

North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(03)4

***Returns under the North-East Atlantic Commission Resolution
to Protect Wild Salmon Stocks from Introductions and Transfers***

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1. In 1997, the Commission unanimously adopted a Resolution to Protect Wild Salmon Stocks from Introductions and Transfers, NEA(97)12. The 2002 returns, the fourth year of returns, are attached. Measures previously reported by some Parties may still apply (see NEA(00)4, NEA(01)4, NEA(01)6 and NEA(02)4) but these are not reported here. At the time of preparation of this paper, information has not been received from the Faroe Islands and some EU Member States which have salmon interests (Denmark, France and Spain).
2. The main areas of note are as follows:
 - (a) During 2002, 1.8 million salmon ova from Tasmania and 0.5 million salmon ova from the USA were imported to Scotland. There were no other movements into the Commission area of live Atlantic salmon and their eggs which originated from outside the Commission area.
 - (b) There were no proposals to release transgenic salmonids to the environment or use them in aquaculture during 2002.
 - (c) Details of epidemiological zones were provided by EU (Ireland) and Norway. New management measures including monitoring programmes within epidemiological zones were reported by EU (Ireland and Sweden) and Norway. Only one Party reported movements of live salmonids from a zone where a specified disease was present to a zone free of the disease. In this case the transfer was from a hatchery which was subsequently found to be infected with *G. salaris*. Specific restrictive measures are imposed at all Norwegian hatcheries known to be, or suspected of being, infected with *G. salaris* in order to eliminate the parasite.
 - (d) In the UK, a contingency plan for a *G. salaris* outbreak is being developed with the aim of identifying where eradication or other control methods are feasible. In Scotland it is intended to introduce statutory reporting of unexplained mortalities in fish farms, and in Northern Ireland a contingency plan to deal with disease outbreaks has been developed and contingency plans concerning escape of farm salmon are to be introduced. A new parasite, *Parvicapsula sp.*, was discovered on farmed salmon in Finnmark county, Norway and the salmon were slaughtered.
 - (e) There were no known movements from hatcheries to areas with salmon, or to facilities where there is a risk of transmission of infection to such areas, other than those from hatcheries where regular health inspections did not detect significant diseases or parasites.

- (f) There were no reports of introductions of non-indigenous anadromous salmonids into rivers containing Atlantic salmon. Rainbow trout eggs from health-certified sites in South Africa were introduced to England and Wales.
 - (g) There has been no progress in introducing the NEAC system of classifying salmon rivers.
 - (h) With regard to unintentional introductions and transfers, a bye-law has been introduced in north-west England precluding the use of live bait in specified waters.
3. The Commission has previously noted that the term “non-indigenous” is not defined in the Resolution. The Secretary was asked to consult with the Parties with a view to adopting a definition at the Twentieth Annual Meeting. The Commission had agreed to use the definition adopted by the North American Commission on an interim basis and had recognised that, in the event that a definition other than that used by the North American Commission was adopted, the issue would need to be resolved by the Council. However, the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach has proposed to the Council that the various agreements concerning aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics be consolidated into one ‘umbrella Resolution’ with standardised definitions, including a definition of non-indigenous. The Council will be considering this issue at its Twentieth Annual Meeting and we have not, therefore, proposed a definition here.

Secretary
Edinburgh
2 May, 2003

Article 1: Movements originating from outside the North-East Atlantic Commission Area

1.1 Details of known movements into the Commission area of live Atlantic salmon and their eggs which have originated from outside the Commission area

European Union

United Kingdom

The following Atlantic salmon ova were imported into Scotland in 2002:

Australia (Tasmania)	1.8 million
USA	0.5 million

Other Parties

No movements of live Atlantic salmon and their eggs which originated from outside the Commission area were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

Article 2: Transgenic Atlantic Salmon

2.1 Details of any proposals to release transgenic salmonids to the environment (including their use in aquaculture) and details of any risk assessment undertaken

There have been no proposals to release transgenic salmonids to the environment by any Party.

Article 3: Movements within the North-East Atlantic Commission Area

3.1 Specified diseases and parasites

3.1.1 Details of any epidemiological zones, i.e. zones free of specific pathogens, which have been established

European Union

Ireland

VHS: The entire country, with the exception of a small area around Cape Clear (off the south-west coast), is free from VHS.

IHN: The entire country is free from IHN.

G. salaris: The entire country is free from this parasite.

ISA: The entire country, with the exception of two mini-zones in County Mayo, is free from ISA (see 3.1.2 below).

Norway

Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis (IHN): Previously reported measures still apply.
Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS): Bufferzone along the border with Russia.
Free zone in the rest of the country.

Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA): Map of outbreaks provided to Secretariat.

Gyrodactylus salaris: The County of Finnmark in Northern Norway has been confirmed, through the surveillance programme, as being free of the parasite *G. salaris*.

Other Parties

No details of the establishment of epidemiological zones were provided by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

3.1.2 If epidemiological zones have been established:

- (a) *Details of any new management measures (including monitoring to confirm the disease status of the zone and eradication) which have been undertaken*

European Union

Ireland

ISAV was isolated from two rainbow trout sites in County Mayo, in the absence of clinical disease. Movement restrictions and tight biosecurity measures were put in place as soon as the presence of the virus was confirmed. One site was harvested out (market-sized fish), cleaned, disinfected and fallowed for 6 months. Following risk assessment, the other site, which held smaller fish, was allowed to on-grow until the end of June 2003, under strict conditions. This site will then be cleaned, disinfected and fallowed for 6 months. All other marine aquaculture facilities in the country have been tested and ISAV has not been isolated. In excess of 400 wild fish have also been tested with similar results. An epidemiological study is currently underway to determine how long the virus might have been on site prior to detection and where it might have originated from.

Sweden

The monitoring programme for *Gyrodactylus salaris*, which was expanded in 2001 to cover all Swedish west coast salmon rivers where the parasite has not been found, now also includes monitoring of fish farms with rainbow trout located in the lower parts of these salmon rivers.

Norway

ISA: A new contingency plan has been developed, with instructions relating to measures on suspicion of and/or confirmation of ISA (which are consistent with Directive 93/53/EEC). The plan has been made available to the Secretariat.

The official surveillance program for *Gyrodactylus salaris* has been extended, and 50% of the freshwater fish farms are now examined for *G. salaris* every year. New outbreaks of *G. salaris* occurred in three salmon hatcheries in Nordland county.

Other Parties

No new management measures were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

(b) ***Details of any known movements of live salmonids and their eggs from a zone where any of the specified diseases is present to a zone free of these diseases***

Norway

One transfer occurred of live salmonids from a hatchery which was subsequently found to be infected with *G. salaris*. The hatchery was in Nordland county and the transfer was to Nord-Trøndelag county. Specific restrictive measures are imposed at all hatcheries known to be, or suspected of being, infected with *G. salaris* in order to eliminate the parasite.

Other Parties

No movements of live salmonids and their eggs from a zone where any of the specified diseases is present to a zone free of these diseases were reported by the other Parties.

3.2 Unknown diseases and parasites

3.2.1 Details of new procedures and changes to existing procedures for the early identification and detection of, and rapid response to, an outbreak of any new disease or parasitic infection likely to affect Atlantic salmon

European Union

United Kingdom

A developing contingency plan for a *Gyrodactylus salaris* outbreak aims to identify where eradication or other control methods are feasible. In Scotland, it is intended to introduce a statutory requirement for the reporting of unexplained mortalities on fish farms. In Northern Ireland, sampling and monitoring checks are in place. Contingency plans to deal with disease outbreaks in draft form.

Norway

A new parasite (*Parvicapsula sp.*) was discovered on farmed salmon in Finnmark county (Alta and Gamvik municipalities). All farmed salmon at infected sites were slaughtered.

Other Parties

No new procedures or changes to existing procedures have been reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

3.2.2 Details of any additional protective measures which have been introduced

European Union

United Kingdom

In Northern Ireland, contingency plans for farmed salmon escapement measures to be introduced.

Other Parties

No additional protective measures were reported to have been introduced by the other Parties or other EU Member States.

3.3 Health inspection of donor facilities

3.3.1 Details of any known movements of live salmonids and their eggs from hatcheries to areas containing Atlantic salmon stocks, or to facilities where there is a risk of transmission of infection to such areas, other than those from facilities where regular inspections have not detected significant diseases and parasites

No movements other than those from facilities where regular inspections did not detect the presence of significant diseases and parasites were reported by any Party.

Article 4: Movements of Non-Indigenous Fish

4.1 Details of any known introductions of non-indigenous fish species into a river containing Atlantic salmon

No known introductions of non-indigenous fish species into a river containing Atlantic salmon reported by any Party.

4.2 Details of any known introductions of non-indigenous anadromous salmonids into the Commission area

European Union

United Kingdom

Rainbow trout eggs from health-certified sites in South Africa.

Other Parties

No introductions of non-indigenous salmonids were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

Article 5: Classification of Rivers

5.1 Has the NEAC system of classifying rivers been introduced for the purpose of developing management measures concerning introductions and transfers?

The NEAC system of classifying rivers has not been introduced by any Party.

Article 6: Management Measures

6.1 Details of any new management measures developed for each class of river detailed in the Resolution

No new management measures were reported by any Party.

Article 7: Unintentional Introductions and Releases

7.1 Details of any steps which been taken to limit the risks from unintentional introductions (e.g. in ships' ballast water, through release of live bait, etc.)

European Union

United Kingdom

Bye-law introduced in north-west England precluding the use of live bait in specified waters in the Lake District.

Other Parties

No steps to limit the risks from unintentional introductions reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

Other Information

Details of other relevant information in relation to the implementation of the Resolution

No other relevant information provided by any Party.