



North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(18)04rev

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 in operation in most fjords and along the Norwegian 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.

The mixed-stock fisheries were further restricted through revision of regulations in 2016 in some 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. The new previously adopted regulations for bag- and bend nets in the Tana fjord and coastal regions of Finnmark county will come into force in 2018 as a result of the new agreement for the river Tana.

In 2017, due to improvement of stock status, a previously closed fjord was opened for bag net fisheries for six days (Troms County).

The total salmon catch in coastal net fisheries in 2017 was 290 tonnes, an increase of 8 percent from 2016. Mixed-stock fisheries are still most extensive in Finnmark County where the catches increased by 23% (total catch = 138 tonnes) compared to 2016. No in-season measures in mixed stock fisheries were considered necessary in 2017.

As a new tool in fisheries management, rules for mandatory continuous reporting of catches in the sea fisheries are in progress. In the 2017 fishing season, around 100 fishermen tested a digital solution for voluntary continuous reporting. From 2018 electronic reporting of catches is available for coastal net fishing.