



North-East Atlantic Commission

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

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management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse***

A new 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, with variable stock status, and fishing regulations under the agreement aimed to reduce the fishing mortality in order to rebuild the weakest stocks.

Despite the reduced exploitation rates since 2017, in 2020 the salmon catches were at a historical low level. Low catch numbers were confirmed by fish counts derived with various techniques (sonar, video, snorkelling). Monitoring which includes smolt counting one year versus number of returning 1 SW salmon the year after, indicates that the survival rate at sea has decreased dramatically recent years, with low pre-fishery abundance as a result. In the latest annual reports from the Norwegian-Finnish bilateral working group for monitoring and research on the salmon stocks in the river Tana, the group concludes there has been no exploitable surplus from the river in 2019, 2020 and 2021, and the prognosis says this situation probably will last for 2022. Taking this into consideration, the yearly process of adjusting fishing regulations led to a joint conclusion by Norway and Finland to close the salmon fisheries completely in 2021 and again this year.

In 2020, Finland and Norway started negotiations 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. The recent knowledge about the stocks implies that the assumptions for recovery need to be re-assessed, with a possible new starting point for recovery.

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