



North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(20)10

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.

Conservation limits 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-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 Technical Expert Group on Salmon (TEGOS; formerly 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.

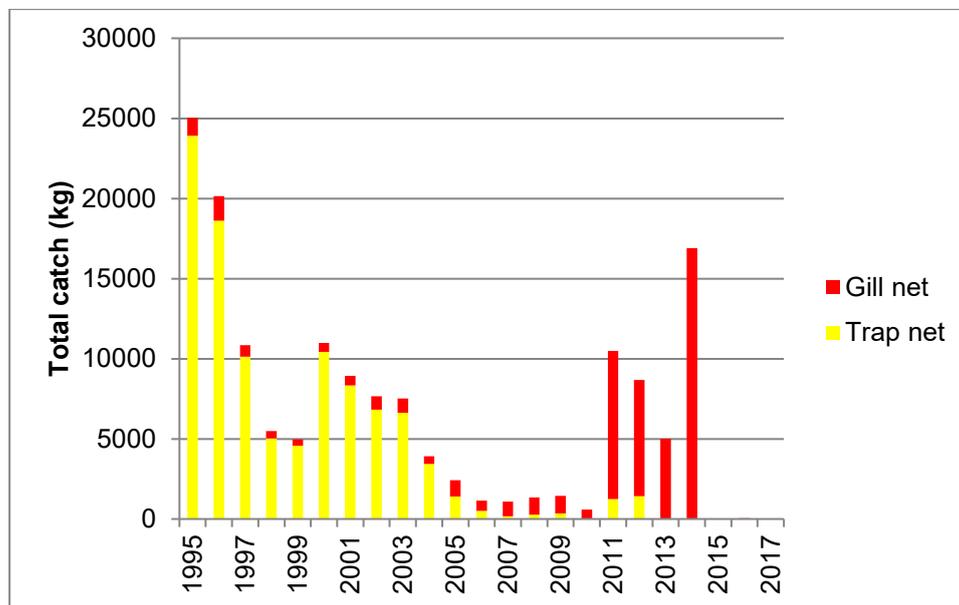
The SSCS reviewed the operation of Tullaghan Bay draft net fishery in 2012 and noted that

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 2016-2019 based on scientific advice and therefore no mixed-stock commercial fishery took place in Tullaghan Bay in 2019 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 show coastal and estuarine catches (harvest) 1995-2018 for the Swedish west coast. Gillnet (red) and trap net (yellow) were former mixed-stock fisheries on the coast.



Sport fishing

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 2021 in order to phase out mixed stock fisheries in these two rivers.

EU – UK (England and Wales)

Fishery	Method	No. nets in 2019	Status
Anglian Coast:	Drift and non-drift nets	17	Being phased out – mandatory C&R of all salmon from 2019
Severn Estuary	Putchers	0	Fishery closed by Emergency Byelaw
	Lave nets	22	Being reduced to 15 nets – mandatory C&R of all salmon in 2019
	Draft net	0	Fishery closed by Emergency Byelaw
North East Coast:	Drift nets	0	Closed in 2019
	T&J nets	41	Being phased out - mandatory C&R of all salmon from 2019

2). Recent catch data

EU-Finland

Salmon catch in the River Teno in 2019: Total catch 40 t (Finland 19 t, Norway 21 t), c. 85% caught in the main stem (MSF), 15% in tributaries (little or no MSF).

EU-Ireland

- Killary Harbour mixed-stock fishery (Erriff and Bundorragha rivers)
 - mean 5 year catch = 222 salmon (0.6t)
- Castlemaine Harbour mixed-stock fishery (Laune, Caragh and Maine rivers)
 - mean 5 year catch = 549 salmon (1.8t)
- Tullaghan Bay mixed-stock fishery (Owenmore, Carrowmore and Owenduff rivers)
 - mean 5 year catch = 0 salmon (0t)

EU-UK (England and Wales)

(provisional declared catch of salmon in 2019 – retained fish only)

- Anglian Coast: 0
- Severn Estuary: 0
- North East Coast: 0

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 catch information and genetic stock identification. Annual monitoring programme has also been updated as a part of the implementation work of the new agreement.

EU-Ireland

There are no changes related to MSF in the Implementation Plan for the period 2019-2024.

EU-UK (England and Wales)

The Implementation Plan (IP) for UK (England and Wales) was revised in 2013/14 to clarify the management of fisheries within estuaries. This stated that all fisheries within estuary limits, including MSFs exploiting a very limited number of stocks, are assumed to predominantly take 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. The same interpretation has been applied in the draft IP for 2019-24. Only coastal MSFs or those exploiting stocks from a wider area are reported on in this document.

The draft IP for 2019-24 (April 2020 version) submitted to NASCO documents that, in order to ensure that mixed stock fisheries do not pose unacceptable risks to stocks, E&W will introduce measures to phase out / regulate any remaining MSFs to reduce fishing mortality to sustainable levels in order to conserve stocks (in line with the NASCO Fishery Management Guidance - paragraph 2.7). Any estuarine MSFs will continue to be managed in order to safeguard the weakest contributing stock. Measures include:

- a) The drift net fishery on the NE coast closed in 2019 and mandatory C&R of salmon is required in the NE T&J (beach) net and Anglian coastal fisheries, with additional seasonal amendment to avoid excessive salmon bycatch.
- b) The 5-year review of the NLO for net fisheries in the Severn Estuary and the regulatory measures for fixed engines will be conducted and amended as appropriate in 2019.
- c) The 7-year review of the NLO for the remaining nets in the Anglian Coastal Fishery will be conducted and the NLO (license numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) amended as appropriate in 2022.
- d) The 10-year review of the NLO for the remaining T&J (beach) nets in the NE coast fishery will be conducted and the NLO (license numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) amended as appropriate in 2022.

4). Changes or developments in the management of MSFs in this IP period to implement NASCO's agreements

EU-Finland

New management regime for salmon fishing is based on biological reference points and scientific assessments of their attainment, including a targeted reduction of fishing pressure by c. 30%. The reduction of exploitation 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. Stock assessment in 2019 revealed the continued decrease in exploitation (since 2017) for all individual salmon stocks in the mixed-stock fishery in the Teno mainstem. The current exploitation rates for all stocks in need of recovery have been estimated to be sufficiently high to allow for population recovery over two generations.

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.

Trap net fisheries at the coast

- 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 fisheries at the coast

- 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 2016-2019 in coastal waters with a depth > 3m.

EU-UK (England and Wales)

The introduction of the new national measures in England means there was no salmon retained in coastal MSFs in UK (England and Wales) in 2019.

Anglian Coast: this fishery predominantly exploits sea trout and remains subject to a phase-out (i.e. there is no transfer of licenses, so licence numbers decline as fishers leave the fishery). Under new national measures for England approved in December 2018, it became mandatory to release any salmon caught in the fishery from 2019.

Severn Estuary: the Net Limitation Order (NLO) for the draft net fishery imposed a phase-out (target of zero nets) and the NLO for the lave net fishery imposed a reducing Order aimed

at restricting the number of licenses to 15. This NLO expired in May 2019. Owing to concerns with stock status on the River Severn following the 2018 salmon stock assessment, as well as concerns with stock status on neighboring catchments (Wye and Usk), an Emergency Byelaw was implemented requiring 100% C&R for the Severn rod fishery and Severn Estuary lave (hand held) net fishery. The emergency byelaw also closed the draft nets and fixed engines (putcher ranks) operating in the Severn Estuary. A new NLO and byelaws are currently being developed by the Environment Agency and will be consulted upon in due course with all stakeholders.

North East Coast: the NLO was remade in 2012 and continues to impose a phase-out on the beach (T&J) nets. Under new national measures for England approved in December 2018, the drift net fishery was closed, bringing forward the closure date previously set for the end of the 2022 netting season. In addition, new restrictions come into force for the T&J net fishery from 2019. These shorten the fishing season in some districts and impose mandatory release of any salmon caught. Fishers are thus only be permitted to land sea trout and allowed to operate their nets in areas/times when sea trout typically predominate in the catch.

Note also that the **Tamar/Tavy/Lynher and Taw/Torridge** estuaries fisheries were closed in 2019, and the **Solway Firth** fisheries required compulsory C&R of salmon in 2019.