

IP(08)12

Fisheries Management Focus Area Report

European Union - Denmark

Preparation of Focus Area Reports on Management of Salmon Fisheries Denmark

The Council has asked each Party or jurisdiction to prepare a fisheries management focus area report to provide a more in-depth assessment of:

- the measures already in place that address the NASCO agreements relating to fisheries management;
- further actions proposed within their Implementation Plans to meet these agreements;
- progress with implementing these actions.

Background information on the NASCO Agreements relating to fisheries management is provided in Annex 1. The Council has decided that the elements listed in paragraphs 1 to 10 below be included in the Focus Area Reports (see CNL(07)47)). The *Ad Hoc* Review Group has reviewed this list and has provided some additional notes of clarification, shown in italics below.

1. A brief description of the fisheries, including an overview of the stocks exploited, gear types, fishery location, magnitude of the fishery, current management restrictions and others planned.

Wild Atlantic salmon spawning take place in rivers Storå, Skjern Å, Varde Å and Ribe Å and maybe in rivers Sneum Å and Kongeå but in very little number and not confirmed. In all rivers plus river Gudenå (no wild stock today) stockings with F1 offsprings from wild salmon take place.

Fisheries in the rivers are only sport fishing (rod and line) and in rivers Storå and Ribe Å all salmon are released. In rivers Skjern Å and Varde Å there are local agreed restriction concerning numbers taken and the rest must be released. In the estuaries (all rivers except River Gudenå) salmon must not be taken.

In year 2007 a total number of 1,680 salmon were caught in rivers of which 959 were released.

Numbers of none recorded salmon from rivers is not known and especially in river Gudenå the number taken is underestimated.

A long the Danish coast line salmon are taken in recreational fisheries (gill nets) and sport fishing, but numbers taken are not known.

Rod and line caught salmon 2007		
	Taken	Released
Storå	0	300
Skjern Å	240	160
Varde Å	131	269
Sneum Å	50	50
Kongeå	50	30
Gudenå	250	0
Ribe Å	0	150

Total 721 959
Total 1,680 salmon (taken + released)

Note on 1: Sufficient information is required to explain the full nature of the fisheries being managed, the management systems in place (including the control and reporting systems) and any planned actions to review or modify these. It should not be necessary to break this down to a highly detailed level. Some of this information could be provided in tabular form.

2. Identification of exploited stocks and the reference points (conservation limit and/or management target) or alternative measures used to define adequate abundance of the stock.

The national Salmon Rehabilitation Plan states that the minimum spawning stock in rivers Storå, Skjern Å, Varde Å and Ribe Å shall be at least 1,000 spawners each year.

3. The status of the stock relative to the abundance criteria specified.

In river Skjern Å the spawning stock is about 525 spawners of which 155 are wild reproduced fish and 370 from stocked wild fish. The spawning stocks in the other rivers are not known and at present no actions are planned.

Note on 2 and 3: The use of reference points or alternative measures is a key element of the NASCO Agreements on managing fisheries. Information is therefore required on the methods being used or proposed, their state of development or implementation, and any planned actions to further develop or modify these. Information on specific reference points and the current status of stocks could be provided in tabular form.

4. The extent to which the stock is meeting other diversity criteria (e.g. age groups, size groups, populations), if such information is available.

No informations

Note on 4: It would be useful to provide a general description of those diversity criteria that have been evaluated, their current status and any proposed actions to extend or modify the evaluation of stock diversity. (The way that this information is used in making management decisions is considered below).

5. **For mixed stock fisheries, the information in numbers 3 and 4 above should be presented for each contributing stock.**

Not relevant here

Note on 5: It has been noted that mixed stock fisheries may create particular problems for fisheries management and the report should therefore describe those mixed stock fisheries that still operate within the jurisdiction, the overall management approach to these fisheries and future actions that are planned. It should be made clear what criteria are used to define mixed stock fisheries.

6. **The management actions that will be employed to control harvest, including measures that will be used to address any failure or trend in abundance or diversity.**

No further regulating fishing activities are planned. The national Salmon Rehabilitation Plan states that obstacles and weirs in the rivers shall be removed in the coming years and habitats restored (no fixed dead line) with the WFD in mind.

Note on 6: The Review Group will need sufficient information to be able to evaluate the powers for regulating fishing activity and/or harvest that are available or planned within the jurisdiction, any additional measures that may be used to protect and restore stocks, and any further actions that are planned (including measures to further reduce unreported catches).

7. **The extent to which the following issues are taken into account:**

- a. **uncertainty in the assessments;**
- b. **abundance of the stock/diversity of the stock;**
- c. **selectivity of the fisheries;**
- d. **any non-fishery factors affecting the stock;**
- e. **other fisheries exploiting the stock.**

No comments

8. **The expected extent and timescale of effects.**

The national Salmon Rehabilitation Plan states that obstacles and weirs in the rivers shall be removed in the coming years and habitats restored (no fixed dead line) with the WFD in mind.

9. **An explanation of how socio-economic factors are applied in the development of fisheries management actions and how this affects the attainment of NASCO's goals.**

Socio-economic factors are not applied.

Note on 7, 8 and 9: These are key elements within the NASCO Decision Structure, so the report will need to explain how they are, or will be, taken into account in the management process within the jurisdiction and any actions that are planned for the future. Under element 8, information is requested on the expected effects of the management actions identified in element 6.

10. Programs that will be used to monitor the effect of the management measures and identify information deficiencies and timeframe for resolution.

In rivers Storå and Skjern Å the smolt output and mortalities from predation in rivers and estuaries has been estimated at several occasions. In river Skjern Å the relation between numbers of smolt and spawners in the river has been estimated and will be repeated in year 2008 where the exact spawning areas will be pointed out using tagged spawners (radio telemetry). In river Varde Å the behavior and mortalities of tagged (radio telemetry) spawners in relation to obstacles and weirs were followed.

No action in the other rivers are planned at the moment

Note on 10: The NASCO Agreement on the Precautionary Approach calls for the assessment of the effectiveness of management actions in all salmon fisheries. The report should therefore provide an overview of how this is or will be achieved.