

**North-East Atlantic Commission**

**NEA(01)4**

***Returns under the North-East Atlantic Commission Resolution  
to Protect Wild Salmon Stocks from Introductions and Transfers***

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### *Returns under the North-East Atlantic Commission Resolution to Protect Wild Salmon Stocks from Introductions and Transfers*

1. In 1997, the Commission unanimously adopted a Resolution to Protect Wild Salmon Stocks from Introductions and Transfers, NEA(97)12. The first returns were made last year and the Commission noted the need for improved standardisation of the returns in future. The request for the return of information was circulated to members of the North-East Atlantic Commission on 3 January 2001. The returns are attached. At the time of preparation of this paper, information has not been received from the Faroe Islands or from some EU Member States (Denmark, France, Portugal or Spain) which have salmon interests.
2. The main areas of note are as follows:
  - (a) During 2000, 500,000 ova were imported to Scotland from Tasmania. There were no other movements into the Commission area of live Atlantic salmon or their eggs which originated from outside the Commission area.
  - (b) There were no proposals to release transgenic salmonids to the environment or use them in aquaculture during 2000.
  - (c) Epidemiological zones, with monitoring to confirm the disease status of the zones, have been established by a number of Parties. For these Parties, there was only one reported movement of live salmonids from a zone where a specified disease was present to a zone free of the disease. In this case the transfer was from a county in Norway in which the disease ISA had not been recorded since 1991 and a number of conditions were placed on the transfer.
  - (d) Some new procedures for the early identification and detection of, and rapid response to, new diseases or parasitic infections likely to affect Atlantic salmon were reported. For example, in Ireland an 'early warning system' is operated under which all 'abnormal mortalities' in aquaculture must be reported.
  - (e) There were no known movements from hatcheries to areas with salmon, or to facilities where there is a risk of transmission of infection to such areas, other than those from hatcheries where regular health inspections did not detect significant diseases or parasites.
  - (f) The only reported introduction of non-indigenous anadromous salmonids into a river containing Atlantic salmon was the release of 516,000 pink salmon larvae in the river Uмба, Kola Peninsula, Russia. Rainbow trout eggs from health-certified sites in South Africa and arctic char eggs for use on a fish farm were introduced to the UK.

- (g) There was no progress in introducing the system of classifying rivers for the purpose of developing management measures concerning introductions and transfers.
- (h) A number of initiatives regarding unintentional introductions and releases were reported.

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
11 May, 2001

## **Article 1: Movements originating from outside the North-East Atlantic Commission Area**

### **1.1 Details of known movements into the Commission area of live Atlantic salmon and their eggs which have originated from outside the Commission area**

#### **European Union**

##### *United Kingdom*

500,000 eggs were imported to Scotland from Tasmania.

#### **Other Parties**

No movements of live Atlantic salmon and their eggs which originated from outside the Commission area were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

## **Article 2: Transgenic Atlantic Salmon**

### **2.1 Details of any proposals to release transgenic salmonids to the environment (including their use in aquaculture) and details of any risk assessment undertaken**

There have been no proposals to release transgenic salmonids to the environment by any Party.

In Norway no research is being undertaken with the aim of using transgenic salmonids in aquaculture. The Norwegian Gene Technology Act regulates this field and release of transgenic salmonids requires approval from the competent authorities. With current knowledge of possible environmental effects of such a release there would be little chance of approval being granted, even with a thorough risk assessment.

## **Article 3: Movements within the North-East Atlantic Commission Area**

### **3.1 Specified diseases and parasites**

#### **3.1.1 Details of any epidemiological zones, i.e. zones free of specific pathogens, which have been established**

##### **European Union**

###### *Ireland*

Ireland is currently an Approved Zone for IHN. Ireland, with the exception of Cape Clear Island, is an Approved Zone with respect to VHS. ISA is a List 1 disease and as such, all of Europe (with the exception of Scotland in 1998/1999) is presumed to be free of the disease. Ireland is also free of *G. salaris* and has an “Additional Guarantee” with respect to this parasite under EU legislation.

###### *United Kingdom*

Great Britain and Northern Ireland is an approved zone for VHS and IHN. It is considered to be free of *G. salaris*, and has additional guarantees under the EU Fish Health Regime to prevent its introduction from infected areas or those of unknown status. ISA is technically exotic to the EU, but there is an ongoing outbreak in Scotland, which may lead to a change in its status.

##### **Iceland**

Iceland is basically one zone. Stringent measures apply regarding movement of wild salmonids. More liberal movement of farmed salmonids is permitted from facilities with good health inspection.

##### **Norway**

For 2000, the following free zones are in force:

Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis (IHN): Buffer zone along the border with Russia. Free zone in the rest of the country.

Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS): Buffer zone along the border with Russia. Free zone in the rest of the country, except for a small area in Sogn og Fjordane county, around Rødeggevannet.

Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA): Free zone in a region in the south-eastern part of Norway, from the border between the municipalities Hå and Eigersund in Rogaland county, to the border with Sweden.

##### **Other Parties**

No details of the establishment of epidemiological zones were provided by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

### **3.1.2 If epidemiological zones have been established:**

- (a) ***Details of any new management measures (including monitoring to confirm the disease status of the zone and eradication) which have been undertaken***

#### **European Union**

##### *Ireland*

Testing for IHN, VHS and *G. salaris* are carried out under the EU Directives outlined above. Although a diagnostic method for the detection of, and surveillance for, ISA has not yet been put to a vote at the Standing Veterinary Committee in Brussels, the Marine Institute has employed the methods outlined in the draft proposal, in order to test Irish stocks for the presence of the disease. Clinical and post-mortem examination, virus isolation and histopathology results indicate that ISA has not yet appeared in Ireland.

##### *United Kingdom*

All farms are screened for VHS, IHN and *G. salaris* under the EU regime. A survey of wild fish to look for the ISA virus has been started throughout Great Britain. Scotland has an eradication programme operating at present for ISA, which is subject to review.

#### **Other Parties**

No new management measures were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States. For Norway, the measures reported last year still apply.

- (b) ***Details of any known movements of live salmonids and their eggs from a zone where any of the specified diseases is present to a zone free of these diseases***

#### **European Union**

##### *Ireland*

See details outlined above re. the control on fish/ova movements within the country. Only live fish/ova from zones approved free of IHN and VHS may be imported into Ireland. Since Ireland has an “Additional Guarantee” with respect to *G. salaris*, only live fish from a zone of equivalent health status will be allowed into Ireland. Ova are allowed from zones/farms with *G. salaris* but a suitable disinfection procedure must be carried out (and witnessed by the Official Services) prior to dispatch of the ova. Ova are imported from Scotland into Ireland. Despite the fact that there is no evidence to show that ISA is vertically transmitted, ova are only allowed into the country from ISA-negative areas/farms.

##### **Norway**

In 2000, one transfer of live salmonids from an ISA zone into an ISA-free zone was approved. The salmonids came from an area close to the ISA-free zone, and ISA has not been recorded in that county since 1991. Additionally, requirements for the transfer were that the fish had not been fed moist feed, that the fish had not been transferred in seawater, that the fish had been kept under shelter, and that the fish were protected from potentially infectious seawater during transport.

### **Other Parties**

No movements of live salmonids and their eggs from a zone where any of the specified diseases is present to a zone free of these diseases were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

## **3.2 *Unknown diseases and parasites***

### **3.2.1 Details of new procedures and changes to existing procedures for the early identification and detection of, and rapid response to, an outbreak of any new disease or parasitic infection likely to affect Atlantic salmon**

#### **European Union**

##### *Ireland*

In addition to the disease surveillance carried out under various EU Directives, an “early warning” system is operated through the clause in each aquaculture licence which states that all “abnormal mortalities” must be notified to the Marine Institute/Department of the Marine and Natural Resources within 24 hours of their occurrence. All movements in the country occur under permit, and all stocks are sampled prior to movement, therefore there is little risk of disease spreading throughout the country due to uncontrolled movements. This system of movement controls also allows for rapid sealing off of individual holdings should disease problems arise.

##### *United Kingdom*

The official service monitors world literature and Office International des Epizooties (OIE) reports for information on new and emerging diseases, and will take steps to prevent the introduction of any pathogen likely to compromise populations of Atlantic salmon or other native fish species. Any problems arising in Great Britain will be promptly investigated and appropriate movement controls established.

### **Other Parties**

No new procedures or changes to existing procedures have been reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States. For Norway the procedures reported last year still apply.

### **3.2.2 Details of any additional protective measures which have been introduced**

#### **European Union**

##### *United Kingdom*

Atlantic salmon have only been imported into England and Wales from Ireland, which has equivalent health status. All stock has been moved as disinfected eyed eggs.

##### **Norway**

The Fish Diseases Act, Section 9, provides a possibility to establish regions and inter-regional measures on a general basis, without reference to the status of specific diseases: “§ 9. *Establishment of regions, inter-regional measures, etc.*

In order to prevent infectious disease, the King may establish epidemiologically separate regions, for which regulations are issued regulating and prohibiting:

- a) the transport of live or dead aquatic animals, animal waste, by-products and objects which can transmit infection, into or out of the regions;
- b) use of means of transport between the regions.”

#### **Other Parties**

No additional protective measures have been introduced by the other Parties or the other EU Member States. However, in Ireland there are plans to draft a Fish Health Code of Practice, based largely on the practices already employed by the industry, but with a view to making these practices mandatory.

### **3.3 Health inspection of donor facilities**

#### **3.3.1 Details of any known movements of live salmonids and their eggs from hatcheries to areas containing Atlantic salmon stocks, or to facilities where there is a risk of transmission of infection to such areas, other than those from facilities where regular inspections have not detected significant diseases and parasites**

No movements other than those from facilities where regular inspections did not detect the presence of significant diseases and parasites were reported by any Party. In Iceland a revised regulatory measure regarding transport of salmonids took effect in February 2000 (# 105/2000). A translation of this measure will be provided to the Secretariat.

## **Article 4: Movements of Non-Indigenous Fish**

### **4.1 Details of any known introductions of non-indigenous fish species into a river containing Atlantic salmon**

#### **Russia**



516,000 larvae of pink salmon were released into the Uмба river on the Kola Peninsula.

### **Other Parties**

No known introductions of non-indigenous fish have been reported by the other Parties. However, there is concern in Norway that the gudgeon (*Gobio gobio*) which was first recorded in the river Numedalslågen in 1991, and was probably introduced to the river as live bait by tourist anglers, may become a serious competitor of salmon. The European minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*) has also spread to several Norwegian rivers although it is not considered to be a serious competitor of salmon. The vendace (*Coregonus albula*) was first detected in the River Pasvik in 1989 following escape from a hatchery in Finland. Escaped farmed salmon occur in almost all Atlantic salmon rivers in Norway and escaped farmed rainbow trout occur in several rivers in western Norway, particularly in Hordaland, Rogaland and Sogn og Fjordane counties.

## **4.2 Details of any known introductions of non-indigenous anadromous salmonids into the Commission area**

### **European Union**

#### *United Kingdom*

Rainbow trout eggs from health-certified sites in South Africa. Arctic char eggs to fish farm, not for release to wild. Status re anadromy unknown.

### **Russia**

516,000 larvae of pink salmon were released into the Uмба river on the Kola Peninsula.

### **Other Parties**

No introductions of non-indigenous salmonids were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

## **Article 5: Classification of Rivers**

### **5.1 Has the NEAC system of classifying rivers been introduced for the purpose of developing management measures concerning introductions and transfers?**

#### **Iceland**

Most Icelandic rivers fall into groups 2 and 3 depending on the definition of the term 'pristine'.

### **Other Parties**

The NEAC system of classifying rivers has not been introduced by the other Parties. However, it is anticipated that progress will be made in Ireland during 2001, and in Sweden a preliminary classification has been developed in a proposal for a long-term national catch programme for Swedish salmon rivers.

## **Article 6: Management Measures**

### **6.1 Details of any new management measures developed for each class of river detailed in the Resolution**

No new management measures reported by any Party.

## **Article 7: Unintentional Introductions and Releases**

### **7.1 Details of any steps which been taken to limit the risks from unintentional introductions (e.g. in ships' ballast water, through release of live bait, etc.)**

#### **European Union**

##### *United Kingdom*

Scotland has rules on well-boat movements to prevent ISA spread. Live-baiting with salmonids is illegal; salmonid dead-baits would not originate from sites subject to disease controls.

#### **Iceland**

No importation of salmonids has been permitted for 20 years and, prior to this, only importations of disinfected eggs with a quarantine requirement were permitted. A Fish Disease Committee reviews applications regarding importation of live fish and eggs of marine species and specifies conditions for such importations.

#### **Norway**

Norway is handling the question about ships' ballast water together with other nations through the IMO (International Maritime Organisation), where international regulations are under consideration.

### **Other Parties**

No steps taken to limit the risks from unintentional introductions by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

## **Other Information**

### **Details of other relevant information in relation to the implementation of the Resolution**

#### **Norway**

According to the Animal Welfare Act, (Act No. 73 of December 1974) section 8 it is forbidden to use live animals in order to catch other animals, i.e. use of live bait is not allowed in Norway.

Under Act No. 47 of May 1992 Relating to Salmonids and Fresh-Water Fish etc. it is stated in section 8 that: "It is prohibited to import live anadromous salmonids, fresh water fish, eggs or fry of such fish, or animal species eaten by such fish without permission from the Ministry."

#### **Other Parties**

No other relevant information provided by the other Parties.