

CNL(08)26

Council

Salmon Management in the Baltic Sea

(tabled by the European Union)



Salmon Management in the Baltic Sea

At the Twenty-Fourth NASCO Annual Meeting held in Maine, USA, the parties expressed interest in obtaining information about the Baltic salmon, which is managed separately from Atlantic salmon, through bilateral agreements between the Russian Federation and the European Union. The EU agreed to provide information to the Council on the management of Salmon in the Baltic Sea.

The European Community would like to inform NASCO of the several management measures in place. These are as follows:

- Catch limitations via the setting of TACs (Total Allowable Catches) and quotas for the two management areas; EC waters of SDs 22-31 (Main Basin) and SD 32 (Gulf of Finland) on an annual basis¹ (note that overall catch levels are only 45% of the TACs)
- Prohibition of drift net fishery since 1 January 2008²
- Seasonal closures in the Main Basin from 1 June to 15 September and 15 June to 30 September in the Gulf of Finland beyond 4nm except for catches with trap-nets³
- Minimum landing size of 60cm for Main Basin except SD 31 and Gulf of Finland and 50cm for SD 31⁴
- Limit for the dioxin level (Derogation for Finland and Sweden until 2011 when respective public information is provided)

Additionally, individual member states may have supplemental measures in place.

¹ For 2008 this is Council Regulation (EC) No 1404/2007

² Article 9 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005

³ Article 17 of Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005

⁴ Annex 4 to Council Regulation (EC) No 2187/2005

Following the cessation of the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) after 2005 and the expiry of the IBSFC Salmon Action Plan the EU will develop a new management plan for salmon in the Baltic Sea. The proposal is to be presented by the end of 2008.

The proposal for a new Baltic salmon management plan will be informed by the results of two currently ongoing research projects:

- ICES has been requested to evaluate the past IBSFC plan and give advice by the end of June 2008 on potential new management options (existing management vs only marine measures vs integrated marine and freshwater approach) taking account of commercial and recreational fisheries and environmental impacts such as habitat use, genetic interactions with aquaculture and contamination.
- A tender has been given to a research consortium of research institutions from different Baltic MS led by the Finish Game and Fisheries Research Institute to review the socio-economic impact of the past IBSFC plan and to evaluate the socio-economic impact of the different management options to be generated by ICES

No future research projects are planned at the moment. However, it is likely that new research will be undertaken following the plan implementation period. These will be expected to form the basis for a performance evaluation of the plan and a potential review of the specified measures.