

NEA(10)7

Regulatory measures – Norway 2010

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At the last Annual Meeting, Norway, Russia and EU agreed on a process of cooperation concerning the regulation of coastal fisheries for salmon. The main elements of this process were to be as follows:

- In early September, the Russian Federation and EU should be given the opportunity to comment on a proposal for general guidelines for the upcoming regulations;
- A proposal for new regulations were subject to a public hearing, and the proposal should also be sent to the authorities in the Russian Federation and EU for information;
- The final proposal from the Directorate for Nature Management to the Ministry of the Environment should be sent to the Russian Federation and EU as part of the process leading up to the decision on this year's regulations, and the feedback from the Russian Federation and EU should be carefully considered in the decision process.

Leading up to this year's regulations in the coastal fisheries for salmon, the agreed process has been followed. After receiving the proposal for new regulations from the Directorate for Nature Management, the Russian Federation held the position that the coastal fisheries for salmon in Finnmark, where salmon of Russian origin are intercepted, must be regulated by more restrictive measures, including such as ban on bend netting and closure of all coastal salmon fishing in the Varanger fjord.

In addition, the Russian Federation reiterated the importance of better scientific knowledge of salmon stocks contributing to mixed stock fisheries in Norwegian waters, and continued scientific cooperation between Russia and Norway.

After careful consideration of all the received views on the suggested regulations in the coastal fishery, the regulations for 2010 have been decided.

In short, the new regulations reduce the fishing season on the Southern coast of Norway from five to four weeks. On the coast of Finnmark, the fishing season for bag nets has been reduced from nine to six weeks for bag nets, and from six to four weeks for bend nets. In the Varanger fiord, the fishing season for bag nets is reduced from nine to seven weeks. For bend nets the fishing season is reduced from six to four weeks.