

Council

CNL(04)70

*Joint Supplementary Statement
on behalf of the NASCO NGOs*

CNL(04)70

Joint Supplementary Statement on behalf of the NASCO NGOs

Mixed Stocked Fisheries

The NGOs offer their full support for the agreement to suspend the Greenland commercial salmon fishery. We encourage parties to continue to assist and help fund this successful conservation initiative.

The NGOs also urge that pressure is kept on all relevant Governments in the UK, Ireland (including cross-border fisheries such as the Foyle), and Norway, to facilitate and co-fund cessation, with compensation, of mixed stocked fisheries off their coasts. The last payment was made to the NE English drift net fishermen in May, so completing the buy-out of 52 of the remaining 68 netsmen, and proving the worth of partnerships between Government and private interests in managing and conserving salmon stocks. Preliminary results from 2003 are encouraging, with rivers historically impacted by the fishery, including Tweed and Tyne, experiencing their best runs of fish for many years.

Aquaculture

Poor fish farm management continues to give NGOs many concerns. Sea lice are, of course, a particular threat to wild fish, but this threat would be much reduced if regulations and codes of practice were adhered to by all elements of the aquaculture industry, not just some.

Whilst there is good dialogue between interested parties in some countries, there is a concern amongst the NGOs about the status of the relationship between NASCO and the ISFA. The NGOs express their continuing disappointment at the refusal of the ISFA to agree to their participation as observers.

The NGOs wish to register a desire that clear and enforceable regulations be put in place in all countries to reduce conflicts between aquaculture and wild fisheries.

Pelagic By-catch

The vulnerability of Atlantic salmon to surface fisheries presented by trawl and purse seine nets is now beyond dispute. To quantify this problem and to devise ways of reducing it, it is essential that we learn more about the vertical movements of all marine life stages of salmon and to describe their migration routes, especially across the European Continental Shelf. The NGOs urge NASCO to take the lead role in facilitating this vital research.

Gyrodactylus Salaris

Where the parasite *Gyrodactylus Salaris* is present in river systems, as it is in many Scandinavian catchments, the ecological, economic and social impacts are enormous. The

NGOs urge all NASCO Parties to work towards eradication of this major management and conservation problem and, in the meantime, to minimise its spread to other areas presently free from the parasite.

Reykjavik - June 8th 2004