

Council

CNL(06)27

Supplementary Return – EU (France)

Returns under Article 14 of the Convention

2. Actions Taken To Implement Regulatory Measures Under Article 13 (*Article 14, Paragraph 1*)

In accordance with the current legislation (i.e. Environment code), and in addition administrative sanctions such as withdrawal of permits, the following legal sanctions are applicable:

- A fine amounting to Euro 450 (about £312): for failing to release a salmon which has not reached the minimum size required or for not having specific tags at one's disposal whilst fishing for salmon ;
- A fine amounting to Euro 1500 (about £1,039) and to Euro 3,000 (or £2,078) in the event of a second offence: for the fishing of salmon during forbidden periods, for omitting to tag a captured salmon and for failing to send a declaration of capture.

It is to be noted that these measures have not changed in any specific way since 2005.

Returns under Article 15 of the Convention

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 Laws, Regulations And Programmes Adopted Or Repealed Since The Last Notification (*Article 15, Paragraph 5(a)*)

No specific notification was made on behalf of Metropolitan France on these measures over the last few years. There are no elements of comparison, which is why the following developments describe only in general terms the current measures in place.

With regard to management of the wild salmon stocks, the main enforceable points are as follows:

The current legislation (i.e. the Environment code) stipulates that plans should be defined for the management of migratory fish, including the Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*), by basin (river or group of rivers up to the transversal limit of the sea). With regard to these plans, the following has been drawn up:

- Measures enhancing reproduction, development, conservation and movement of these fish;
- Methods to assess the stocks and to evaluate their numbers;
- Stocking programmes and programmes which aim to maintain numbers;
- Conditions determining how the periods of fishing season are set;
- Terms by which fishing could possibly be restricted;
- Conditions for the delivery and maintenance of the fishing log.

In this context, and as from 1996, management initiatives for the rivers of the North-West of France (Bretagne, Normandy) have been formulated. In practice, this means that targets for reproduction levels have been defined for each river and that measures have been put in place to ensure the implementation of these levels (such as TAC, technical measures...).

Measures have also been adopted which aim to control the fishing effort on these stocks in the maritime sections of these basins (i.e. Ministerial decree of 16/10/1996). These measures, specifically request:

- The delivery of permits for estuary fishing, according to a contingent fixed nationally and taking into account criteria aiming to progressively diminish the fishing effort taking place in each basin (in 2006: 1,137 permits have been granted);
- A compulsory statistical declaration of the catches made;
- Specific tagging of wild salmon catches.

These specific measures are derived from professional debates and can be opposed each year.

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)*)

Wild salmon fishing is currently undertaken in two basins: in the *Massif Armoricaïn* (Bretagne and Lower-Normandy) and in the *Adour-Gaves* basin. It should be noted that exploitation of the stock used to take place in the Loire-Allier basin until 1994. However, given the reduction in the level of this stock, this fishery is now closed.

In Bretagne and Lower-Normandy, a regulation based on the setting of a TAC level has been in place since 1996. In 2005, the actual catches were significantly below these TAC levels (37%). In addition, as from 2000, a specific TAC, amounting to 10 % of the total TAC, was set for spring salmon. This measure expects the fishing season to close temporarily as from mid-June if this level of TAC is reached. In 2005, the specific TAC was reached on 6 of the 28 rivers, and therefore fishing was stopped temporarily.

In 2005, some technical measures implemented for leisure/sport fishing in the *Adour-Gaves* basin, were based, as in the previous year, on closing the fishery for two days a week (Tuesday and Thursday) and on fixing a daily quota per fisherman (4 salmon per fisherman). Furthermore, commercial fishing with nets has varied very little in this basin since 2002 and occurs outside the closed days for fishing (2 days closed from April to mid June, 3 days closed from April to July, 2 days closed throughout July and entirely closed as from the end of July). Whilst the regulation has changed little in 2005 on this topic, a reduction of the fishing effort has been noted in the commercial fishing.

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 2005 in tonnes round fresh weight or round fresh weight equivalent***

The 2005 estimate for provisional catches amounts to 10.9 tonnes (which corresponds to 3,027 fish). These figures include the total declared catches and an estimate in respect of undeclared catches, based on investigations in the field.

- 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***

The 2005 estimate for provisional catches (declared catches and estimate of undeclared catches) can be broken down as follows :

	Number	Weight (kg)
1 SW	1256	2756
MSW	1771	8111

- 3. Confirmed catch of Atlantic salmon in tonnes round fresh weight or round fresh weight equivalent for previous calendar year (i.e. 2004)***

The 2004 confirmed estimate of catches amounted to 19.3 tonnes.

Unreported Catches

Management control and reporting systems

A description of management and control and reporting systems by country

Declarations of catches made from angling or from other types of gear are compulsory in fresh water and estuarine waters. Fishermen make these declarations on envelopes which request specific information (river, length, weight, date of the catch...). A scale sample is also requested to determine the age of the salmon.

With regard to fishing activities in fresh water, officials are authorized to note offences, obtain information on undeclared catches through investigation along the rivers. This information is then compared with the actual declarations made. It is fitting to note at this juncture that statistics also include undeclared catches.

There are no estimates made of undeclared catches for professional net fishing in the Adour estuary. Furthermore, it is also possible that by-catches from other fishing methods (other than angling) take place in other estuaries (such as the Loire), although there is no precise data on these.