an increasing number of rivers have been restored.
- b) A management plan for salmon stocks in the Upper Rhine was recently developed, with France and Switzerland.

In Brandenburg:

- Frequent catches of adult salmon or sea trout in the upper Elbe during the upstream migration (traps, gill nets, haul and beach seining);
- Frequent catches of smolts during the downstream migration in stow nets;
- Migration barriers (hydro-electric power stations, weirs);
- Deficiency of spawning habitats as a result of hydraulic engineering;
- Accumulation of fine sediments in the interstitial spaces of gravels;
- Predation by cormorants, piscivorous fishes (*Esox lucius*), otters, minks, herons.

In Northrhine-Westfalia:

No new factors.

Section 2: Catch Statistics

Annual return of official catch statistics (Article 15, paragraph 1). Please provide the following information:

- 1. Provisional catch of Atlantic salmon for the calendar year 2004 in tonnes round fresh weight or round fresh weight equivalent**

European Union

Germany

Brandenburg:

13 salmon - 41.7 kg (3.2 kg/fish)

4 sea trout - 11.4 kg (2.8 kg/fish)

Northrhine-Westfalia: The catch of Atlantic salmon of about 0.3 tonnes was made mainly in a control unit on a fish-way in the River Sieg. Fish were released into the River for natural spawning. In other Rivers (Wupper and Dhünn) some salmon have been used for artificial propagation to produce juveniles for stocking in the Northrhine-Westfalian re-introduction project for Atlantic salmon.

- 2. If available, provisional catch of Atlantic salmon for the calendar year 2004 in numbers and weight (round fresh weight or round fresh weight equivalent) according to sea-age**

European Union

Germany

Brandenburg: See section 1 above.

5 salmon were 2SW fish.

1 sea trout was 2SW fish.

Northrhine-Westfalia: The majority of the fish is grilse (less than 3 kg) and only a minor fraction (less than 20 %) is of two-sea-winter age (4-6 kg).

- 3. Confirmed catch of Atlantic salmon in tonnes round fresh weight or round fresh weight equivalent for previous calendar year (i.e. 2003)**

European Union

Germany

Brandenburg:

2003: 4 salmon - 11.9 kg (3.0 kg/fish)

5 sea trout - 12.4 kg (2.5 kg/fish)

2002: 50 salmon - 108.3 kg (2.3 kg/fish)

30 sea trout - 58.4 kg (1.9 kg/fish)

Northrhine-Westfalia: The number of salmon caught and released was slightly higher in 2003 than in 2004.

Unreported Catches

Note: Tables 1-5 (for EU (Ireland)) that follow replace the information provided in document CNL(05)22.

1. Description of Management Control and Reporting Systems by Country

Party	Year of Return	Description
European Union		
Germany (Northrhine-Westfalia)	2004	There has been a legal obligation since 1993 for all fishermen to report catches of salmon to the authorities but no management control system has been established.
	2005	Salmon are protected by law in all countries along the River Rhine. Recently there was much concern about by-catches in the Rhine-Delta (the Netherlands) by professional fishermen and by angling. But no realistic estimate of the importance of these by-catches is yet available.
Germany (Brandenburg)	2005	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National restocking project for river Elbe (cooperation with other federal states) • Annual control of smolts (survival rates, growth) • Annual control of returns (electric fishery; telemetry) • Annual reports for the fishery department

2. Estimate of unreported catch by country, broken down by category and indicating whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities

Party	Estimate (tonnes)	Breakdown
European Union		
Germany (Brandenburg)	-	Quantity is unknown. Only anonymous reports about single catches (illegal) in the river system (anglers). Anonymous reports about frequent catches (illegal) in the upper Elbe by means of commercial fisheries (as by-catch in traps, gill nets, haul and beach seining, stow nets).
Germany (Northrhine-Westfalia)	-	No estimate can be given though these catches would be illegal due to the protected status of Atlantic salmon.

3. Explanation of how the figure for unreported catch is arrived at

Party	Year of Return	Explanation
European Union		
Germany (Brandenburg)	2005	<i>Absence of a requirement for catch statistics to be collected:</i> Insufficient control or enforcement of law and order. <i>Suppression of information thought to be unfavourable:</i> Yes. <i>Local sale or consumption:</i> Yes, but illegal. <i>Innocent inaccuracy in making returns:</i> Unknown. <i>Illegal Fishing:</i> Yes.
Germany (Northrhine-Westfalia)	2005	No estimate can be given though catch of salmon would be illegal due to the protected status of Atlantic salmon.

4. The extent of catch and release fishing

Party	Estimated Number Released	Comment
European Union		
Germany (Brandenburg)	-	Catch and release fishing for salmon is prohibited in Germany.
Germany (Northrhine-Westfalia)	-	Catch of salmon would be illegal due to its protected status.

5. Any measures taken to further minimise the level of unreported catches

Party	Measures taken
European Union	
Germany (Northrhine-Westfalia)	No specific measures have been taken, but the authorities in the Netherlands have been asked to clarify the impact of salmon by-catches.