

REPORT OF THE
SECOND ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC
COMMISSION
OF THE
NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON
CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

3 - 7 June 1985
Edinburgh, UK

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
ORGANISATION POUR LA CONSERVATION DU SAUMON DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION
LA COMMISSION DE L'ATLANTIQUE DU NORD-EST

CHAIRMAN: MR BJOERN SMOERGRAV (NORWAY).
RAPPORTEUR: MR THOR GUDJONSSON (ICELAND).
SECRETARY: DR MALCOLM WINDSOR

11 Rutland Square
Edinburgh EH1 2AS

Telephone: (031)-228-2551
(031)-228-2552

Telex: 265871 (Ref: 81:MMUO76)

CONTENTS

	REPORT OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION, 3-7 JUNE, 1985, EDINBURGH, UK
ANNEX 1	LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
ANNEX 2	AGENDA, NEAC (85)15
ANNEX 3	DECISION OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION ON AN AMENDMENT TO RULE 15 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE, NEAC (85)16
ANNEX 4	ACFM REPORT FROM ICES ON SALMON STOCKS, NASCO (85)11
ANNEX 5	PROPOSALS TO THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION OF NASCO FOR REGULATORY MEASURES FROM THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND, NEAC (85)3
ANNEX 6	PROPOSAL BY THE EEC FOR A REGULATORY MEASURE FOR THE FISHERY OF SALMON IN THE FISHERIES ZONE OF THE FAROE ISLANDS, NEAC (85)5
ANNEX 7	PROPOSAL BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY FOR REGULATORY MEASURES FOR FISHING OF SALMON IN THE FISHERIES ZONE OF THE FAROE ISLANDS, NEAC (85)6
ANNEX 8	STATEMENT FROM SWEDEN ON SALMON FISHING IN FAROESE WATERS, NEAC (85)7
ANNEX 9	PROPOSAL BY THE EEC FOR A REGULATORY MEASURE FOR THE FISHING OF SALMON IN THE FAROESE FISHERY ZONE FOR THE SEASON 1985-86, NEAC (85)12
ANNEX 10	QUESTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL OF NASCO TO ICES REGARDING THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION AREA, NEAC (85)17
ANNEX 11	APPENDIX 1V, REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON, COPENHAGEN 18-26 MARCH, 1985
ANNEX 12	LIST OF NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION DOCUMENTS

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
NORTH EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION

NEAC (85) 18

REPORT OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION

EDINBURGH
15 OCTOBER 1985

NEAC (85) 18

REPORT OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION OF
THE NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
AT THE DRAGONARA HOTEL, EDINBURGH, UK
3-7 JUNE 1985

1. OPENING OF THE MEETING
 - 1.1 The meeting opened on 3 June 1985 under chairmanship of Mr Bjoern Smoergrav. (Norway)
 - 1.2 A list of participants and observers is annexed (Annex 1).
2. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA
 - 2.1 The Commission adopted the agenda contained in NEAC (85)15 (Annex 2).
3. NOMINATION OF A RAPPORTEUR
 - 3.1 The Commission nominated Mr Thor Gudjonsson (Iceland) as rapporteur.
4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
 - 4.1 Following a discussion of Article 10, paragraph 6, of the Convention and Rules 11 and 12 of the Rules of Procedure, the Commission confirmed that the terms of offices of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman should expire at the end of the Third Annual Meeting.
 - 4.2 The Commission also adopted an amendment to Rule 15 of its Rules of Procedure on elections to fill a vacancy caused by the Chairman's resignation or permanent inability to act, NEAC (85)16 (Annex 3).
5. ACFM REPORT FROM ICES ON SALMON STOCKS
 - 5.1 Mr O. Ulltang, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Fisheries Management of ICES, reviewed part of the ACFM report relating to salmon, NASCO (85)11 (Annex 4).
 - 5.2 The Chairman conveyed thanks to ICES for the ACFM report.

6. REGULATORY MEASURES

- 6.1 The Chairman reviewed the statement of the ACFM on TAC in its report, NASCO (85)11 (Annex 4).
- 6.2 The delegation of Iceland submitted a proposal, NEAC (85)3 (Annex 5).
- 6.3 The delegation of the European Economic Community submitted a proposal, NEAC (85)5 (Annex 6).
- 6.4 The delegation of Norway submitted a proposal, NEAC (85)6 (Annex 7).
- 6.5 The representative of Sweden made a statement on conservation, NEAC (85)7 (Annex 8).
- 6.6 After thorough consideration of the matter, the Commission had to note that due to lack of time it was not possible to obtain agreement on a proposal for a regulatory measure for the fishing of salmon in the fisheries zone of the Faroe Islands in 1985-86 which would be acceptable to all Commission members.
- 6.7 The delegation from the EEC asked for a vote to be taken on its proposal contained in NEAC (85)12 (Annex 9). The Chairman ruled that no vote be taken on any draft proposal put forward in order to allow further consideration of the matter.
- 6.8 The delegation from the EEC reserved its position with regard to the possibility of its participation in a resumed meeting.

7. RECOMMENDATION TO THE COUNCIL ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

- 7.1 The Commission recommended to the Council the questions to ICES regarding the North-East Atlantic Commission area contained in document NEAC (85)17 (Annex 10). In addition the Commission recommended to endorse the research recommendations listed in Appendix IV of the Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic salmon, Copenhagen, 18-26 March, 1985 (Annex 11).

8. OTHER BUSINESS

- 8.1 There was no other business

9. DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING

- 9.1 The Commission will hold its next meeting at the date and place of the next meeting of the Council.

10. CONSIDERATION OF THE DRAFT REPORT OF MEETING

- 10.1 The Commission considered and approved the report of the meeting.

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION
3-7 JUNE 1985, DRAGONARA HOTEL, EDINBURGH, UK

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

* Denotes Head of Delegation

PARTIES - MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION:

DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)

*MR A OLAFSSON	<u>Representative</u> Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen
MR E LEMCHE	<u>Representative</u> Home Government of Greenland, Copenhagen
MR O SAMSING	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen
MR S POULSON	Faroese Commercial Attache, Aberdeen
MS J KLETT	Faroese Home Government, Torshavn
MR J MOELLER-JENSEN	Institute of Greenland Marine Research, Copenhagen
MR H JAKUPSSTOVU	Faroese Institute of Fisheries Research, Torshavn
MR O JUSTINUSSEN	Faroese Fishing Vessels Owners Federation, Torshavn

EEC

*MR J PEARSON	<u>Representative</u> Fisheries Directorate-General, EEC Commission, Brussels
MR J SPENCER	<u>Representative</u> Fisheries Directorate-General, EEC Commission, Brussels
MS M DORAN	<u>Representative</u> Directorate-General for External Relations, EEC Commission, Brussels
DR D SOLOMON	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Lowestoft

FINLAND

*MR P NISKANEN

Representative
Ministry of Agriculture and
Forestry, Helsinki

MR E NIEMELA

Representative
Subarctic Station, Kevo

ICELAND

MR T GUDJONSSON

Representative
Institute of Freshwater Fisheries,
Reykjavik

NORWAY

*MR B SMOERGRAV

Representative
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oslo

DR A LANGE LAND

Representative
Directorate for Wildlife and
Freshwater Fish, Trondheim

MR J SENNESETH

Representative
Ministry of Environment, Oslo

MR L HANSEN

Directorate for Wildlife and
Freshwater Fish, Trondheim

SWEDEN

*MR I OLSSON

Representative
National Board of Fisheries,
Goteburg

OBSERVERS - PARTIES:

CANADA (++)

MS D PETHICK

International Directorate,
Department of Fisheries and Oceans,
Ottawa

USA (++)

MR D REIFSNYDER

Office of Oceans and Fisheries
Affairs, Department of State,
Washington, D C

MR T LILLESTOLEN

Office of International Fisheries,
Washington, D C

MR A NEILL

National Marine Fisheries Service,
Woods Hole, Mass

MR J DENTLER

U S House of Representatives
Commission on Merchant Marine
Fisheries, Washington, D C

OBSERVERS - NON PARTIES:

SPAIN

MR I GARCIA

Mr I Garcia, Spanish Embassy, London

USSR

MR Y ZNAMENSKI

Ministry of Fisheries, Moscow

DR A VILEGZHANIN

Ministry of Fisheries, Moscow

ICES

MR B PARRISH

General Secretary, International
Council for the Exploration of the
Sea, Copenhagen

MR O ULLTANG

Chairman, ACFM, International
Council for the Exploration of the
Sea, Copenhagen

(++) Under Article 11, Paragraph 2, of the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean, Canada and the United States of America each have the right to submit and vote on proposals for regulatory measures concerning salmon stocks originating in the rivers of Canada or the United States of America, respectively, and occurring off East Greenland.

EDINBURGH
JUNE 1985

NEAC (85)15

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION
3-7 JUNE 1985, DRAGONARA HOTEL, EDINBURGH, UK.

AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Nomination of rapporteur
4. Election of officers
5. ACFM report from ICES on salmon stocks NASCO (85)11
6. Regulatory measures
7. Recommendation to the Council on scientific research
8. Other business
9. Date and place of next meeting
10. Consideration of draft report of meeting

EDINBURGH
June 1985

NEAC (85)16

DECISION OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION
ON
AN AMENDMENT TO RULE 15 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Commission,

Having regard to Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Convention,
adopts the following amendment to Rule 15 of the Rules of
Procedure,

Rule 15 shall read as follows:

In the event of the office of Chairman falling vacant due to
resignation or permanent inability to act, the Vice-Chairman
shall act as Chairman until the next meeting of the Commission,
on which occasion a new Chairman shall be elected to serve for
the remainder of his predecessor's term of office.

EDINBURGH
June 1985

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION

NASCO (85)11

ACFM REPORT FROM ICES ON SALMON STOCKS

EDINBURGH
June 1985

**ACFM REPORT
NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON**

1. THE SALMON FISHERIES IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC

Request from NASCO

This advice and the appended report of the meeting of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon respond to questions posed by the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) in relation to the Northeast Atlantic Commission and the West Greenland Commission of NASCO. The questions posed are found in Appendix I of the Working Group report. The report should be consulted for detailed responses to NASCO's request. In this text, all tables (and numbered figures) referred to are found in the Working Group report.

2. NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

2.1 Exploitation and Fishing Mortality in the North East Atlantic Commission Area:

Exploitation rates were defined as the number of fish caught in a fishery divided by the number of fish of the appropriate stocks and smolt classes extant when half the catch has been taken plus the remaining half of the catch (p.3).

High sea fisheries

Only one vessel from Finland reported catches (29 tonnes) in the northern Norwegian Sea in 1984 (Table 2). Nominal catches in the Faroes area longline fishery totaled 720 tonnes in 1984 (Table 3).

Norway

Analysis of recaptures of tagged fish from Southwestern Norway indicated that, in general, exploitation of one sea-winter salmon at the Faroes is very low while exploitation of two sea-winter fish is probably moderate. Exploitation of all sea-age groups of these tagged fish in Norwegian home waters exceeds 74% and is often over 90%.

Scotland

The estimated 1984 exploitation rate for the fixed engine fishery of the Moray Firth, outside the river was 0.13 and the corresponding rate for the net and coble fishery in the river was 0.11. Estimated exploitation rates in the North Esk net and coble fishery increased to 0.62 for one sea-winter fish and 0.44 for multi sea-winter fish in 1984 (Table 6). These ratios are over-estimated since they were based only on returns to the river during the time of the commercial fishery.

Republic of Ireland

Exploitation rates for the Burrishoole River were estimated to be 73.4% and 79.9% in 1983 and 1984 respectively.

Conclusion

Exploitation rates in home water fisheries in the Northeast Atlantic appear to vary from a few percent to over 90%.

Options for total catches within safe biological limits

New information on growth and stock composition were not adequate to vary the advice of the Working Group in 1982. It is not possible at the present time to estimate and advise on a single TAC which would maintain the home water stocks and safeguard stocks within safe biological limits. A TAC applied to fisheries of mixed stocks does not ensure that the proper catch restrictions occur on any given stock. Even with a TAC of zero in sea fisheries, spawning escapement is not guaranteed as exploitation rates in some mixed stock fisheries in home waters may exceed 90%.

There is no evidence that mixed stock fisheries on the high seas poses a particularly serious threat to individual stocks of salmon, relative to other fisheries.

2.2 Distribution of Salmon Stocks

The pattern of distribution of salmon in the Northeast Atlantic reported by ICES to NASCO in 1984 was confirmed. Recaptures in the Faroes fishery of salmon tagged as smolts from Sweden, Scotland and Norway were plotted by statistical rectangle of recapture (Figure 2). It appears that salmon originating from these countries are mixed within the Faroes fishery. The proportion of tagged fish in the catch appears to be higher towards the north and west and the proportion of salmon originating in Norway, Finland, and the USSR appears to increase with latitude. The proportion of salmon of North America origin in the 1981/82

Faroes fishery was estimated to be 0% with confidence limits of 0% and 3%.

2.3 Salmon Biomass in the Faroes Fishing Zone

The Working Group was not able to assess the salmon biomass in the fisheries zone of the Faroe Islands nor estimate the average weight gained and the food consumed by salmon in the zone. Progress towards answering these questions is reviewed in the Working Group report (p. 12-13).

2.4 Effects of Harvesting Salmon at Different Stages of their Migration Routes:

Revised calculations of relative weight gain lead to qualitatively similar results to those advised by ICES in 1984 (Table 7). Highest relative losses occur for young fish which would mature one year later and lowest losses for harvesting older fish which would have matured in the same year. The calculations do not distinguish between spawners and fish caught in the home water fishery.

2.5 Non-Catch Fishing Mortality

The non-catch fishing mortality in the Faroes fishery was estimated to be about 5% in 1983/84, however, preliminary estimates suggest a higher rate in 1984/85. No new information was available elsewhere in the Northeast Atlantic.

2.6 Tagging Programs

On the subject of tagging as a means of assessing the interception fisheries, the Working Group discussed the advantages and disadvantages of both internal and external tagging of salmon at sea as well as tagging smolts in home waters. Tagging at sea could provide answers which tagging smolts could not and vice versa. Smolt tagging in home waters is usually limited to a few locations and many are restricted to hatchery-reared fish which may not be representative of larger populations of salmon either in pattern of migration or in rates of exploitation. Tagging at sea poses large logistical problems but the main problems are the necessary adjustments for uneven returns and variable reporting rates in home waters. Costs for tagging at sea and in home waters are provided in the report.

With regard to tagging programs designed to determine the composition of exploited stocks and of catches, the Working Group and ACFM wish to repeat its recommendation of 1982 that smolt tagging be expanded and that special emphasis should be given to the use of internal tags.

2.7 Specify Deficiencies in Data and Sampling Programs Necessary

ACFM endorsed sampling programs recommended by the Working Group to remedy identified data deficiencies.

These deficiencies were related to:

- 1) estimation of exploitation rates
- 2) distribution of salmon stocks
- 3) effects of harvesting salmon at various stages of migration
- 4) post-smolt mortality

2.8 Biological Characteristics of Catches at the Faroes

Catches and catch rates in the Faroes fishery in 1983/84 by statistical rectangle are shown in Figures 6 and 7. Both catches and catch rates were greatest between the latitudes of 64° - 66° trending northeasterly from 8° to 3° longitude. The age composition of catches is given in Table 8 and the monthly mean weights at age are given in Table 9. Two-sea-winter salmon made up 87% the catch while 3 sea-winter (10%) and 1 sea-winter salmon (3%) provided lesser amounts. For the period of January - April, the mean weights of salmon caught were 1.54, 3.79, and 8.53 kg for 1 SW, 2 SW, and 3 SW, respectively. The sex composition position of the 1983/84 catches (Table 10) over all ages was 77% (females) and 23% (males) which generally existed for all 3 age groups.

3. West Greenland and Related Home Water Fisheries

3.1 The West Greenland fishery in 1983 and 1984

Statistics and composition of the fishery and regulation in force

The fishery started on 10 August 1984 and ended on 8 December. The total catch was 297 tonnes, about the same as the 310 tonnes in 1983 and about one third of the quota of 870 tonnes.

Origin of salmon at West Greenland

The proportion of salmon of North American origin in samples from 1984 commercial catches was 51% (Table 14). No temporal trends or differences between NAFO divisions were detected.

Biological characteristics

North American origin one sea-winter salmon were significantly shorter and lighter than their European counterparts, as previously observed. The sea age composition of catch samples in 1984 was 87.6% one sea-winter, 11.6% multi sea-winter and 0.7% previous spawners. In 1983 and 1984 the numbers of multi sea-winter salmon landed were similar to previous years in spite of the almost fourfold decrease in total catch.

3.2 Possible causal factors leading to the very low 1983 and 1984 catches at West Greenland:

At least four factors have contributed to the low catches of salmon at West Greenland in 1983 and 1984. These are listed below in no particular order of priority.

1. Adverse environmental factors
2. Lower than normal sea survival rate of relevant smolt classes
3. Reduced stock abundance in Canada and of the spring-run salmon component in Scotland.
4. Reduced fishing effort at Greenland for both years, at least during the important early part of the fishing season.

3.3 Future research

ACFM endorsed the recommendations of the Working group for future research.

4. The Salmon Fisheries of the Northwestern Atlantic

4.1 Request from NASCO

This advice and the appended report of the meeting of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon respond to an urgent request by the North American Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) to provide further advice on the areal and seasonal distribution of Canadian catches of salmon and catches of U.S.A. origin salmon in Canadian fisheries (see Appendix 1 of the Working Group report). In the text, all tables and figures referred to are found in the Working Group report which should be consulted for a detailed response to the question.

4.2 Areal and seasonal distribution of Canadian Salmon

Catches and catches of U.S.A. origin salmon in Canadian Fisheries;

Only Canadian catches from 1974-83 and tag returns from 1970-83 for U.S.A. origin salmon in Newfoundland and Labrador were considered since these fisheries account for 80 percent of Canadian returns of U.S.A. salmon tags.

Tag data were summarized from the basic data cards stored at the Atlantic Sea-Run Salmon Commission in Bangor, Maine for 1970-1983. A major concern regarding the summarization of the data was knowledge about the exact date of capture. The Working Group examined original coding sheets and tag return envelopes for smolts released in 2 randomly selected years (1974 and 1981) and concluded that the non-recording of the tag recovery date was not an important error, especially, for fish captured in the fall season.

Tables 3 and 4, respectively, show the distribution of tag recoveries and catches by month and Statistical Area for all years considered. Most (82 percent) of the recaptures and catches (73 percent) in Newfoundland and Labrador were in Statistical Areas A-D and O.

Area and month distribution of catches and tag recaptures are presented for each year in Tables 5 and 6 of the Working Group report. Inter-annual changes in geographical patterns are presented in Tables 7 and 8. There was considerable inter-annual variation, particularly in the geographical distribution of the recoveries. An accurate description, however, of the inter-annual variation was difficult to make due to the small number of tags involved. Statistical Areas A, B and O usually had higher percentages of recoveries than did other areas. Fifty-nine percent of the tag recoveries were of the 1973, 1974 and 1979 releases. Total returns per 1000 marks varied widely from year to

year (Table 9).

A preliminary examination of tag recoveries by Statistical Section in Northeast Newfoundland gave no evidence that the catch of U.S.A. origin salmon was mainly at headlands. Statistical sections, however, do not provide sufficient detail to draw conclusions regarding the relative importance of recoveries at headlands and bays.

An average of 0.84 percent of the total Newfoundland-Labrador salmon catch occurred from September 1 - December 31 in 1974-83, with fluctuations over an sixfold range (Figure 6). For the last four years, the total catch has declined while the autumn fishery has remained constant so that the proportion taken in the fall has increased. The percent of tag recoveries during this period has varied from 7 percent to 48 percent with an average of about 28 percent.

4.3 Research needs

ACFM endorses research needs as identified in the Working Group Report.

5. Abundance Projection for Salmon Stocks in 1985

Salmon abundance in several areas in 1985 (and future years) is expected to be below average for several reasons. Poor grilse returns in 1984 suggest low returns of 2 sea-winter fish in 1985. Low egg deposition in Canadian rivers in 1978 and 1979 suggests that the return of one sea-winter fish in 1985 and 2 sea-winter fish in 1985 and 1986 will also be poor. Egg deposition has, in fact, been poor in most MSW salmon producing rivers in the Gulf of St Lawrence and in the St John river during the past 7 years. ACFM noted the reduced abundance of spring run salmon at Scotland and the high exploitation rate in the River Ims in Norway. If these rivers are indicative of neighbouring rivers (and this is not known) and if river escapement has bearing on the subsequent abundance of the next generation at sea then catches everywhere are likely to be reduced in the next few years. The variability of smolt survival at sea might influence this.

NEAC (85)3

PROPOSALS TO THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION OF NASCO
FOR
REGULATORY MEASURES FROM THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND

1. To ban fishing for salmon stocks subject to the Convention beyond 12 nautical miles from baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.
2. To prohibit the use of drift nets.

EDINBURGH
4 June 1985

NEAC (85)5

PROPOSAL BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
FOR A REGULATORY MEASURE FOR THE FISHERY OF SALMON
IN THE FISHERIES ZONE OF THE FAROE ISLANDS

1. Catches of salmon in the fisheries zone of the Faroe Islands shall not exceed 450 metric tonnes for the fishery season 1 October 1985 to 31 May 1986.
2. Catches shall include both salmon retained on board and landed, and discards.
3. The salmon fishery may only be conducted by vessels registered in the Faroe Islands.

EDINBURGH
June 1985

NEAC (85)6

PROPOSAL BY THE DELEGATION OF NORWAY
FOR REGULATORY MEASURES FOR FISHING OF SALMON IN THE
FISHERIES ZONE OF THE FAROE ISLANDS

1. The total allowable catch of salmon in the fisheries zone of the Faroe Islands shall be set at 500 tonnes for the 1985/86 season, including discards.
2. The fishing season shall be from 1 October 1985 to 31 May 1986.
3. The minimum size of salmon retained on board the fishing vessels shall be 55 cm.

BACKGROUND

It is the view of the Norwegian Government that a sustained effort should be made to halt the apparent over-exploitation of the stocks originating in Norwegian rivers. Reference is made to the background information given in document NEAC (84) 3.

Such an effort should include two major elements, viz. a reduction in interception fisheries in the Norwegian Sea and further measures to reduce the fishing on mixed stocks in Norwegian home waters.

The draft proposal for regulatory measures in the Faroese fisheries is designed to effect the reduction in the Norwegian Sea interception fisheries. The figure of 500 tonnes suggested as a TAC is not chosen at random. It happens to represent a reasonable reduction of the limitation established by bilateral agreement for the 1984-85 season. The main reason for the suggestion is, however, that 500 tonnes represents the approximate average of reported catches in the Norwegian Sea in the 1970's (440 tonnes).

At the first annual meeting, the Norwegian delegation announced certain measures to which the Norwegian Government would commit itself. These were:

- (a) to extend the prohibition zone for drift net fisheries, now in force east of Lindesnes, to Utsira further north on the west coast of Norway (approx. 59° 40' N) as from 1986;
- (b) to maintain on a permanent basis the prohibition zone for drift net fisheries in force from the Norwegian-Soviet border to North Cape;

- (c) to stop all salmon fisheries for a period of 10-14 days in the middle of June (which is the best fishing period) in Moere and Romsdal county (central Norway) during the 1985 season.

These measures are still valid.

In addition, the Directorate for Wildlife and Freshwater Fish in Norway has recently proposed that radical steps should be taken to reduce exploitation in Norwegian home waters.

In particular, the mixed stock fishery should be reduced in order to protect vulnerable stocks, and secure sufficient spawning escapement, thus making it possible to perform a rational management of the different Norwegian salmon stocks.

The regulations proposed by the Directorate includes prohibiting the use of drift netting as a method of catching salmon in all Norwegian waters from 1987. They also include the introduction of a licensing system for the use of bag netting and pound netting, thus regulating the total number of these types of fishing gear that can be used during the salmon season.

Furthermore, a prohibition on the use of monofilament materials in salmon fishing gear is proposed, as well as a reduction of the fishing season in Norwegian rivers of 10 days.

These proposals will be dealt with by the Norwegian Government later this year. They include some difficult political questions because in addition to the conservation aspect of the proposals, they will also strongly affect the distribution of catches among those involved in the salmon fisheries in Norway to-day. Whatever will be the result of the Government's consideration it is clear that a more severe regulation will emerge.

However, there is no doubt that if a significant reduction in the Faroese fisheries can be agreed upon within the framework of NASCO, this would be a major element in the Government's consideration on the salmon issue.

The objective which the Norwegian authorities have in mind is to restore and enhance the salmon stocks originating in Norwegian rivers. Depending on the sacrifices we are now ready to make, greater quantities may be available for the fishermen in some years.

EDINBURGH
4 June 1985

NEAC (85)7

STATEMENT FROM SWEDEN
ON
SALMON FISHING IN THE FAROESE WATERS

Firstly Sweden wants to refer to Article 15, paragraph 5, in the NASCO Convention thus reminding that Sweden has notified the Council of NASCO of the following facts.

Pursuant to Section 5 in the Fisheries Ordinance (1982:126) the National Board of Fisheries directed an Ordinance on certain regulations concerning fishing in the Kattegatt and Skagerrak in June 1983. According to Chapter 3, Section 2, of that Ordinance, fishing of salmon is prohibited beyond four nautical miles from the baselines. Further regulations will be issued by the Board of Fisheries in the autumn of 1985. These regulations of the Board will include sections concerning closed seasons, closed areas, minimum lengths and methods of fishing.

During the period 1975-1983 about 60,500 Swedish smolts were tagged and released into rivers emptying into the Kattegatt - Skagerrak area.

In the Faroese waters 261 recaptures (or 6.2% of all recaptures) have been reported. These figures may seem to be small but in the Faroese and the Greenland fishery, more than 50% of the multi sea-winter salmon are caught which is why this fishery implies a serious problem for the Swedish breeding of salmon simultaneously as the genetic pool of the naturally reproducing salmon is impoverished.

Having in mind what has just been said it seems justified and reasonable to reduce the fishery in the Faroese waters.

EDINBURGH
5 June 1985

NEAC (85)12

PROPOSAL BY THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY
FOR A REGULATORY MEASURE FOR THE FISHING OF SALMON
IN THE FAROESE FISHERY ZONE FOR THE SEASON 1985-86

The North-East Atlantic Commission -

Considering the objectives of the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean, and in particular the provisions of Article 9 of the Convention,

Considering the scientific advice provided by ICES (document NASCO (85) 11, notably sections 2.1 and 5),

Considering the shared interest of the members of the North-East Atlantic Commission in improving the spawning escapement of the salmon stocks occurring in the Commission Area in order to obtain a general improvement of the state of these stocks,

Recognising, in accordance with the scientific advice received, the importance for spawning escapement of a reduction of the fishing mortality of salmon,

Considering the effects of catches taken in the fisheries zone of the Faroe Islands on the level of returns to home waters,

Recognising the commitments made in accordance with Article 15, paragraph 5(b), of the Convention by States of origin with major contributions to the salmon stocks occurring in Faroese waters, which are attached as annexes to the Commission's report,

Considering that not only the burdens but also the benefits of salmon conservation measures should be fairly shared by the members of the Commission,

Considering that the level of the Faroese fishery must take account of the vital importance for the Faroe Islands of fisheries, which constitute an essential economic activity, and that the Convention recognises that dependence by exceptionally allowing salmon fisheries within the fisheries jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands outside the 12 mile limit,

Taking note of the statement made by the delegation of Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland concerning the socio-economic context of the regulation of the Faroese salmon fishery,

Proposes the following regulatory measure for the fishing of salmon in the Faroese fishery zone for the season 1985-86:

- (1) The salmon catch shall be limited to 500 tonnes, to be fished by vessels registered in the Faroe Islands.
- (2) The minimum size of salmon retained on board the fishing vessels shall be 60 cm.
- (3) The season shall be from 1 October 1985 to 31 May 1986.
- (4) Efforts to reduce mortality of discards shall be continued.

EDINBURGH
7 June 1985

NEAC (85)17

QUESTIONS FROM THE COUNCIL OF NASCO TO ICES
REGARDING THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION AREA

- A. To describe the fisheries for salmon in the NEAC area, to assess the total exploitation exerted upon the stocks and to estimate the fishing mortality so generated:
1. for homewater fisheries divided into freshwater and marine components.
 2. for sea fisheries beyond 12 miles.
- B. To estimate the quantity, age composition and homewater origin of the landings and discards of salmon taken in the Faroes in the 1984/5 and 1985/6 fishing seasons.
- C. To present the catch statistics of the NEAC salmon fisheries on an annual basis, and on a seasonal basis where the season overlaps the end of the year, distinguishing between freshwater and marine components.
- D. To estimate the contribution of hatchery-reared fish and fish farm escapees to the Faroese fishery.
- E. To assess natural mortality of salmon in the marine phase.
- F. To plan and co-ordinate a programme of research to examine data for salmon originating in selected rivers as a basis for advising whether rates and patterns of exploitation are within safe biological limits.
- G. To assess the feasibility of regulating the Faroese salmon fishery by limitation of fishing effort so as to achieve the same rate of fishing mortality as would result on average from a given catch level in tonnes. To assess the relative effectiveness of this approach as opposed to annually adjusting a total allowable catch in achieving the same fishing mortality rate.
- H. To assess the biological effects of alternative minimum size regulations for salmon (including no minimum size) for the Faroese fishery.

EDINBURGH
6 June 1985

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION

APPENDIX IV
REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON
COPENHAGEN 18-26 MARCH 1985

EDINBURGH
June 1985

REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP ON NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON
COPENHAGEN, 18-26 MARCH 1985

APPENDIX IV

RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Provide a brief description and conclusions from home waters fisheries and catches. (Section 1.1)
2. A database should be developed to better quarterly trend in stock status. (Section 2.1.5)
3. It is recommended that tables showing the distribution of recaptured salmon outside home water zones should be produced by countries which have tagged smolts. (Section 2.2.4)
4. It is recommended that research be conducted to obtain information to be used on the catch rate model of Hansen (1984). (Section 2.3)
5. A technique of classifying hatchery-reared salmon and those escaped from fish farms should be developed and tested. (Section 2.7)
6. Non-catch fishing mortality should be further investigated. (Section 2.4)
7. It is recommended that estimates of exploitation rates should be obtained for areas where they are not currently available. (Section 2.7)
8. It is suggested that more information is required on post-smolt mortality. Data which are available for the River Ims should be analysed to provide estimates of post-smolt mortality for this stock. (Section 2.7)

NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION
SECOND ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION
3-7 JUNE, 1985, EDINBURGH, UK

LIST OF NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION PAPERS

- NEAC (85)1 Provisional agenda
- NEAC (85)2 Draft agenda
- NEAC (85)3 Proposals to the North-East Atlantic Commission
for regulatory measures from the Delegation of
Iceland
- NEAC (85)4 Draft report of the second annual meeting of the
North-East Atlantic Commission
- NEAC (85)5 Proposal by the EEC for a regulatory measure for
the fishery of salmon in the fisheries zone of
the Faroe Islands
- NEAC (85)6 Proposal by the Delegation of Norway for
regulatory measures for the fishing of salmon in
the fisheries zone of the Faroe Islands
- NEAC (85)7 Statement from Sweden on salmon fishing in the
Faroese waters
- NEAC (85)8 Draft decision of the North-East Atlantic
Commission on an amendment to Rule 15 of the
Rules of Procedure
- NEAC (85)9 Proposal by the EEC for a regulatory measure for
the fishery of salmon in the fisheries zone of
the Faroe Islands
- NEAC (85)10 Draft questions from the Council of NASCO to ICES
regarding the North-East Atlantic Commission area
- NEAC (85)11 Statement from the Delegation of Denmark in
respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland

- NEAC (85)12 Proposal by the EEC for a regulatory measure for the fishing of salmon in the Faroese fishery zone for the season 1985-86
- NEAC (85)13 Statement of the North-East Atlantic Commission
- NEAC (85)14 Request by the North-East Atlantic Commission for a Working Group report to the third annual meeting
- NEAC (85)15 Agenda
- NEAC (85)16 Decision of the North-East Atlantic Commission on an amendment to Rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure
- NEAC (85)17 Questions from the Council of NASCO to ICES regarding the North-East Atlantic Commission area
- NEAC (85)18 Report of the second annual meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission

NOTE:

This list contains all papers submitted to the Commission prior to and at the meeting. Some, but not all, of these papers are included in this report as annexes.