

North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(05)3

*Correspondence with NEAFC on potential
by-catch of salmon in pelagic fisheries*

NEA(05)3

Correspondence with NEAFC on potential by-catch of salmon in pelagic fisheries

1. You may recall that at its Twenty-First Annual Meeting the North-East Atlantic Commission asked its Chairman, Mr Steinar Hermansen, to write to the President of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), Mr Einar Lemche, regarding the potential by-catch of Atlantic salmon post-smolts in pelagic fisheries. The letter noted NASCO's concerns about this potential by-catch and referred to the advice from ICES which had indicated that it is not possible to provide sound estimates of by-catch for any pelagic fishery until there is sufficient monitoring of, and information derived from, the commercial pelagic fisheries. Specifically, access to weekly disaggregated catch data is required but this information was not available to ICES for the fisheries of particular concern to NASCO.
2. A copy of this letter, the response from NEAFC and our reply are attached. Our letter was discussed by NEAFC at its Annual Meeting and the Contracting Parties of NEAFC involved in the fisheries of concern to NASCO agreed to provide all available information on by-catch of salmon to ICES and to continue to do so in future. At the time of preparation of this paper the advice from ICES for 2005 has not been received so we are unaware of the progress made in developing estimates of by-catch of salmon in pelagic fisheries. However, we understand from the General Secretary of ICES that some disaggregated catch data was made available to ICES. NEAFC has also agreed an arrangement which allows ICES to query the NEAFC Vessel Monitoring System (VMS) database provided that confidentiality rules are respected.
3. The response from ICES to NASCO's request for an estimate of by-catch of salmon in pelagic fisheries in the North-East Atlantic Commission area will be presented at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting.

Secretary
Edinburgh
11 May, 2005

NASCO 11 Rutland Square Edinburgh EH1 2AS Scotland UK
Telephone: (Int+44) 131 228 2551 Fax: (Int+44) 131 228 4384
e-mail: hq@nasco.int website: www.nasco.int

CNL34

11 June, 2004

Mr Einar Lemche
President – North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
22 Berners Street
London
W1T 3DY



NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON
CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION POUR LA
CONSERVATION DU SAUMON
DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Dear Mr. Lemche

In recent years NASCO has become concerned about the potential by-catch of Atlantic salmon post-smolts in pelagic fisheries for mackerel and herring in the North-East Atlantic Commission area. There is also a potential by-catch of Atlantic salmon in pelagic fisheries for blue whiting and capelin. ICES has advised that the southern European stock complex of Atlantic salmon is outside safe biological limits.

Since 2001, this Commission has asked that ICES provide estimates of the by-catch of salmon post-smolts in pelagic fisheries. Information has been derived from research cruises and screening of commercial catches. In its latest advice (attached), the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management has indicated that "it is not possible to provide sound estimates of by-catch for any pelagic fishery" and that "this situation will prevail until there is sufficient monitoring of, and information derived from, commercial fisheries".

Access to weekly disaggregated catch data is essential, but I understand that this information has not been made available to ICES for the fisheries of particular concern to NASCO. Catches of mackerel and herring in ICES divisions IIa, IVa, Vb, VIa, VIIb, VIIIb, VIIc and VIIj, by rectangle and standard week, are required by ICES to facilitate more reliable estimation of the by-catch of salmon in these fisheries. It may also be useful to have the same catch information for capelin and blue whiting. On behalf of the North-East Atlantic Commission of NASCO, I would be grateful for your assistance in requesting that the NEAFC Parties involved in these fisheries provide any information on this to ICES, if possible before the end of February 2005, for the last five years.

I would be grateful if this letter could be circulated to all Contracting Parties of the North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely

Steinar Hermansen
Chairman
North-East Atlantic Commission

Enc.

NASCO is an inter-government organization established by an international Convention



NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION

22 Berners Street London W1T 3DY UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7631 0016
Fax: +44 (0)20 7636 9225
Email: info@neafc.org Website: www.neafc.org

18 November 2004

Dr Malcolm Windsor, OBE
NASCO
11 Rutland Square
Edinburgh
EH1 2AS

Dear Malcolm

On behalf of the President, Mr Einar Lemche, allow me to respond through you to the letter of 11 June 2004 from Steinar Hermansen, Chairman of NASCO.

The NEAFC Commission discussed your letter quite extensively and it was agreed to draw the following observations to your attention.

NEAFC notes the concern of NASCO regarding the potential by-catch of Atlantic salmon post-smolts in pelagic fisheries, particularly for mackerel and herring in the North-East Atlantic Commission area. These data were not available to ICES.

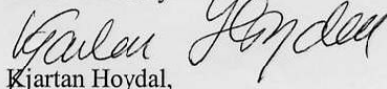
ICES has advised that the southern European stock complex of Atlantic salmon is outside safe biological limits. Since 2001, NASCO has asked ICES to provide estimates of the by-catch of salmon post-smolts in pelagic fisheries.

In order to address these concerns, it was agreed that those Contracting Parties of NEAFC involved in these fisheries should provide all available information on the by-catch of salmon post-smolts for the last five years, if possible before the end of February 2005, and to continue to provide such information in future years.

I hope this will be of some assistance in your endeavours.

Let me add that the NEAFC Commission has agreed an arrangement with respect to access to data with ICES. This allows ICES to submit queries to the NEAFC VMS database, as long as confidentiality rules are respected. This should make it possible at least to map fishing activities in areas of interest for the last three years.

Yours sincerely

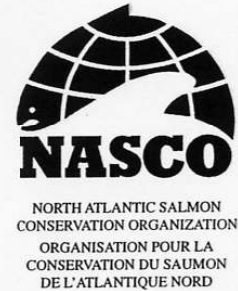

Kjartan Hoydal,
Secretary

APR 38 + NEA 14
19/11/04

NASCO 11 Rutland Square Edinburgh EH1 2AS Scotland UK
Telephone: (Int+44) 131 228 2551 Fax: (Int+44) 131 228 4384
e-mail: hq@nasco.int website: www.nasco.int
APR38.272

3 December 2004

Mr Kjartan Hoydal
Secretary
NEAFC
22 Berners Street
London
W1P 4DY



Dear Kjartan

Thank you for your letter of 18 November, which I will copy to NASCO delegates.

I just have one observation concerning the agreement reached in NEAFC. In the fifth paragraph of your letter it is stated that "those Contracting Parties of NEAFC involved in these fisheries should provide all available information on the by-catch of salmon post-smolts for the last five years". While this agreement and the decision to allow ICES access to NEAFC VMS data are very much appreciated, the letter from Steinar Hermansen to Einar Lemche had sought NEAFC's assistance in encouraging its Contracting Parties involved in the fisheries referred to in that letter to make available to ICES weekly disaggregated catch data for those fisheries. This was considered essential in order to allow ICES to refine its estimates of by-catch derived from research trawl data, which provide very different estimates from those derived from screening of commercial catches. I'm not sure that the agreement outlined in the fifth paragraph of your letter will lead to the provision of this data but I would be grateful for your views on this.

Thank you also for the copy of your letter to Denzil Miller. I think your suggestion of discussing this further in Rome next March is an excellent one, and I found your overview of global and regional processes in management of the oceans very informative and useful.

Best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Malcolm Windsor'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Malcolm Windsor
Secretary