



Agenda item 5.1
For information

Council

CNL(01)16

Returns under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

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The request for the return of information required under the NASCO Convention and relevant to the period 1 January - 31 December 2000 was circulated on 3 January 2001. All Parties were requested to make a return even if there had been no changes since the last notification. Where changes have been notified under Article 15, and the laws, regulations and programmes concerned have been lodged with the Secretariat, the information will be incorporated into the Laws, Regulations and Programmes database. Copies of the detailed submissions are available from the Secretariat. A summary of the new actions taken under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention is attached. At the time of preparation of this paper, information has not been received from all EU Member States which have salmon interests. No information is available for France, Portugal or Spain.

Secretary
Edinburgh
11 May, 2001

Returns under Article 14 of the Convention

1. Actions Taken To Make Effective The Provisions Of The Convention (*Article 14, Paragraph 1*)

1.1 The prohibition of fishing for salmon beyond 12* nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. (*Article 2, paragraph 2*)

* 40 nautical miles at West Greenland

* Area of fisheries jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands

Norway

Information on sightings is reported directly to NASCO from the Norwegian Coast Guard Squadron North.

Other Parties

No actions reported by the other Parties.

1.2 Inviting the attention of States not party to the Convention to any matter relating to the activities of the vessels of that State which appears to affect adversely the salmon stocks subject to the Convention. (*Article 2, paragraph 3*)

Canada

In discussions between Canada and France concerning mutual fishing relations, Canada voiced its concern and that of NASCO regarding the state of the Atlantic salmon stocks, emphasising the negative impact of interception catches (St Pierre and Miquelon) on the rebuilding of salmon stocks in Canadian and U.S. rivers.

USA

Consistent with the Resolution passed by NASCO in 2000, the U.S. contacted France regarding the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon. In response, France indicated its willingness to report the requested information to NASCO.

Other Parties

No actions reported by the other Parties.

- 1.3 Measures to minimise the by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member. (*Article 7, paragraph 2*) [North American Commission members only]**

Canada

The moratorium on commercial salmon fishing remained in effect for the island of Newfoundland.

USA

No measures reported.

- 1.4 Alteration in fishing patterns in a manner which results in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party, except with the consent of the latter. (*Article 7, paragraph 3*) [North American Commission members only]**

No actions reported by either Party.

2. Actions Taken To Implement Regulatory Measures Under Article 13 (*Article 14, Paragraph 1*)

No actions reported by any Party.

Returns under Article 15 of the Convention

3. Laws, Regulations And Programmes Adopted Or Repealed Since The Last Notification (*Article 15, Paragraph 5(A)*)

European Union

United Kingdom

In England and Wales, net limitation orders for the rivers Lune, Dart and Teign were renewed and led to further reductions in the number of nets that may be used to fish for salmon. For example, the number of seine nets that may be used in the River Dart was reduced from 18 to 15. On the River Lune a season bag limit of 4 salmon (killed) was introduced for the rod fishery.

In Scotland, the Scotland Act 1998 (Border Rivers) Order 1999 entered into force in 1999 (but was not reported last year). This Order made provisions in relation to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon, trout, eels and freshwater fish in the River Esk and River Tweed following transfer of fisheries matters in Scotland to the Scottish Parliament as a result of devolution. The Order provides a mechanism for the management of the Border Rivers requiring agreement by both the UK and Scottish Ministers. Under the Salmon (Fish Passes and Screens) (Scotland) Regulations 1994, the regulations in relation to dams and fish passes came into force on 1 January 2000. The regulations in relation to screens came into force on 1 January 1998.

Iceland

A revised regulatory measure concerning transport and release of salmonids (No. 105/2000) took effect on February 18th 2000.

Norway

The fishing season for wild salmon with bag-nets was shortened by ten days in the county of Sogn og Fjordane and seven days in the county of Nordland. At the same time, the fishing season was shortened in many rivers in the same areas.

A working group was established to evaluate different aspects concerning quota-based fishing regulations.

In 2000 the total cost of supervision in territorial sea areas and watercourses was NOK 6.5 million.

USA

On November 17, 2000 the Gulf of Maine distinct population segment of Atlantic salmon was listed as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act. That listing

became effective on December 18, 2000. Under the Endangered Species Act, "take" of a listed species is against the law. "Take" is defined as "to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct." Harm is further defined as including any act which actually kills or injures fish and such acts may include significant habitat degradation that significantly impairs essential behavioural patterns including spawning, rearing, migrating, feeding or sheltering. A copy of the final listing has been lodged with the Secretariat.

Other Parties

No changes reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States. Greenland has reported that the Greenland Home Rule Executive Order 13 of 12 August 1999 on salmon fishing is still in force.

4. Other New Commitments Relating To The Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement And Rational Management Of Salmon Stocks Subject To The Convention (*Article 15, paragraph 5(b)*)

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No new commitments.

Greenland

Canada and Denmark for Greenland have undertaken to complete a research programme for 1999 and 2000 to improve scientific sampling of salmon at Greenland.

European Union

Ireland

Catchment management plans in two rivers in Ireland have incorporated closures/set-aside of inshore draft net fisheries for conservation purposes.

Sweden

A more comprehensive monitoring programme will be implemented with regard to the parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*.

United Kingdom

In England and Wales netsmen have received compensation payments (from various sources) not to fish for all or part of the season in the following salmon fisheries: Tavy, Tamar, Lynher, Fowey, Usk, Avon and Stour and Cumbrian coastal fisheries.

A number of mixed stock fisheries continue to be phased out. In the largest of these, the North-East coast fishery, the number of drift net licences has now fallen to 71, a 50% reduction since the phase-out began in 1993.

For England the UK Government announced that it would be providing up to £750,000, subject to matching funds from interested parties, to launch compensation arrangements designed to accelerate the phase-out of mixed stock salmon net fisheries on a voluntary basis.

In Scotland the voluntary practice of catch and release in the rod fishery continues to increase, rising from an estimated 8% in 1994 to an estimated 33.5% in 2000. Salmon netmen deferred, voluntarily, the opening of the net fishing season for 6 weeks to conserve early-running MSW salmon. District salmon fishery boards throughout Scotland have undertaken stocking programmes resulting in the introduction of more than 6.75 million ova, fry, parr and smolts into Scottish rivers (5.8 million as fry) during the year 2000. Habitat improvement schemes in rivers throughout Scotland have been continued to improve spawning and nursery areas, and to provide increased access to spawning areas.

In Northern Ireland work on the Salmon Management Plan reported last year continues. Three fish counters will be operational in 2001 to produce data to support the Plan. Salmon carcass-tagging regulations are expected to be introduced in both the Foyle and FCB areas in 2001.

Norway

National salmon watercourses and fjords

In 1999 the Wild Salmon Committee proposed that a number of salmon watercourses and adjoining migratory areas and fjords be given status as national salmon watercourses and national salmon fjords. In these areas wild salmon will receive special protection by being given priority. Based on this proposal and subsequent action taken by the Norwegian Government and the Parliament, the Ministry of Environment, together with other relevant ministries, is carrying out a more thorough evaluation concerning the extent of such a programme and appropriate management strategies. Furthermore the necessary legislative adjustments and administrative and economic consequences are being given special attention. This review is still in progress and should lead to a final proposal, which should be submitted to the Norwegian Parliament in 2001.

National working group for Atlantic salmon

A national working group for Atlantic salmon was appointed by the Directorate for Nature Management in the autumn of 2000. The working group will report on the status of the stocks both to ICES and to the national authorities.

Liming

In 2000, 20 Atlantic salmon rivers were limed in Norway. The liming has been conducted over the last 3 to 6 years in most of the rivers at an annual cost of NOK 45 million. It will still take some years before these salmon stocks are rebuilt. There are liming projects in three large watercourses in southern-most Norway: Tovdalselva, Mandalselva and Bjerkreimselva. In Tovdalselva and Mandalselva, the natural Atlantic salmon stocks are extinct due to acidification. Before acidification the catch of salmon in the river Mandalselva was as high as 30 tons per year at the end of the last century. In both rivers a restocking program is being carried out in connection with the liming program. The catches are increasing in the river Mandalselva and were about 5 tons last year, but the catches are still low in the river Tovdalselva. Bjerkreimselva had a small population of its natural salmon stock before liming. For the last three years catches in Bjerkreimselva have been high and in 2000, almost 13 tons were taken. This was the highest catch ever according to official statistics. Financial constraints meant that no new liming projects were initiated in salmon rivers in 2000.

Gyrodactylus salaris

The fatal parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* has been recorded in 41 watercourses in Norway and has affected several of the most important salmon stocks. Stocks are highly threatened or wiped out wherever the parasite has been recorded. The rotenone treatment of 25 infected watercourses has reduced its incidence. The parasite has been eradicated in 14 rotenone-treated watercourses. Three watercourses have been treated and are under supervision and evaluation to confirm the absence of the parasite. Unfortunately, in 8 of the treated rivers, the parasite has survived the rotenone treatment. As a direct consequence, a committee was appointed in order to improve and refine the treatment procedure. The mandate of the committee has been to advise on opportunities to reduce the probability of rotenone treatment failure, so as to ensure that all specimens of *G. salaris* are eliminated after chemical treatment.

The committee has concluded that there is considerable potential to improve the rotenone treatment methodology through: double treatment, improved mapping, increased retention of rotenone in the river system, use of hydrological expertise, quality assurance of field work, use of high-concentration rotenone compounds, increased focus on the land-water interface, extensive use of artificial obstacles and development of equipment.

Future work associated with *G. salaris* will focus on active efforts to combat the parasite through fish obstruction facilities and rotenone treatment as set out in the action plan of the Directorate for Nature Management and the Norwegian Animal Health Authority.

Gene-bank and milt-bank

By the end of 2000, milt from a total of 6,432 wild salmon from 173 stocks had been frozen in the Norwegian Gene Bank to provide an opportunity to protect stocks from

extinction. In 2000, milt from 234 individuals, from 20 different stocks, was frozen. 33 characteristic and valuable stocks have been taken into "living gene banks". Norway today operates 3 living gene banks; one in northern Norway, one in mid-Norway and one in south-western Norway.

International research programmes

Cooperation between Norway and Russia on environmental issues, on research and on management of Atlantic salmon has continued. Cooperation between Norway, Finland and Karelia in Russia has commenced in connection with research and monitoring of *Gyrodactylus salaris*.

Other Parties

No new commitments reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

5. Other Factors Which May Significantly Affect The Abundance Of Salmon Stocks Subject To The Convention (Article 15, Paragraph 5(c))

European Union

United Kingdom

In Northern Ireland, the Salmonid Enhancement Programme, partly funded from the EU Peace Programme, paid approximately £800,000 in grant aid during 2000 to angling clubs, the majority of which was targeted at in-river improvements.

Other Parties

No factors reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.