



Agenda item 6.1
For information

Council

CNL(00)17

Returns under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

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 Laws, Regulations And Programmes Adopted Or Repealed Since The Last Notification (*Article 15, Paragraph 5(A)*)

Canada

A three-year Atlantic salmon management plan for Newfoundland and Labrador was introduced based on a river classification system which permits varying levels of harvest depending on the health of individual river stocks. Details were previously provided in NAC(99)3.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No changes reported.

Greenland

A new Greenland Home Rule Executive Order (No. 13 of 12 August 1999) on Salmon Fishing has replaced the two Executive Orders from 1998. The new Executive Order unites the regulations of the two previous Executive Orders and covers both commercial fishing and recreational fishing for both residents and non-residents/tourists. All three types of fishery start on a date set by the Home Rule Government and must close when the quota has been caught or at the latest 12 weeks after the fishery started. Commercial fishing for salmon is conditional on a license. Recreational fishing for salmon is allowed for all residents of Greenland. Non-residents/tourists must buy a license to fish.

Gear Restrictions:

- Hooks and fixed nets 140mm diamond on square. Drift nets maximum 20 lengths.
- Recreational fishing: angling, one fixed net or one drift net.
- Non-residents/tourists: angling.
- Nets must be checked every 24 hours.

All commercial catches of salmon must be reported to the Greenland Fishing License Control Authority (GFLK) by the fisherman on a daily basis. Catches from the recreational fishery must be reported the day after the fishery or for non-residents/tourists as soon as possible.

Only persons licensed for the commercial salmon fishery can sell their catches. The catches from the commercial salmon fishery can only be sold at local markets and local shops, to hotels, restaurants, schools, hospitals and other public eating places. Catches may not be exported outside of Greenland.

European Union

Finland

No changes reported.

Ireland

Conservation bye-laws introduced in 1997 have been retained for 1999. The measures in these bye-laws include:

Restriction to season;
Restriction to number of gear units;
Night time fishing using commercial drift nets is illegal;
Fishing outside 6 mile limit is illegal.

Sweden

No changes reported.

United Kingdom

A major new package of regulatory measures (Environment Agency national byelaws) was introduced in England and Wales in 1999 in order to provide additional protection for early-running 'spring' salmon. These national measures prevent:

- The killing of, and in most cases fishing for, salmon by netsmen before 1 June; there are derogations which allow fishing in some areas where netting is predominantly for sea trout, on the basis that any salmon caught are returned alive.
- The killing of salmon by anglers before 16 June. Anglers are allowed to fish provided they practice catch-and-release.
- The use by anglers of anything other than artificial flies or lures for the capture of salmon prior to 16 June.

These measures came into force on 15 April 1999. There was thus some early season netting and angling for salmon in 1999 prior to this date.

In addition, a number of regional byelaws and net limitation orders were introduced in England and Wales. A number of net limitation orders were repealed.

In Scotland regulations were introduced restricting the use of certain baits and lures in specified Salmon Fishery Districts (Rivers Tay, Don and Forth). Designation Orders were introduced which had the effect of amalgamating smaller fishery districts into larger management units (Lochaber, Conon and North and West Salmon Fishery Districts). The District Salmon Fishery Boards Order was also introduced in 1999, which changed the rules concerning membership of the District Salmon Fishery Boards so as to facilitate changes to larger management units. An order defining the estuary limits of the River Tay was also introduced.

For Northern Ireland the Foyle Area (Control of Fishing) Regulations 1999 amend and replace earlier Regulations. The 1999 Regulations came into operation for the 2000 angling and commercial fishery seasons. They provide more flexible powers than the previous regulations for the closure of the Foyle Catchment fishery for periods of 24 or 48 hours when fish are running if certain escapement targets have not been achieved. This is part of the Foyle Fisheries catchment management system. A new Regulation has been introduced which restricts the number of drift net licences issued to a specified number.

Iceland

A regulatory measure (No: 105/2000) concerning transport and release of salmonids has been revised.

Norway

A statewide project (1996-99) to provide a basis for sustainable local management models based on local management plans, for wildlife and fisheries management in a broad sense, was concluded by the end of 1999. As a part of this project the process of improving the organization of river and salmon stock management proceeded in 1999. A further NOK 4 million (both inland fish and salmon management) were invested in these local efforts in cooperation with the authorities for agriculture. By the end of 1999 local planning had commenced in about 150 rivers. Salmon River Councils were established in 42 rivers and Regional Salmon Management Councils in about 10 areas.

In 1999 the total cost of supervision in territorial sea areas and watercourses was NOK 6.5 million.

Russian Federation

No changes reported.

USA

On November 17, 1999, the National Marine Fisheries Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a proposed rule to list a distinct population segment of Atlantic salmon as endangered under the federal Endangered Species Act. A final decision on this proposal is due no later than November 2000.

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)*)

Canada

No new commitments reported.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No new commitments reported.

Greenland

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

European Union

Finland

No new commitments reported.

Ireland

Publication of: 'Report of the salmon management Working Group', Department of the Marine and Natural Resources, to outline the methodology for carcass tagging and fishermen's logbooks as a means of managing salmon stocks.

Sweden

A new regulation (FIFS 1999:10) was introduced to improve protection from *Gyrodactylus salaris*. The regulation is complementary to FIFS 1993:29 regarding aquaculture, stocking and transfer of fish. According to the new regulation, salmonid fish are only allowed to be stocked into rivers if the stocked fish have been proven to be free from infection by *Gyrodactylus*. The same regulation applies for stocking of fish to fish-farms within the neighbouring area of the salmon river.

United Kingdom

A number of net fisheries in England and Wales are being phased out because they exploit salmon returning to several rivers (i.e. mixed stock fisheries). Licence numbers are reduced as fishermen retire from the fishery. Progress with these phase-outs in 1999 has been as follows: -

- North East Coast Fishery: the number of drift net licences issued fell to 72, a 49% reduction since the initiation of the phase-out in 1993.
- Anglian Coastal Fishery: the number of nets fell to 50, a 15% reduction since 1996. This fishery takes mainly sea trout.
- River Usk: there was no reduction in the number of drift net licences (8) issued in 1999.
- River Dwyfawr: the number of seine net licences fell from 1 to 0.
- North Menai Strait (River Ogwen): there was no reduction in the number of seine net licences (2) issued in 1999.

Arrangements have also been made to reduce netting effort in the following fisheries by compensating netsmen not to fish for the periods shown:

- River Tavy seine nets (1 July – 7 August);
- River Tamar seine nets (8 August – 31 August);
- River Lynher seine nets (8 August – 31 August);
- River Fowey seine nets (until 15 June - for salmon only);
- Cumbrian coast, three of the four drift net licensees (complete season);
- River Avon, fishermen compensated for the release of captured fish.

The introduction of the new national measures to safeguard spring salmon introduced restrictions on anglers in relation to the killing of salmon prior to 16 June. However, this did not impose any compulsory restriction on the allowable fishing effort; no other restrictions were imposed on rod fisheries in 1999. Voluntary restrictions are known to be imposed by fishery owners and angling associations, but there is no national record of these, and so no information is available on any new measures introduced in 1999.

Iceland

No new commitments reported.

Norway

Liming

In 1999 20 Atlantic salmon rivers were limed in Norway at a cost of NOK 45 million. The total catch of Atlantic salmon in these rivers was 22 tons in 1999. We have estimated that the total catches could be about 80 tons when the rivers are (re)stocked. Liming has been carried out over the last 2 to 5 years in most of the rivers, but it will still take some years before the salmon stocks rebuild. 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 catches of salmon were 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. Bjerkreimselva had a small population of its natural salmon stock before liming. 1999 was the second year with high catches in Bjerkreimselva, almost 9 tons. The catches of 10 tons in 1998, the

first year after liming, were the highest catches ever recorded according to official statistics. A new liming project in Lyseelva was established in 1999.

Gyrodactylus salaris

The fatal parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* has been recorded in 40 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. Rotenone treatment of 25 infected watercourses has reduced the incidence of the parasite. The parasite has been eradicated in 16 rotenone-treated watercourses. Three watercourses have been treated and are under supervision and evaluation for a clean bill of health. Unfortunately, in 6 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 remit of the Committee has been 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 a considerable potential for improvement of the rotenone treatment methodology.

The future work associated with *G. salaris* will involve active efforts to combat the parasite using fish screens and rotenone treatment as set forth 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 1999 milt from a total of about 6,200 wild salmon from 172 stocks had been frozen in the Norwegian Gene Bank to provide the possibility of protecting stocks from extinction. In 1999 milt from 200 individuals, from 27 different stocks was frozen. 33 characteristic and valuable stocks have been taken into the "living gene banks". Norway today operates 3 living gene banks, one in the northern part of Norway, one in the middle part and one in the south-western part.

International research programmes

Cooperation between Norway and Russia on environmental issues on research and 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*.

Russian Federation

No new commitments reported.

USA

In response to continued low returns, the directed catch and release fishery for Atlantic salmon in Maine is closed as of December 1999.

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

Canada

No factors reported.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

No factors reported.

European Union

Finland

No factors reported.

Ireland

No factors reported.

Sweden

No factors reported.

United Kingdom

A Salmon Management Plan has been drawn up for all catchments in Northern Ireland, except the Foyle (which has its own plan). Provisional conservation limits have been established for all rivers based on the River Bush conservation limit. At present, these targets are indicative only. Further work to refine these conservation limits using river-specific habitat data is in progress. The aim of the Management Plan will be to ensure that, in most rivers in most years, adult salmon are spawning to ensure compliance with the conservation limits. As part of this plan, between 6 to 8 fish counters (depending on funding) have been, or will be, installed in river catchments throughout Northern Ireland to obtain data on target compliance. This approach is consistent with the NASCO Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management.

Discussions have taken place between the fishery authorities in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland about the introduction of an all-Ireland Salmon Tagging Scheme. Agreement in principle has been reached and the regulatory framework and practical arrangements are being pursued.

The Salmonid Enhancement Programme in Northern Ireland, partly funded from the EU Peace Programme, approved £1.7 million of grant aid during 1999 to angling

clubs, the majority of which was targeted at river improvements.

Iceland

No factors reported.

Norway

No factors reported.

Russian Federation

No factors reported.

USA

The river-specific stocking program and efforts to protect riverine habitat continued and intensified in 1999.

