



Agenda item 5.1
For information

Council

CNL(03)13

Returns under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

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Summary

1. The request for the return of information required under the NASCO Convention and relevant to the period 1 January - 31 December 2002 was circulated on 6 January 2003. All Parties were requested to make a return even if there had been no changes since the last notification. Details of the new actions taken under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention are attached. At the time of preparation of this paper, some EU Member States which have salmon interests (Denmark, France and Spain) have not sent returns.
2. Under Article 14 of the Convention, Canada and the USA have reported on their discussions with France concerning a sampling programme at St Pierre and Miquelon in 2003 in accordance with the Resolution Concerning Cooperation with St Pierre and Miquelon adopted by the Council at its Nineteenth Annual Meeting. Norway has reported on its surveillance activities which (together with the surveillance activities of the Icelandic coastguard) are very valuable in identifying fishing for salmon in international waters in the North-East Atlantic Commission area by non-Contracting Parties.
3. Under Article 15, a number of new laws, regulations and programmes and other new commitments have been reported. In summary these include:

In Canada, a Recovery Team has been formed and a Recovery Strategy developed in preparation for listing of the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon stocks as endangered under the Species at Risk Act which is being promulgated in 2003. The strategy includes gene banking, ongoing monitoring of rivers, research into marine mortality, and habitat protection activities. Some elements of the strategy are already in the implementation phase.

In Greenland, an Executive Order suspending commercial landings, but allowing continuation of a subsistence fishery, was implemented. Greenland has also reported on the sampling programme for the fishery in 2002.

European Union:

In Ireland, the carcass tagging and logbook scheme introduced in 2001 was continued in 2002. A TAC applied to the commercial fishery in 2002 so as to limit the catch and a limit of one salmon per day up to 1 June was introduced for the rod fishery to protect spring salmon. The ban on the sale of rod-caught fish introduced in 2001 was continued in 2002.

In Sweden, there have been changes to protected areas outside salmon rivers and for 2003 there will be an increase in the close season for salmon fishing in rivers by one month. *Gyrodactylus salaris* was made a notifiable disease in 2002 and monitoring

on rivers and at hatcheries where the parasite has not been recorded is being undertaken.

In the United Kingdom, a number of net limitation orders have been introduced in England and Wales; in Northern Ireland, byelaws restricting angling to catch and release from the start of the season to 31 May, setting a two-fish bag limit from 1 June for the rest of the season, and limiting the number of commercial salmon licences that can be issued have been introduced; and in Scotland, regulations requiring reporting of fish farm escapes and prohibiting the sale of rod-caught salmon have been introduced. There have been compensation arrangements for commercial fisheries in England and Wales and Northern Ireland, and set-aside of a net fishery in Ireland. In Scotland, catch and release fishing has continued to increase.

Iceland has provided information on by-catch of adult Atlantic salmon in pelagic trawls for herring in 2002.

In Norway, there have been reductions in the fishing season in one county. The liming programme has continued, with 21 rivers limed at a cost of approximately £4 million. The parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* has spread to two new rivers, taking the total to 44, but eradication measures have reduced the occurrence of the parasite. A new action plan for treatment was developed in 2002. A total of 26 rivers has been treated with rotenone and in 15 of these the parasite has been eradicated. Improvements to treatment methods have increased the probability of successfully eradicating the parasite from treated rivers.

In the USA, a draft recovery plan is being developed for the populations of Atlantic salmon listed as endangered. Formal review of the plan is expected to begin in 2003. All projects carried out in salmon watersheds are now subject to review in order to avoid or minimise impacts to Atlantic salmon and their habitat.

Secretary
Edinburgh
2 May, 2003

Returns under Article 14 of the Convention

1. Actions Taken To Make Effective The Provisions Of The Convention (*Article 14, Paragraph 1*)

1.1 The prohibition of fishing for salmon beyond 12* nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. (*Article 2, paragraph 2*)

* 40 nautical miles at West Greenland

* Area of fisheries jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands

Norway

Information on sightings is reported directly to NASCO by the Norwegian Coast Guard Squadron North.

Other Parties

No actions reported by the other Parties.

1.2 Inviting the attention of States not party to the Convention to any matter relating to the activities of the vessels of that State which appears to affect adversely the salmon stocks subject to the Convention. (*Article 2, paragraph 3*)

Canada

In 2002, Canada continued discussions on a bilateral basis with France concerning the interceptory salmon fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon. With regard to independent sampling of the catch from this fishery by scientists from Canada or the United States, France has indicated that their own scientists would handle any sampling. Such sampling would provide an indication of the area of origin of the salmon caught.

USA

In 2002, the US has continued its efforts to establish a sampling programme in St Pierre and Miquelon. It is not certain at this time whether a programme will be established for the 2003 Atlantic salmon catch.

Other Parties

No actions reported by the other Parties.

- 1.3 Measures to minimise the by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member. (*Article 7, paragraph 2*) [North American Commission members only]**

No actions reported by either Party.

- 1.4 Alteration in fishing patterns in a manner which results in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party, except with the consent of the latter. (*Article 7, paragraph 3*) [North American Commission members only]**

No actions reported by either Party.

2. Actions Taken To Implement Regulatory Measures Under Article 13 (*Article 14, Paragraph 1*)

No actions reported by any Party.

Returns under Article 15 of the Convention

1. Laws, Regulations And Programmes Adopted Or Repealed Since The Last Notification (*Article 15, Paragraph 5(a)*)

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Greenland

The Greenland Home Rule Executive Order No. 21 of 10. August 2002 on Salmon Fishing implemented the new measures in 2002 comprising, on the one hand, a suspension by the Organisation for Fishermen and Hunters in Greenland (KNAPK) of the commercial landings to fishing plants, while on the other hand allowing for the continuation of a subsistence fishery for Atlantic salmon in Greenland.

The background is as follows: At the Annual Meeting of NASCO in June 2002 the West Greenland Commission agreed an *Ad hoc* Management Programme for the 2002 Fishery at West Greenland (WGC(02)13). In accordance with the 2002 *Ad hoc* Management Programme the quotas available would have been between 20-55 tonnes of commercial landings to fishing plants during up to two harvest periods, depending on the observed commercial CPUE during the first harvest period. Shortly before the opening date of the 2002 fishing season, the Organisation for Fishermen and Hunters in Greenland (KNAPK) and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) came to an agreement to suspend all commercial fishing for Atlantic salmon with the purpose of supplying fishing plants, factories, shops, grocers, smokehouses and marketing associations or exporting the catch. Accordingly, the Greenland Home Rule Government decided to set the national quota for commercial landings to fishing plants of Atlantic salmon to 0 tonnes for 2002, and it continued to prohibit export of Atlantic salmon from Greenland in 2002. However, it still allowed a fishery for local sales to the open markets, hospitals, restaurants, etc. and allowed a fishery for home consumption. This subsistence fishery of Atlantic salmon was opened on Monday 12 August 2002, and the fishing season was open until the end of the year 2002.

European Union

Ireland

Statutory Instrument (SI No. 256 of 2000) was updated for the 2002 fishing season (SI No. 215 of 2002) so as to continue the Carcass Tagging and Logbook Scheme for 2002. Under this instrument all salmon fishermen (commercial and recreational) must apply a coded carcass tag to each salmon caught and provide details of these landings and subsequent disposal (sale, storage, etc.) in official logbooks. The scheme was introduced in 2001. The carcass tagging and logbook scheme aims to provide a means of collecting accurate nominal catch statistics and to develop best management strategies. By-law 781 of 2001 established for 2002 a limit of one salmon per day up to 1st June to protect spring (MSW) fish. A national aggregated TAC of 219,649 salmon was included in the regulations in 2002, and applied to the commercial salmon

fishery in 2002 to limit the catch in this sector. There has been a ban on the sale of rod-caught fish in 2001 and 2002.

Sweden

New regulations regarding the salmon fishery were implemented in 2002. Fifteen new protected areas were established outside small sea trout rivers (FIFS 2002:6). In addition a number of existing protected areas outside individual salmon rivers were merged into larger units. For some of these larger protected areas, greater responsibility was given to the county administrations to provide for the establishment of a trap net fishery and net fishery in other parts of the areas. The boundaries of a protected area in Kungsbackafjorden were also changed to agree with boundaries of Natura 2000 areas and angling and net fishing were allowed in the outer parts of the protected area (FIFS 2002:34). Towards the end of 2002 decisions were taken to close the salmon fishery in rivers in the period from 1 October to 31 March (previously 1 October to end of February) (FIFS 2002:48). This regulation will be implemented from 1 January 2003.

United Kingdom

In England and Wales: River Taw/Torridge (SW Region) – renewal of Net Limitation Order (NLO) to reduce the number of seine net licences issued from 14 to zero as fishermen leave the fishery.

River Teign (SW Region) – renewal of Net Limitation Order (NLO) to limit number of net licences to six.

North-East coast (NE Region) – renewal of Net Limitation Order to reduce the number of drift net licences issued from 69 to zero as fishermen leave the fishery.

In Northern Ireland: New bye-laws, the Fisheries (Amendment) Bye-Laws (Northern Ireland) 2002, came into operation in the Fisheries Conservancy Board (FCB) area on 1 March 2002. These restrict angling for salmon to “catch and release” from the start of the angling season to 31 May and introduce a two-fish bag limit from 1 June for the rest of the season. These bye-laws give legal status to the voluntary arrangement which was introduced in the 2001 fishing season. Further FCB Byelaws were introduced to limit the number of commercial salmon fishing licences that can be issued, in support of the voluntary commercial nets buy-out scheme (see section 2 below).

In Scotland: The River Dee (Kirkcudbright) Salmon Fishery District (Baits and Lures) Regulations 2002 came into force on 1 February 2002. They prohibit the use of shrimps and prawns as bait when fishing for salmon in the Dee (Kirkcudbright) Salmon Fishery District.

The Mull Salmon Fishery District Designation (Scotland) Order 2002 came into force on 20 March 2002. The Order created a Salmon Fishery District extending over the whole of the Isle of Mull. The districts in force prior to this Order were abolished, having been superseded by the new district.

The Registration of Fish Farming and Shellfish Farming Businesses Amendment (Scotland) Order 2002 came into force 10 May 2002. This order provides for the notification of circumstances giving rise to any escapes of fish, or of circumstances that gave rise to a significant risk of escape from fish farms registered under the principal Order (1985 Order).

The Conservation of Salmon (Prohibition of Sale) (Scotland) Regulations 2002 came into force on 1 October 2002. They prohibit the sale, offer or exposure for sale in Scotland of any salmon caught by rod and line.

Norway

The fishing season has been reduced from 5 to 3 weeks in the county of Hordaland.

Other Parties

No changes reported by the other Parties, the other EU Member States or the Faroe Islands.

2. Other New Commitments Relating To The Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement And Rational Management Of Salmon Stocks Subject To The Convention (*Article 15, paragraph 5(b)*)

Canada

Canada's Species at Risk Act is expected to be promulgated in June 2003. In preparation for the listing under the Act of the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon stocks as endangered, a Recovery Team has been formed and a Recovery Strategy has been developed in 2002. This Strategy includes gene banking, ongoing monitoring of inner Bay of Fundy rivers, at-sea mortality research, habitat protection activities, regulatory and enforcement plans, and community education. Some elements of the Recovery Strategy are already in the implementation phase.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Greenland

At the Annual Meeting of NASCO in June 2002 a Sampling Agreement for the West Greenland fishery in 2002 was agreed, (WGC(02)14). This Agreement details the cooperative contributions of the Parties of the West Greenland Commission to the process of collecting biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland in 2002. In accordance with the programme, sampling teams from Greenland, the United Kingdom, Ireland, the United States and Canada sampled 44% by number (1,374 salmon) of the landings for fork length and weight, and samples of scales and tissue for DNA analysis were collected and the presence of tags checked. Sampling

commenced at the start of the fishery and continued until the end of September, although landings continued until December. There were some practical problems because of the nature of the fishery (subsistence fishery only) but the catch was adequately sampled both spatially and temporally.

European Union

Ireland

A draft net fishery on the Cork Blackwater has been set aside by local arrangement. In the Kerry District, South-West Region, a local arrangement will reduce the commercial catch by 3,000 fish.

Sweden

The salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* became a notifiable disease in Sweden in 2002, but there is no country-wide monitoring programme for the parasite. The monitoring is limited to a programme covering wild salmon populations and hatcheries at all west-coast salmon rivers where the parasite has not been found.

United Kingdom

In England and Wales: Netsmen have received compensation payments (from various sources) not to fish for all or part of the season (or to release fish alive) in the following salmon fisheries: Tavy, Tamar, Lynher, Fowey, Camel, Usk, Severn, Avon and Stour, and Cumbrian coastal fisheries. A number of mixed-stock fisheries continue to be phased out. In the largest of these, the North-East coast fishery, the number of drift net licences has now fallen to 69, a 51% reduction since the phase-out began in 1993. The phase-out of the Taw/Torridge fishery (noted in Section 1 on page 6) was accelerated by a compensation scheme, with 11 of the 14 nets being bought out with immediate effect prior to the 2002 season.

In England: the UK Government announced in 2000 that it would be providing substantial funds, up to £750,000 subject to matching funds from interested parties, to launch compensation arrangements designed to accelerate the phase-out of mixed-stock salmon net fisheries on a voluntary basis, with particular emphasis on the North-East coast fishery. Negotiations have continued through 2002, and additional Government funds were identified to facilitate this process. At the current time, it appears that agreement has been reached, in principle, with the majority of the netsmen (~70-80%) to surrender their licences in return for agreed compensation payments. Subject to ratification, it is hoped that this will be effective immediately, thus representing a very substantial reduction in effort in this fishery prior to the start of the 2003 season.

In Northern Ireland: a Commercial Salmon Netsmen Voluntary Buy-out Scheme was introduced in 2002 in the FCB area of jurisdiction. A total of 36 fixed salmon nets (bag and draft), 10 drift nets, 6 tidal draft nets and 4 salmon boxes are eligible for licences in the FCB area. In 2002, 15 fixed nets, 5 drift nets, 4 tidal draft nets and 4

salmon boxes were bought out. The 10-year average catch of these nets was 5,000 salmon and significant numbers of sea trout. The Foyle area continues to operate a "real time" management of the salmon stock system which effectively means that exploitation of the returning adult fish can be reduced if the numbers of fish reaching the spawning tributaries is insufficient. Work has continued on the implementation of the Salmon Management Plan in the FCB area, which is also a catchment-based approach to salmon management, involving the setting of spawning/conservation targets at catchment level consistent with the Precautionary Approach as adopted by NASCO. Funding is available for an Angling Development Programme under the EU Peace II Programme which includes assistance for in-river habitat improvements.

In Scotland: the voluntary practice of catch and release in the rod fishery continued to increase, rising from 38% in 2001, to an estimated 41% in 2002. Salmon netmen repeated their voluntary deferment of the start of the netting season by 6 weeks to conserve early-running stocks. District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts throughout Scotland have maintained programmes of stock and habitat enhancement.

Norway

Liming

In 2002, 21 Atlantic salmon rivers were limed in Norway at a cost of NOK 45 million (approximately £4 million). Most liming projects commenced during the period 1991 to 1997. It will take some years before these salmon stocks are re-established. The largest liming projects are in three large watercourses in southern-most Norway: Tovdalselva, Mandalselva and Bjerkreimselva. In Tovdalselva and Mandalselva, the natural Atlantic salmon stocks are extinct due to acidification. Before acidification, during the late 1800s, yearly catches of salmon in the rivers Mandalselva and Tovdalselva were as high as 30 and 20 tonnes respectively. In both rivers a restocking program is being carried out in connection with the liming programme. The catches are increasing in the river Mandalselva with an average catch of about 10 tonnes in the last three years. In the river Tovdalselva a high density of young fish was recorded in 2002 and the catches are expected to increase from 2004 onwards. Bjerkreimselva had a small population of its natural salmon stock before liming, and catches increased significantly in the first couple of years after liming started. The average catch in the river Bjerkreimselva for the last three years has been about 13 tonnes. In 2002 liming commenced in one new river, the river Uskedal, which is a small river in the County of Hordaland.

Gyrodactylus salaris

The salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* has spread to two new rivers in 2002. The infected rivers are situated not far from the river Vefsna, which is the largest infected river in the northern part of Norway. The total number of infected rivers has thus increased to 44. Eradication measures have, however, reduced the occurrence of the parasite.

In 2002 a new action plan was drawn up. The main features of this plan include preventive measures, construction of barriers to migration and chemical treatment of

infected rivers. The action plan also includes a cost benefit analysis. In accordance with the action plan, three infected rivers were treated with rotenone in 2002. The treated rivers are situated in the inner part of the Trondheimsfjord, which is the best area for Atlantic salmon in Norway (43 rivers drain into this fjord). A total of 26 of the 44 infected watercourses in Norway have been treated with rotenone. In 15 of the treated watercourses, the parasite has been eradicated. Five rivers are still being monitored. In six rivers the parasite has been recorded again following rotenone treatment. For the last couple of years, considerable efforts have been made to improve the methods used for rotenone treatment of rivers. The methodological improvements have increased the probability of successfully eradicating the parasite. In addition to the remedial measures, the monitoring programme and preventive measures are given high priority.

Gene-bank and milt-bank

By the end of 2001, milt from a total of 6,500 wild salmon from 173 stocks had been included in the Norwegian Gene Bank to provide an opportunity to protect stocks from extinction. No new milt samples were included in the gene bank in 2002. Norway currently operates 3 living gene banks; one in northern Norway, one in mid-Norway and one in south-western Norway. 31 characteristic and valuable stocks have been included in the "living gene banks".

International research programmes

Cooperation between Norway and Russia on environmental issues, on research and management of Atlantic salmon has continued, especially concerning the Pechora River.

USA

As reported last year, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries are working with the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission to develop a draft recovery plan for the populations of Atlantic salmon that have been listed as endangered. The draft is expected to begin formal review during the summer of 2003.

Following the listing of Atlantic salmon, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries have been consulting with other federal agencies to review all projects carried out in the salmon watersheds in order to avoid or minimize impacts to Atlantic salmon and their habitat. Consultations have been conducted on the permitting process for discharge from aquaculture facilities, dredging projects, and bridge and road repair.

Other Parties

No new commitments reported by the other Parties, the other EU Member States or the Faroe Islands.

3. Other Factors Which May Significantly Affect The Abundance Of Salmon Stocks Subject To The Convention
(Article 15, Paragraph 5(c))

Iceland

Catches of adult salmon in pelagic trawls were reported in late 2002 (see document CNL(03)27).

Other Parties

No factors reported by the other Parties.