

**North-East Atlantic Commission**

**NEA(03)7**

***Proposal for an Experimental Tagging Programme for Investigating  
the Behaviour of Escaped Farmed Salmon***

***(Tabled by Norway)***

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Salmon escape from fish farms in all countries producing farmed fish. They are caught in fisheries and enter fresh water to spawn. In some fisheries and stocks the incidence of farmed salmon is high, but there is little knowledge of their survival and migratory behaviour.

In 2002, NASCO requested ICES to advise on an appropriate methodology to improve knowledge of the distribution and movements of escaped farmed salmon. ICES provided a proposal for a research design including experimental tagging and release of farmed salmon (CNL(03)8; section 4.5.2).

Norway suggests that a coordinated collaborative study as outlined by ICES should be carried out by the countries producing farmed salmon in the NEAC area, and that the pilot study should start in March/April 2004. The costs, which are suggested to be moderate for the pilot study, should be covered by the participating Parties. Norway is willing to coordinate such a study.