



**REPORT OF THE
THIRTY-NINTH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION**

**Dalmahoy Hotel & Country
Club, Edinburgh, Scotland**

6 – 9 June 2022

Chair: Helge Dyrendal (Norway)

Vice-Chair: Svein Magnason (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))

Secretary: Emma Hatfield

NEA(22)14

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Report of the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edinburgh, Scotland

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1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 In the absence of the Chair, Viktor Rozhnov (Russian Federation), and the Vice-Chair, Svein Magnason (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), the Secretary opened the meeting. The Commission elected Helge Dyrendal (Norway) to serve the remainder of Viktor Rozhnov's term as Chair. He welcomed participants to the meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission.
- 1.2 The representatives of the European Union (EU), Norway, the Russian Federation, and the United Kingdom (UK) referred to statements made at the Opening of the Council Meeting. These are annexed to the report of this Meeting (Annex 1).
- 1.3 The representative of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) referred to the statement made at the Opening of the Council Meeting (Annex 2).
- 1.4 A list of participants at the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO is included as Annex 3¹.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda, [NEA\(22\)12](#), (Annex 4).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Michael Millane (EU) was appointed Rapporteur.

4. Election of Officers

- 4.1 The Commission elected Alex Kinninmonth (UK) as its Chair (proposed by the representative of Norway, seconded by the representative of the EU) for a period of two years, to commence from the close of the 2022 Annual Meeting.
- 4.2 The Commission elected Helge Dyrendal (Norway) as its Vice-Chair (proposed by the representative of the UK, seconded by the representative of the EU) for a period of two years, to commence from the close of the 2022 Annual Meeting.

5. Review of the 2021 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

- 5.1 The representative of ICES, Dennis Ensing, presented the scientific advice relevant to the North-East Atlantic Commission (NEAC), as contained in the report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(22\)09](#). Dr Ensing's presentation is available as

¹ Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands did not attend the 2022 Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission

document [NEA\(22\)15](#). The Chair thanked Dr Ensing for his presentation.

- 5.2 The representative of the NGOs highlighted that Atlantic salmon are likely to be particularly impacted by climate change in their southern European range and asked why EU-Spain and EU-Portugal are not currently included in the ICES stock assessments for the Southern NEAC area. The representative of ICES informed him that neither jurisdiction has enough appropriate data yet for inclusion in the current assessment models and he encouraged both to work towards this, particularly in the context of the ongoing development of the life-cycle model which may be adopted by ICES to assess the status of Atlantic salmon stocks in future years.

6. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission

- 6.1 The Chair noted that under the Council's 'Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO', [CNL\(13\)38](#), it was agreed that there should be an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries (MSFs).
- 6.2 The EU ([NEA\(22\)07](#)), Norway ([NEA\(22\)05](#)), the Russian Federation ([NEA\(22\)04rev](#)) and the UK ([NEA\(22\)06](#)) submitted papers providing information on MSFs, including a description of the MSFs still operating in their jurisdictions, the most recent catch data and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs in the IP period to implement NASCO's agreements.
- 6.3 A 'Joint Statement on behalf of the EU and Norway regarding the Management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse', [NEA\(22\)08](#), had been provided in advance of the Annual Meeting. This concerned the status of work implementing the bilateral agreement between Norway and EU-Finland on the fisheries in the Tana / Teno river, which include MSFs.
- 6.4 A representative of Norway, Håvard Vedeler Nilsen, outlined the declining status of Atlantic salmon stocks in the cross-border Tana / Teno river system shared with EU-Finland. He pointed out that many of the stocks no longer have a harvestable surplus and noted that, in response, Norway has now implemented a ban on salmon fishing there in 2022 as a conservation measure in waters under their jurisdiction. However, he noted that EU-Finland had not yet implemented such a ban in waters under their jurisdiction as agreed bilaterally in spring of this year. He expressed concern about the potential harm to the salmon caused by fishing from the Finnish shore and asked the EU when the ban on fishing in the waters of the river under Finland's jurisdiction will come into effect. In response, a representative of the EU, Tapio Hakaste, informed the Commission that parliamentary procedures in Finland had delayed the timely implementation of the ban there. However, the process had been expedited and the enactment of such a ban was imminent once final legislative procedures were complete and it was expected to be in place by the end of the week ending 10 June. Mr Hakaste acknowledged Norway's good co-operation on the shared research and management initiatives undertaken in the Tana / Teno river in this regard and this was reciprocated by Mr Nilsen.

7. Regulatory Measures

- 7.1 The Chair reminded the Commission that in 2021 the Commission adopted a 'Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters in 2021 / 2022, 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024', [NEA\(21\)16](#). Under this Decision, the Commission agreed:

'Not to set a quota for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone for 2021

/ 2022. This decision will also apply in 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024 unless the application of the Framework of Indicators shows that a re-assessment is warranted. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) retains the right to conduct a scientific research fishery in the Faroese Fishery Zone.'

- 7.2 The Chair noted that in 2021, although the North-East Atlantic Commission agreed a multi-year Decision, NEA(21)16, the West Greenland Commission had agreed a one year 'Interim Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland in 2021', [WGC\(21\)18](#). Therefore, the Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, [CNL\(21\)14](#), was for a 'full assessment' for a three-year period for each Commission in the advice provided in 2022. This meant that there was no need for the Framework of Indicators to be run prior to the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) meeting in 2022.
- 7.3 The Commission confirmed that the Decision, [NEA\(21\)16](#), would continue to apply in 2022 / 2023. It will also apply in 2023 / 2024 unless application of the Framework of Indicators shows that a re-assessment is warranted.

8. Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area

- 8.1 The Chair reminded the Commission that this Agenda item allows for information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced. The Chair thanked the EU ([NEA\(22\)11](#)), Norway ([NEA\(22\)09](#)) and the UK ([NEA\(22\)10](#)) for their papers.
- 8.2 The Chair noted that in 2021, the Commission agreed that a two-day meeting of the Working Group on *G. salaris* should take place in 2022, at a time when a face-to-face meeting would be possible. The Working Group would have the same Terms of Reference as in 2021. He informed the Commission that, in consultation with the Chair of the Working Group, a face-to-face meeting was being planned for 26 – 27 October 2022, in Edinburgh.
- 8.3 A representative of Norway, Heidi Hansen, informed the Commission that a new method for combatting *G. salaris* is now ready for use after several years of testing. The use of monochloramine at very low concentrations can remove the parasite from salmon within a few days without having negative effects on the fish. In this regard, a large-scale experiment was carried out in the River Driva in 2021, the outcome of which was very promising. It is intended that this method will be used to combat *G. salaris* in two of the four infected rivers in the Driva region in 2022 and 2023. In addition, she informed the Commission that the parasite has been successfully eradicated after treatment in 39 of the 51 rivers infected with *G. salaris*. It is envisaged that if all the eradication measures implemented are successful, the number of infected rivers in Norway will be reduced to eight.

9. Presentation by Norway on the Issue of Pink Salmon in the Commission Area

- 9.1 The Chair informed the Commission that Norway requested that a supplementary item be added to the Draft Agenda, on the Issue of Pink Salmon in the Commission Area. Eirik Frøiland (Norway) made a presentation on this issue, [NEA\(22\)16](#) (Annex 5).
- 9.2 Mr Frøiland presented updated information on the recent rapid increase in the occurrence and abundance of non-native pink salmon stocks in Norwegian rivers, and the potentially serious negative consequences for Atlantic salmon stocks. He noted that this increase from 2017 was sudden after many decades of low abundances since the

species was introduced to the Barents region of Russia in the period 1956 – 2001. He further informed the Commission that Norway had already implemented measures to prevent reproduction in 2017, 2019 and 2021. These measures were not fully effective and Norway has planned to implement further and more extensive measures from 2023. He proposed that appropriate control measures should also be considered to suppress further spread in the wider North Atlantic region. The representative of Norway informed the Commission that a document outlining measures to address this issue was being formulated for consideration by the Council. The representative of the EU indicated his support to work with Norway in this regard. The representative of the UK thanked Norway for raising this important issue and Mr Frøiland for his informative presentation. She expressed the intention of the UK to collaborate to better understand and mitigate for the serious threats posed to Atlantic salmon. The representative of Norway thanked all the Parties for being supportive and working collaboratively to formulate a document to address issues of concern for consideration by the Council.

- 9.3 In response to a question from the representative of the EU, Mr Frøiland suggested that climate change may be one factor influencing the recent expansion in pink salmon stocks observed in Norwegian rivers. Warmer weather, increasingly experienced in the months of May and June, in association with warming ocean temperatures, may both positively contribute to increased survival of out-migrating smolts. However, he noted that overall there is very limited evidence currently available to clearly establish this.
- 9.4 In response to a question from the NGOs, Mr Frøiland stated that he considered that pink salmon eggs and juveniles are unlikely to be a significant food source for Atlantic salmon, but a range of co-occurring native fish species have been documented to consume them.
- 9.5 The representative of the NGOs informed the Commission that an international workshop on the emerging threats of pink salmon and red skin disease to Atlantic salmon will be hosted by the Atlantic Salmon Trust in Edinburgh on 28 and 29 June 2022. The workshop aims to collate existing information, highlight knowledge gaps and identify associated measures to protect Atlantic salmon from these threats.

10. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 10.1 The Chair announced that the winner of the North-East Atlantic Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Morten Trøbråten from Drøbak, Norway. The 73 cm (3.6 kg) female salmon was tagged from a bag-net at Agdenes at the mouth of the Trondheimsfjord on 5 June 2021 and captured by rod and line in the river Stjørdalselva on 20 June 2021.
- 10.2 The Chair offered congratulations to Mr Trøbråten on behalf of the Commission.

11. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice

- 11.1 The Commission agreed to defer consideration of the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice in relation to the North-East Atlantic Commission to the Council. The request to ICES, as agreed by Council, is contained in document [CNL\(22\)13](#) (Annex 6).

12. Other Business

- 12.1 The representative of the NGOs proposed that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) should be acknowledged by the Commission for the conservation measures they have taken in the last few decades to better protect Atlantic salmon stocks, notably the Faroe Islands for suspending their mixed-stock fishery since 2000 and Greenland for significantly reducing their catch quota from historical levels. This was supported by all members of the Commission in attendance at the meeting.

13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

- 13.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Council.

14. Report of the Meeting

- 14.1 The Commission agreed a report of the Meeting.

15. Close of the Meeting

- 15.1 The Chair thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission.

Note. The annexes mentioned above begin after the French translation of the report of the meeting.

Compte rendu de la trente-neuvième session annuelle de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est de l'Organisation pour la Conservation du Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edimbourg, Ecosse

6 – 9 juin 2022

1. Ouverture de la session

- 1.1 En l'absence du Président, Viktor Rozhnov (Fédération de Russie), et du Vice-Président, Svein Magnason (Danemark pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland), la Secrétaire a ouvert la session. La Commission a élu Helge Dyrendal (Norvège) pour couvrir la fin du mandat de Président de Viktor Rozhnov. Il a accueilli les participants à la session de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est.
- 1.2 Les représentants de l'Union européenne (UE), de la Norvège, de la Fédération de Russie et du Royaume-Uni (RU) ont fait référence aux déclarations faites à l'ouverture de la session du Conseil. Celles-ci se trouvent en annexe du compte-rendu de cette session (Annexe 1).
- 1.3 Le représentant des organisations non-gouvernementales (ONGs) a fait référence à la déclaration faite à l'ouverture de la session du Conseil (Annexe 2).
- 1.4 Une liste des participants aux trente-neuvièmes sessions annuelles du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN figure en tant qu'Annexe 3².

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

- 2.1 La Commission a adopté son Ordre du jour, [NEA\(22\)12](#), (Annexe 4).

3. Nomination d'un rapporteur

- 3.1 Michael Millane (UE) a été désigné comme rapporteur.

4. Election des Membres du Bureau

- 4.1 La Commission a élu Alex Kinninmonth (RU) comme son Président (proposé par le représentant de la Norvège, appuyé par le représentant de l'UE) pour une période de deux ans, commençant à la clôture de la Session annuelle de 2022.
- 4.2 La Commission a élu Helge Dyrendal (Norvège) comme Vice-Président (proposé par la représentante du Royaume-Uni, appuyée par le représentant de l'UE) pour une période de deux ans à compter de la clôture de la Session annuelle de 2022.

² Le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) – Iles Féroé n'a pas participé à la Session annuelle de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est

5. Examen de la pêche de 2021 et du rapport du Comité d'Avis du CIEM (ACOM) sur les stocks de saumons dans la zone de la Commission

- 5.1 Le représentant du CIEM, Dennis Ensing, a présenté l'avis scientifique relatif à la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est (CANE), contenu dans le rapport du Comité d'Avis du CIEM (ACOM), [CNL\(22\)09](#). La présentation du Dr Ensing est disponible sous la cote [NEA\(22\)15](#). Le Président a remercié le Dr Ensing pour sa présentation.
- 5.2 Le représentant des ONGs a souligné que les saumons de l'Atlantique sont susceptibles d'être particulièrement impactés par le changement climatique dans la partie sud de leur aire de répartition européenne et il a demandé pourquoi l'UE-Espagne et l'UE-Portugal n'étaient pas actuellement inclus dans l'évaluation des stocks du CIEM pour la partie méridionale de la zone de la CANE. Le représentant du CIEM lui a indiqué que ni l'une ni l'autre de ces juridictions ne disposaient de données appropriées à entrer dans les modèles actuels d'évaluation et qu'il les encourageait toutes deux à travailler en ce sens, particulièrement dans le contexte du développement en cours du modèle cycle de vie que le CIEM pourrait adopter pour évaluer le statut des stocks de saumon de l'Atlantique dans les années à venir.

6. Pêcheries de stocks mixtes menées par des Membres de la Commission

- 6.1 Le Président a noté que dans le cadre du 'Plan d'action pour mettre en œuvre les conseils de l'étude externe des performances et la révision des 'Prochaines Etapes' pour l'OCSAN', [CNL\(13\)38](#), du Conseil, il a été décidé qu'il y aurait un point à l'ordre du jour de chacune des Commissions pour permettre de se concentrer sur les pêcheries sur stocks mixtes (PSMs).
- 6.2 L'UE ([NEA\(22\)07](#)), la Norvège ([NEA\(22\)05](#)), la Fédération de Russie ([NEA\(22\)04rev](#)) et le RU ([NEA\(22\)06](#)) ont soumis des documents donnant des informations sur les PSMs, comprenant une description des PSMs encore en opération dans leurs juridictions, les données de captures les plus récentes et tout changement ou développement de la gestion des PSMs dans la période des IP (Plans de mise en œuvre) pour mettre en œuvre les accords de l'OCSAN.
- 6.3 Une 'Déclaration conjointe au nom de l'UE et de la Norvège concernant la gestion des Pêcheries dans le cours d'eau Teno', [NEA\(22\)08](#), a été fourni préalablement à la Session annuelle. Il concernait l'état du travail de mise en œuvre de l'accord bilatéral entre la Norvège et l'UE-Finlande sur les pêcheries dans la rivière Tana / Teno, qui incluent des PSMs.
- 6.4 Un représentant de la Norvège, Håvard Vedeler Nilsen, a souligné le statut en déclin de stocks de saumon de l'Atlantique dans le bassin transfrontalier de la rivière Tana / Teno partagé avec l'UE-Finlande. Il a signalé que de nombreux stocks n'ont plus de surplus pêchable et a indiqué qu'en réaction la Norvège y a aujourd'hui instauré une interdiction de pêche du saumon, pour 2022, comme mesure de conservation dans ses eaux sous juridiction. Toutefois, il a noté que l'UE-Finlande n'a pas encore mis en place une telle interdiction dans les eaux sous sa juridiction comme décidé bilatéralement au printemps de cette année. Il a fait part de son inquiétude quant au dommage potentiel pour le saumon causé par la pêche à partir de la rive finlandaise et a demandé à l'UE quand l'interdiction de pêche dans les eaux de la rivière sous juridiction de la Finlande entrerait en vigueur. En réponse, un représentant de l'UE, Tapio Hakaste, a expliqué à la Commission que les procédures parlementaires en Finlande avaient retardé la mise

en œuvre de l'interdiction en temps voulu à cet endroit. Cependant, la procédure avait été accélérée et l'entrée en vigueur de cette interdiction serait imminente une fois les procédures législatives terminées, sa mise en place était attendue à la fin de la semaine se terminant le 10 juin. M. Hakaste a pris acte de la bonne coopération de la Norvège pour la recherche commune et les initiatives de gestion entreprises dans la rivière Tana / Teno à cet égard, et ceci a été partagé par M. Nilsen.

7. Mesures de réglementation

- 7.1 Le Président a rappelé à la Commission qu'en 2021 la Commission a adopté une 'Décision Concernant la Pêcherie de Saumon dans les eaux féroïennes en 2021 / 2022, 2022 / 2023 et 2023 / 2024', [NEA\(21\)16](#). Dans le cadre de cette Décision, la Commission a décidé:

'De ne pas fixer de quota pour la pêcherie de saumon dans la zone de pêche féroïenne pour 2021 / 2022. Cette décision s'appliquera aussi en 2022 / 2023 et 2023 / 2024 à moins que l'application du Cadre d'indicateurs ne montre qu'une réévaluation était justifiée. Le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) conserve le droit de mener une pêcherie de recherche scientifique dans la zone de pêche féroïenne.'

- 7.2 Le Président a noté qu'en 2021, bien que la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est ait adopté une décision pluriannuelle, [NEA\(21\)16](#), la Commission du Groenland occidental avait adopté pour un an une 'Mesure de Réglementation Provisoire pour la Pêche du Saumon de l'Atlantique au Groenland occidental en 2021', [WGC\(21\)18](#). En conséquence, la Demande d'avis scientifique au CIEM, [CNL\(21\)14](#), était d'une 'évaluation complète' pour une période de trois ans pour chaque Commission dans l'avis fourni en 2022. Ceci voulait dire qu'il n'était pas nécessaire de faire tourner le Cadre d'indicateurs avant la réunion du Groupe de travail sur le saumon de l'Atlantique nord (WGNAS) du CIEM en 2022.
- 7.3 La Commission a confirmé que la Décision, [NEA\(21\)16](#), continuerait de s'appliquer en 2022 / 2023. Elle s'appliquera aussi en 2023 / 2024 à moins que l'application du Cadre d'indicateurs montre qu'une réévaluation est justifiée.

8. Risque de transmission de *Gyrodactylus salaris* dans la zone de la Commission

- 8.1 Le Président a rappelé à la Commission que ce point de l'ordre du jour permet un échange d'information et une coopération sur la surveillance, la recherche et les mesures de prévention de la transmission de *G. salaris* ainsi que son éradication en cas d'introduction. Le Président a remercié l'UE ([NEA\(22\)11](#)), la Norvège ([NEA\(22\)09](#)) et le RU ([NEA\(22\)10](#)) pour leurs documents.
- 8.2 Le Président a indiqué qu'en 2021, la Commission a décidé qu'une réunion de deux jours du Groupe de travail sur *G. salaris* se tiendrait en 2022, à un moment où une réunion en personne serait possible. Le Groupe de travail aurait le même mandat qu'en 2021. Il a informé la Commission que, en consultation avec le Président du Groupe de travail, l'organisation d'une réunion en personne à Edimbourg les 26 – 27 octobre 2022 était en cours.
- 8.3 Une représentante de la Norvège, Heidi Hansen, a porté à la connaissance de la Commission qu'une nouvelle méthode de lutte contre *G. salaris* est aujourd'hui prête à être utilisée après avoir été testée sur plusieurs années. L'utilisation de monochloramine à des concentrations très faibles peut éliminer le parasite du saumon en quelques jours

sans avoir d'effets négatifs sur le poisson. En la matière, une expérimentation à grande échelle a été menée sur la rivière Driva en 2021, dont les résultats sont très prometteurs. Il est prévu d'utiliser cette méthode pour lutter contre *G. salaris* dans deux des quatre rivières infectées dans la région de la Driva en 2022 et 2023. En outre, elle a indiqué à la Commission que le parasite avait été éradiqué avec succès après traitement dans 39 des 51 rivières infectées par *G. salaris*. Il est envisagé que, si toutes les mesures d'éradication sont couronnées de succès, le nombre de rivières infectées en Norvège soit réduit à huit.

9. Présentation de la Norvège sur la question du saumon rose dans la zone de la Commission

- 9.1 Le Président a fait part à la Commission de la demande de la Norvège d'ajout d'un point additionnel à l'Ordre du jour projet, sur la question du saumon rose dans la zone de la Commission. Eirik Frøiland (Norvège) a fait une présentation sur cette question, [NEA\(22\)16](#) (Annexe 5).
- 9.2 M. Frøiland a présenté des informations actualisées sur la récente augmentation rapide de l'occurrence et de l'abondance des stocks de saumon rose non autochtone dans les rivières norvégiennes, et les conséquences potentiellement sérieusement négatives pour les stocks de saumon atlantique. Il a souligné que cette augmentation à partir de 2017 était soudaine, faisant suite à de nombreuses décennies de faible abondance depuis l'introduction de l'espèce dans la région de Barents en Russie pendant la période 1956 – 2001. Il a en outre porté à la connaissance de la Commission que la Norvège avait déjà mis en œuvre des mesures pour empêcher la reproduction en 2017, 2019 et 2021. Ces mesures n'ont pas été pleinement efficaces et la Norvège a prévu d'aller plus loin en mettant en œuvre des mesures plus larges à partir de 2023. Il a proposé que des mesures de suivi appropriées soient aussi examinées pour freiner sa propagation dans la région plus vaste de l'Atlantique nord. Le représentant de la Norvège a indiqué à la Commission qu'un document donnant les grandes lignes des mesures pour s'attaquer au problème était en cours de formulation pour examen par le Conseil. Le représentant de l'UE a fait part de son soutien pour travailler avec la Norvège en la matière. La représentante du RU a remercié la Norvège d'avoir soulevé cette question importante ainsi que M. Frøiland pour sa présentation instructive. Elle a exprimé l'intention du RU de collaborer à une meilleure compréhension et à une atténuation des sérieuses menaces posées au saumon de l'Atlantique. Le représentant de la Norvège a remercié toutes les Parties d'apporter leur soutien et de travailler en collaboration à la formulation d'un document abordant les questions préoccupantes pour prise en compte par le Conseil.
- 9.3 En réponse à une question du représentant de l'UE, M. Frøiland a suggéré que le changement climatique puisse être un facteur favorisant l'expansion récente des stocks de saumon rose observée dans les rivières norvégiennes. Un temps plus chaud, rencontré de plus en plus aux mois de mai et juin, en association avec le réchauffement des températures de l'océan pourraient l'un ou l'autre contribuer à une survie accrue des saumoneaux migrant vers la mer. Toutefois, il a indiqué qu'au bilan très peu de preuves sont aujourd'hui disponibles pour le démontrer clairement.
- 9.4 En réponse à une question des ONGs, M. Frøiland a déclaré qu'il estimait peu probable que les œufs et les juvéniles de saumon rose puissent être une source significative de nourriture pour le saumon atlantique, mais que leur consommation par des poissons appartenant à un éventail d'espèces autochtones co-occurentes a été documentée.
- 9.5 Le représentant des ONGs a indiqué à la Commission qu'un atelier international sur les

menaces émergentes du saumon rose et de la maladie de la peau rouge pour le saumon de l'Atlantique sera accueilli par l'Atlantic Salmon Trust (Fondation pour le Saumon de l'Atlantique) à Edimbourg les 28 et 29 juin 2022. L'objectif de l'atelier est de rassembler l'information existante, de mettre en évidence les lacunes de connaissances et d'identifier les mesures correspondantes pour protéger le saumon de l'Atlantique de ces menaces.

10. Annonce du gagnant du prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des marques

10.1 Le Président a annoncé que le gagnant du prix de £1,000 de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est du Programme incitatif de renvoi des marques était Morten Trøbråten de Drøbak, Norvège. La femelle saumon de 73 cm (3,6 kg) a été marquée dans un "bag net" (un type de filet trappe) à Agdenes à l'embouchure du Trondheimsfjord le 5 juin 2021 et capturée à la canne à pêche dans la rivière Stjørdalselva le 20 juin 2021.

10.2 Le Président a présenté ses félicitations à M. Trøbråten au nom de la Commission.

11. Recommandations au Conseil concernant la demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM

11.1 La Commission a décidé de renvoyer au Conseil l'examen de la demande de conseils scientifiques au CIEM, relative à la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est. La demande au CIEM, telle qu'adoptée par le Conseil, figure dans le document [CNL\(22\)13](#) (Annexe 6).

12. Divers

12.1 Le représentant des ONGs a proposé que le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) soit distingué par la Commission pour les mesures de conservation prises au cours des dernières décennies afin de mieux protéger les stocks de saumon de l'Atlantique, notamment les Iles Féroé pour la suspension de leur pêche de stocks mixtes depuis 2000 et le Groenland pour la réduction significative de son quota de captures par rapport aux niveaux historiques. Ceci a reçu le soutien de tous les membres de la Commission présents à la session.

13. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

13.1 La Commission a décidé de tenir sa prochaine session annuelle à la même date et au même lieu que la quarantième session annuelle du Conseil.

14. Compte rendu de la Session

14.1 La Commission a accepté un compte rendu de la Session

15. Clôture de la Session

15.1 Le Président a remercié les participants pour leurs contributions et a clos la trente-neuvième Session annuelle de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est.

List of Annexes

Annex 1	Opening Statements Submitted by Members of the Commission
Annex 2	Opening Statement Submitted by NASCO's Accredited Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
Annex 3	List of Participants
Annex 4	Agenda, NEA(22)12
Annex 5	Presentation by Norway on the Issue of Pink Salmon in the Commission Area, NEA(22)16
Annex 6	Request to ICES for Scientific Advice, CNL(22)13

***Opening Statements to the North-East Atlantic Commission Submitted by
Members of the Commission***

Opening Statement to Council submitted by the European Union

Mr President, Mrs Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The European Union is delighted to participate to the 39th Annual Meeting of NASCO in Edinburgh, and we would like to thank the Secretariat for all the hard work that went into the preparation of this physical meeting after two years of pandemic and virtual meetings.

Being this week in Edinburgh will help us to agree on important items that we have ahead of us in the agenda. These include the adoption of a new regulatory measure for the fishery in West Greenland, the implementation of the third Performance Review, the evaluation of Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports, the follow-up of the recommendations highlighted by the Tromsø Symposium, and the consideration of how NASCO should conduct its business in the future, among many others.

In this regard, the EU is looking forward to a fruitful cooperation with all the Parties during this physical meeting, and we are looking forward to decide on issues that will reinforce the conservation of wild Atlantic Salmon.

To conclude Mr. President, let me express the European Union and its Member States' full solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms Russia's unprovoked and unjustified act of aggression against Ukraine, which grossly violates international law and the United Nations Charter, and undermines international security and stability.

The EU demands that Russia immediately cease its military actions, withdraw all its troops from the entire territory of Ukraine and fully respect Ukraine's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence within its internationally recognised borders and abide by UN General Assembly resolution titled "Aggression against Ukraine" supported by 141 states at the 11th emergency special session.

The EU resolutely supports Ukraine's inherent right of self-defence and the Ukrainian armed forces' efforts to defend Ukraine's territorial integrity and population in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter.

At all times Russia must respect its obligations under international law, including international humanitarian and human rights law, including with respect to the protection of civilians, women and children.

Russia also needs to stop its disinformation campaign and cyber-attacks.

Opening statement to Council submitted by Norway

Mr. President, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of Norway, I would like to thank the Secretariat for hosting the Thirty – Ninth Annual Meeting

of NASCO in Edinburgh. The Norwegian delegation is pleased to return to a face-to-face NASCO meeting, and we look forward to productive discussions over the next days.

In Norway, the pre-fishery abundance of wild Atlantic salmon remains low, and the 2021 Atlantic salmon run seem to have been at a historic low level. One of the main reasons continues to be reduced survival at sea, but local and regional differences suggest that adverse human impacts strongly influence the development and status of stocks.

The Scientific Advisory Committee for Atlantic Salmon has reclassified the state of the Norwegian Atlantic salmon stocks according to the National Quality Norm for Wild Salmon, using data from the period 2015-2019. Only 21% of the populations were found to be in a good or very good state while 38 % of the populations are in a poor or very poor state. Escaped farmed salmon and salmon lice infections related to salmon farming remain as the most severe anthropogenic threats to Norwegian wild Atlantic salmon, and the present mitigation measures are insufficient to stabilize and reduce these threats.

The latest report by the Teno Monitoring and Research Group concludes that in 2021 there was not a harvestable surplus in most salmon populations in the Teno system. The forecast for the 2022 salmon run in Teno is low and indicates that this also will be the case this year. In response Finland and Norway have agreed there will be no fishing for salmon in the Teno river system in 2022. As in 2021, a decision is made to close the salmon fisheries in the Teno fjord and in coastal areas in proximity to the Teno fjord.

The occurrence of pink salmon in Norwegian rivers have increased significantly in recent years. Substantial resources were spent trying to capture as much of this alien species as possible to hinder reproduction. In 2021, 150 000 pink salmon and 103 000 Atlantic salmon were caught in Norwegian fjords and rivers. Invasive pink salmon is a new threat, and there is need for national and international measures to reduce the risk of negative impacts on native salmonids. Based on what we have learned so far, along with the historical distribution of the species in its native area, it is possible that pink salmon will colonize all rivers in Norway and rivers in the other countries around the North Atlantic if we fail at controlling the spawning. This will affect native fish species and biodiversity in general.

24 Norwegian salmon rivers are included in the national program for river liming. Salmon catches in limed rivers have increased from about 10 tons in the 1980s to 40 - 60 tons today, and at present this makes up for 10-14 % of total salmon catches in Norwegian rivers.

Of a total of 51 infected rivers by *Gyrodactylus salaris*, 39 are treated and the parasite is successfully eradicated. If all the eradication measures implemented are successful, the number of infected rivers in Norway will be reduced to eight. After several years of testing, a new method for combating *G. salaris* is now ready for use. The use of monochloramine at very low concentrations can remove the parasite from salmon fry within a few days without having negative effects on the fish. This method will be used for combatting of *G. salaris* in two of the four infected rivers in the Driva region in 2022 and 2023.

Norway strongly condemns Russia's war against Ukraine. We demand that Russia stops its aggression and withdraws its troops immediately.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has changed European security policy and has far-reaching consequences for our bilateral relations with Russia.

It's important with unity between allies and close partners in the reaction against Russian aggression and brutality in Ukraine. We stand together with the EU and other countries to ensure that the sanctions are strong and effective.

In closing, the Norwegian delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for its efforts in all the preparations for this meeting under still quite extraordinary conditions, and we look forward to a productive and successful meeting.

Opening Statement to Council Submitted by the Russian Federation

Mr President, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Russian delegation and the Federal Agency for Fisheries, which represents the Government of the Russian Federation in NASCO, I am pleased to greet all participants of the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

Russia, guided by agreements and resolutions of NASCO, has done much for conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. As a result of many years of work, commercial salmon fisheries are now prohibited in most rivers, and coastal fisheries remain at minimal levels and in the White Sea only, they represent a traditional type of fishing by residents of coastal communities. At the same time, recreational fishery, and especially catch-and-release fishing, demonstrated great development and was supported by the state, which helped to not only preserve many salmon populations, but also to bring them quite close to pristine state. Many salmon rivers of the Russian North, abundant with salmon, such as Belousikha, Rynda, Kharlovka, Ponoï, Varzuga have become world famous and attractive fishing destinations for both Russian and foreign anglers. In 2022, despite the known restrictions on air travel, the number of bookings has increased even compared to pre-Covid times. We are pleased that many anglers who plan to visit Russian salmon rivers this year will come from other countries.

As in previous years, we are very pleased to work together with other Contracting Parties for conservation of Atlantic salmon, an iconic species in the northern hemisphere. Again, we would like to reiterate the importance of NASCO in uniting efforts to conserve Atlantic salmon for future generations. In the new reality, the Secretariat's work is even more intense and multi-task as probably never before. We are sincerely thankful to the Secretariat for its professionalism! It greatly contributes to the solution of critical problems relating to conservation of Atlantic salmon.

The work of NASCO is regulated by the Convention. In accordance with rule 8 of the Rules of Procedure for the Council *"Unless it decides otherwise, the Council shall not discuss or take a decision on any item which has not been included in the draft agenda for the meeting"*. In order to succeed in addressing the main goals of NASCO we must respect its tasks and priorities and not let geopolitics become part of its deliberations.

Thus, the discussion of issues not related to conservation of Atlantic salmon and activities of NASCO looks destructive and inefficient in the light of tasks that need to be addressed by members of the Organization.

On behalf of the Russian delegation, I wish all of us success in working together during this week. My delegation is looking forward to having important and fruitful discussions during this meeting.

Opening Statement to Council Submitted by the United Kingdom

Mr. President, Mrs Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen.

First the UK Delegation must recognise the current situation in Ukraine.

Russia's assault on Ukraine is an unprovoked, premeditated attack against a sovereign democratic state. The UK and our international partners stand united in condemning then Russian government's reprehensible actions, which are an egregious violation of international law and the UN Charter. As a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council, Russia has a particular responsibility to uphold international peace and security. Instead, it is violating the borders of another country and its actions are causing widespread suffering.

The Russian Government has shown that it was never serious about engaging in diplomacy – it has deliberately worked to mislead the world, in order to mask its carefully planned aggression. As the UN Secretary-General has said, such unilateral measures conflict directly with the United Nations Charter - the use of force by one country against another is the repudiation of the principles that every country has committed to uphold.

Russia must urgently de-escalate and withdraw its troops. It must be held accountable and stop undermining democracy, global stability, and international law.

It is, however, imperative that we do not let the Russian Governments' actions overshadow the opportunities the 39th Annual Meeting provides for exploring further actions to mitigate the decline of Atlantic salmon stocks. The UK is thankful to be in attendance at this face to face meeting and is very much looking forward to working with those present here today. We hope for a successful meeting driven by collaboration and open discussion.

Despite the implementation of several important management measures to support conservation and stock rebuilding, as well as major reductions in fisheries exploitation, both across the UK and the entire range, salmon numbers have continued to decline significantly over recent decades. Therefore, the UK recognises the importance of shared responsibilities in safeguarding salmon stocks within the convention area, and the need for all parties to work together constructively to ensure we leave this iconic species in a better state than we found it, for the future generations.

Already this year the West Greenland Commission (WGC) have held important intersessional meetings to develop a vital draft regulatory measure for the mixed stock fishery at West Greenland. We would like to thank DFG for their open-ness and collaboration in drawing up a draft measure, which we look forward to developing further throughout the meetings this week. It is important to note that we remain keenly aware that the ICES catch advice continues to be that there are no catching options and that we have seen significant overfishing in recent years. Against this challenging backdrop the UK seeks to continue working collaboratively with DFG and other members of the West Greenland Commission to find a way forward which balances improved protection for salmon with respecting Greenland's cultural heritage.

The UK welcomes this year's Themed Based Special Session on the *Report from the Tromsø Symposium on the Recommendations to Address Future Management Challenges*, and we look forward to agreeing how best to build on these important recommendations.

Furthermore, the opportunity to discuss the development of Implementation Plans and Annual Reports will highlight our firm and ongoing commitment to addressing management challenges within our jurisdiction. We believe that there is much to be done, and that with time we can as both a Party and as a collective make progress in addressing the pressures that salmon face today.

The UK firmly believes in the importance of the work carried out by NASCO and all Parties in support of sustainable salmon stocks. We look forward to a productive meeting that will continue to build on the efforts made so far, and to working successfully with all in 2022 and beyond.

Finally the UK would like to thank the secretariat for all their hard work throughout the year and particularly in enabling this face to face meeting to take place.

Thank you.

***Opening Statement to the North-East Atlantic Commission Submitted by
NASCO's Accredited Non-Governmental Organizations***

Thank you, Mr President, Secretary, Heads of delegation, distinguished delegates, NGO colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, the NGOs appreciate this opportunity to make an opening statement to NASCO Council and we would like to thank the Secretariat for arranging this Annual meeting in Edinburgh, especially working through the challenges presented by the Covid pandemic recently. We look forward to playing a full and inclusive part in proceedings over the coming four days.

Much has been said already by Heads of Delegation about the appalling situation in Ukraine brought about by President Putin's illegal war. Suffice to say that the NGO observers support all these comments and condemn Russia's aggression and atrocities absolutely.

Meanwhile, the NGOs are in the process of producing a strong evidence document for submission to the External Performance Review (EPR) Group, and several NGOs are also submitting their own evidence on issues relevant to their respective party or jurisdiction. We will give credit to NASCO for some successes, particularly in partnership with the respective governments of Greenland and the Faroe Islands for increasing control of their historic salmon fisheries, and also as a hub for the exchange of scientific data and good practice. However, the review group can expect some basic home truths from the NGOs about the often-lamentable attitude towards wild salmon conservation emanating from the members of this forum, and the seeming preference for often supporting activities that damage rather than protect the species.

Some of the issues covered by the NGOs in our EPR submission include:

- We believe that the building blocks are in place within NASCO to genuinely influence the protection and conservation of wild Atlantic salmon across their North Atlantic range.
- We also believe that the IP/APR process is basically sound, albeit that it could be a little less detailed, but the fact that only two IPs out of 21 have so far passed the review group's scrutiny - after four attempts - speaks volumes.
- NASCO Council has signed up to enough resolutions and agreements that, if they were adopted by home governments in their policy making, would be quite sufficient to protect wild salmon from the dangers they face throughout their life cycles.
- What is missing is the commitment of home governments to follow the agreements NASCO makes within Council and turn them into meaningful actions – that is why the vast majority of your IPs have failed. What appears to be missing is the acknowledgement that NASCO is principally a conservation organisation for the protection of wild Atlantic salmon, not a forum for supporting activities with the potential to seriously damage the species.
- Added to this lack of political commitment, several NGOs report that there is a disconnect between what their Parties/jurisdictions' IPs/APRs state and what is actually delivered on the ground.

One of the excuses for inaction we consistently hear from delegations is that NASCO was established to control exploitation at Greenland and the Faroe Islands and it should not, therefore, involve itself in issues such as salmon farming that are the responsibility of home governments. The NGOs could not disagree more! Salmon do not recognise state boundaries and a government's inaction over a particular issue could potentially impact fish from another

state as they migrate to or from their ocean feeding grounds. That is why agreements made at NASCO are so important to wild salmon conservation on a pan-North Atlantic scale, and why inaction within home governments is so frustrating to the NGOs and the wider external salmon world.

So, Mr President, the NGOs believe that we must return to the recommendation from the previous EPR group that NASCO should strengthen its convention, as other RFMOs have done recently, so that home governments have to abide by the agreements made within this Council and include them in their policy actions to protect and conserve wild salmon. If this fails to happen, the wider salmon world will lose all faith that NASCO can ever be a relevant forum in the modern salmon management and conservation worlds. Worse still, it will be acknowledged by all who care about the status of wild salmon stocks that their continual degradation happened on NASCO's watch. Your respective governments will be seen as being more concerned with supporting activities with the potential to damage wild salmon rather than having the courage to adopt policies that protect the species.

The choice will shortly be down to NASCO – take the opportunity offered you by the EPR to develop into a genuinely effective forum for the protection of wild Atlantic salmon, or stay as you are and become increasingly irrelevant in a wider conservation world that is desperate to save the species from its current crisis situation across much of its North Atlantic range.

Thank you, Mr President.

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Mr Jean-Jacques Maguire
(Virtual Participant) *jeanjacquesmaguire@gmail.com*

INVITED SPEAKERS

Dr Eva Thorstad
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Eirik Frøiland
(Virtual Participant) *Eirik.Froiland@miljodir.no*

SECRETARIAT

Dr Emma Hatfield	Secretary	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Dr Wendy Kenyon	Assistant Secretary	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Ms Louise Forero Segovia	Information and Publications Officer	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
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NEA(22)12

Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edinburgh, Scotland

6 – 9 June 2022

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Election of Officers
5. Review of the 2021 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
6. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
7. Regulatory Measures
8. Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area
9. Presentation by Norway on the Issue of Pink Salmon in the Commission Area
10. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
11. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
12. Other Business
13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
14. Report of the Meeting
15. Close of the Meeting



Norwegian
Environment
Agency

Pink salmon in Norway

Situation report and control measures

Eirik Frøiland

NASCO annual meeting 7 June 2022

Content

- The history of pink salmon in the Barents region
- Development in recent years
- What is at stake for Norway and other North Atlantic countries?
- What can be done?



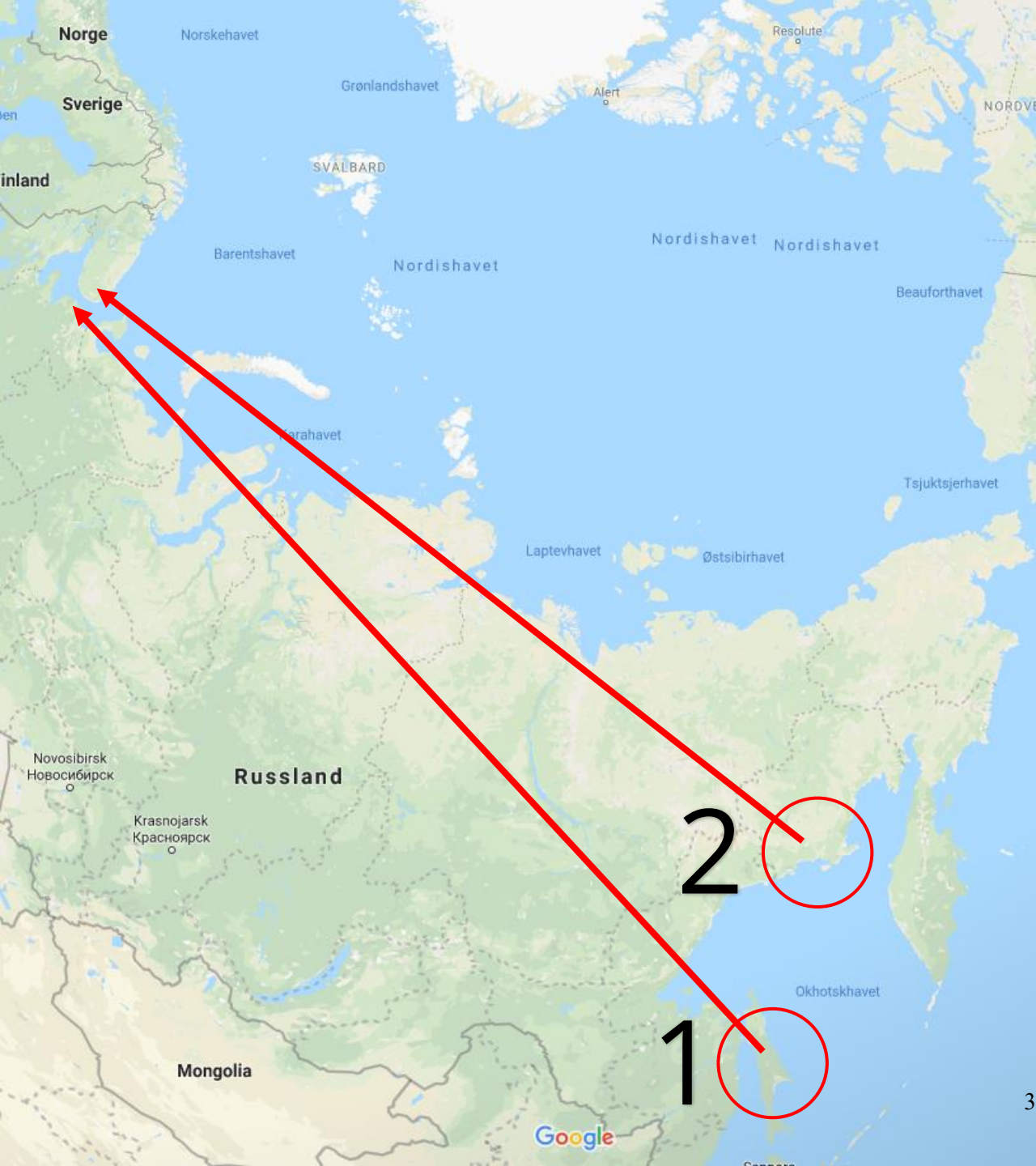


Pink salmon in Norway originates from introductions in Russia

- Pacific salmon species was introduced from the Pacific coast of eastern Russia to the Barents region and rivers around the White Sea
- In 1933-1939, attempts at introducing chum salmon failed
- Introductions of pink salmon started in 1956

Foto: PINRO

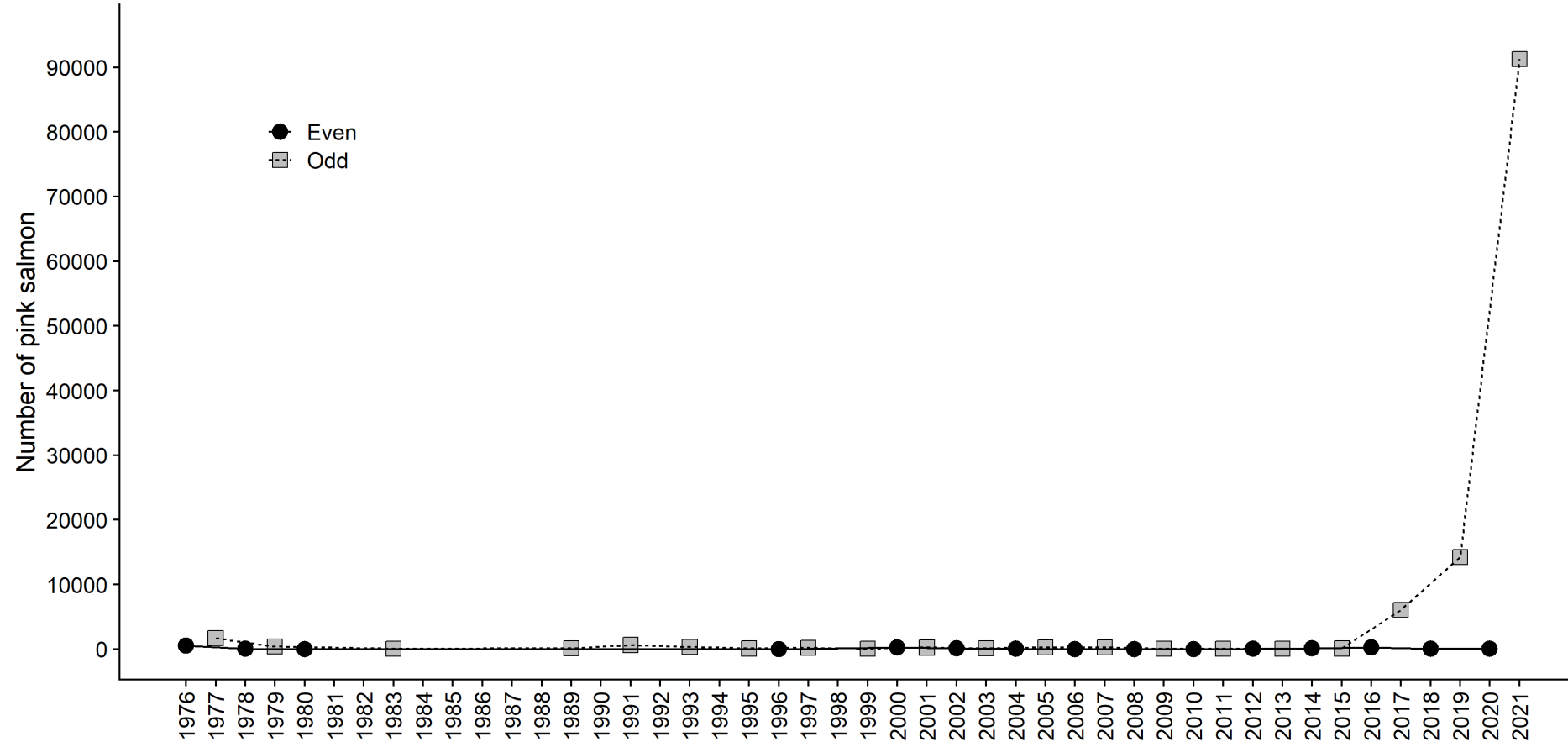




Two phases of introduction

- Phase 1: 1956-1978
 - Eggs mostly from the islands Sakhalin and Iturup
 - Late spawning period resulted in high mortality of the embryos
- Phase 2: 1985-2001
 - Eggs from the river Ola in Magadan region
 - Successful establishment of reproduction in the wild

Historical river catches in Norway



Graph: Henrik Berntsen



Sources of data in Norway

- Catch statistics
 - Recreational fishing (nation wide since 2019)
 - Sea salmon fishing (2019-)
 - Targeted measures
- Snorkeling/driftcounting
- Video counts (few rivers)



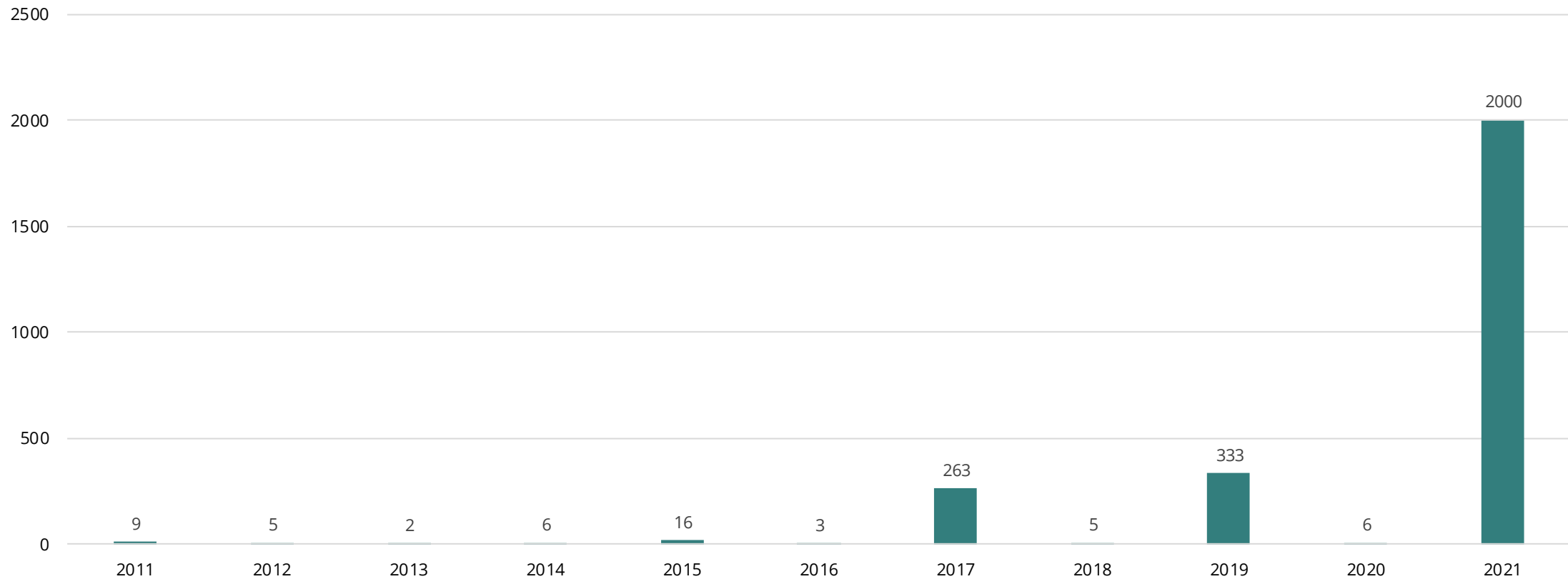
The trend in Northern Norway up to 2019

Example from river Tana – catches of pink salmon



Explosive population growth from 2019-2021

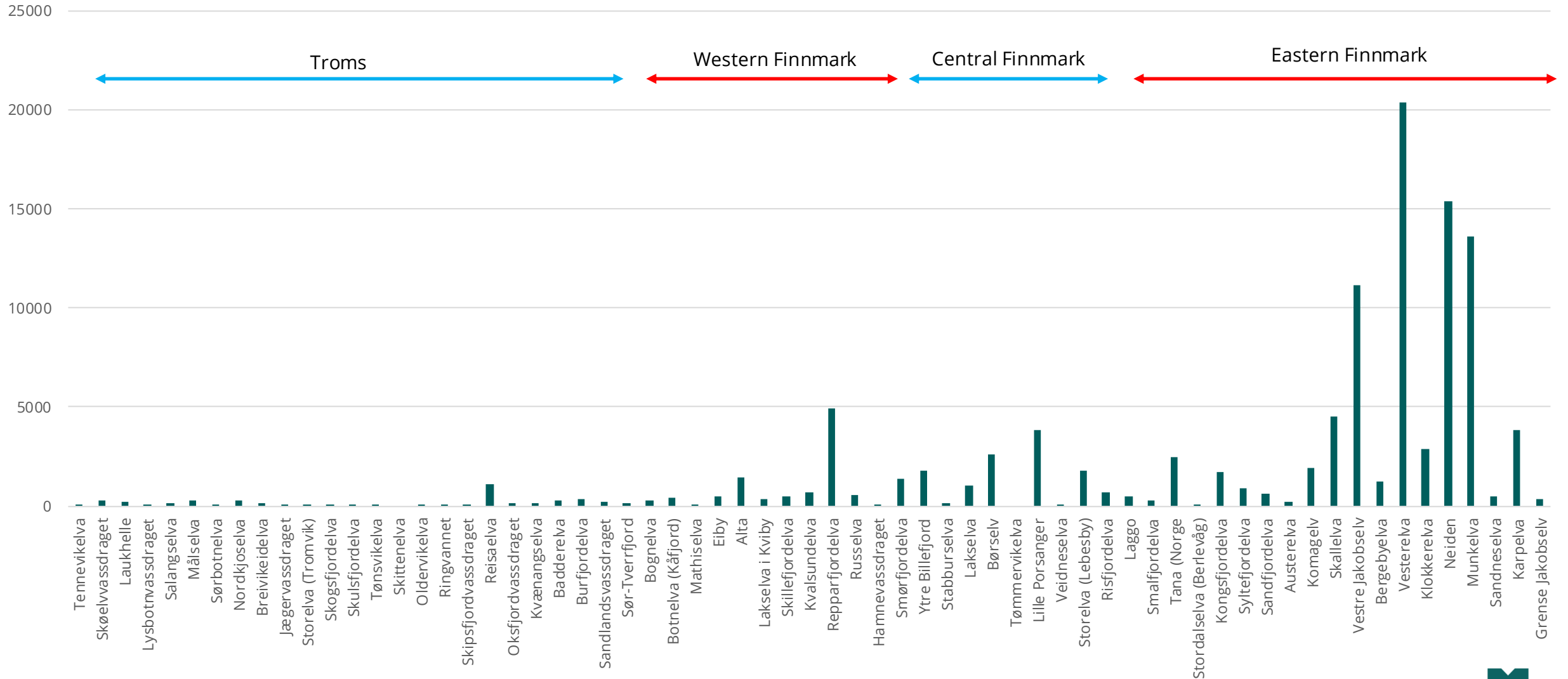
Example from video monitoring in river Kongsfjord - number of ascending pink salmon



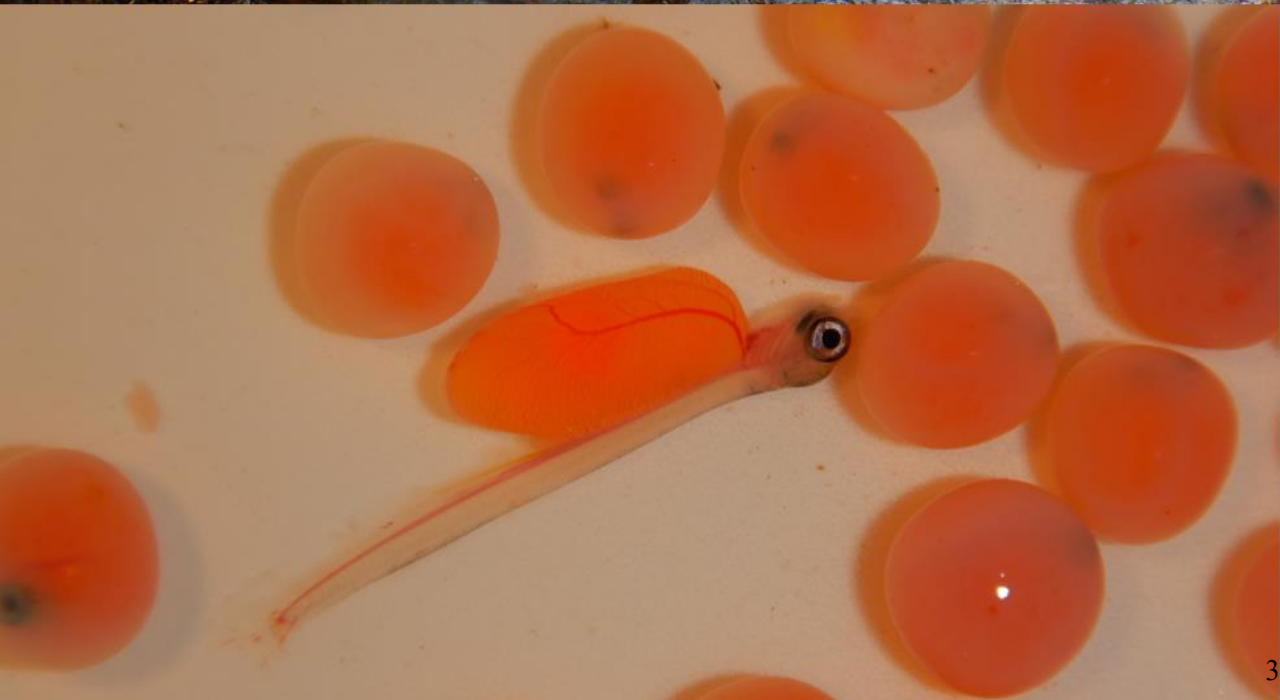



Total catch (n) of pink salmon 2021

Rivers in Troms and Finnmark county from west to east









May 14th - 2022

What is at stake?

- Pink salmon is effectively reproducing in most rivers in Northern Norway.
- Pink salmon has become the dominant species in many rivers in odd years.
- Gradually, we are seeing high numbers of spawners further west and south.
- It is possible that pink salmon can colonize all of Norway – and thus other countries around the North Atlantic ocean.

Photo: Eirik Frøiland



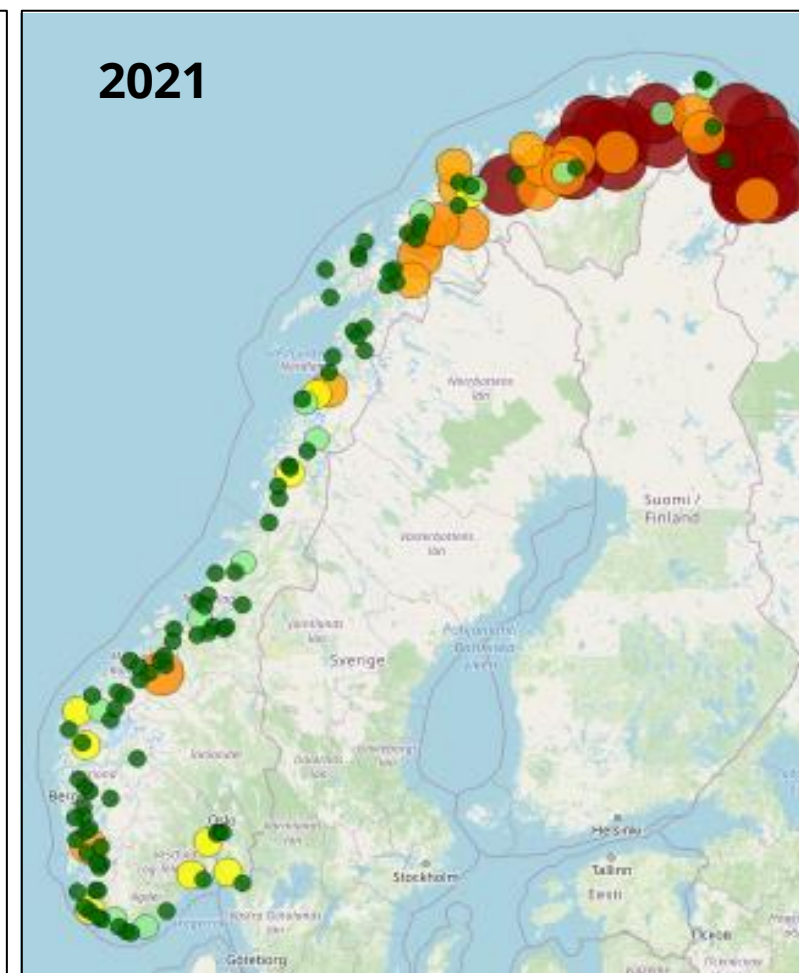
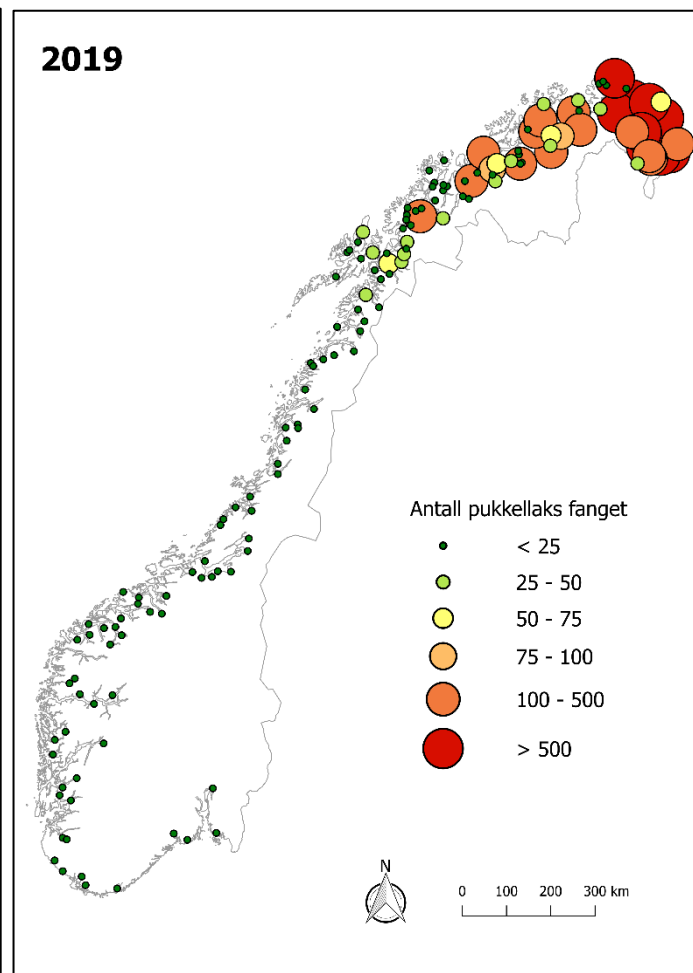
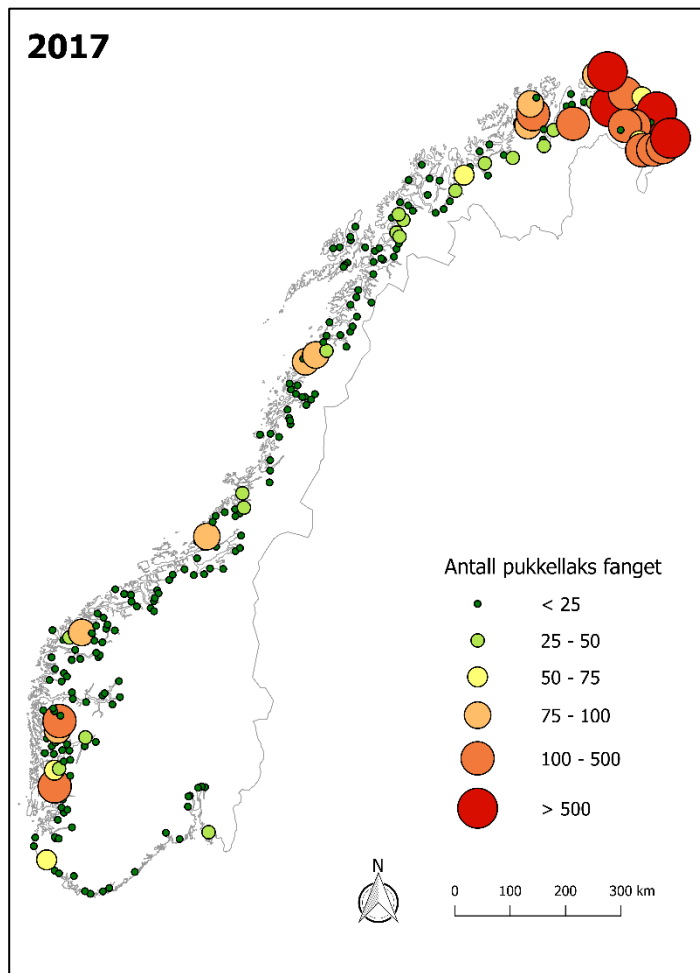


Illustration: Norwegian Institute for Nature Research



VKM Report 2020: 01

Assessment of the risk to Norwegian
biodiversity and aquaculture from pink salmon
(*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*)

Scientific Opinion of the Panel on Alien Organisms and Trade in Endangered
Species of the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment

Negative impacts

- Displacement of native anadromous fish species in the river.
- Poor water quality when high number of pink salmon die and decompose after spawning.
- Impacts on biodiversity from changes in nutrient load.
- Risk of disease spreading between fish farms – pink salmon as vector.
- Negative for sportfishing and related economy.



What can Norway do?

- Spawning can be controlled by sorting ascending fish – denying pink salmon access to spawning habitats.
- A group of experts have been appointed to find the most effective measures.
- Different types of weirs will be tested in 2022.

Photo: Eirik Frøiland



Photo: Eirik Frøiland





Photo: Reisa Elvelag



Photo: Fishbio



Photo: Brad Fuerst, ADFG



Photo: Institute of Marine Research



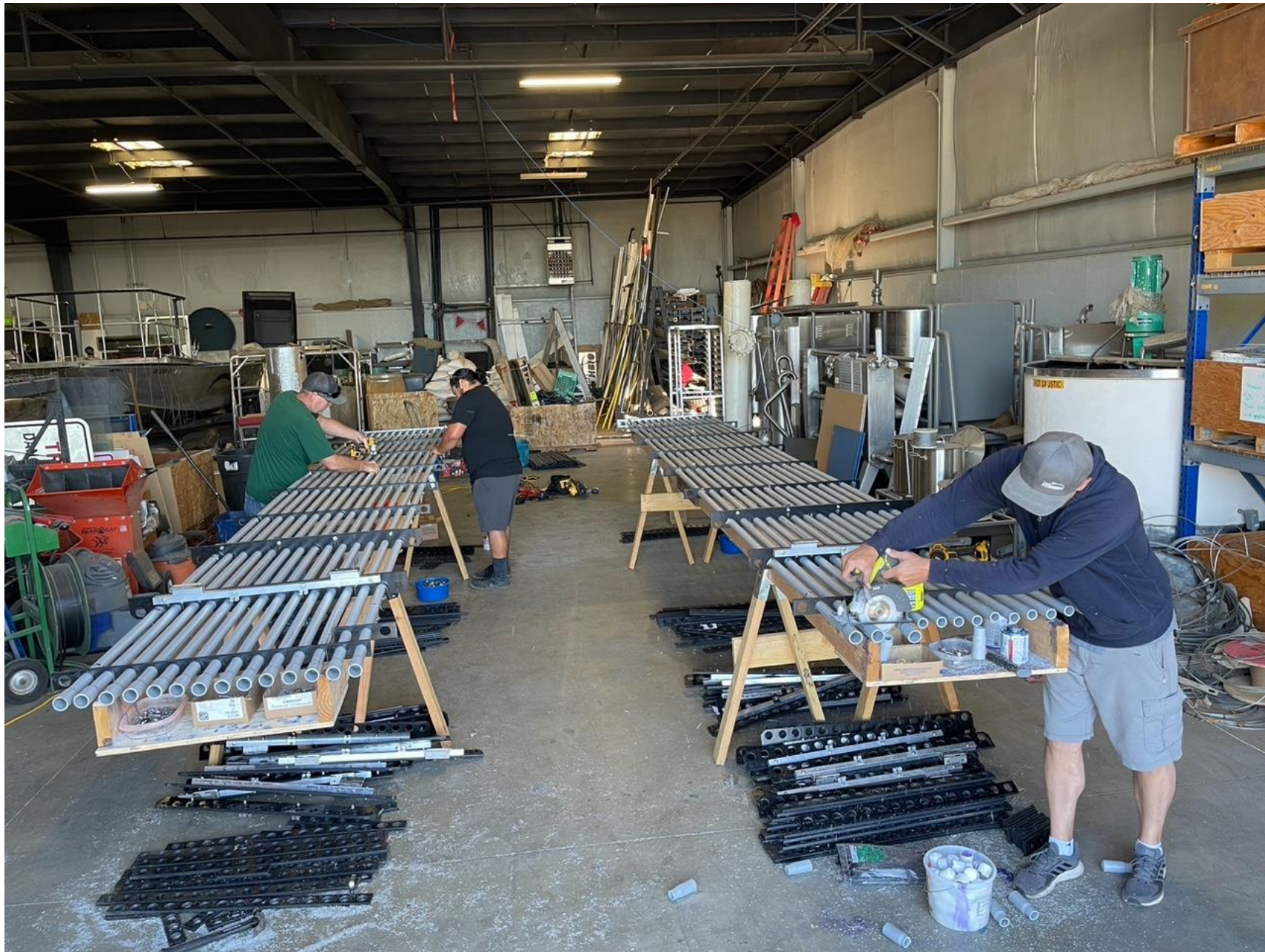


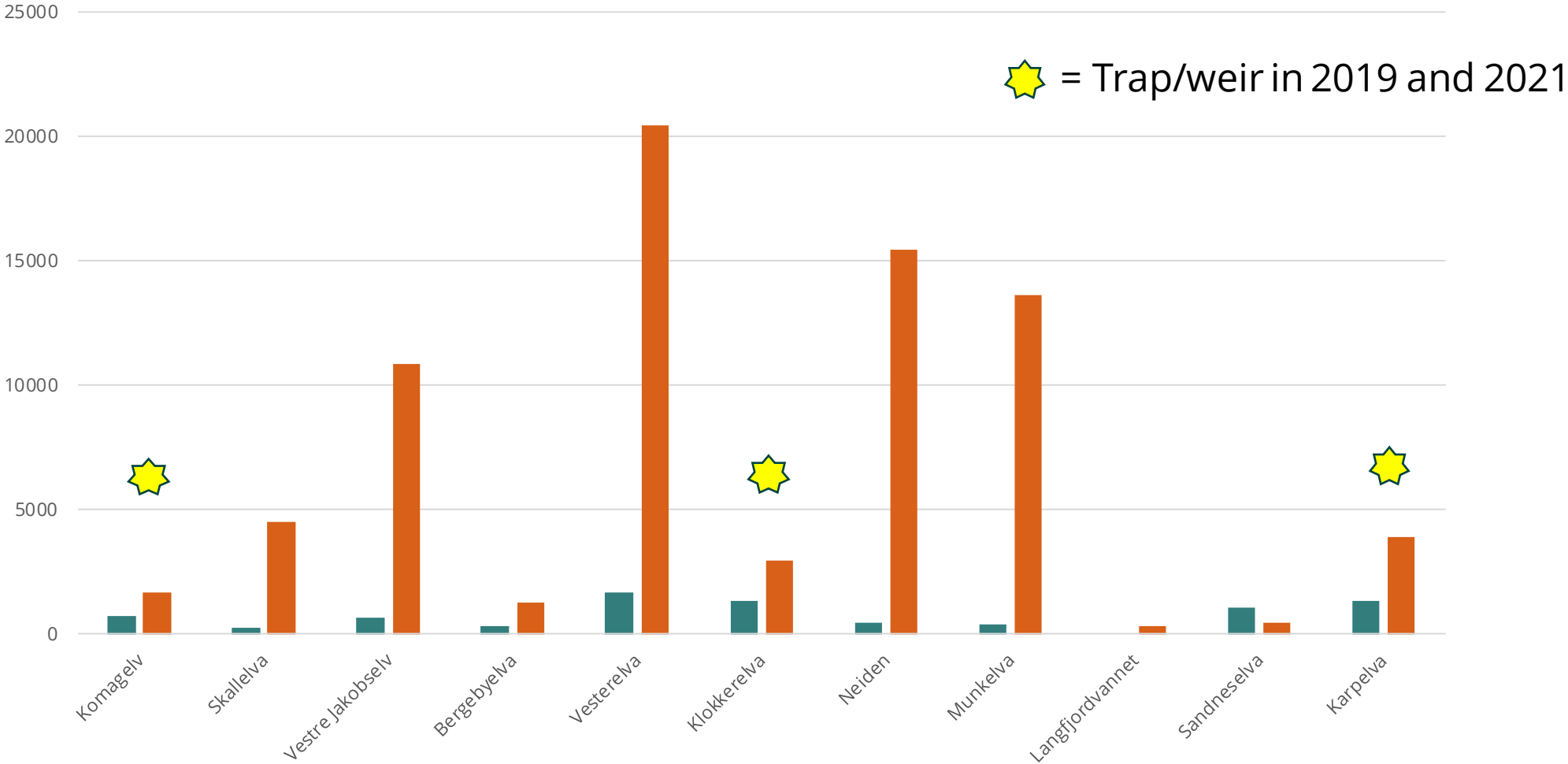
Photo: Fishbio



Teinefiske i Driva



Varanger area - river catch 2019 and 2021



Summary

- Pink salmon is reproducing effectively in the wild in Norway.
- Odd year populations are growing fast and spreading to new rivers.
- Pink salmon has become the dominant salmonid in Northern Norway.
- This is a threat to Atlantic salmon, biodiversity and water quality.
- Norway will try to prevent reproduction in as many rivers as possible.
- If we fail, pink salmon may colonize countries around the North Atlantic ocean.



Recommendations

- Pink salmon should be recognized as a threat to Atlantic salmon.
- Successful spawning is already reported from Iceland and Scotland:



- This should be monitored and counteracted.
- Failure to do so may create new bridgeheads that will allow further spread with implications for neighboring countries.
- Affected countries (Parties) should organize to share information and work together in the coming years.



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CNL(22)13

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES**1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:**

- 1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings by country, including unreported catches and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2021 and 2022¹;
- 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management²;
- 1.3 provide information on causes of variability in return rates between rivers within regions in the North Atlantic;
- 1.4 provide a summary of the most recent findings of ongoing research projects investigating the marine phase of Atlantic salmon (e.g. SeaSalar, SeaMonitor, SAMARCH, satellite tagging at Greenland);
- 1.5 provide a summary of the current state of knowledge on freshwater and marine predation by cormorants and impact on stocks;
- 1.6 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2021 and 2022; and
- 1.7 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:

- 2.1 describe the key events of the 2021 and 2022 fisheries³;
- 2.2 review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
- 2.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;
- 2.4 advise on the risks of salmon bycatch occurring in pelagic and coastal fisheries, and report on effectiveness and adequacy of current bycatch monitoring programs;

In the event that NASCO informs ICES (response requested by 31 January) that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:

- 2.5 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2023/2024 - 2025/2026 fishing seasons, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁴ and;
- 2.6 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice; and

3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:

- 3.1 describe the key events of the 2021 and 2022 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)³;

- 3.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
- 3.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;
- 4. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:**
- 4.1 describe the key events of the 2021 and 2022 fisheries³;
- 4.2 describe the status of the stocks⁵;

Notes:

1. *With regard to question 1.1, for the estimates of unreported catch the information provided should, where possible, indicate the location of the unreported catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Numbers of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries should be provided.*
2. *With regard to question 1.2, ICES is requested to include reports on any significant advances in understanding of the biology of Atlantic salmon that is pertinent to NASCO.*
3. *In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Information on any other sources of fishing mortality for salmon is also requested. For 4.1, if any new surveys are conducted and reported to ICES, ICES should review the results and advise on the appropriateness of incorporating resulting estimates into the assessment process.*
4. *In response to question 2.5 provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice and report on any developments in relation to incorporating environmental variables in these models. Also provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any concerns with salmon data collected in 2022 which may affect the catch advice considering the restrictions on data collection programmes and fisheries due to the COVID 19 pandemic.*
5. *In response to question 4.2, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.3 and 3.3.*

Attendees:

Sergey Prusov (NEAC, manager representative); regrets sent for meeting of June 06.

Peder Fiske (NEAC, scientist representative)

Isabelle Morisset (NAC, manager representative)

Tim Sheehan (NAC, scientist representative)

Sissel Fredsgaard (WGC, manager representative)

Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)

Dennis Ensing (ICES representative, Observer)

Livia Goodbrand (Co-ordinator)

New questions, originator:

- 1.3: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
- 1.4: EU- Finland
- 1.5: EU- Denmark
- 2.6: NGO