



Agenda item 5.3
For decision

Council

CNL(03)20

Unreported Catches – Returns by the Parties



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Unreported Catches – Returns by the Parties

Summary

1. The Council has previously agreed that the Parties should be requested to provide, on an annual basis, information in relation to unreported catches, and has welcomed the progress made in transparent presentation of this information. For 2002, new information on the management control and reporting systems for the Faroe Islands recreational fishery has been provided and Ireland has reported that the carcass tagging and logbook scheme introduced in 2001 has led to a decrease in unreported catch in 2002. No changes have been reported by the other Parties. In 2002, between 838-1,158 tonnes were estimated to be unreported compared to a provisional declared catch of 2,621 tonnes, i.e. the estimate of unreported catch is between 32-44% of the reported catch. The estimate of unreported catch for 2002 represents a reduction on the estimate for 2001 (962-1,374 tonnes), although as a proportion of the reported catch there is no change.
2. More than 118,000 salmon were released following capture in recreational fisheries in 2002, 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.
3. A number of new measures to minimise the level of unreported catch have been reported, including educational initiatives in the USA and Greenland; in Sweden, there is increased control over fisheries in river mouths and assessment of catches in trap and net fisheries which are not obliged to report catches; and the closure of a fishery in the Archangel Region of Russia which had a particular problem of unreported catches. Some additional initiatives have been reported that will be implemented in 2003.
4. 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. The Council also agreed that there was a need for the Contracting Parties to further clarify the methods used to estimate unreported catch and the reliability of these estimates, and to consider opportunities to enhance harmonisation of approaches used. As in previous returns, some information has been provided on the methods used to estimate unreported catch. Two Parties have given an indication of the uncertainty associated with their estimates. A more detailed evaluation of the methods used to estimate unreported catches is contained in the scientific advice from ICES for 2000, CNL(00)12. 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 information on unreported catches, referred to in paragraph 1 above, on an annual basis.
5. At the time of preparation of this paper, information had not been received from all EU Member States (Denmark, France and Spain) which have salmon interests.

Secretary
Edinburgh
2 May, 2003

1. *Description of management control and reporting systems by country*

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

In the Faroe Islands there is currently no reporting system regarding sport fishing for salmon. The Sport Fishermen's Association works on estimates of catches for its own purposes. There are plans to introduce a reporting system (see section 5).

European Union

Ireland

The carcass tagging and logbook scheme introduced in 2001 has resulted in an increase in the reported catch in 2002 over the previous five-year period and, therefore, a corresponding decrease in the unreported catch. Up to 2000, the catch statistics were derived from recorded sales by licensed salmon dealers. As a result of the introduction of the carcass tagging and logbook scheme, it is possible to estimate the proportion of the catch not sold through licensed dealers and, therefore, to assess the validity of previous estimates of unreported catch.

Other Parties

No changes to the management control and reporting systems were reported by the other Parties or by Greenland. Descriptions of these systems were presented in document CNL(00)19 and CNL(02)19.

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	84	Illegal activities. Estimated by enforcement, management and biological staff. Labrador - 4 tonnes; Newfoundland - 45 tonnes; Quebec – 34 tonnes; Gulf and Scotia Fundy Regions - <1 tonne each. For 2002 the values for Labrador and Newfoundland are assumed to be same as in 2001. There are no reports from New Brunswick or from 2 of the 5 fishing areas in Nova Scotia.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)		
Faroe Islands	1	The Sports Fishermen’s Association issues licences to each sports fisherman in certain areas of fishing activity. At present there is no regulated reporting system for sports fishing for salmon. The unreported catch is the result of legal activities. This estimate is based only on information from the Sports Fishermen’s Association.
Greenland	Approx. 10	Originates partly from the fishery for home consumption and partly from the commercial fishery which is sold at local markets, hotels, etc. In total 93 licences for Atlantic salmon fishing were issued to professional fishermen, but only a total of 24 licences were reported active. 2 persons reported sale of Atlantic salmon without having any licence, but these cases are still under administrative inquiry. In 2002 neither the Wildlife and Fisheries Officers of GFLK nor the fisheries inspection vessels of the Royal Danish Navy have reported any incidents of illegal fishing for Atlantic salmon in Greenland.
European Union		
Finland	15	In-river fisheries, mostly legal, reliability evaluation very difficult.
Ireland	68	Mainly illegal catch.
Sweden	2.8	Approximately 10% of catch. Largely the result of legal activities (see CNL(01)19 for further details) but poaching probably contributes to a minor extent. It is believed that new fishery regulations in recent years have reduced the proportion of the catch that is not reported..
UK – England and Wales	31	Estimates are not made for separate categories of unreported catch. The total is calculated using the percentages in Table 3.
UK – Northern Ireland	3.2	Figure for commercial net fisheries in Northern Ireland. This figure has dropped significantly from earlier years largely as a result of the introduction of carcass tagging in 2001/2002.
UK – Scotland	45	Legal and illegal components.
Iceland	1.8	-
Norway	550 (uncertainty ± 140 tonnes)	Illegal catch in the sea: 140 tonnes By-catch in commercial sea fishing: 25 tonnes Legal catch in sea by bag-net and bend net: 110 tonnes Legal catch in sea by angling: 110 tonnes Illegal catch in rivers: 25 tonnes Legal catch in rivers, mainly by angling: 140 tonnes
Russian Federation	166-206	Legal coastal fishery: 2-4 tonnes Illegal coastal fishery: 6-12 tonnes Legal in-river fishery: 8-10 tonnes Illegal in-river fishery: 150-180 tonnes
USA	0	
TOTAL	838 – 1,158	

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					Unreported catches are estimated by enforcement, management and biological staff.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)					
Faroe Islands			The unreported catch is used for local consumption.		
Greenland	All catches must be reported to Greenland Fisheries Licence Control (GFLK).	Not available.	Catches are landed to local markets, sold privately or kept for home consumption. Due to the scattered nature of the fishery, recordings of landings are considered incomplete.	Not available.	The unreported catches are mostly legal.
European Union					
Finland	Licensed fisheries without requirement to report catch. Extrapolation from reported catch used to estimate total catch. An additional margin has been included in the estimate of unreported catch of 15 tonnes.	.	.	.	Thought to be small but difficult to evaluate. Only a guess-estimate.
Ireland	Not applicable – all catches must be declared in logbooks	This is unlikely given the presumption of buyouts, quotas or set-aside in recent years.	It is obligatory to provide details of all disposals of salmon landed in Ireland.	This may occur but will reduce as familiarity with the carcass tagging logbook scheme increases	Difficult to assess accurately, based on accounts from local sources (fishery inspectors, fishermen). Thought to represent most of the unreported catch and is believed to be at a low level presently.

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<i>Sweden</i>	A large proportion of the unreported catch.	To some limited degree because of minor catches which are believed to be unreported for tax reasons.	Less than 30% of the total unreported catch.	Under-estimation of catch is not a common source of unreported catches. Catches are as likely to be over-estimated.	Important factor in a few rivers and river mouths where illegal fishing may occur without proper control of the fishery.
<i>UK - England and Wales</i>	Not applicable.	6% of declared net catch.	No separate estimate.	Figure of 10% of declared rod catch; may be reviewed in the light of issuing second reminders in 2001 and 2002.	12% of total declared catch.
<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 *	As a condition of having a federal fishing permit, reporting of bycatch is required. There were no reports of Atlantic salmon in the mandatory logbooks completed and returned by fishermen. In addition, observers are placed on some fishing vessels to provide a third party estimate of bycatch. No observers documented a bycatch of Atlantic salmon in any fishery in 2002.	There is no evidence that this is occurring. In the past, there have been reports made of Atlantic salmon bycatch.	There is no evidence that this is occurring.	Fisheries observers are trained in species identification, which should reduce the potential for misidentification.	On occasion, there are reports of potential recreational poaching in the rivers. When such reports are made, law enforcement personnel increase their presence on the river. There were no documented poaching activities in 2002.

* Unreported catch estimated to be zero.

4. *The extent of catch and release fishing*

Party	Estimated Number Released	Comment
Canada	54,425	Preliminary numbers: 35,661 small salmon; 18,764 large salmon. (Estimate for 2001 increased from 56,597 as reported last year to 58,961).
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)		
<i>Faroe Islands</i>	0	There is not catch and release fishing in the Faroe Islands.
<i>Greenland</i>	0	
European Union		
<i>Finland</i>	Negligible.	
<i>Ireland</i>	No statistics available.	Only practised in limited circumstances on a small number of fisheries and no assessment has been made to date.
<i>Sweden</i>	No statistics available.	Catch and release fishing is practised in a few rivers in order to improve the protection of females before and during the spawning period.
<i>UK - England and Wales</i>	7,632	Provisional estimate for 2002 is 50% of rod-caught fish released (including voluntary and compulsory catch and release).
<i>UK - Northern Ireland</i>	No estimate provided.	Total "catch and release" for spring salmon introduced in Fisheries Conservancy Board area in 2002 from start of season to 31 May.
<i>UK - Scotland</i>	25,352	41% of all salmon caught by rod and line were subsequently released.
Iceland	5,576	16.3% of all rod caught salmon.
Norway	0	The extent of catch and release fishing is sporadic and accidental.
Russian Federation	25,248	79.6% of the total catch by rod. This information is estimated on the basis of information sent to the relevant authorities.
USA	0	There is no directed catch and release fishing for sea-run Atlantic salmon in the US.
TOTAL	118,233	

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

Party	Measures taken
Canada	No new measures. The Province of Quebec has developed an on-line catch reporting system to provide real-time data; this system will begin in 2003.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)	
<i>Faroe Islands</i>	No new measures. The Ministry of Fisheries is planning to introduce a reporting system based on inspection from the Sports Fishermen's Association. More details will be provided in next year's returns.
<i>Greenland</i>	No new measures. Wildlife and Fisheries Officers of GFLK make random checks at local markets in towns and settlements along the West coast. GFLK officers have made random checks at hotels, restaurants, butchers shops, hospitals and schools in various towns in order to compare purchases of salmon with reported catches. To avoid the presumed underreporting of the catches for home consumption and for local open markets, more information on the rules and procedures of salmon fishing has been made available to fishermen and the municipalities.
European Union	
<i>Finland</i>	No new measures.
<i>Ireland</i>	No new measures. Continued implementation of carcass tagging and logbook scheme introduced in 2001.
<i>Sweden</i>	New fishery regulations have improved the possibilities to control fisheries in river mouths. Furthermore, investigations are underway of traditional traps and net fisheries in three rivers where there is no obligation to report catches.
<i>UK - England and Wales</i>	No new measures.
<i>UK - Northern Ireland</i>	No new measures. The salmon tagging and logbook scheme introduced in 2001 should 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	In 2002 fishing for salmon with gill nets was closed on the Severnaya Dvina river (Archangel Region). Only set and trap nets were used. This measure helped to considerably reduce unreported catch in the estuary of the Severnaya Dvina (ratio between reported and unreported catch was 1:0.85 in 2002 against 1:2.9 in 2001).
USA*	Educational efforts are continuing to ensure that recreational anglers can identify Atlantic salmon and are aware of the fishing restrictions. Particular emphasis has been placed on distinguishing between trout and juvenile Atlantic salmon to reduce bycatch at the early life stages.

* Unreported catch estimated to be zero.