

North-East Atlantic Commission

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Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway)

Agenda item: 5

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In most fjord- and coastal regions, mixed-stock fisheries are not permitted due to low numbers of adult salmon returns and/or high probability of overexploitation of one or more stocks in such fisheries. As a result of major revision of regulatory measures conducted in 2021, mixed stock fisheries are closed in 31 out of 49 regions. Apart from Finnmark county, mixed stock fisheries are closed in all coastal regions.

Only bag nets and rod and line are allowed. In addition to restrictions on fishing gear, the only regulatory measures are the length of fishing season and the number of fishing days per week.

In 2024, 265 fishermen participated in mixed-stock fisheries. This is a 29 percent decrease compared to the year before, and a 73 percent decrease compared to the year prior to the latest major revision of regulatory measures (2020). 355 bag nets were used. The total catch of Atlantic salmon was 75 tons, a 34 percent decrease from the previous year, and a 65 percent decrease from 2020. A total catch of 1.7 tons of seatrout and 168 kg anadromous arctic char were reported in 2024.

In 2024, mixed stock fisheries were most extensive in Finnmark County, representing 67 percent of the fishermen, 65 percent of total gear and 63 percent of the total catch.

Due to low run of MSW salmon, in-season measures were introduced in mixed stock fisheries in six out of the eight opened regions in the southern/middle parts of Norway and in four regions in the eastern parts of Finnmark. Four out of the six southern/middle regions remained closed throughout the whole season, and two regions were closed for three weeks and later re-opened for a two-week fishery. In the four regions in Varanger in Finnmark, the number of fishing days were reduced by 50 % at the end of the fishing season.