



Pink Salmon Update 2023 – Norway

In 2023, it is expected that large numbers of pink salmon will reach the Norwegian coast and migrate up the rivers. The most important measure to remove pink salmon is to establish fish traps in the river as close to the estuary as possible. Here, pink salmon can be removed, and local species released back into the river.

In 2022 and winter/spring 2023, preparations have been completed to establish different types of traps in rivers in the northernmost areas of Norway. This area is hardest affected by the pink salmon invasion. A plan has been drawn up for the type of traps to be used in the various rivers, and agreements are being made with personnel who will operate the fish traps. A major challenge has been to find good solutions for the removal of pink salmon in the river Tana, which is the largest watercourse in the area. A special form of fish trap has been developed and will be used in the river Tana this year. We hope it will work satisfactorily.

Other capture methods than fish traps will also be used in many rivers, such as various forms of fishing nets, harpoons and removal of pink salmon in fish ladders.

For the most prioritized rivers, the work will take place under the auspices of the environmental authorities. This includes 32 rivers. In a further 22 rivers, measures will be carried out that are partly financed by the authorities. In addition to these rivers, a large commitment is expected among river owners and organizations removing pink salmon on a voluntary basis after permission granted by the authorities.

Research projects will be carried out to obtain knowledge about the desired and undesirable effect of fish traps. An extensive monitoring program is planned to record the effects of the various types of traps. As far as financially possible, research projects will also be implemented to look at the ecological effects of pink salmon in the rivers.

In order to obtain an overview of the development of the pink salmon population and the spread of the species, a registration system has been developed. Information is obtained from the organized catch of pink salmon, reporting from fisherman in the ordinary fishing in the rivers and the catch of pink salmon in the sea.