

	<p>North-East Atlantic Commission</p> <p><i>Joint statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Tana Watercourse</i></p>	<p>NEA(24)11</p> <p>Agenda item: 5</p>
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Joint statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Tana watercourse

The Agreement between Norway and Finland on the Fisheries in the Tana watercourse came into force in 2017. The Agreement includes common fishing rules. As reported last year, Finland and Norway were in the last stages of negotiating new fishing rules for the next period to safeguard the recovery of the depleted salmon stocks in the Tana watercourse. The new rules will be in force from 2024 to 2030, according to the Agreement.

The main part of the new fishing rules is a new way to regulate the salmon fisheries in the Tana watercourse in the form of a new baseline rule. The new baseline rule sets clear thresholds for when and to what extent fishing for salmon is to be permitted. This means that fishing regulations, to a greater extent than previously, are based on each stock's harvestable surplus. A limited fishing may be permitted when *less than 20* percent of the salmon that are in the river at any given time belong to stocks that are assessed to be in the red, and weakest, stock category. When fishing is allowed, the catch will be regulated according to quotas and not only according to fishing time as has been done previously. The new baseline rule also ensures that right holder groups are given priority compared to tourists, when a limited fishing can take place, and they will also take part in distributing the catch quotas.

The situation for the salmon stocks in the Tana watercourse in 2023 continued to show a negative status with exceptionally low spawning stocks and low estimates of pre-fishery abundance. The overall low returns of 1SW salmon continued, and it is therefore expected that the return of MSW salmon will be low in 2024.

The monitoring of the salmon stocks indicates that the survival rate at sea has decreased dramatically in recent years, with low pre-fishery abundance as a result. In general, there has been no harvestable surplus in 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022 or 2023, and there will most likely not be any harvestable surplus available in 2024 either.