



Agenda item 6.5
For information

Council

CNL(00)21

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

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

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 April 1999 - April 2000 the following airborne surveillance flights have been undertaken by the Norwegian and Icelandic Coastguards:

Icelandic Coastguard	
1999	2000
31 May 7 June	-

Norwegian Coastguard	
1999	2000
7 May 11 May 18 May 30 May 29 June 6 July 14 July 17 July 9 August 6 September 23 September 20 December	11 March

3. There have been no sightings of vessels fishing for salmon in international waters since 1994. However, in 1999/2000 there were a number of sightings of vessels fishing for herring and one "unknown ship" was detected by radar by the Icelandic Coastguard. 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 very limited, particularly at certain times of the year, 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 6.4 in paper CNL(00)20.
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 14 Parties have deposited instruments of acceptance. The Agreement will enter into force following receipt of the twenty-fifth instrument of acceptance so this could take some time.

Secretary
Edinburgh
17 April 2000