

CNL(11)48

Respond concerning request on inconsistent with NASCO agreements according to the Swedish FAR on aquaculture and introductions and transfers, and transgenics (2009)

NASCO Annual Meeting June 2011

NASCO has invited parties at a Special Session at NASCO Annual meeting 2011 to respond and discuss issues regarding the summary report about the members FAR on aquaculture and introductions and transfers, and transgenics for 2009.

The Swedish Board of Fisheries gives the following information to complement the Swedish FAR regarding measures that has been done:

In 2001 a national strategy for introduction and transfer of fish was published (E.Sparrevik, Fiskeriverket 2001). The strategy gives guidelines for how to deal with questions concerning release of hatchery-reared fish in the wild. This is an important guideline for authorities authorizing release of fish according to the regulations. The strategy stresses *e.g.*,

- that before any release of reared fish or there gametes in the wild or movement into a hatchery or fish farm a risk-benefit analysis should be done
- the release of put-and-take fish may after a risk-benefit analysis only be allowed in water areas if the release does not affect the naturally reproducing populations regarding ecological and genetical issues or parasites and deseases.
- genetically modified fish should not at all be allowed for farming or release in the wild.

As mentioned in the FAR 2009, stocking with any species of salmonids is in general prohibited in river systems emptying into the Kattegatt or Skagerrak. According to the fisheries legislation permission is not granted for aquaculture production for species or sub-species which are inappropriate with regard to water area's specific character. In order to make correct measures, authorities has to base their decisions on descriptions of the water area's specific character and is mainly based on at two national information sources: As a part of the Sweden's environmental objectives (Flourishing lakes and streams) the Swedish Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Swedish Board of Fisheries has developed a system to classify water areas in terms of protection value has been developed, to facilitate decisions concerning permission of fish release and aquaculture production. Currently the EPA has an open website were all areas of lakes and rivers are accessible on a public website. The other source of information is related to the EU Water Framework Directive of which Atlantic salmon are of concern. The EPA has classified 17 water areas of the Swedish west coast water area of which Atlantic salmon is of importance. This information is also accessible on a public website. The above support for decision facilitates risk assessment of release as well as effects on species/sub-species worth of protection.

The Swedish Board of Fisheries and The Board of Agriculture have implemented the *Council Directive 2006/88/EC of 24 October 2006 on animal health requirements for aquaculture animals and products thereof, and on the prevention and control of certain diseases in aquatic animals*. According to the *Council Directive 2006/88/EC*, SE has implemented the

additional guarantees granted in Commission Decision 2004/453/EC of 29 April 2004. In 2004, Sweden has been declared free from Infectious pancreatic necrosis virus (IPN) for the continental parts of the territory. SE should also evaluate to apply for freedom for *Gyrodactylus salaris* (GS) in the GS free rivers on the Swedish west coast. *Gyrodactylus salaricus* is classified as an alien species in the sea and coastal areas in Kattegatt and Skagerrak. Information on alien species is available at the web site, <http://www.frammandearter.se>, on alien species in Swedish seas and coastal areas. The site is an attempt to bring together current knowledge about alien species in Swedish seas and coastal areas, including the Skagerrak/Kattegat and the Baltic Sea. It is aimed at anyone wanting to know more about aquatic invaders in the marine environment. That includes people who deal with alien species on a professional basis, those who encounter aquatic invaders in their private lives, and those who can influence the spread of alien species to sea areas.