



Agenda item 6.3
For decision

Council

CNL(02)19

Unreported Catches – Returns by the Parties

Unreported Catches – Returns by the Parties

Introduction

1. The Council has previously agreed that the Parties should be requested to provide, on an annual basis, the following information in relation to unreported catches:
 - (i) a description of its management control and reporting systems by country;
 - (ii) an estimate of unreported catch by country, broken down by category and indicating whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities;
 - (iii) an explanation of how it arrives at the figure for unreported catch;
 - (iv) the extent of catch and release fishing;
 - (v) the measures taken to further minimise the level of unreported catch.
2. In the returns for the 2001 calendar year, the fourth year in which the Parties have reported to the Council on unreported catches, there have been some changes to the management control and reporting systems used in the European Union. Carcass tagging and logbooks have been introduced in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and in England and Wales second reminders were issued to anglers to report their catches. Information on the management control and reporting systems in Denmark has also been provided. It is clear from the information provided that a substantial proportion of the total catch still goes unreported. In 2001, between 962-1,374 tonnes were estimated to be unreported compared to a provisional declared catch of 3,083 tonnes, i.e. the estimate of unreported catch is between 31 - 45% of the reported catch. However, the estimate of unreported catch for 2001 represents a reduction on the estimate for 2000 of 1,065-1,445 tonnes which was 37 - 51% of the reported catch, which in turn was a reduction in the proportion unreported in 1999 (41 - 52%). More than 110,100 salmon were released following capture in recreational fisheries in 2001, an increase of about 19% compared to the estimate of about 93,000 salmon for 2000, although catch and release angling is not practised in all countries and in some countries no statistics are available on the extent of its use. A number of new measures to minimise the level of unreported catch have been reported in the EU and these have been referred to above. In Greenland efforts are being made to reduce unreported catches arising from home consumption. No new measures to minimise unreported catches have been reported by the other Parties.
3. Last year the Council welcomed the progress made by the Parties in relation to reducing the level of unreported catches but emphasised the need to take stronger measures to minimise the level of such catches. This year's returns indicate further progress by the Parties in reducing the level of unreported catch in 2001. The Council is asked to consider what, if any, additional actions it wishes to take in relation to unreported catches. The Secretary will continue to request the information on unreported catches, referred to in paragraph 1 above, on an annual basis.
4. At the time of preparation of this paper, information had not been received from all EU Member States which have salmon interests. No return of information was made by France, Portugal or Spain.

Secretary
Edinburgh
3 May, 2002

1. Description of management control and reporting systems by country

European Union

Denmark

At sea, control is based on registration (logbooks) and landing control. (Denmark has national technical rules but no quota regulations). In rivers, private landowners, in cooperation with angler associations, are responsible for the control of the recreational fisheries.

Ireland

Until 2000, catch statistics were derived primarily from recorded sales in licensed salmon dealers' registers. An estimate of private sales of legally caught salmon was included in unreported catch estimates. A carcass tagging and logbook system was introduced in 2001. Under this scheme all salmon landed are tagged with the appropriate coloured and coded tag and catch details are recorded in an official logbook. A national database of catch information has been established. Initial analyses indicate a significant increase in the reported catch compared to the previous 5 years due mainly to the inclusion of previously unreported catches and, therefore, a corresponding decrease in the unreported catch.

United Kingdom

In England and Wales anglers were issued with a second reminder, in respect of catches in the 2001 season, in an effort to reduce the level of unreported catch. No change for net fisheries or in the methodology applied for assessing illegal catches.

In Northern Ireland, control of commercial netting and sport angling exploitation in the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILL) area is in real time based on management targets for salmon. Salmon carcass tagging and logbooks have been introduced for all forms of exploitation. In the Fisheries Conservancy Board (FCB) area a salmon tagging and log book scheme was introduced in 2001 and should provide angling and commercial effort data which has previously been unreported.

Other Parties

No changes to the management control and reporting systems were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States. A description of these systems was presented in document CNL(00)19. The following information has been provided with regard to enforcement activities in Greenland:

The inspection of the Atlantic salmon fishery by Greenland Fisheries Licence Control (GFLK) was a high priority in 2001. It is estimated that there were significantly fewer illegal fishing incidents in 2001 than in 2000, when the short fishing period of 5 days was estimated to have caused more illegal fishing incidents than in the previous years. During 2001, GFLK officers reported incidents of illegal gill net fishing in the municipalities of Qaqortoq, Paamiut, Nuuk and Sisimiut, resulting in confiscation of 10 gill nets and the illegal catches. Furthermore, inspection vessels of the Danish Navy inspected the fishery for Atlantic salmon, but there were no reported incidents in 2001.

The Police in the town of Narsaq in South West Greenland confiscated 3 Atlantic salmon caught as by-catch from a fisherman who tried to sell them on the local market on 25 May 2001, 2½ months before a possible official season opening. He therefore had no licence and had not reported the catch to GFLK. The fisherman was fined 1,000 DKK. GFLK officers have established that three persons with no licence attempted to sell Atlantic salmon at the local market in Nuuk during the 2001 salmon fishery season. Two of them later acquired licences as they were professional fishermen, the third was cautioned.

2. Estimate of unreported catch by country, broken down by category and indicating whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities

Party	Estimate (tonnes)	Breakdown
Canada	81	Illegal activities. Labrador - 4 tonnes; Newfoundland - 45 tonnes; Quebec - 32 tonnes; Gulf and Scotia Fundy Regions - <1 tonne each.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)		
<i>Faroe Islands</i>	0	
<i>Greenland</i>	Approx. 10	Especially from the fishery for home consumption, but also part of the catch from the commercial fishery which is sold at local markets, hotels, etc. The reporting of commercial landings by the fishing plants is considered to be very reliable, and all the fishermen in this fishery are estimated to be licence holders as required by statutory provision. In total 390 licences for Atlantic salmon fisheries were issued to professional fishermen, but only a total of 76 licences were reported active. It is not possible to assess whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities, but it is believed that there were significantly fewer illegal fishing incidents in 2001 than in 2000.
European Union		
<i>Denmark</i>	No estimate available	No estimate of unreported catch, but it is believed to be insignificant.
<i>Finland</i>	20	River fisheries, mostly legal.
<i>Ireland</i>	67	Mainly illegal catch.
<i>Sweden</i>	3.3	Approximately 10% of catch. Largely the result of legal activities (see CNL(01)19 for further details).
<i>UK – England and Wales</i>	33	Estimates are not made for separate categories of unreported catch.
<i>UK – Northern Ireland</i>	2.6	FCB area figure reported to ICES but not disclosed on a national basis. In FCILC area for drift and draft nets, 100% return and estimate that, as a result of carcass tagging scheme, negligible unreported catch likely. Returns obtained from 70% of sport angling licenses.
<i>UK – Scotland</i>	43	Legal and illegal components.
Iceland	1.8	
Norway	680 (uncertainty ± 180 tonnes)	Illegal catch in the sea: 170 tonnes By-catch in commercial sea fishing: 20 tonnes Legal catch in sea by bag-net and bend net: 150 tonnes Legal catch in sea by angling: 150 tonnes Illegal catch in rivers: 20 tonnes Legal catch in rivers, mainly by angling: 170 tonnes
Russian Federation	200-252	Legal coastal fishery: 34-46 tonnes Illegal coastal fishery: 6-12 tonnes Legal in-river fishery: 10-14 tonnes Illegal in-river fishery: 150-180 tonnes
USA	0	
TOTAL	962-1,374	

3. *Explanation of how the figure for unreported catch is arrived at*

Party	Explanation of how the figure for unreported catch is arrived at				
	Absence of a requirement for catch statistics to be collected	Suppression of information thought to be unfavourable	Local sale or consumption	Innocent inaccuracy in making returns	Illegal fishing
Canada	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)					
<i>Faroe Islands*</i>					
<i>Greenland</i>	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19 and enforcement information in section 1.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19 and enforcement information in section 1.
European Union					
<i>Denmark*</i>					
<i>Finland</i>	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.
<i>Ireland</i>	All catches must be declared in logbooks.	Unlikely given the presumption of buy-outs, quotas or set-asides in recent years.	It is obligatory to provide details in logbooks of all disposal of salmon landed in Ireland.	A small element of this may occur given that the carcass tagging/logbook scheme was only introduced in 2001.	Thought to represent most of the unreported catch but still difficult to assess accurately.
<i>Sweden</i>	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
<i>UK - England and Wales</i>	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19. Figure of 10% of declared catch used in rod fisheries may be reviewed in the light of issuing second reminders in 2001.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
<i>UK - Northern Ireland</i>	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
<i>UK - Scotland</i>	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
Iceland	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
Norway	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
Russian Federation	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
USA *					

* Unreported catch estimated to be zero or no estimate available.

4. *The extent of catch and release fishing*

Party	Estimated Number Released	Comment
Canada	56,597	31,228 small salmon; 25,369 large salmon. (Estimate for 2000 raised from 49,737 as reported last year to 62,106).
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)		
<i>Faroe Islands</i>	0	
<i>Greenland</i>	0	
European Union		
<i>Denmark</i>	No statistics available.	Catch and release techniques are used in some rivers in Denmark, but the exact number of salmon released is unknown.
<i>Finland</i>	No information provided.	
<i>Ireland</i>	No statistics available.	Only practised in limited circumstances on a small number of fisheries.
<i>Sweden</i>	No statistics available.	Catch and release fishing is practised in a few rivers in order to improve the protection of females during their spawning period.
<i>UK - England and Wales</i>	6,143	Provisional estimate for 2001 is 43% of rod-caught fish released.
<i>UK - Northern Ireland</i>	No statistics available.	An increase in the incidence of catch and release angling has been observed but no accurate data available.
<i>UK - Scotland</i>	27,361	39% of all salmon caught by rod and line were subsequently released (both voluntary and compulsory catch and release).
Iceland	3,607	12% of all rod-caught salmon.
Norway	0	The extent of catch and release fishing is sporadic and accidental.
Russian Federation	16,410	75.8% of the total catch by rod.
USA	0	There is no catch and release fishing for sea-run Atlantic salmon allowed in the US.
TOTAL	110,118	

5. Any measures taken to further minimise the level of unreported catches

Party	Measures taken
Canada	No new measures. The Province of Quebec is introducing on-line catch reporting to provide real-time data; this system will be in place for 2003.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)	
<i>Faroe Islands *</i>	
<i>Greenland</i>	In order to reduce the presumed heavy under-reporting of catches for home consumption, increased information on the rules and procedures concerning salmon fishing has been made available to fishermen and the municipalities.
European Union	
<i>Denmark</i>	No new measures.
<i>Finland</i>	No new measures reported.
<i>Ireland</i>	Introduction of a mandatory carcass tagging and logbook scheme in 2001.
<i>Sweden</i>	No new measures. Quality control of the present system of collection of catch data is continuing and the results from this survey are used to increase the level of reporting.
<i>UK - England and Wales</i>	For the first time, a nationwide second reminder was issued to anglers in England and Wales in respect of catches in the 2001 season in an effort to reduce the level of unreported catch. Provisional indications suggest a substantial improvement in the catch return rate (86% for annual licence holders in 2001, compared with an average of 75% for the period 1998-2000).
<i>UK - Northern Ireland</i>	The salmon tagging and logbook scheme will provide accurate catch statistics of angling and commercial fishery exploitation.
<i>UK - Scotland</i>	No new measures.
Iceland	No new measures.
Norway	No new measures.
Russian Federation	No new measures.
USA*	

* Unreported catch estimated to be zero.

