



Agenda item 5.3(a)  
For decision

## Council

CNL(01)19

### *Unreported Catches*

*New reasons to minimize*

- Can - Licensing of resident troll fish for that will also in Labrador*
- Greenland - make checks by GFLK gamekeepers  
Geedto efforts to open plants of road to cut*
- EU - Sweden - study of control of play catch used to increase pressure of state*
- Egypt/Lebanon - advice to use multiple corridors*
- NI - +25% checks to be introduced*
- Sat - survey of local managers to update intelligence*
- Iceland - considerable effort (check) catches*



*Unreported Catches*

**Introduction**

1. The Council has previously agreed that the Parties should be requested to provide, on an annual basis, the following information in relation to unreported catches:
  - (i) a description of its management control and reporting systems by country;
  - (ii) an estimate of unreported catch by country, broken down by category and indicating whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities;
  - (iii) an explanation of how it arrives at the figure for unreported catch;
  - (iv) the extent of catch and release fishing;
  - (v) the measures taken to further minimise the level of unreported catch.
  
2. For the 2000 returns, the third year in which the Parties have reported to the Council on unreported catches, there have been no changes to the management control and reporting systems used. It is clear from the information provided that a substantial proportion of the total catch still goes unreported. In 2000, between 1,057-1,437 tonnes were estimated to be unreported compared to a provisional declared catch of 2,814 tonnes, i.e. the estimate of unreported catch is between 37-51% of the reported catch. No estimate is available for EU (UK – Northern Ireland). The estimate of unreported catch for 2000 represents an increase on the estimate for 1999 (917-1160 tonnes) although as a proportion of the reported catch there has been little change compared to 1999 (41-52%). Illegal fishing remains a particular problem in some countries and accounts for at least 35% of the total estimate. At least 92,625 salmon were released following capture in recreational fisheries although catch and release angling is not practiced in all countries and in some countries no statistics are available on the extent of its use. A number of new measures to minimise the level of unreported catch have been reported. At the time of preparation of this paper, information had not been received from all EU Member States which have salmon interests. No return of information, was made by France, Portugal or Spain.
  
3. Last year the Council expressed continuing concern about the high level of unreported catches and emphasised the need to take stronger measures to minimise the level of such catches. The Council is asked to consider what, if any, additional actions it wishes to take in relation to unreported catches. The Secretary will continue to request the information on unreported catches, referred to in paragraph 1 above, on an annual basis.

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
11 May, 2001

*New format for priority  
information Do they agree?*

*27-33*

*4251*

*2247*

*3164  
3467*

*29-34*

**1. *Description of management control and reporting systems by country***

No changes to the management control and reporting systems were reported for any country. A description of these systems was presented in document CNL(00)19.



**2. Estimate of unreported catch by country, broken down by category and indicating whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities**

Party	Estimate (tonnes)	Breakdown
<b>Canada</b>	124	Illegal activities
<b>Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)</b>		
<i>Faroe Islands</i>	0	
<i>Greenland</i>	Approx. 10	Despite a short season and considerably increased efficiency of the control system, unreported catches estimated to be approximately 10 tonnes. It is not possible to indicate whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities.
<b>European Union</b>		
<i>Denmark</i>	0	No estimate but believed to be insignificant.
<i>Finland</i>	15	River fisheries, mostly legal.
<i>Ireland</i>	132	Includes estimated illegal catch and legal unreported catch.
<i>Sweden</i>	3.3 (Approx. 10% of reported catch)	Some fishing is permitted by national legislation without a requirement to report catches. This is the main source of unreported catch in Sweden. For example non-professional fishing for salmon is permitted in some coastal areas with no requirement to report catch. In addition, lack of well organised collection of catch data in some small rivers leads to under-reporting. The Swedish unreported catch is, therefore, largely a result of legal activities.
<i>UK – England and Wales</i>	38	Estimates are not made for separate categories of unreported/illegal catch.
<i>UK – Northern Ireland</i>	Figures not yet available	Estimates are not made for separate categories of unreported/illegal catch.
<i>UK – Scotland</i>	44	Estimates are not made for separate categories of unreported/illegal catch.
<b>Iceland</b>	Approx. 2	Mostly by-catch in legal coastal trout fisheries; some by-catch in legal marine fisheries.
<b>Norway</b>	600 uncertainty ± 160 tonnes	Illegal catch in the sea: 150 tonnes By-catch by commercial sea fishing: 20 tonnes Legal catch in sea by bag-net and bend net: 130 tonnes Legal catch in sea by angling: 130 tonnes Illegal catch in rivers: 20 tonnes Legal catch in rivers, mainly by angling 150 tonnes
<b>Russian Federation</b>	249-309	Legal coastal fishery: 63-75 tonnes (including 40-50 t in Archangel coastal fishery) Illegal coastal fishery: 6-12 tonnes Legal in-river fishery: 10-12 tonnes Illegal in-river fishery: 170-210 tonnes (including 150-180 t of Pechora salmon)
<b>USA</b>	0	
<b>TOTAL</b>	1,057-1,437	

**3. Explanation of how the figure for unreported catch is arrived at**

Party	Explanation of how the figure for unreported catch is arrived at				
	Absence of a requirement for catch statistics to be collected	Suppression of information thought to be unfavourable	Local sale or consumption	Innocent inaccuracy in making returns	Illegal fishing
Canada					Estimates supplied by enforcement staff.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)					
Faroe Islands *					
Greenland	All catches are landed to local markets, sold privately or kept for home consumption. Due to the scattered nature of the fishery, recordings of the landings are considered incomplete.	Not available	Catches for home consumption seem to be heavily underreported. The catches from the commercial salmon fishery in 2000 were restricted to subsistence use only, and one private company was given permission to purchase salmon from the fishermen for distribution in Greenland. Almost all the catch reports originated from landings to this company in 2000, and only a few of the catches from the commercial salmon fishery are reported to have been sold at local markets, local shops, to hotels, schools, hospitals or other public eating places in comparison with previous years. The short season is probably the reason for this, and is not necessarily an indicator of unreported catches.	Not available	Official gamekeepers and inspectors from the GFLK have reported incidents of illegal gill net fishing after the closure of the salmon fishery. The inspection of this fishery had high priority after the closure, and due to the very short season (5 days) it is estimated that there were more illegal fishing incidents in 2000 than previous years.
European Union					
Denmark *					
Finland	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.
Ireland	Not applicable. Returns for all methods are required by law.	May be some element of this in some areas.	Most of the unreported catch comes from this category.	Not a large part of the estimate.	Some of the input derives from this category.

\* Unreported catch estimated to be zero

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<i>Sweden</i>	A large part of the unreported catch.	To some limited degree because of minor catches which are believed not to be reported for tax reasons.	Less than 30% of the total unreported catches.	Underestimation of catch is probably not a common source of unreported catch.	This occurs but to a lesser extent than some other categories of unreported catch.
<i>UK - England and Wales</i>	Not applicable.	No separate estimate.	No separate estimate.	Rod fisheries – 10% of declared catch based on a study of catch returns made following reminders.  Net fisheries – 8% of declared catch (with the exception of the North-East coast fishery for which no correction was applied in 2000).	All methods – 12% of total declared catch.
<i>UK - Northern Ireland</i>	Unreported catch is estimated from intelligence reports of fishery officers on the ground and catch figures given to scientists by individual netmen on a confidential basis.	No separate estimate.	No separate estimate.	No separate estimate.	No separate estimate.
<i>UK - Scotland</i>	Not applicable.	A separate estimate is made from intelligence obtained from a number of sources.	A separate estimate is made from intelligence obtained from a number of sources.	A separate estimate is made from intelligence obtained from a number of sources.	A separate estimate is made from intelligence obtained from a number of sources.
<b>Iceland</b>	Catch statistics are required by law	Information on catches in coastal and marine salmon fisheries which are prohibited tends to be suppressed.	Some local consumption and limited sale.	Not a source of unreported catch.	Some coastal fishing with illegal mesh-sizes. By-catch in marine fisheries for haddock etc.

Party	Explanation of how the figure for unreported catch is arrived at				
	Absence of a requirement for catch statistics to be collected	Suppression of information thought to be unfavourable	Local sale or consumption	Innocent inaccuracy in making returns	Illegal fishing
Norway	See document "Description of methods currently used for estimating unreported salmon catches in Norway" contained in CNL(00)19.	See document "Description of methods currently used for estimating unreported salmon catches in Norway" contained in CNL(00)19.	Not a topical issue in Norway.	See document "Description of methods currently used for estimating unreported salmon catches in Norway" contained in CNL(00)19.	See document "Description of methods currently used for estimating unreported salmon catches in Norway" contained in CNL(00)19.
Russian Federation	There is a requirement for catch statistics to be collected from all salmon fisheries.	To cut taxes, the catch statistics are reduced by salmon fishermen fishing in the coastal zone. It has been estimated that this source of unreported catch amounts to 25-40t annually.	This is not believed to be a source of unreported catch.	This is not believed to be a source of unreported catch.	No new information. Expert opinion is that illegal fishing annually constitutes 50-100% of the commercial catch. Assessments indicate that in 1997 illegal fishing on the Tuloma river constituted about 50% of the fish released for spawning.
USA *					

\* Unreported catch estimated to be zero.



#### 4. *The extent of catch and release fishing*

<b>Party</b>	<b>Estimated Number Released</b>	<b>Comment</b>
<b>Canada</b>	29,016 small salmon 20,721 large salmon	
<b>Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)</b>		
<i>Faroe Islands</i>	0	
<i>Greenland</i>	0	
<b>European Union</b>		
<i>Denmark</i>	0	Not practised in Denmark.
<i>Finland</i>	0	No organized catch and release fishing.
<i>Ireland</i>	No statistics available.	Not widely practised but efforts are being made to encourage greater use of this strategy.
<i>Sweden</i>	No statistics available.	Catch and release fishing is practised in a few rivers in order to improve the protection of females during their spawning period.
<i>UK - England and Wales</i>	7,355	Provisional estimate for 2000 is 42% released (This includes both voluntary and compulsory catch and release). Based on catch returns submitted up to 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2001.
<i>UK - Northern Ireland</i>	No accurate data.	An increase in the incidence of angling catch and release has been observed.
<i>UK - Scotland</i>	19,991	33.5% of all salmon caught by rod and line were subsequently released in 2000.
<b>Iceland</b>	2,918	The extent of catch and release is 10.7% of the salmon landed in the sport fishery. Approximately 7 tonnes.
<b>Norway</b>	0	The extent of catch and release fishing is sporadic and accidental.
<b>Russian Federation</b>	12,624	96.1% of the total catch by rod.
<b>USA</b>	0	There is no legal fishing for sea run Atlantic salmon in the United States. A recreational fishery is conducted in the Merrimack River for broodstock.
<b>TOTAL</b>	92,625	

**5. Any measures taken to further minimise the level of unreported catches**

<b>Party</b>	<b>Measures taken</b>
<b>Canada</b>	Licensing of a resident food fishery in Labrador which directs for char and sea trout (See document NAC (00)13 paragraph 6.2).
<b>Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)</b>	
<i>Faroe Islands *</i>	
<i>Greenland</i>	Official gamekeepers and inspectors from the GFLK make random checks at local markets in towns and settlements along the west coast. The GFLK have made random checks at hotels, restaurants, butchers' shops, hospitals and schools in various towns in order to compare purchases of salmon with reported catches. To avoid the presumed heavy underreporting of the catches for home consumption, there has been a greater emphasis on informing both fishermen and municipalities of the rules and procedures for salmon fishing.
<b>European Union</b>	
<i>Denmark *</i>	
<i>Finland</i>	No new measures reported.
<i>Ireland</i>	No new measures reported.
<i>Sweden</i>	A study was carried out in 2000 to examine the extent of the coastal net fishery and its salmon catch. The results will be used to improve the precision of future estimates of unreported catch. In addition a quality control assessment of the present system of collecting catch data is underway.
<i>UK - England and Wales</i>	Continue to issue multiple reminders to rod fishermen who fail to submit returns and actively pursue missing returns from net licensees who do not respond.
<i>UK - Northern Ireland</i>	The Salmon Tagging Schemes, when introduced, will provide accurate catch statistics of angling and commercial fishing exploitation.
<i>UK - Scotland</i>	A survey of local managers was conducted to update intelligence. Database of fisheries subject to continuous updating and maintenance to ensure coverage.
<b>Iceland</b>	Considerable enforcement and educational activities.
<b>Norway</b>	See document entitled "Description of methods currently used for estimating unreported salmon catches in Norway" contained in Council paper CNL(00)19.
<b>Russian Federation</b>	No new measures reported.
<b>USA *</b>	

\* Unreported catch estimated to be zero.