

Agenda item 6.1
For information

Council

CNL(07)17

Returns under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

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Summary

1. Under the Convention, the Parties shall report on actions taken in accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention. Details of the new actions taken are attached. At the time of preparation of this paper, two EU Member States with Atlantic salmon stocks (France and Portugal) had not sent returns.
2. Under Article 14 of the Convention, Canada has reported on measures in the Labrador food fisheries to minimise mixed-stock harvests, and on its meetings with France with regard to the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery. EU (Ireland) has reported that a Sea Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act, which will strengthen sea fisheries law and increase penalties, was enacted in 2006. EU (Spain) has indicated that all coastal fisheries are prohibited. Norway has reported on its surveillance activities which (together with the surveillance activities of the Icelandic coastguard) are very valuable in identifying any fishing for salmon by non-NASCO Parties in international waters in the North-East Atlantic Commission area.
3. Under Article 15, a number of new laws, regulations and programmes, other new commitments and factors affecting salmon stocks have been reported. In summary these include:

Canada

The Fisheries Act that governs management of fisheries and the protection of habitat in Canada is being overhauled. The changes being considered include requiring consideration of the Precautionary Approach to conserve aquatic resources, putting in place a science-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management and enhancing the approach to dealing with and enforcing fish habitat provisions. The proposed overhaul of the Act was presented in the Canadian Parliament in late 2006.

European Union:

In Germany, a sanctuary has been created in the River Elbe in Saxony. In Lower Saxony, under a Coastal Fisheries Law of 3 March 2006, salmon are protected in coastal waters from 1 October – 15 March. In Bavaria, while the stocking programme conducted between 1994 and 2004 in the upper and lower Main (a tributary of the Rhine) and its tributaries was not continued in 2005, 2006 and 2007, enhancement is expected due to construction of fish ladders, scheduled for 2007, in the barrage at Randersacker.

In Ireland, a number of regulations and byelaws were introduced or updated. These included regulations to continue the carcass tagging and logbook scheme in 2006, to provide for a system of on-the-spot fines for offences, restricting the angler bag limit to 10 fish in 2006, to introduce compulsory catch-and-release provisions from 1 September 2006 until the end of the season, to set the opening and closing dates and weekly close times for commercial salmon and trout fishing, and to prohibit

monofilament or multi-strand monofilament material in specified nets. For 2006 the commercial fishery quota was set at 91,000 salmon, a reduction of 58% from the initial commercial TAC of 219,000. In 2006, for the first time, an angling quota of 15,000 salmon was also set.

A suite of conservation measures for 2007 has also been detailed. In 2005 the Irish Government decided to end the at-sea mixed stock fisheries (predominantly drift nets) in 2007 and to operate fisheries only on single river stocks which are shown to be meeting conservation limits. In 2006 a number of regulations, byelaws and orders were introduced for the conservation and management of salmon in 2007, including those that regulate the quotas for each of the rivers that are open for fishing in 2007, that further protect the spring salmon specifically, and that introduce a salmon conservation levy equivalent to 50% of the salmon licence fees. The levy will be used to fund restoration work

In Spain, regulations were adopted in 2006 which set quotas in the autonomous regions. Some rivers remain closed to angling. In Asturias and Navarra, measures have been taken to improve fish passage, including dam removal and installation of fishways. In Asturias, restocking programmes with native fish (more than 1.2 million parr and smolt in 2006) have led to increased returns, with stocked fish making up 15% of catches.

In the United Kingdom, in England and Wales, a package of measures was agreed to reduce fishing effort on the rivers Teign and Dart with compensation paid to netmen and release of the majority of rod-caught salmon. Compensation payments were also agreed with four netmen on the River Dee (North Wales) to speed up the phase-out of seine and trammel net fisheries. Compensation arrangements continue in other fisheries and the phase-out of mixed stock fisheries is continuing. In Scotland, a number of new regulations were introduced, and catch and release fishing and stock and habitat enhancement programmes continue. The voluntary deferment of the start of the net fishery by 6 weeks to conserve early-running stocks has continued. In Northern Ireland, the Loughs Agency is reviewing fisheries under its remit in the light of the proposed cessation of interceptory fisheries for salmon on mixed stocks below conservation limits in Ireland. In the Fisheries Conservancy Board area, following cessation of 90% of commercial in-shore fishing for salmon in 2004, a further review of any remaining interceptory fishing is under consideration. Habitat work has been undertaken and two new fish counters installed.

In Iceland, new laws on freshwater fishing and related activities took effect. There are new Acts on freshwater fisheries, rearing of freshwater fish, enhancement of freshwater fish and protection against fish diseases.

In Norway, 21 Atlantic salmon rivers were limed at a cost of NOK50 million (approximately £4 million) in 2006. The total catch of salmon in limed rivers was 46 tonnes in 2006. It has been estimated that the salmon stocks in 14 of the limed rivers will be fully re-established after 15 years of liming (most programmes commenced in the period 1991 – 1997) and that the total catch of salmon from these rivers will be about 75 tonnes in 2011. In 2006 a programme of treatment of rivers to eradicate the parasite *G. salaris* continued. Out of 46 infected rivers, 35 have been treated and in 15 rivers the parasite has been eliminated and ten rivers are still being monitored. In

ten other rivers the parasite has been recorded again after treatment. A bill before Parliament proposes an additional 15 rivers and 8 fjords under the National Salmon Rivers and Salmon Fjords Scheme. The bill focuses on the spread of *G. salaris* and introgression of escaped farmed salmon as the two most severe threats to the future existence of wild salmon in Norway.

In the Russian Federation, the Federal “Water Code of the Russian Federation” was adopted which defines the width of protection zones on salmon rivers, with the aim of preventing pollution, abstractions and siltation, thereby protecting the habitat of aquatic biological resources and other flora and fauna.

In the US, a Recovery Plan for the Gulf of Maine (GOM) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) has been finalised and a Recovery Team has developed a list of 30 priority actions for recovery from the 120 actions identified in the Plan. In the fall of 2006 a Status Review to determine if any other populations should be included in the GOM DPS was made publicly available and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is presently considering the information in the review, the comments from peer reviewers and the response of the Atlantic Salmon Biological Review Team to the peer reviewers to determine if action is warranted under the Endangered Species Act. NMFS could determine that a change is required to the boundaries or conservation status of the existing GOM DPS, that a separate listing of salmon in other rivers is warranted, or that no action is warranted. The Endangered Species Act requires that critical habitat for species listed as endangered or threatened is designated. This process is now underway and is expected to be completed in 2008. The final report on an independent program review to determine if current hatchery operations, protocols and practices are scientifically sound, and whether they have the potential to further stock recovery and are integrated with population assessment and evaluation programs, is expected during the summer of 2007.

Secretary
Edinburgh
11 May, 2007

Returns under Article 14 of the Convention

1. Actions Taken To Make Effective The Provisions Of The Convention (*Article 14, Paragraph 1*)

1.1 The prohibition of fishing for salmon beyond 12* nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. (*Article 2, paragraph 2*)

* 40 nautical miles at West Greenland

* Area of fisheries jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands

European Union

Ireland

Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 enacted which strengthens sea fisheries law to secure compliance with EU Law and *inter alia* increase penalties.

Spain

Principality of Asturias:

Only fishing by anglers is allowed. All coastal fisheries are banned: Law 6/2002 of the Principado de Asturias, Protección de los ecosistemas y de la pesca.

Norway

Information on sightings is reported directly to NASCO by the Norwegian Coast Guard Squadron North.

Other Parties

No actions reported by the other Parties or EU Member States.

1.2 Inviting the attention of States not party to the Convention to any matter relating to the activities of the vessels of that State which appears to affect adversely the salmon stocks subject to the Convention. (*Article 2, paragraph 3*)

Canada

During bilateral meetings with France, Canada raised concerns about the salmon fishery at St. Pierre et Miquelon that captures salmon originating in Canadian and US rivers.

Other Parties

No actions reported by the other Parties.

1.3 Measures to minimise the by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member. (*Article 7, paragraph 2*) [North American Commission members only]

Canada

Annual negotiations are undertaken with Aboriginal groups in Labrador to establish the parameters of their food fisheries for Atlantic salmon. As a result, measures are in place to ensure harvests of mixed stocks are avoided, by moving the fishing activities further into the rivers and inside the headlands. Where needed, improvements to these measures are negotiated.

No actions reported by the US.

1.4 Alteration in fishing patterns in a manner which results in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party, except with the consent of the latter. (*Article 7, paragraph 3*) [North American Commission members only]

No actions reported by either Party.

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

No actions reported by any Party.

Returns under Article 15 of the Convention

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

European Union

Germany

In the River Elbe in Saxony, a sanctuary for Atlantic salmon has been created by edict. In Lower Saxony, under the Coastal Fisheries Law of 3 March 2006 (Nds. GVBl. No. 8/2006), salmon are protected in the coastal waters of Lower Saxony from 1 October – 15 March.

Ireland

Foyle Carlingford Fisheries Act 2007: extends the functions of the Loughs Agency of the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission, one of the six North South Implementation Bodies, in relation to inland fisheries and updates and amends the existing Foyle Fisheries Acts 1952 to 1983 in relation to, *inter alia*, the management, conservation, protection and improvement of fisheries in the Foyle and Carlingford areas. Parallel legislation has been introduced in Northern Ireland.

A considerable volume of secondary legislation was introduced in 2006 to provide for significant changes to the salmon fishery management regime and associated Conservation Measures for 2006 and 2007 Seasons:

Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Regulations 2006, S.I. No. 208 of 2006: Statutory Instrument (SI No. 256 of 2000) was updated for the 2006 fishing season for the continuation of the Carcass Tagging and Logbook Scheme. Under this instrument all salmon fishermen (commercial and recreational) must apply a coded carcass tag to each salmon caught and provide details of these landings and subsequent disposal (sale, storage, etc.) in official logbooks. The statutory instrument provides for quotas for the taking of wild salmon and sea trout by commercial fishing engines in each of the 17 fishery districts. In addition three technical amendments were incorporated into the 2006 regulations. The amendments provided for: the latest date by which logbooks (angling and commercial fishing) should be returned to the Fisheries Boards; specification in the regulations of fines/penalties in respect of a contravention or failure to comply with the regulations; and the return of tags with angling logbooks including data in relation to fish caught and released.

National Salmon Commission and Standing Scientific Committee (Terms of Reference and Procedure) Order 2006, SI No. 483 of 2006: These Regulations provide for revised Terms of Reference and Procedure for the National Salmon Commission and new terms of reference and procedures for the Standing Scientific Committee of the Commission.

Inland Fisheries Fixed Payment Regulations 2006, S.I. No. 330 of 2006: These regulations provide for a system of on-the-spot fines to be administered by the

regional fisheries boards. The form of notice of an on-the-spot fine is set out in the Schedule to the Regulations.

Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye law No. 802 2006: This Bye law provides for the restriction on the annual angling bag limit of 10 fish per angler for 2006. While the NSC had recommended a limit of 15 fish per angler, the lower level was believed to be necessary to contain the total harvest by anglers to 15,000 fish, given that there is no appreciable reduction in the average angling catch (25,000) over the past five years and in the interest of a balanced treatment of all stakeholders.

Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye law No 803 2006: This Bye law provides for the introduction of compulsory catch and release provisions from 1st September 2006 until the end of the season in 8 districts which are not meeting conservation limits.

Conservation of Salmon and Trout Byelaw No 804 2006: This Bye-law prescribes the opening and closing dates and the weekly close times, etc., for commercial salmon and trout fishing. The Bye law also prohibits the use of monofilament or multistrand monofilament material in (a) drift nets in the tidal waters, (b) drift nets in the Dublin District outside the Liffey tidal waters on or after 30 June, 2006, (c) draft nets (with the exception of draft nets in Cork Harbour where the use of monofilament or multistrand monofilament material is permitted) (d), snap nets or other engines. Approval was given to draft net fishing with monofilament nets, within the quotas set down for the Cork district in the Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations in the 2006 season, in the light of the results of a pilot study which investigated aspects of draft net fishing in Cork Harbour, conducted over the previous three years.

Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Amendment Byelaw No. 808 2006: This Bye-law provides for an amendment to the Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye-law No. 803, 2006 and prohibits in respect of all sea trout (irrespective of size) the use of any fish hooks other than single barbless hooks and imposes a ban on the use of worms as bait.

South Western Fisheries Region Prohibition of the use of Prawns Shrimp and other Crustacea Byelaw No 810 2006: This Bye-law prohibits the use of any prawn, shrimp or any other crustacean as bait to angle or take fish with rod and line during the month of September each year in the South Western Fisheries Region with the exception of that part of the River Lee downstream of the weir in the city to the point where the two channels of the Lee converge.

South Western Fisheries Region River Lee Byelaw No 811 2006: This Bye-law prohibits the use of any fish hooks, other than single barbless hooks, in angling for fish with rod and line each year in that part of the River Lee downstream of the weir in the city to the point where the two channels of the Lee converge during the period from 30 April to 30 September, in angling for salmon and sea trout, and 12 October, in angling for trout.

Western Fisheries Region Dawros Kylemore River Byelaw No 812 2006: This Bye-law prohibits angling with any lure other than artificial fly in that part of the Dawros River from where it flows out of Lough Maladrolaun (also known as the Rock Pool)

in the townlands of Pollacappul and Mweelin to the bridge on the Letterfrack-Tullycross road in the townlands of Tooreena and Dawros More in the county of Galway.

North Western Fisheries Region Ballina District Prohibition on Angling Bye law No C S 283 2006: This Bye-law provides that the annual close season for angling with rod and line in parts of Lough Conn, Lough Cullin and River Deel shall be extended from 1 February to 31 May (both dates inclusive) in each of the years 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Shannon Fisheries Region Draft Netting of Trout on Lough Ree Bye law No 284 2006: This Bye-law introduces a number of conservation measures on Lough Ree.

Conservation Measures for the 2007 Season

The Wild Salmon and Sea Trout Tagging Scheme Regulations (No. 2) 2006 (S.I. No 672 of 2006): sets out the quotas on a river-by-river basis, the mechanism for allocating overall quotas between commercial fishermen and anglers and individual commercial fishermen's quotas. The regulations specify the quotas for each of the rivers that are open for fishing in 2007. In addition, in order to protect the spring salmon (multi sea winter fish) only one tag may be issued per angler up to 12 May 2007.

The Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye-law No. 814, 2006: specifies the annual and seasonal angling bag limits in specified rivers. The Bye-Law provides for an annual bag limit of 10 fish for 2007, a season bag limit of 1 fish in the period 1 January to 12 May, a daily bag limit of 3 fish from 13 May to 31 August and a daily bag limit of 1 fish from 1 September to the end of the season. The Bye-law also provides for the use of single hooks and prohibits the use of worms as bait once the specified number of fish have been caught in the specified periods.

The Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye-laws No. 815, 2006: identifies those rivers and the circumstances where catch and release is permissible.

The Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye-law No. C.S. 287, 2006: prohibits angling for salmon and sea trout in specified rivers that are not meeting their conservation limits.

The Conservation of Salmon and Sea Trout Bye-law No. C.S. 288, 2006: prohibits angling for salmon and all sea trout in the river Liffey and river Slaney.

The Control of Fishing for Salmon (Amendment) Order 2006 (S.I. No 653 of 2006): This Order extends the date by which applications for commercial fishing licences must be received by the Regional Fisheries Boards from 31 January to 18 March 2007.

The Salmon Rod Ordinary Licences (Alteration of Licence Duties) Order 2006 (S.I. No 670 of 2006): prescribes the licence fees payable in respect of salmon rod ordinary licences, including a salmon conservation levy equivalent to 50% of the licence fee.

Special Tidal Waters (Special Local Licences Alteration of Duties) Order 2006 (S.I. No 671 of 2006): prescribes the licence fees to be payable from 1 January 2007 in respect of special local salmon fishing licences, including a salmon conservation levy equivalent to 50% of the licence fee.

Fisheries (Miscellaneous Commercial Licences) (Alteration of Duties) Order 2006 (S.I. No 628 of 2006): prescribe, *inter alia*, the licence fees payable in respect of commercial salmon fishing licences, including a salmon conservation levy equivalent to 50% of the licence fee.

Spain

Salmon fishing in Spain is regulated independently by each Autonomous Community. A general framework for fishing has been developed. It regulates fishing in fresh water for the rational and sustainable regulation of the Atlantic salmon and other species every year. Atlantic salmon can be found in the following Spanish Autonomous Communities: Galicia, Principality of Asturias, Navarra, Cantabria and Basque Country. Maps showing the Autonomous Communities and details of management measures are provided in Annex 1. The following information explains how these Spanish Autonomous Communities have regulated salmon fishing in 2006.

Galicia:

TAC regulations remains the same as in 2005 in the five rivers where salmon angling is allowed in Galicia (R. Eo – managed with Asturian Government – no regulation of number of salmon caught): 40 salmon in the R. Masma, 5 in the R. Mandeo, 40 in the R. Ulla, 15 in the R. Lérez and 5 in the Miño (in the exclusively Spanish area).

Principality of Asturias:

For 2007, the quota of salmon that can be caught in each zone in the rivers Esva, Sella, Narcea and Deva-Cares is limited to 3 salmon/coto (beat)/day. In all Asturias rivers since 2006 catches are limited to a maximum of 8 salmon/person/year.

Navarra:

TAC regulations have been reviewed and the new limit of catches for angling is 50 salmon/year. Concerning the protection of the MSW population, the catches have been limited to 8 salmon until 15 June.

Cantabria:

There are no new changes with regard to fishing standards.

Basque Country:

Atlantic salmon fishing and catches are not allowed under economic penalty.

United Kingdom

In England and Wales:

A package of measures was agreed to reduce fishing effort on the Rivers Teign and Dart in South West England. The net limitation orders were reduced from 6 to 3 on the Teign and from 13 to 3 on the Dart, with netsmen being compensated for giving up their licences. A combination of Association rules and voluntary release also enabled the majority of the rod-caught fish to be released on these rivers. In addition, compensation payments were agreed with four fishermen on the River Dee (North Wales) to speed up the phase-out of the seine and trammel net fisheries on this river.

Season extensions continued to apply for rod fisheries on a number of rivers in Wales and South West England, and a new season extension was introduced on the River Seiont (North Wales) in 2006. In all cases, catch and release is mandatory during the extension period; other method restrictions also apply at this time on some rivers.

In Scotland:

The Northern Salmon Fishery District Designation Order 2006 - made on 31 August 2006, came into force 1 September 2006. Created new Northern Salmon Fishery District. Previous salmon fishery districts in the area were abolished and replaced.

The Conservation of Salmon (Collection of Statistics) (Scotland) Regulations 2006. Made on 27 November 2006, laid before Scottish Parliament on 30 November 2006, came into force on 1 January 2007.

The Scotland Act 1998 (River Tweed) Order 2006. Made by Her Majesty The Queen in Council on 14 November 2006, came into force on 15 November 2006.

Iceland

On 1 July 2006 new laws on freshwater fishing and related activities took effect. The previous Act on Freshwater Fisheries was broken down and replaced by the following Acts:

1. Act No. 61/2006 on Freshwater Fisheries
2. Act No. 57/2006 on Rearing of Freshwater Fish
3. Act No. 58/2006 on Enhancement of Freshwater Fish (including ranching)
4. Act No. 60/2006 on Protection against Fish Diseases

At the present time these are only available in Icelandic.

Russian Federation

The Federal Law - "Water Code of the Russian Federation", was adopted on 3 June 2006. One of its Articles defines the width of protection zones on salmon rivers. The width of this zone can vary from 50m to 200m, depending on the river length. According to the Water Code a special regime shall be established in the protection zone for economic or any other activity with the aim of preventing pollution, obstruction, siltation in the above water bodies and their depletion as well as for the

protection of habitat of aquatic biological resources and of other species of flora and fauna.

Other Parties

No changes reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

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)*)

Canada

The *Fisheries Act* is the federal law that governs the management of fisheries and the protection of fish habitat in Canada. An overhaul of the Act is being considered by the Canadian government. The changes being considered will:

- Require for the first time the consideration of a precautionary approach to conserve aquatic resources;
- Put in place a science-based ecosystem approach to fisheries management;
- Introduce provisions concerning Aquatic Invasive Species;
- Enhance the approach in dealing with and enforcing fish habitat provisions.

The proposed overhaul of the Act was presented in the Canadian Parliament in late 2006. There are a number of stages that the proposed changes must go through before coming into force. After this process there will be an implementation stage when some components of the revised Act would go into effect immediately and others involving new regulations, would be phased in.

European Union

Ireland

In 2005, an Irish Government decision was taken to end the at-sea mixed stock fisheries (predominantly drift nets) in 2007 and to operate fisheries only on single river stocks which were shown to be meeting conservation limits. These measures were to fully align with the advice of the Standing Scientific Committee of the National Salmon Commission in 2007, adhere to best international practice, comply with scientific advice from ICES, meet NASCO objectives and to afford greater protection to stocks designated under the EU Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EC).

In 2006, the Minister of State at the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources made a number of regulations, bye-laws and orders for the conservation and management of salmon in 2007. This legislation reflects the scientific advice and compliance with international and EU obligations. The relevant instruments regulate the quotas for each of the rivers that are open for fishing in 2007 and further protect the spring salmon (multi-sea-winter fish) specifically and introduce a salmon conservation levy equivalent to 50% of salmon licence fees.

The Minister has issued a direction to the fisheries boards under the Fisheries Act 1980 directing that the Central Fisheries Board co-ordinate the preparation and implementation of a programme for rehabilitation of salmon stocks, giving priority to rivers below their conservation limits; in special areas of conservation; and which have the greatest prospect of recovery, which is to be funded by the proceeds of the salmon conservation levy.

Recognising the implications of aligning management of the fishery with the scientific advice for the commercial salmon fishing sector in 2007 and beyond, the Government decided to put in place a fund to address any financial hardship that may be experienced by the sector. It is proposed to provide a measure of relief to each individual in line with the level of hardship likely to be experienced based on the recent catch history of the individual licence holder.

An additional fund will be available, the focus of which should primarily be those communities where drift-net fishing has been a well-established activity and where its withdrawal demonstrably impacts on their economic and social fabric.

Spain

Principality of Asturias:

In 2005, a dam in a secondary river was demolished.

In November 2006 an important dam (8 metre) in Gueña, a secondary river in Sella Basin, has been demolished, with a significant increase in accessible length of the tributary.

Navarra:

During the last year, two dams in secondary rivers have been equipped with fish-passes. Another one has been demolished and removed. In 2006, a Stream Gauge Station has been modified to facilitate fish passage. The accessible salmon habitat in the Bidasoa basin has been increased by 10%.

United Kingdom

In England and Wales:

Netsmen have again received compensation payments (from various sources), or have entered voluntary agreements, not to fish for all or part of the season (or to release fish alive) in the following salmon fisheries: Tavy, Tamar, Lynher, Fowey, Camel, Dart, Teign, Lyn, Dee and the Hampshire Avon and Stour. The phase-out of a number of mixed-stock fisheries is continuing.

In Northern Ireland

Loughs Agency area: in light of proposed cessation of interceptory fishing for salmon on mixed stocks below conservation limits in Ireland the Loughs Agency is currently reviewing the fisheries under its remit.

Fisheries Conservancy Board area: following the cessation of 90% of commercial inshore fishing for salmon in 2004 a further review of any remaining interceptory fishing is under consideration.

In Scotland:

Catch and release in the salmon rod fishery in 2006 reached 56% of all salmon and grilse caught. Salmon netsmen repeated their voluntary deferment of the start of the netting season by 6 weeks to conserve early-running stocks.

District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts throughout Scotland have maintained programmes of stock and habitat enhancement.

Norway

Liming

In 2006, 21 Atlantic salmon rivers were limed in Norway at a cost of NOK 50 million (approximately £4 million). Liming of the River Vosso ceased at the end of 2005 due to improvement in the water quality in the river. In 2006 additional funding from the Ministry of Environment made it possible to continue the liming programme in the other limed salmon rivers. A programme for restocking of the acidified River Nidelva, which has been limed since the end of 2005, was initiated in 2006.

In 2006 the total catch of Atlantic salmon in the 21 limed rivers was around 45 tonnes. Most liming projects in Norway commenced during the period 1991 to 1997. It will take some years before salmon stocks are re-established in treated rivers. The Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) has estimated that the salmon stocks in 14 of these rivers will be fully re-established after about 15 years of liming, and has suggested that the total catch may be about 75 tonnes in 2011.

The largest liming projects are in three large watercourses in southern-most Norway: Tovdalselva, Mandalselva and Bjerkreimselva. In Tovdalselva and Mandalselva, the natural Atlantic salmon stocks became extinct due to acidification. Before acidification, during the late 1800s, yearly catches of salmon in the rivers Mandalselva and Tovdalselva were as high as 30 and 20 tonnes respectively. In both rivers, a restocking programme is being carried out in connection with the liming programme. The catches are increasing in the River Mandalselva with an average catch of about 10 tonnes in the last six years. In the River Tovdalselva the catches have been between 1 and 1.5 tonnes in the last two years with the density of young fish still increasing. The River Bjerkreimselva had a small population of its natural salmon stock before liming commenced and catches increased significantly in the first few years after liming started. The average catch in the River Bjerkreimselva for the last six years has been about 14 tonnes.

Gyrodactylus salaris

In 2006, a final treatment was carried out in the River Lærdalselva situated in the western part of Norway. In addition a new eradication project began in the Steinkjer Region (River Steinkjerelva and River Figga). These rivers are situated in the

innermost Trondheimsfjord, in the middle part of Norway. This fjord system is the most important area for Atlantic salmon in Norway. The eradication of the parasite from the River Steinkjerelva and the River Figga is being given the highest priority. The main rivers and their largest tributaries were treated with aluminium sulphate (ALS). Rotenone was used in small quantities in more or less stagnant water, smaller tributaries and other complex areas connected to the river. A further treatment of these rivers will be undertaken in 2007.

A rotenone treatment project was completed in 4 smaller rivers situated in the Vefsna Region in the northern part of Norway. Immediate treatment of these rivers was necessary to prevent the parasite entering a big lake situated in the River Leirelva.

Out of 46 infected rivers in Norway, chemical treatment has so far been carried out in a total of 35 rivers. In 15 of the treated rivers the parasite has been eradicated. Ten rivers are still being monitored. Five years of monitoring after treatment is necessary to confirm that the treatment has been successful. In ten rivers the parasite has been registered again after chemical treatment.

In addition to the remedial measures, the monitoring programme and preventive measures are being given high priority.

Conservation of salmon stocks

There was no activity concerning cryopreservation of salmon milt in 2006. By the end of 2006, milt from a total of 6,500 wild salmon from 169 stocks had been included in the Frozen Gene Bank (cryopreservation). Norway currently operates 3 living gene banks (LGB); one in northern Norway, one in middle Norway and one in south-western Norway. The threats to the stocks that are kept in these stations are hydropower development, acidification, high proportion of escaped farmed salmon and the freshwater parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*. Nine of the 29 salmon stocks that have been maintained in LGBs have been re-introduced into their river of origin; seven are no longer retained in captivity but two are being kept as a precaution against future catastrophes. Twelve additional stocks are under restoration, while the seven remaining stocks await eradication of *G. salaris* from their native rivers. One stock of landlocked salmon is maintained in the LGB as a precautionary measure. The three LGBs are now preserving 22 stocks, 4 in Bjerka, 10 in Haukvik and 8 in Eidfjord.

Proposition for the conservation of wild salmon

In December 2006 the Norwegian Government presented a Proposition for the conservation of wild salmon and the finalization of the National Salmon Rivers and Salmon Fjords scheme. The bill is expected to pass through Parliament during its 2007 spring session. Besides proposing an additional 15 rivers and 8 fjords and a more concrete and strict management regime, especially for aquaculture in National Salmon Fjords, the bill includes proposals for new measures for the conservation of the wild salmon resource in Norway. The bill focuses on the further spread of *G. salaris* and introgression of escaped farmed salmon as the two most severe threats to the further existence of wild Atlantic salmon stocks in Norway. Among the measures suggested are the continuation of liming of salmon rivers, increased efforts to eradicate *G. salaris* from Norwegian rivers, new measures to reduce escapes from

salmon farms and the introduction of a programme aimed at developing sterile salmon for farming purposes. More effective control of sea lice production in fish farms, the development of a national salmon habitat protection and restoration plan and the need to improve conditions for wild salmon in connection with renewal or revision of hydro-power licences are identified. Furthermore, the bill points to the need for more restrictive regulations in salmon fisheries to reduce mixed stock fisheries.

USA

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), collectively referred to as the Services, have joint responsibility for recovery of the endangered Gulf of Maine (GOM) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*). In December 2005, the Services finalized the Recovery Plan for the GOM DPS of Atlantic Salmon (National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 2005). A copy of the Final Recovery Plan is available at the following link:<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/recovery/>. In September 2005, the Northeast Regional Director for the USFWS and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries for NOAA Fisheries appointed a Recovery Team to identify priority recovery actions and provide input and recommendations on specific recovery issues. The Services convened a Recovery Team representing a diversity of expertise in order to facilitate implementation of the Recovery Plan. The Recovery Team was asked to develop recommendations to the Services as to what actions identified in the Plan are the most critical to carry out over the next several years. From a list of over 120 actions in the Final Recovery Plan, the Recovery Team developed a list of 30 priority actions for recovery that they recommended to the Services for implementation. The Recovery Team will be asked to review and revise their recommendations annually based upon recovery activities that have been completed or are ongoing and any new information on the species or threats.

In 2003 the Services assembled an Atlantic Salmon Biological Review Team (BRT) to review and evaluate all relevant scientific information necessary to evaluate whether the population in the Penobscot River and other rivers should be included in the GOM DPS. The populations in the Penobscot and a few other rivers were not included in the GOM DPS at the time it was listed under the ESA in November of 2000 because there was not enough scientific information at that time to demonstrate that those populations were part of the same DPS or constituted a different DPS. Since the listing in 2000, new information has come to light which indicates that the GOM DPS should be re-evaluated to determine if any other populations should be included because they are closely related. The Draft Status Review was completed in January 2006 and underwent peer review. The Center for Independent Experts (CIE) completed the review and the BRT made revisions to the document based upon this critique. The Status Review was made available to the public during the fall of 2006. NMFS is currently considering the information presented in the 2006 Status Review, the comments from the peer reviewers, and the response of the BRT to the peer reviewers to determine if action under the ESA is warranted. NMFS could determine that a change to the boundaries or conservation status of the existing GOM DPS is warranted, that a separate listing action is warranted, or that no action is warranted. If NMFS determined that a modification to the existing listing or a new listing was

warranted, then a proposed rule will be published along with the rationale for that proposal.

The ESA also requires that the Services designate Critical Habitat for all species listed as endangered or threatened. The Services listed Atlantic salmon in the GOM DPS as endangered under the ESA in 2000; however, critical habitat has yet to be designated. Critical habitat is defined as habitat that includes physical and biological features essential to the conservation of the listed species. Critical habitat can be designated in all areas currently occupied by the species, and may be designated in those areas not occupied by the species if those areas are deemed essential to the conservation and recovery of the species. Federal agencies must consult with the Services on any action they permit, fund or carry out that may adversely affect critical habitat. Currently NMFS is working on developing the source documents that describe the habitat features essential to the conservation of the species as well as those activities that likely affect the identified habitat features. The information in the source document will be used to conduct an economic analysis designed to assess the economic impact that a critical habitat designation may have and weigh the cost of designating critical habitat with the benefits to recovery. Areas can be excluded from a critical habitat designation if the costs are deemed to be too great as long as the decision not to designate does not jeopardize the continued existence of the species. It is expected that the NMFS will complete the designation by 2008.

The Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission (MASC), USFWS, and NMFS contracted Sustainable Ecosystems Institute (<http://www.sei.org/>) to conduct an independent program review to determine if current hatchery operations, protocols, and practices are scientifically sound, have potential to further recovery, and are integrated with population assessment and evaluation programs. The focus question was: Is there integrated adaptive management of Atlantic salmon in Maine? A team of six scientists was convened to review the Maine program. The panel conducted a three-day visit to Maine in February 2007. The visit included a tour of Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery (CBNFH) and two days of presentations by, and discussions with, agency staff and interested scientists (i.e. researchers, managers from other programs, and retirees). The review team is expected to submit their final report to the Services and MASC by summer 2007.

Other Parties

No new commitments reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

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

European Union

Germany

In Bavaria, in the framework of the “Lachs 2000 Programme (Rhine Salmon Programme) the ArGeMain (Working Group on the Rhine tributary, the Main) stocked about 400,000 fry between 1994 and 2004 in the Upper and Lower Main and

its tributaries. The genetic origin of these strains was Ireland, France and Sweden. There was no stocking in 2005, 2006 or 2007. Enhancement is expected due to fish ladders at the barrage in Randersacker (under construction in 2007). The current conservation measures offer year-round protection to salmon in Bavaria.

Ireland

The commercial fishery quota in 2006 was set at 91,000 fish and for the first time an angling quota of 15,000 fish was also set. This is a reduction of 58% from the initial commercial TAC of 219,000, which has been brought about by staged reductions annually since 2002.

The statutory instruments introduced in late 2006 set out the quotas on a river-by-river basis and specify the quotas for each of the rivers that are open for fishing in 2007. Additional protection is afforded to the spring salmon (multi-sea-winter fish).

Spain

Principality of Asturias:

Restocking programmes with native fish have produced an increase in the rate of returning estimated at 15% of the total caught. Smolt and parr production in hatchery and release was over 1,200,000 in 2006.

United Kingdom

In Northern Ireland:

Proposed cessation of Irish interceptory fisheries. In the Fisheries Conservancy Board area habitat improvement works were completed on one river system and 2 fish counters have been installed on minor catchments. In the Loughs Agency area habitat improvement works were completed on 2 river systems.

Norway

In two rivers salmon parr have died from Proliferative Kidney Disease. Little is known about the occurrence of the disease in Norwegian salmon rivers. The disease was previously known in a few hatcheries and only one river. NINA (Norwegian Institute of Nature Research) therefore undertook a pilot screening of 18 rivers in the autumn of 2006. Preliminary results show that the parasite causing the disease, *Tetracapsuloides bryosalmonae*, is probably common in Norwegian salmon rivers. Outbreaks of the disease seem to be triggered by high water temperatures. The study will be reported by NINA in the first half of 2007.

Other Parties

No factors reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

Maps showing the Autonomous Communities in Spain, the salmon rivers and further information on management measures



Autonomous Communities: Galicia, Principality of Asturias, Navarra, Cantabria and Basque Country

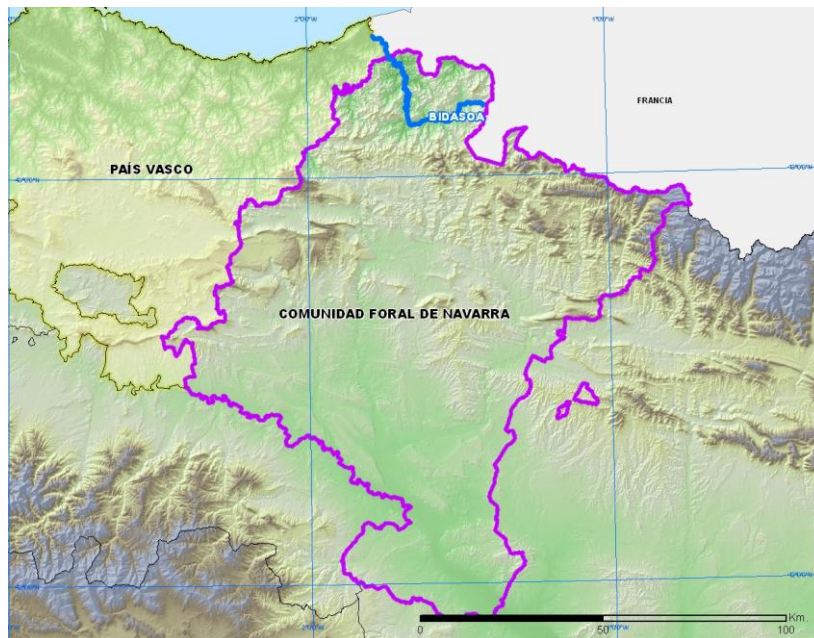
Galicia



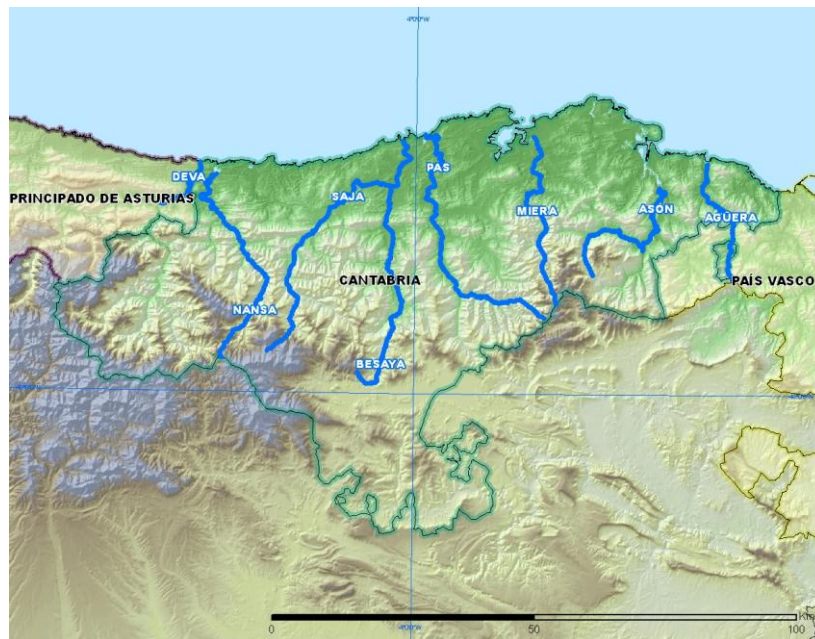
Principality of Asturias



Navarra



Cantabria



Basque Country

