

North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(03)11

*Summary of ICES recommendations on the continuation of the Faroese
research fishery*

(Tabled by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))

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1. **Introduction**

During the NEA Commission meeting at the 2003 NASCO meeting in Edinburgh the question was raised to which extent ICES had made recommendations on the continuation of the Faroese research fishery in the area north of the Faroes. In this area many of the North East Atlantic salmon stocks feed during their oceanic phase. This note presents an overview of the ICES recommendations on the Faroese research fishery through the last years.

2. **ACFM reports from ICES where the recommendation have been tabled**

The Faroese research fishery north of the Faroes has on several occasions been recommended and endorsed by ICES in the annual ACFM reports to NASCO. This research fishery can be seen as an extension of an earlier sampling programme in the Faroese commercial high seas fishery recommended by ICES and funded by both Faroese and external sources.

Extracts from the ACFM reports are quoted below.

1996, CNL(96)15

"ICES supports the continuation of the research fishing programme in the Faroes area and recognises that the results from the project will improve the possibility of assessing the stocks in the North-East Atlantic."

1997, CNL(97)13

"ICES recognises the importance of the results generated from the research fishery programme in the Faroes area and recommends a continuation of the research fishery at a scale that will provide sufficient data for analyses."

1998, CNL(98)12

"ICES recommends a continuation of the research fishery at Faroes."

1999, CNL(99)12

"The research fishery at Faroes should be continued, and material acquired during previous studies should continue to be analysed."

2000, CNL(00)12

"It is recommended that a research fishery at Faroes should be resumed and that material gained during previous studies should continue to be worked-up. DNA analyses of fish sampled at Faroes should be performed to assess continent of origin."

2001, CNL(01)11

"It is recommended that a research fishery at Faroes should be continued and that material gained during previous study should continue to be worked-up."

2002, CNL(02)10

No specific recommendation.

2003, CNL(03)8

No specific recommendation, however, ICES did propose that "A coordinated tagging study should be designed and carried out to give information on migration, distribution, survival and growth of escaped farmed salmon from the NEAC countries."

3. **Conclusions**

From the quotes referred above from the annual ACFM reports to NASCO, the following statements can be drawn:

- Since 1996 the continuation of the Faroese research fishery has repeatedly been recommended by ACFM.
- In 2000 ACFM recommended that the Faroese research fishery be resumed (after no activity since 1998).
- A continuation was again recommended in 2001.
- No specific recommendation was given in 2002.
- No specific recommendation was given in 2003. However, some of the data requirements expressed by ICES, in particular relating to a coordinated tagging study, would be further enhanced through a research fishery (or through a sampling programme associated with a possible commercial fishery).

Thus there is no doubt that NASCO could be confident that the Faroese research fishery has been previously recommended by ICES. Although no specific recommendation was given for 2003 ICES recognises that a research fishery would benefit several of the data requirements/recommendations they have made to NASCO.