



Agenda item 5.7
For information

Council

CNL(01)23

***Fishing for Salmon in International Waters
by Non-Contracting Parties***

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1. At its Ninth Annual Meeting the Council unanimously adopted the "Resolution on Fishing for Salmon on the High Seas." This brief report details the actions taken in accordance with this Resolution.
2. In the period 1 April 2000 - 31 March 2001 a total of 20 airborne surveillance flights over the area of international waters north of the Faroe Islands, where salmon fishing by non-Contracting Parties is known to have taken place in the past, were undertaken by Norwegian (17 flights) and Icelandic (3 flights) Coastguards.
3. There have been no sightings of vessels fishing for salmon in international waters since 1994. There were, however, no surveillance flights during the period 9 September 2000 - 23 March 2001, i.e. a period of more than six months when salmon fishing is most likely. No new information from ports about vessels known to fish for salmon in international waters or about landings and transshipments has been obtained since last year's report. No further actions have been taken in relation to the Protocol Open for Signature by States not Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean.
4. After a number of incidents in the period 1989-1994 there does not now appear to be a problem. However, it has to be recognized that surveillance of the area is limited, particularly during the winter months, and it is possible that we may not know if fishing is still being conducted.
5. We will continue to liaise with NEAFC on the possibility of obtaining surveillance information concerning the activities of vessels of non-Contracting Parties in the area of concern to NASCO through their joint control and enforcement scheme.
6. The major problem now may be linked to the very large pelagic fisheries which have developed recently in the same area and the likelihood of salmon post-smolts being caught as a by-catch. This issue is considered separately under agenda item 5.6.
7. The FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas is a useful initiative complementary to the actions of NASCO. To date, 20 Parties have deposited instruments of acceptance. The Agreement will enter into force following receipt of the twenty-fifth instrument of acceptance. A report on the recently adopted FAO International Plan of Action on IUU fishing, which should also be a useful complementary initiative, is presented in document CNL(01)20.

Secretary
Edinburgh
9 April, 2001