



**North-East Atlantic Commission**

**NEA(18)05**

*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-France**

No update.

##### **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 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

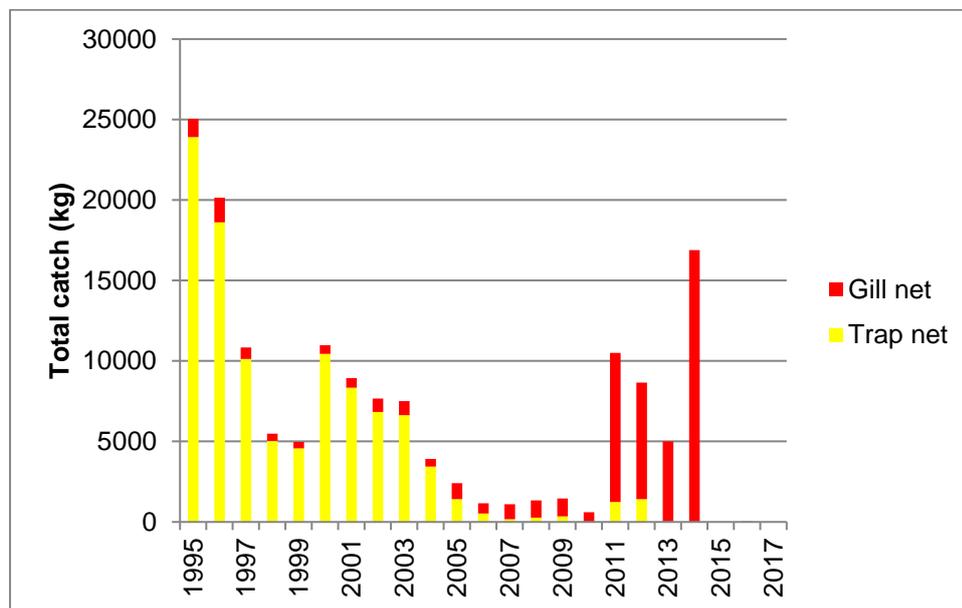
common estuary risk assessment was also undertaken for Tullaghan Bay, resulting in a higher requirement for spawners than simply combining the CLs for the rivers to ensure simultaneous attainment of CLs.

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 2016-2017 based on scientific advice and therefore no mixed-stock commercial fishery took place in Tullaghan Bay in 2017 as one of the contributing stocks (Owenmore) failed to meet its CL.

### EU-Sweden

Sweden consider that there is nearly no MSF on Atlantic salmon.

The figure below shows coastal and estuarine catches (harvest) 1995-2017 for the Swedish west coast. Gillnet (red) and trap net (yellow) were former mixed-stock fisheries on the coast.



## EU-UK (England and Wales)

Fishery	Method	No. nets in 2017	Status
Anglian Coast:	Drift and non-drift nets	17	Being phased out
Severn Estuary	Putchers	1 <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; due for closure in 2022
	T&J nets	50 <sup>b</sup>	Being phased out

<sup>a</sup> Subject to catch limits in 2017

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

## EU-UK (Scotland)

EU-UK (Scotland) do not currently have any MSFs operating in 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 are committed to reviewing the position by March 2019, but there are currently no plans to end the prohibition.

## 2) Recent catch data

### EU-Finland

Salmon catch in the River Teno in 2017: Total catch 60 t (Finland 30 t, Norway 30 t), c. 75% caught in the main stem (MSF), 25% in tributaries (little or no MSF).

### EU-France

No update.

### EU-Ireland

- Killary Harbour mixed-stock fishery (Erriff and Bundorragha rivers)
  - mean 5 year catch = 272 salmon (0.7t)
- Castlemaine Harbour mixed-stock fishery (Laune, Caragh and Maine rivers)
  - mean 5 year catch = 767 salmon (2.1t)
- Tullaghan Bay mixed-stock fishery (Owenmore, Carrowmore and Owenduff rivers)
  - mean 5 year catch = 54 salmon (0.1t)

## EU-Sweden

<b>Information on salmon catches:</b> <i>(nominal catch equals reported quantity of salmon caught and retained in tonnes 'round fresh weight' (i.e. weight of whole, ungutted, unfrozen fish) or 'round fresh weight equivalent').</i>				
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2017 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	18.1*	0	0	18.1
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2016 (tonnes)	9.03*	0	0	9.03
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2017 (tonnes)				1.8

## EU-UK (England and Wales)

(provisional declared catch of salmon in 2017 – retained fish only)

- Anglian Coast: 0
- Severn Estuary: 22
- North East Coast: 9,070

## 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 the responsibility of Norwegian national 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-France**

No update.

**EU-Ireland**

The Irish Implementation Plan was updated in May 2014.

**EU-Sweden**

None reported

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

The Implementation Plan (IP) for UK (England and Wales) was updated in 2013/14 to clarify the management of fisheries within estuaries. This stated that all fisheries, including MSFs, operating within estuary limits are assumed to exploit predominantly 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.

**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.

**EU France**

No update.

**EU-Ireland**

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

**EU-Sweden**

Sweden has taken following management measures to phase out mixed stock fisheries on wild salmon stocks.

- There have been commercial trap net fisheries at the Swedish coast until 2011, situated near or in the estuary of a river with compensatory (hydropower stations) releases of fin-clipped smolt. Only catches of fin-clipped salmon is since 2013 allowed in trap net fisheries and all wild salmon shall be released alive. Trap net fisheries for other than

commercial fisheries is not allowed. There has not been any trap net fisheries the last years.

- Gill net fishing in the sea at depths <3 m is not expected to be a MSF. Since 2013 it is strictly regulated with respect to effort, period and mesh size. Marine protected areas are located nearby wild salmon rivers. In this areas no gill net fishery is allowed irrespective of the depth.
- A ban on gill net fishing for salmon in remaining coastal waters with a depth >3m has been implemented from 2014 to phase out mixed stock fisheries targeting salmon stocks. There has not been any reported MSF or illegal gill net fisheries during 2016 in coastal waters with a depth > 3m.
- Sport fishing for salmonids at sea is targeting sea trout. The fishing mortality for salmon was estimated to be very low in this fishery even before a bag limit was introduced in 2014 allowing two seatrout or salmon a day. It is estimated that the bag limit have resulted in nearly no fishing mortality for salmon in sport fishing at sea.
- Mixed stock fisheries is to a low degree existing in the two rivers (River Lagan and Göta älv) with releases of reared salmon in the main watercourse and natural smolt production in tributaries. New fishing rules is planned to be implemented in 2018 to 2019.

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

**Anglian Coast:** a new Net Limitation Order (NLO) was introduced in 2016 continuing the phase-out of this fishery. There was a further reduction in licensees in 2017.

**Severn Estuary:** new NLOs for the draft and lave nets were approved in May 2014. For both fisheries the number of instruments was capped at 2013 levels. The draft net fishery is now subject to a phase-out (zero nets) and the lave net fishery is subject to a reducing order to 15. Catch limits are applied to all nets and putchers.

**North East Coast:** the NLO was remade in 2012. Under the terms of this provision, both drift nets and beach (T&J) nets are being phased out, and the drift net fishery will be closed at the end of the 2022 netting season. However, proposals have been developed for further restriction of the fishery as part of a package of national measures (see below). If approved, the new measures would be confirmed in 2018 with closures to the drift net fishery brought forward. For the T&J net fishery, the proposals would shorten the fishing season, amend fishing areas and require the release of all salmon caught from 2019. This fishery is already on a reducing order with no transfer of licences as fishermen leave.

**National measures:** Following extensive periods of discussion and formal consultation in response to the widespread failure of individual river stocks against their Conservation Limits, a range of possible new measures to further reduce exploitation of salmon have been developed independently in both England and Wales. In England, the proposals include the closure of some net fisheries and the introduction of mandatory catch-and-release (C&R) in others, with mandatory C&R also required in some rod fisheries and voluntary C&R targets in others (with associated method changes). If approved, these would be confirmed in 2018 with likely implementation in 2019. In Wales, the proposals for salmon call for mandatory C&R in all net and rod fisheries (with associated method changes) and coming into force within similar timescales.

The respective Governments in England and Wales will make the final decisions on whether to implement the proposed measures and the form they should take. Until such decisions are made, existing byelaws would remain in place.

Other measures undertaken in England and Wales to address the various pressures that salmon face throughout their life-cycle are provided in the latest Annual Progress Report.

**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 are committed to reviewing the position by March 2019, but there are currently no plans to end the prohibition.