

NEA(15)4rev

Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway)

In Norway mixed-stock fisheries are still operating in fjords and along the coast. In general only bag nets and rod and line are allowed, but in Finnmark County bend nets are also permitted. In addition to restrictions on fishing gear, the primary regulatory measures are length of fishing season and the number of fishing days per week. The fisheries regulations are based upon spawning target attainment of stocks being exploited in the actual fjord or coastal region. Due to low target attainment, fishing has not been permitted in several fjords and regions for many years.

The total catch in the coastal net fisheries was 213 tonnes in 2014, one of the lowest in the time series.

Mandatory mid-season assessment of the river fisheries and salmon runs has been introduced with the aim of increasing the number of stocks reaching management targets. The number of rivers which are assessed is increasing.

In 2014, the start of the fishing season for bag nets was postponed in the middle regions of Norway. This in-season measure was introduced as a response to alarmingly low catches in rivers in those areas and in bag nets operated for monitoring purposes.

New legislation necessary to introduce mandatory continuous reporting of catches in the sea fisheries, as a new tool in fisheries management, is in progress. The aim is to have this in place from the 2016 fishing season.