

North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(02)4

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

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1. In 1997, the Commission unanimously adopted a Resolution to Protect Wild Salmon Stocks from Introductions and Transfers, NEA(97)12. The request for the return of information for the calendar year 2001, the third year of returns, was circulated to members of the North-East Atlantic Commission on 4 January 2002. The returns are attached. Where the return seeks details of new measures only, measures previously reported by some Parties may still apply (see NEA(00)4, NEA(01)4 and NEA(01)6). At the time of preparation of this paper, information has not been received from some EU Member States (France, Portugal or Spain) which have salmon interests.
2. The main areas of note are as follows:
 - (a) During 2001, 1.62 million ova were imported to Scotland from Tasmania. There were no other movements into the Commission area of live Atlantic salmon and 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 2001.
 - (c) Epidemiological zones, with monitoring to confirm the disease status of the zones, have been established by a number of Parties. New or expanded monitoring programmes within epidemiological zones were reported by EU (Denmark and Sweden) and Norway. Only one Party reported movements 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 an area close to an ISA-free zone in Norway in which the disease ISA had not been recorded since 1991. A number of conditions were placed on the transfer.
 - (d) With regard to unknown diseases and parasites, no 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. No new additional protective measures have been introduced by any Party.
 - (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) There were no reports of introductions of non-indigenous anadromous salmonids into rivers containing Atlantic salmon. Rainbow trout eggs from health-certified sites in South Africa were introduced to England and Wales.
 - (g) Only EU (Denmark) reported that the NEAC system of classifying salmon rivers had been introduced and that management measures had been

introduced for each class of river. Iceland and EU (Finland) had previously advised on the categorisation of rivers.

- (h) No new steps to limit the risks of unintentional introductions were reported.

Secretary
Edinburgh
22 May, 2002

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

1.62 million ova were imported to Scotland from Tasmania in 2001.

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.

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

Denmark (Faroe Islands)

The Faroe Islands are free of VHS, IHN and *Gyrodactylus salaris* infections in farmed salmonids. During the period 2000-2002 outbreaks of infectious salmon anaemia (ISA) have been reported on 7 occasions: 1 in 2000; 4 in 2001 and 2 in 2002. The diagnoses have been confirmed by clinical pathology and virus isolation and/or PCR technique and/or serology. All fish in ISA-infected farms have been or are being destroyed in accordance with Directive 93/53/CEC.

European Union

Denmark

Denmark is an IHN-free zone and part of Denmark is a VHS-free zone.

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 under the EC Fish Health Regime. It is considered to be free of *Gyrodactylus 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, and has never been detected in England and Wales and Northern Ireland.

Iceland

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

Norway

For 2001, 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

Denmark

The Danish Veterinary and Food Directorate regularly inspects fish farms to monitor disease status.

Sweden

The monitoring programme for *Gyrodactylus salaris* was expanded in 2001. It now covers all salmon rivers where the parasite has not been found.

Norway

The official surveillance program for *Gyrodactylus salaris* has been extended, and 50% of the freshwater fish farms are now examined for *Gyrodactylus salaris* every year.

Other Parties

No new management measures were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

- (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***

Norway

Four transfers of live salmonids from an ISA zone into an ISA-free zone were 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 the 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.

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

No new procedures or changes to existing procedures have been reported by any Party.

3.2.2 Details of any additional protective measures which have been introduced

No additional protective measures have been introduced by any Party.

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.

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

No known introductions of non-indigenous fish into a river containing Atlantic salmon have been reported by any Party.

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

European Union

United Kingdom

In England and Wales rainbow trout eggs were imported from health-certified sites in South Africa.

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?

European Union

Denmark

Denmark has a national salmon rehabilitation plan for rivers in which salmon originally occurred.

Other Parties

The NEAC system of classifying rivers has not been introduced by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

In Sweden, there is no formal implementation of the classification system but there is strict regulation of salmon releases in rivers where compensatory releases do not occur. Iceland had previously indicated that most rivers fall into groups 2 and 3, depending on the definition of the term “pristine”. EU (Finland) had previously indicated that the Rivers Teno and Näätamo are in group 3.

Article 6: Management Measures

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

European Union

Denmark

Group 1 rivers: Non-indigenous salmon can be released.

Group 2 rivers: Only genetically similar salmon from local rivers can be released.

Group 3 rivers: Only salmon from the same river can be released.

Other Parties

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

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.)

No new steps taken by any Party.

Other Information

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

Iceland

The amendment of the aquaculture section of the Salmonid Fisheries Act (no. 83/2001) has indirectly affected the ability of the authorities to deal with a number of

issues concerning introductions and transfers primarily within Iceland. Transfers into Iceland from abroad are discouraged and very limited although to a certain extent influenced by EEC regulations as a result of Iceland's participation in the European Economic Area.

Other Parties

No other relevant information provided by the other Parties.