



North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(17)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 in operation in most fjords and along the coast.

The regulation of these fisheries is based upon estimates of spawning target attainment of the stocks most likely to be exploited in the actual fjord or coastal region. In general, only bag nets and rod and line are allowed. In Finnmark County, however, bend nets are also permitted. In addition to restrictions on fishing gear, the main regulatory measures are length of fishing season and the number of fishing days per week.

As part of the revision of regulations for 2016 and onwards, the mixed-stock fisheries were further restricted in specific areas in western, central and northern Norway through a reduction of fishing days for bag nets. In addition, the number of fishing days for bend nets in coastal regions of Finnmark County were reduced, and new regulations for bag- and bend nets in the Tana fjord were given and will come into force as a result of the new agreement for the river Tana. The fishing season was extended in two minor fjord areas in western Norway, due to improvement of stock status in these areas.

The total salmon catch in coastal net fisheries in 2016 was 269 tonnes, an increase of 16 percent from 2015. Mixed-stock fisheries are still most extensive in Finnmark County where the catches increased by 50% (total catch = 134 tonnes) compared to 2015. As in 2015, no in-season measures were considered necessary in 2016.

As a new tool in fisheries management, rules for mandatory continuous reporting of catches in the sea fisheries are in progress. These rules will not be in place for the 2017 fishing season but an interactive solution for voluntary continuous reporting is supposed to be ready for use in the 2017 fishing season.