



Agenda Item 5.1
For Information

CNL(97)20

Returns Under Articles 14 And 15 Of The Convention

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The request for the return of information required under the NASCO Convention and relevant to the period 1 January - 31 December 1996 was circulated on 15 January 1997. All Parties were requested to make a return even if there had been no changes since the last notification. Where changes have been notified under Article 15, the Laws, Regulations and Programmes concerned have been lodged with the Secretariat and this information will be incorporated into the Laws, Regulations and Programmes database. Copies of the detailed submissions are available from the Secretariat. A summary of the new actions taken under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention is attached. At the time of preparation of this paper, information has not been received from all EU member states which have salmon interests.

Secretary
Edinburgh
6 May 1997

Article 14

1. Actions Taken To Make Effective The Provisions Of The Convention (*Article 14, Paragraph 1*)

1.1 The prohibition of fishing for salmon beyond 12* nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. (*Article 2, paragraph 2*)

* 40 nautical miles at West Greenland

* Area of fisheries jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands

Norway

The coastguard in Norway reports no illegal fishing after inspection of the high sea area.

1.2 Inviting the attention of States not party to the Convention to any matter relating to the activities of the vessels of that State which appears to affect adversely the salmon stocks subject to the Convention. (*Article 2, paragraph 3*)

No New Actions

1.3 Measures to minimise the by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member. (*Article 7, paragraph 2*) [North American Commission members only]

Canada

The quota for the commercial salmon fishery in Labrador was reduced from 73.5t to 55t in 1996. As in 1995, the traditional early June opening of the fishery was delayed. In 1996, the season opened on June 20.

1.4 Alteration in fishing patterns in a manner which results in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party, except with the consent of the latter. (*Article 7, paragraph 3*) [North American Commission members only]

No New Actions

2. Actions Taken To Implement Regulatory Measures Under Article 13 (*Article 14, Paragraph 1*)

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Alterations in the Fishery Law no. 18 (1996):

- Limitations in access to professional fishery licenses
- Catch or value hereof could be Confiscated, and now equipment or vessel as well - in accordance to regulations in criminal law.

Article 15

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

European Union

Ireland

The number of commercial fishing licences has been limited resulting in an overall decrease in the total number of licences available.

United Kingdom

In the United Kingdom a number of new regulations were introduced in 1996. These include Limitation of Salmon and Trout Netting Orders and a byelaw on harmonising migratory salmonid catch returns in England and Wales; Regulations prohibiting the use of natural prawns and shrimps as baits and lures while fishing with rod and line in certain rivers in Scotland; an Order prohibiting fishing for sea fish with monofilament gill nets in the specified area or the carriage of monofilament gill net having a mesh size less than 250mm for any purpose in any British fishing boat in the specified area; and a byelaw specifying the fishing licence duties in Northern Ireland.

Norway

Management changes

The process of changing the organization of river and salmon stock management has proceeded in 1996 and is now part of a statewide project (1996 - 1999). One of the major goals of this project is to provide a basis for sustainable local management models for wildlife and fisheries management in a broad sense. A further NOK 1.9 million were invested in these efforts in cooperation with the authorities for agriculture, and by the end of 1996 local planning had commenced in about 70 rivers. River councils were established in 28 rivers and regional salmon management councils in about 10 areas, eg for the Oslofjord and Skagerrak coastline and the Trondheimsfjord.

Also in 1996 new local and regional fishing regulations for rivers and sea areas were introduced with the intention of protecting weak and vulnerable salmon stocks. On the initiative of the Directorate for Nature Management the county governors started a thorough analysis of the development of salmon stocks. The coast was divided into more or less naturally defined areas, and analyses were made for every area. This was initiated to prepare a basis for decision-making on the need for even more strict and geographically precise regulations in 1997.

The delegation of authority to the municipalities, regarding organization of both fishing and holders of fishing rights, local management planning and so on, was implemented in 1996.

Supervision in territorial sea areas and watercourses

The total cost of supervision in territorial sea areas and watercourses was NOK 7.8 million.

In 1996 a new act on organization of nature supervision-activities was adopted by the parliament. It is expected that this act will influence both the organization and funding of the supervision in years to come.

USA

In 1995, the federal government proposed to list seven river populations of Atlantic salmon in Maine as threatened under the Federal Endangered Species Act. Following that announcement, the Governor of the State of Maine formed an Atlantic Salmon Task Force to draft a Conservation Plan for the recovery of those populations. In March of 1997, the State submitted the Conservation Plan to the Federal Government for consideration as it determines whether or not to list Atlantic salmon under the Endangered Species Act. The Conservation Plan examines forestry, agriculture, aquaculture and recreational fishing for their potential impact to wild Atlantic salmon populations. The Plan includes suggestions for improved compliance with existing regulatory mechanisms designed to protect salmon (eg best management practices, catch and release only, etc) and recommends further actions to improve freshwater habitat. Portions of that Plan are currently being implemented, although it will not be finalized until after the federal agencies have accepted the Plan. That Plan is currently being implemented. In July of this year the new salmon agency in the state, the Maine Atlantic Salmon Authority, will gain Atlantic salmon management authority in all Maine rivers. (Because the Plan is in draft form it is not being provided to NASCO at this time).

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

A commitment has been made to develop both a shorter term plan and a long-term strategy for the future of the Labrador salmon fisheries in light of the relatively poor stock status for Atlantic salmon in Labrador rivers.

European Union

Ireland

Publication of and Government approval of the Salmon Task Force Report.
Commitment to implementing the recommendations of the Salmon Management Task Force

Norway

Norwegian Salmonid Register

The status of salmon stocks as of 31 December 1996 according to the Norwegian categorization is as follows:

No of rivers containing a stock of salmon	669
Rivers whose natural salmon stock has become extinct	41
Rivers containing salmon stock is threatened by extinction	54
Rivers containing vulnerable salmon stocks	147
Rivers containing small, natural salmon stocks	242
Rivers containing large, long-established salmon stocks	98
Rivers whose natural salmon stock is extinct and a new one has been established	9
Rivers where there is uncertainty as to whether salmon form a stock	10
Rivers where a salmon stock is present, but its status is unknown	68

The following threats are recorded:

Regulation of the river
Other forms of physical disturbance
Acidification
Agricultural pollution
Other forms of pollution
Escape of farmed salmon
Gyrodactylus salaris
Other fish diseases
Overfishing
Unknown threats

Liming

In 1996, 16 Atlantic salmon rivers were limed in Norway at a cost of NOK 40 million. Among these were two large watercourses in southernmost Norway, Tovdalselva and Mandalselva. In both rivers 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 will be carried out in connection with the liming program.

Rotenone treatment

In 1996 one watercourse was treated with rotenone against *Gyrodactylus salaris*, bringing the total number of watercourses treated in Norway to 24. The experience with rotenone treatment is good. So far 11 rivers have been taken off the sick list. In the other 11 rivers it is too early to conclude whether or not the treatments have been successful. Fortunately, no *G salaris* have been observed so far in these rivers. In just two rivers the extermination of the parasite has failed. The Norwegian authorities spent NOK 3.2 million in 1996 on these activities. The prospects of exterminating the parasite from Norwegian rivers are good. A committee has proposed a strategy which proposed rotenone treatment of 14 rivers.

Gene-bank and sperm-bank

By the end of 1996 sperm from a total of 5832 salmon from 158 stocks has been frozen in the Norwegian gene bank to provide a possibility of rescuing stocks from extinction. 33 characteristic and valuable stocks have been taken into the "living gene banks" in Haukvik (Mid Norway), in Eidfjord (Southwest Norway) and in Bjerka (North Norway).

In 1996 sperm from 170 salmon from 24 stocks was frozen. Male and female salmon from 10 stocks were taken into the living gene banks. Norway is spending about NOK 8 million every year to operate the gene bank. In addition approximately NOK 4 million was invested in new facilities and equipment during 1996.

International research programmes

In connection with research and monitoring of *Gyrodactylus salaris* cooperation between Norway, Finland and Karelia in Russia has commenced. The cooperation between Norway and Russia on environmental issues on research and management of Atlantic salmon continues.

USA

In addition to the protective programs referred to in section 3, the federal government is undertaking river-specific stocking program to aid recovery of the wild populations in the seven rivers identified as eligible for protection under the Federal Endangered Species Act. These programs are in addition to restoration programs on other rivers in the United States.

The increased attention brought to Atlantic salmon as a result of its consideration for protection under the US Endangered Species Act has resulted in more action on the

part of private industry, conservation groups and fishing clubs. Of particular interest is Project SHARE (Salmon Habitat and River Enhancement), a voluntary association of landowners, businesses, government officials, researchers, educators, and conservation organizations committed to conserve and enhance Atlantic salmon habitat and populations in the Downeast region of Maine.

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

European Union

Sweden

A Working Group has been established to elaborate a research programme on the salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*, which seems to indicate an increased abundance in some west-coast river

Norway

Acidification

Acidification is still one of the main threats to the salmon stocks in Norway. In the Agder counties in southern parts of Norway almost all natural stocks are extinct as a result of heavy acidification. Acidification is now also a serious problem in salmon rivers in the western parts of Norway. In 1996 research projects are carried out in order to determine critical chemical values for salmon in rivers affected by acidification. This is essential knowledge for the authorities when planning the future liming activity in salmon rivers.

The acid rain monitoring program has indicated improved conditions in surface water in Norway during the last few years. It is not yet known whether this is an effect of favourable weather conditions during winter and spring time or of reduced deposition of acid rain. So far there is no indication of improved conditions for the salmon stocks in rivers affected by acidification.

Gyrodactylus salaris

The monogenean parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* is one of the most serious threats to the Atlantic salmon in Norway today.

The total number of Norwegian rivers which are infected or have been infected with *G. salaris* are 40. The parasite has also been reported in 37 hatcheries. Rotenone treatment of the infected watercourses and clearing of infected hatcheries are being carried out to eliminate the parasite. This method has been used in 24 *Gyrodactylus* - infected rivers, and there is now only one hatchery infected with the parasite.

Sea lice

Sea lice (*Lepeophtheirus salmonis* and *Caligus elongatus*) in fish farms and on wild fish populations are still a problem in Norway. In 1996 the situation was similar to the situation in previous years.

Escaped farmed salmon

The actual number of salmon which escaped during the normal production cycles is not known.

In Norwegian coastal salmon fisheries the proportion of farmed salmon has varied between 34 and 54% (unweighted means) in the period 1989 to 1996, the highest proportion being recorded during the last year. In freshwater the proportion of farmed salmon in anglers catches is relatively low, and has varied between 4 and 7% during the same period (7% in 1996). In catches of brood stocks, the proportion is much higher and varied between 21 and 38% (31% in 1996).