

*NEA(09)4*

*Interceptory salmon fishing on the Norwegian coast  
(Tabled by Norway)*

**NEA(09)04**  
***Interceptory salmon fishing on the Norwegian coast***

During the process of regulating the sea-fisheries for salmon for 2009 in Norway an informal meeting was held in Oslo on the 26 February of 2009 on the initiative of Norway with the intention to inform and consult other Parties on interceptory salmon fishing on the Norwegian coast. The NASCO Secretary facilitated the meeting. Both The Russian Federation and EU were invited, and the Russian Federation was able to participate at short notice.

A report of this meeting has been issued as paper NEA(09)3. Following several presentations made by Norway and Russia, the meeting highlighted that salmon of Russian origin are being caught in marine mixed-stock fisheries in northern Norway and underlined the need for close contact and further cooperation. Acknowledging the regulations adopted by Norway for 2008 Russia urged Norway to take further actions to restrict the coastal fisheries for Atlantic salmon specifically in those areas where salmon of Russian origin are intercepted.

On the 8th of May the decision was made to prolong regulations which were set for the 2008 season in 2009 and the Norwegian Ministry of environment issued the following statement which was circulated by the NASCO secretariat by e-mail amongst NASCO parties:

***“Referring to the informal meeting on interceptory salmon fishing on the Norwegian coast held in Oslo on February 26, the report of which has been issued as paper NEAC(09)3, the Norwegian Ministry of Environment would like to inform the Parties to NEAC as follows:***

***The Ministry recognizes the legitimate interests of Russia and possibly other countries in this matter. We have also noted Russia’s desire to further reduce sea-fishing for salmon in the northern part of Troms county and in Finnmark county.***

***The fishing regulations of 2008 were restrictive compared to historic regulations, and were determined on the basis of an extensive professional and political process. Further restrictions on the fisheries will demand an equally extensive process, and that cannot be accomplished before 2010 at the earliest. It has therefore been decided that the regulatory regime for 2008 will be prolonged in 2009.***

***In the meantime we see it as very important to maintain a positive dialogue with Russia and potentially affected EU-countries.”***

We would therefore like to invite our partners in the Russian Federation and EU to further discuss and agree on an appropriate consulting and cooperative process with regard to the fishing regulation in 2010 and onwards during the 2009 Annual meeting.