



North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(16)5

Mixed-Stock Fisheries

(Tabled by Norway)

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In several fjords and coastal regions, mixed-stock fisheries have not been permitted for many years due to low target attainment. However, restricted mixed-stock fisheries are still operating in most fjords and along the coast.

The regulations of these fisheries are based upon estimates of spawning target attainment of stocks that are most likely to be exploited in the actual fjord or coastal region. 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.

During the revision of the regulations for 2016 and onwards, the mixed-stock fisheries were further restricted in specific areas in western, central and northern Norway. The fishing season was extended in two minor fjord areas in (parts of) Western Norway, due to improvement of stock status in these areas. In Northern Norway, further restrictions were adopted. A reduction of fishing days for bend nets will come into force in the Varanger fjord from 2016, and corresponding regulations for the coastal region and the Tana fjord will come into force when a new agreement for the river Tana is put into effect.

The total catch in the coastal net fisheries in 2015 was 233 tonnes, an increase of 9 percent from 2014.

In previous years, in-season measures have been introduced in some areas as a response to alarmingly low catches in rivers and in bag nets used in fjords and coastal areas for monitoring purposes. The number of rivers assessed in the mandatory mid-season assessment of river fisheries and salmon runs has increased. In-season measures were not introduced in 2015.

As a new tool in fisheries management, rules for mandatory continuous reporting of catches in the sea fisheries are in progress. However, these rules will not be in place for the 2016 fishing season.