

West Greenland Commission

WGC(01)8

New Measures Taken in 2001 in the UK And Ireland To Protect Salmon

(tabled by the European Union)

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The principal focus of the measures listed below (in particular as they affect net fisheries) is to further reduce exploitation of MSW salmon.

England and Wales

- NLOs renewed on Rivers Lune, Dart and Teign which reduce the number of net licences issued; and a byelaw introducing a bag limit for anglers on the River Lune.
- Netsmen received (largely private) compensation payments not to fish for all or part of the salmon season on Rivers Tavy, Tamar, Lynher, Fowey, Usk, Avon, Stour and Cumbrian Coastal Fisheries.
- Government expenditure to the Environment Agency for fisheries work in England is set to increase by 30% in 2002/03 (by £1.5 million). An additional £750,000, subject to matching funding from private interests, is available to launch compensation arrangements to accelerate the phase out of mixed stock fisheries, particularly the North East Coast.

Scotland

- Salmon Conservation (Scotland) Act 2001 came into force on 15 April 2001. Makes provision for fishery managers and Scottish Ministers to make regulations for the conservation of salmon.
- Green Paper to be published this summer proposing a range of measures to take forward the management of Scotland's salmon and freshwater fisheries.
- A Bill to consolidate the Scottish salmon and freshwater fisheries legislation will be introduced to the Scottish Parliament later this year.

Northern Ireland

- The FCB has proposed for the 2001 season that new fishery conservation, measures will be put into place within their area. These include -
total catch and release until 1 June; application of a daily bag limit of 2 salmon from 1 June for the remainder of the season, and a total ban on the sale of rod-caught salmon.

- These measures to be introduced immediately on a voluntary basis, pending the introduction of regulations.
- Voluntary measures to be adopted by commercial netsmen operating in the FCB area for the 2001 season, to include: no netting to commence until 1 June (previously 18 March); an agreement not to fish around 40% of inshore nets, and a restriction of drift net operations to an 8 week period in total.
- A salmon carcass tagging scheme is being introduced throughout N. Ireland in the 2001 season.
- The above measures are to be extended for 2001 and beyond by the adoption of a policy of voluntary buyout of commercial net fisheries in the FCB area based on 75% government funding and 25% private funding (NASF).
- These measures could reduce commercial licence numbers by around 27.
- From 2002, the number of draft nets licensed in the Foyle area will be capped at 60 nets, while drift nets will remain capped at 112.

Ireland

In accordance with the Recommendations of the Salmon Task Force in 1996 and in compliance with specific recommendations from NASCO, Ireland is committed to the introduction of new dynamic policies for the future management of wild stocks. The basic elements of the new management system introduced since 1997 are :

- provision of a legislative and scientific framework to allow the management system to operate (National Salmon Commission, carcass tags and logbooks);
- establishment of spawning escapement targets and conservation limits for all rivers which can be achieved in the short term (in-river assessments, fish counters);
- determination of compliance with these spawning escapement targets by providing in season measures of spawners (fish counters, catch data);
- implementation of measures to rebuild stocks which are below conservation limits;

use of fishery management plans (catchment management plans) to assist in the allocation of the surplus by the beneficial users after targets are expected to have been met.