



Council

CNL(03)70

NGO Statement

The European Anglers Alliance

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9th General Assembly of the European Anglers Alliance
Leipzig 4th – 7th April 2003

RESOLUTION

Irish Driftnet Fishing for Atlantic Salmon

The European Anglers Alliance, which represents 19 European nations and more than 5 million anglers, held its 9th General Assembly on 4th – 7th April 2003 in Leipzig.

The EAA continues to emphasize its opposition to commercial mixed stock fishing of Atlantic salmon in the sea.

The EAA applauds the historic agreement made by the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) to buy out the salmon fishery at West Greenland and the continued restraint shown by the Faroese. These initiatives are in stark contrast to the lack of progress at reducing the size of the Irish Drift Net Fishery, which intercepts mixed stocks of salmon originating in Ireland, the UK, France, Spain and Germany.

In 2002, Irish Government scientists recommended a quota reduction of 40 % in the fishery, but the government implemented a reduction of only 5 %. That decision was widely condemned by EAA and all those concerned with the restoration of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic.

While we welcome the recent Irish Government decision to reduce the quota from 230,000 fish to 180,000, with a further reduction to 130,000 (the figure recommended by scientists), promised in another five years, this is still not good enough.

The EAA calls on the Irish Government to reduce quotas to the level recommended by their scientists by 2004 and support the efforts of NASF in negotiating the buy-out of the Irish netsmen in the interests of international salmon management and conservation.