



**North-East Atlantic Commission**

**NEA(19)06**

*Mixed-Stock Fisheries*

*(Tabled by the European Union)*



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#### 1) Brief description of existing MSFs

##### **EU-Finland**

Salmon fishery in the main stem of the large River Teno, including both various netting methods and angling, is exploiting c. 30 genetically different salmon populations from different tributaries and areas of the main stem.

CLs are established for 24 populations of the Teno stock complex. Target attainment evaluations are currently available for 14 tributaries (partly including and combining lower order tributaries), the main stem, and for the Teno system as a whole.

##### **EU-Ireland**

There are currently two managed mixed-stock fisheries in Ireland, Killary Harbour and Castlemaine Harbour. A third mixed-stock fishery, Tullaghan Bay, operated until 2013.

##### *Killary Harbour*

In the case of the Killary Harbour fishery, there are two contributing river stocks (Bundorragha (Delphi) and Erriff) both of which are meeting and exceeding their conservation limits (CL). The Technical Expert Group on Salmon (TEGOS; formerly the Standing Scientific Committee on Salmon (SSCS)) undertake a risk assessment for the common estuary which results in a higher requirement for spawners in both rivers than simply combining the CLs for the rivers to ensure simultaneous attainment of CL in both rivers.

##### *Castlemaine Harbour*

The mixed-stock fishery in Castlemaine Harbour, Co. Kerry was closed over the 2007 to 2010 period as the fishery was perceived to exploit salmon from a range of rivers entering Castlemaine Harbour. A pilot fishery was conducted in the mixed-stock area of Castlemaine in 2010 to provide genetic samples for analysis of the rivers contributing to the fishery. Results revealed that the Castlemaine fishery almost exclusively exploited salmon from three rivers entering Castlemaine Harbour, the Laune, Caragh and Maine, all of which were meeting and exceeding CL. The Castlemaine fishery has operated since 2011 from the total available surplus of the three contributing rivers. For the mixed-stock Castlemaine fishery to operate, the total available surplus for the three rivers combined was reduced in a common estuary analysis to ensure that each river would meet CL simultaneously. The mixed-stock Castlemaine fishery and the draft net and rod angling fishery on the three rivers all exploit salmon from this reduced surplus calculation.

##### *Tullaghan Bay*

A draft net fishery operated in Tullaghan Bay up to 2013 predominantly exploiting stocks from the Owenmore, Carrowmore and the Owenduff rivers which were exceeding their CLs. A common estuary risk assessment was also undertaken for Tullaghan Bay, resulting in a higher

requirement for spawners than simply combining the CLs for the rivers to ensure simultaneous attainment of CLs.

The SSCS reviewed the operation of Tullaghan Bay draft net fishery in 2012 and noted that the fisheries are mostly confined to the immediate vicinity of the Owenmore/Carrowmore and Owenduff river mouths and there was only a relatively small mixed-stock fishery in the bay. The SSCS advised that it was therefore not appropriate to apply risk analysis for a mixed-stock fishery in Tullaghan Bay. In its advice provided for the 2013 & 2014 seasons, the SSCS therefore did not advise a common estuary surplus for Tullaghan Bay. With regard to the SSCS 2015 scientific advice, the Owenmore River was only meeting 90% of CL (209 salmon deficit) and management advised that no commercial fishery should take place in the upper part of Tullaghan Bay in the vicinity of the Owenmore River. The Owenmore River has not exceeded CL over the period 2016-2018 based on scientific advice and therefore no mixed-stock commercial fishery took place in Tullaghan Bay in 2018 as one of the contributing stocks (Owenmore) failed to meet its CL.

### EU-Sweden

There is practically no MSF on Atlantic salmon.

### EU- UK (England and Wales)

<b>Fishery</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>No. nets in 2018</b>	<b>Status</b>
Anglian Coast:	Drift and non-drift nets	17	Being phased out – mandatory C&R of all salmon from 2019
Severn Estuary	Putchers	4 <sup>a</sup>	Historic rights apply
	Lave nets	22 <sup>a</sup>	Being reduced to 15 nets
	Draft net	1 <sup>a</sup>	Being phased out
North East Coast:	Drift nets	11 <sup>b</sup>	Being phased out; closure in 2019
	T&J nets	45 <sup>b</sup>	Being phased out - mandatory C&R of all salmon from 2019

<sup>a</sup> Subject to catch limits in 2018

<sup>b</sup> 2 joint licences included in both categories

### EU – UK (Scotland)

EU-UK (Scotland) do not currently have any MSFs operating. The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016 introduced a prohibition on retaining any salmon caught in coastal waters with effect from 31 March 2016. Scottish Ministers reviewed the prohibition in March 2019 and decided it should continue unchanged. There are currently no plans to end the prohibition.

## **2) Recent catch data**

### **EU-Finland**

In 2018, salmon catch by Finland on the River Teno amounted to 21t (total catch 49t when the Norwegian catches of 28t are included), with c. 75% caught in the main stem (MSF), 25% in tributaries (little or no MSF).

### **EU-Ireland**

- Killary Harbour mixed-stock fishery (Erriff and Bundorragha rivers)
  - mean 5 year catch = 243 salmon (0.7t)
- Castlemaine Harbour mixed-stock fishery (Laune, Caragh and Maine rivers)
  - mean 5 year catch = 690 salmon (1.9t)
- Tullaghan Bay mixed-stock fishery (Owenmore, Carrowmore and Owenduff rivers)
  - mean 5 year catch = 0 salmon (0t)

### **EU-Sweden**

The figures showing coastal and estuarine catches (harvest) 1995-2018 for the Swedish west coast are insignificant since 2015, including trap net and gill net fisheries.

### **EU- UK (England and Wales)**

(provisional declared catch of salmon in 2018 – retained fish only)

- Anglian Coast: 4
- Severn Estuary: 104
- North East Coast: 9,898

### **EU – UK (Scotland)**

EU-UK (Scotland) do not currently have any MSFs operating in Scotland.

## **3) Updates to the Implementation Plan (IP) related to MSF**

### **EU-Finland**

Parliaments in Finland and Norway have accepted the new bilateral fishery agreement, which came into force for the fishing season 2017. The agreement concerns river fisheries, including MSF in the main stem, but the coastal MSF is under Norwegian management.

Conservation limits are established for 24 populations of the Teno stock complex, and attainment has been assessed for 15 individual populations. Exploitation of these populations in MSF of the Teno main stem can be assessed through genetic stock identification. Annual monitoring programme has also been updated as a part of the implementation work of the new agreement.

## **EU-Ireland**

The Irish Implementation Plan was updated in May 2014.

## **EU-Sweden**

No update

## **EU- UK (England and Wales)**

The Implementation Plan (IP) for UK (England and Wales) was revised in 2013/14 to clarify the management of fisheries within estuaries. This stated that all fisheries within estuary limits, including MSFs exploiting a very limited number of stocks, are assumed to predominantly take fish that originated from waters upstream of the fishery. These fisheries are carefully managed at a local level to protect the weakest of the exploited stocks, guided by a decision structure and taking into account socio-economic factors and European Conservation status where applicable. This includes the fisheries in the Tamar/Tavy/Lynher and the Taw/Torridge estuaries and the Solway Firth. The same interpretation has been applied in the draft IP for 2019-24. Only coastal MSFs or those exploiting stocks from a wider area are reported on above.

## **EU – UK (Scotland)**

No update

## **4) Changes or developments in the management of MSFs in this IP period to implement NASCO's agreements**

### **EU-Finland**

New regulation regime for salmon fishing is based on biological reference points and scientific assessments of their attainment, including a reduction of fishing pressure by c. 30%. The reduction of fishing pressure is especially focusing on salmon stocks with the weakest status in the Teno stock complex by tailored fishery regulations in time and space, and on specific fishing methods. According to the new agreement, a recovery plan is in preparation to ensure the recovery of the weakest stocks in a time frame of 2-3 salmon generations. Major result of the monitoring in 2018 was that the estimates showed decreasing exploitation for all individual salmon stocks in the mixed-stock fishery in the Teno mainstem.

### **EU-Ireland**

Closure of the Tullaghan Bay mixed-stock fishery due to one contributing stock failing to meet CL.

### **EU-Sweden**

No update

## **EU- UK (England and Wales)**

**Anglian Coast:** this fishery predominantly exploits sea trout and remains subject to a phase-out (i.e. there is no transfer of licences, so licence numbers decline as fishers leave the fishery). Under new national measures for England approved in December 2018, it will be mandatory to release any salmon caught in the fishery from 2019.

**Severn Estuary:** the current Net Limitation Order (NLO) for the draft net fishery imposed a phase-out (target of zero nets) and the NLO for the lave net fishery imposed a reducing order aimed at restricting the number of licences to 15. These NLOs expire in May 2019 and new proposals are under development. Catch limits, designed to safeguard the weakest contributing stock, are applied annually to all nets and fixed engines (putcher ranks) operating in the Severn Estuary fishery.

**North East Coast:** the NLO was remade in 2012 and continues to impose a phase-out on the beach (T&J) nets. Under new national measures for England approved in December 2018, the drift net fishery was closed, bringing forward the closure date previously set for the end of the 2022 netting season. In addition, new restrictions come into force for the T&J net fishery from 2019. These shorten the fishing season in some districts and impose mandatory release of any salmon caught. Fishers will thus only be permitted to land sea trout and allowed to operate their nets in areas/times when sea trout typically predominate in the catch.

The introduction of the new national measures in England means there will be no salmon taken in coastal MSFs in UK (England and Wales) from 2019.

## **EU – UK (Scotland)**

The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016 introduced a prohibition on retaining any salmon caught in coastal waters with effect from 31 March 2016. Scottish Ministers reviewed the prohibition in March 2019 and decided it should continue unchanged. There are currently no plans to end the prohibition.