North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(00)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 Commission agreed that, in the interests of transparency, it would be desirable to introduce a regular reporting system for measures taken in accordance with the Resolution, and in 1999 a format for reporting actions was adopted. This request for the return of information was circulated to members of the North-East Atlantic Commission on 13 January 2000. The returns are attached. At the time of preparation of this paper, information has not been received from some EU Member States which have salmon interests. No information is available for Denmark, France, Portugal or Spain.

2. The main areas of note are as follows:

   (a) During 1999 1 million ova were imported to Galway, Ireland from Tasmania for aquaculture development. There were no other movements into the Commission area of live Atlantic salmon or their eggs which originated from outside the Commission area. Eggs were imported to Scotland from Tasmania in 1998.

   (b) There were no proposals to release transgenic salmonids to the environment or use them in aquaculture during 1999.

   (c) Most Parties have established epidemiological zones with monitoring to confirm the disease status of the zones. The only reported movements of live salmonids and their eggs from a zone where a specified disease was present to a zone free of the disease occurred in Norway. In this case two transfers of live salmonids were made from an ISA zone into an ISA-free zone but ISA had not been recorded in the county where the transfers originated since 1991.

   (d) New fish health legislation is being prepared in Faroe Islands and new fish health regulations were introduced in Norway. A wild fish monitoring programme aimed primarily at detection of ISA and *Gyrodactylus* will be introduced in Ireland during 2000. In Norway, the programme for control of *G. salaris* has been revised and revised regulations on sea lice control will enter into force in 2000.

   (e) There were no known movements from hatcheries to areas with salmon, or facilities where there is a risk of transmission of infection to such areas, without prior health inspections except in Ireland where some movements of unfed fry resulting from stripping of wild adults occurred from small hatcheries. Examination before stocking only occurs in the event of a problem.

   (f) The only reported introduction of non-indigenous anadromous salmonids into the Commission area was the release of 164,000 pink salmon in the river Umba, Russia.

(g) There has been limited progress in introducing the system of classifying rivers for the purpose of developing management measures concerning introductions and transfers.

(h) With regard to unintentional introductions, the use of live bait is prohibited in a number of countries. There is concern that the gudgeon, thought to have been introduced to the river Numedalslågen, Norway, with live bait in 1991, could become a serious competitor of Atlantic salmon. Regulations concerning ships' ballast water are being introduced through national and international initiatives.

Secretary
Edinburgh
30 May, 2000

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

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No movement of live Atlantic salmon and their eggs has taken place into the Faroese area. According to Act no. 26 of 3 April 1987 of the Faroese Parliament, it is prohibited to import live fish, shellfish, crab, fry and spawn from these.

European Union

Finland

There are no movements into the rivers Teno and Näätamo.

Ireland

500,000 ova from Purves Fisheries, Tasmania, Australia were imported to Galway Aquatic Enterprises Ltd, Corrandulla, Co. Galway, during the period 6 July 1999 - 31 July 1999.

500,000 ova from Springfield Hatchery, Tasmania, Australia were imported to Galway Aquatic Enterprises Ltd. during the period 9 July 1999 - 12 July 1999.

Please note the above information relates to aquaculture development.

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

None in 1999. Eggs imported into Scotland from Tasmania in 1998.

Iceland

No movement.

Norway

There have been no movements into Norway of live Atlantic salmon and their eggs, which have originated from outside the Commission area, in 1999.

Russia

No action.

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

Note: Under Article 2 of the Resolution, when conducting any risk assessment, the threats to the wild stocks should be recognised and there should be a strong presumption against any activity which would risk the introduction of transgenic salmonids to the wild.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No proposals to release transgenic salmonids into the Faroese area has been put forward.

European Union

Finland

Ireland

No proposals.

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

None.

Iceland

No transgenic salmon in use, even experimentally.

Norway

There has been no application for release of transgenic salmonids, and at the moment there is no research on-going with the aim of using transgenic salmonids in aquaculture in Norway.

The Norwegian Gene Technology Act regulates this field and anyone who wishes to release transgenic salmonids needs approval from the competent authorities. With the knowledge we have today of possible environmental effects of such a release there would be a small chance of gaining approval, even with a thorough risk assessment.

Russia

No proposals reported.

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

Note: Under Article 3 of the Resolution zones should be established for at least the following diseases: Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS), Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis (IHN), Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA) and the parasite Gyrodactylus salaris.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

The Faroe Islands are free of infections caused by VHS virus, IHN virus and *Gyrodactylus salaris* in farmed salmonids. An outbreak of ISA has been recorded in a salmon farm located in Fuglafjørdur in March 2000. All infected fishes have been killed and destroyed and non-ISA-infected fishes in the sea farm will be slaughtered before new smolt are introduced into the sea farm.

European Union

Finland

In the rivers Teno and Näätamo VHS, IHN, ISA and *G. salaris* have not been found.

Ireland

Ireland is free from the diseases IHN and ISA. Ireland, with the exception of Cape Clear Island (off the South-West of the country), is free from VHS. Ireland is also free from *G. salaris*.

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

Great Britain (except for the island of Gigha) and Northern Ireland are approved zones for VHS and for IHN. They are considered to be free of *G salaris,* and have additional guarantees under the EU Fish Health Regime to prevent its introduction from infected areas or those of unknown status.

Iceland

Iceland is basically one zone but stringent measures apply regarding movement of wild salmonids.

Norway

For 1999, there are the following freezones in force:

Infectious Haematopoietic Necrosis (IHN): Buffer zone along the border with Russia. Freezone in the rest of the country.
Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS): Buffer zone along the border with Russia. Freezone in the rest of the country, except for a small area in Sogn og Fjordane county, around Rødeggevannet.
Infectious Salmon Anaemia (ISA): Freezone in a region in the south-eastern part of Norway, from the border between the municipalities of Hå and Eigersund in Rogaland county, to the border with Sweden.

Russia

No measures reported.

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.***

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

Fuglafjørdur is established as ISA-infected zone and there is a ban against moving aquaculture animals (salmonids) in and out of the zone. Samples of all groups of fishes in the sea farm have been tested for the ISA virus with negative results.

European Union

Finland

Yearly sampling of juvenile salmon to control *G. salaris* in the Rivers Teno and Näätamo.

Ireland

All freshwater and marine aquaculture sites in the country are monitored as outlined in Directive 91/67/EC and Decision 93/53/EC. Immediately VHS was diagnosed on Cape Clear in 1997, all stock was cleared from the site as demanded by the legislation mentioned above. This site has been fallowed since 1997.

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

No new measures. All farms are screened for VHS, IHN and *G salaris* under the EU regime.

Iceland

Not applicable.

Norway

For IHN and VHS: Live fish, gametes, eggs and ungutted dead fish of susceptible species that are reared or caught outside the freezone, are not permitted to enter the freezone. A surveillance program, including yearly inspection of every fish farm, and sampling and virological testing of 30 fish from every fish farm every second year, has been operating since 1994. The sampling is conducted on a rotation basis so that 50 % of the farms are tested each year.

For ISA: Live fish, gametes undisinfected eggs and ungutted salmon that are reared or caught outside the freezone, are not permitted to enter the freezone, or to be exported to other parts of the European Economic Area (EEA). No particular monitoring has been introduced.

Russia

No measures reported.

(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.***

Note: Under Article 3 of the Resolution movements of salmonid eggs are permitted where there is no risk of transmission of the specified disease or parasite.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No movement of live Atlantic salmon (S*almo salar*) and their eggs has taken place from the ISA-infected zone (Fuglafjørdur) to other zones after the outbreak of ISA had taken place.

European Union

Finland

All salmon releases are prohibited in the Rivers Teno and Näätamo.

Ireland

No such movements are permitted into Ireland.

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

None.

Iceland

Not applicable.

Norway

In 1999, two transfers of live salmonids from the ISA zone into ISA freezone were accepted. The salmonids came from an area close to the ISA freezone, and ISA has not been recorded in that county since 1991. Additionally, it was a requirement of the transfer that the fish had not been fed moist feed, that they had not been supplied with seawater, that they had been kept under shelter, and that they were protected from potentially infectious seawater during transport.

Russia

No measures reported.

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

Note: Under Article 3 of the Resolution it is stated that these procedures should include the establishment of official surveillance services responsible for the monitoring of the health of both wild and farmed fish. The procedures should also demand the rapid introduction of restrictions on the movement of salmonids in the case of an outbreak of a disease or parasitic infection until its status is known.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

New legislation concerning diseases of aquaculture animals according to EU rules is in preparation.

European Union

Finland

Ireland

A national surveillance programme for farmed fish is already in place as described above. A monitoring programme for wild fish is to be put in place within the next few weeks. Although this programme is directed primarily towards the detection of ISA and *G. salaris*, other disease agents would be picked up if present, and appropriate restriction measures would be imposed.

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

No new measures.

Iceland

Not applicable.

Norway

According to the Fish Diseases Act the public authorities shall be notified immediately when there is reason to believe that aquatic animals have been or are in danger of being attacked by an infectious disease. The obligation to provide notification rests with everyone who is responsible for aquatic animals.

A regulation in pursuance of the Fish Diseases Act, with a list of notifiable diseases of aquatic organisms is in force. Usually only diseases listed as Group A or Group B diseases are subject to official measures. However the Regional Veterinary Officer may also make diseases listed as Group C subject to official measures. The Ministry of Agriculture may decide, without further notice, that new disease conditions of presumed infectious nature shall be subjected to official measures as for Group A and B diseases. If official countermeasures are introduced to combat new disease conditions, the condition shall be described, and a proposal to include the disease on the list of notifiable diseases shall be presented for comment to interested parties within one year. If this is not done, the official measures shall be withdrawn.

New regulations in pursuance of the Fish Diseases Act and the Aquaculture Act came into force on the 1st January 1999. Regular health control is now mandatory for all aquaculture units in Norway.

A national program for control of sea lice was established in 1997, and is revised every year. As a part of the program, the first regulations in order to control sea-lice infestations came into force in 1998. After revision new regulations came into force in February 2000.

The national program for control of *Gyrodactylus salaris* has been revised.

The official surveillance program for *Gyrodactylus salaris* is under revision.

Russia

No measures reported.

3.2.2 Details of any additional protective measures which have been introduced

Note: Under Article 3 of the Resolution it is stated that when establishing or reviewing rules on transfers of fish, the Parties should consider additional protective measures such as the establishment of zones to limit the spread of parasites and diseases to wild stocks; restrictions on the movement of salmonids to trade in eggs; strengthening and amendment of disease controls to take full account of the special situation of wild fish.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

See 3.2.1.

European Union

Finland

Ireland

All movements of salmonids in Ireland are authorised by the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources. All such movements are vetted from a fish health perspective. In this way, potential disease risks may be controlled at source.

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

None.

Iceland

Not applicable.

Norway

The Fish Diseases Act, Section 9, provides for the establishment of regions and inter-regional measures on a general basis, without reference to 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."

Russia

No measures reported.

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

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

All freshwater salmon farms are participating in a surveillance program which includes regular visits by a veterinarian. Movements of salmonids and their eggs are only allowed with the permission of the Chief Veterinary Officer when the risk of spreading diseases is considered to be minimal.

European Union

Finland

Ireland

The fish from all ranching programmes are screened prior to smolt release. Similarly, the broodstock from which the ova are stripped for this purpose are also health-screened. The Fishery Boards operate certain small hatcheries where broodstock are removed and stripped in November and December. The offspring are then returned to the relevant river systems as unfed fry. These fish are examined only if a problem arises and is reported to the Fish Health Unit by the Fishery Board.

Sweden

No movements have been reported.

United Kingdom

None. Introductions are only from sites subject to inspection programmes, and not subject to controls for notifiable diseases.

Iceland

Regulatory measure regarding transport of salmonids (number 401/1988) has just been revised. Will be reported with 2000 returns.

Norway

There are no known such movements. All movements of salmonids from hatcheries require a health certificate confirming that at least 2 health inspections have been carried out during the year, in the case of fry, and at least 4 inspections in the case of older salmonids. (In commercial fish farms, the requirement is at least 12 health inspections during the year). The health certificate also requires post-mortem autopsy of at least 50 fish, during the last month (in commercial fish farms at least 300 fish during the last 3 months).

Russia

No measures reported.

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

Note: Under Article 4 of the Resolution, a thorough evaluation of the potential adverse impacts on the Atlantic salmon population(s) which indicates that there are no risks of adverse ecological interactions is required before non-indigenous fish species are introduced into rivers containing Atlantic salmon. Where a decision is taken to proceed with the introduction of a non-indigenous species it should be carried out in accordance with the Codes of Practice developed by ICES and EIFAC.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No introduction of non-indigenous fish into Faroese rivers has been reported.

European Union

Finland

All fish releases outside the Rivers Teno and Näätamo are prohibited.

Ireland

No such transfers reported.

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

None.

Iceland

Not applicable for Iceland.

Norway

Escaped farmed salmon are found in almost all Atlantic salmon rivers in Norway.

Escaped farmed rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are found in several river-systems on the western coast of Norway, especially in Hordaland county.

The European minnow (*Phoxinus phoxinus*) has been spread to several watercourses with anadromous salmonids. However, this introduced species is not considered to be a serious competitor to Atlantic salmon.

In the Pasvik river system vendace (*Coregonus albula*) was detected in 1989. Vendace fry escaped as a result of an accident at a hatchery located by Lake Enaresjøen in Finland, and had spread downstream to the river outlet in Norway. 15 fish species have been recorded in the Pasvik river system including salmon (*Salmo salar*) and the introduced vendace.

Gudgeon (*Gobio gobio*) was recorded for the first time in the river Numedalslågen in 1991. Gudgeon is a non-indigenous species in Norway, and occur only in this river. Tourists fishing for salmon have probably introduced the gudgeon to the river as live bait. The gudgeon exploit the same habitat as the salmon (*Salmo salar*) and sea trout (*Salmo trutta*), and may, therefore, become a serious competitor to the salmon.

Russia

No measures reported.

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

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No introduction of non-indigenous fish into the Commission area has been reported to the Faroese authorities the past many years, but in 1966-67 we imported some rainbow trout from Denmark.

European Union

Finland

Ireland

No such introductions reported.

Sweden

No introduction has been reported.

United Kingdom

None.

Iceland

Not applicable.

Norway

Russia

In the river Umba 164,000 larvae of pink salmon were released.

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?

Note: Under Article 5 of the Resolution, rivers in the North-East Atlantic Commission Area should be classified using the NASCO Salmon Rivers Database but with groupings of certain categories as follows:
Group 1 rivers: Rivers with no self-sustaining salmon stocks.
Group 2 rivers: Rivers in which there is a self-sustaining salmon stock.
Group 3 rivers: Rivers in which there is a self-sustaining salmon stock which is considered to be in a pristine condition or which is considered to be of particular value.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

In the Faroe Islands we only have a very small number of small rivers with salmon and therefore there has been no classification of the rivers.

European Union

Finland

The Rivers Teno and Näätamo are in Group 3. Salmon stocks will be developed by management regulations.

Ireland

No.

Sweden

A preliminary classification has been worked out in a proposal for a long-term national action program including 23 rivers but the proposal has still not been considered by the relevant authorities.

United Kingdom

No.

Iceland

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

Norway

No.

Russia

No measures reported.

Article 6: Management Measures

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

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

See 5.1.

European Union

Finland

Ireland

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

Not applicable.

Iceland

Not applicable.

Norway

Russia

No measures reported.

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.)

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

Regulations concerning ships' ballast water will be included in the new legislation on diseases of aquaculture animals (see 3.2.1).

European Union

Finland

In the River Teno the use of live bait is prohibited.

Ireland

The use of live bait is banned.

Sweden

No action.

United Kingdom

No new measures.

Iceland

Not applicable.

Norway

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

Russia

No measures reported.

Other Information

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

European Union

Finland

Ireland

Sweden

A proposal for a national policy for introductions and releases of fish has been worked out by the National Board of Fisheries.

United Kingdom

Iceland

None.

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 baits is not allowed in Norway.

Act No. 47 of May 1992 Relating to Salmonids and Fresh-Water Fish etc. says in section 8: “It is prohibited to import live anadromous salmonids, freshwater fish, eggs or fry of such fish, or animal species eaten by such fish without permission from the Ministry.”

Russia

No measures reported.