



North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(20)13

***Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the
management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse***

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The Agreement between Norway and Finland on the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse came into force in 2017. There are multiple genetically unique salmon stocks in the river, and regulations under the agreement aim to reduce the fishing mortality by one third. This is expected to improve the status of weak stocks within a 15 year-period. In addition to ensuring the sustainability of the stocks, the regulations are designed to allow traditional Sami fishery to continue with reduced fishing days per season, and to reduce the tourist rod fishery substantially by setting an annual maximum number of angling licenses available. To safeguard fishing rights of the Sami and the local population in the negotiations, the Sami Parliaments of Norway and Finland, as well as local fishing rights holders, whom largely are Sami, were represented throughout the whole negotiation process.

The common working group for monitoring and research on the salmon stocks in the river, established by the Finnish and Norwegian Governments, coordinates the monitoring and research on the stocks, and provides continuously stock status evaluations and science-based advice to the Teno river salmon management.

In the latest annual report of the group, the main result stayed the same, that the new fishing agreement has reduced the fishing mortality at an expected rate. The observed reduction rate will enable recovery of the weak salmon stocks in the estimated time frame, two to three salmon generations, as planned. The monitoring group shall also integrate traditional knowledge into its evaluations and it has started regular meetings with local stakeholders to increase the exchange of information. The reports of the group are written in English and translated to Finnish, Norwegian and northern Sami, and are available on-line.

The work with the common management plan by Norwegian and Finnish Governments has proceeded, and the draft plan is on a public hearing during the summer. . The plan has been developed through a bilateral working group, with participation and contributions from local stakeholders. The management targets and stock development trajectories will be used to estimate how the management targets can be achieved, besides many other elements of management, including traditional knowledge.

Finland and Norway have started a process to renew the periodic fishing rule for years 2022-2028, with an important starting point to ensure the recovery of the weak salmon stocks also when using the renewed fishing rule.

Local stakeholders are involved in the management processes as well as in the renewal process of the fishing rule.