

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>North-East Atlantic Commission</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway Regarding the Management of the Fisheries in the Tana Watercourse</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NEA(25)10</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agenda item: 5</p>
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## ***Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway Regarding the Management of the Fisheries in the Tana Watercourse***

The Agreement between Norway and Finland on the Fisheries in the Tana watercourse came into force in 2017. The Agreement includes common fishing rules, that was agreed upon for the next period (from 2024 to 2030), to safeguard the recovery of the depleted salmon stocks in the Tana watercourse.

The main part of the new fishing rules is a new way to regulate the salmon fisheries in the Tana watercourse in the form of a new baseline rule. The new baseline rule sets clear thresholds for when and to what extent fishing for salmon is to be permitted. This means that fishing regulations, to a greater extent than previously, are based on each stock's harvestable surplus. A limited fishing may be permitted when *less than* 20 percent of the salmon that are in the river at any given time belong to stocks that are assessed to be in the red, and weakest, stock category. When fishing is allowed, the catch will be regulated according to quotas and not only according to fishing time as has been done previously. The new baseline rule also ensures that right holder groups are given priority compared to tourists, when a limited fishing can take place, and they will also take part in distributing the catch quotas. There is also a possibility for giving exceptions to organizations in individual cases in order to transfer and maintain the know-how related to the traditional fishing culture of the Sámi.

The situation for the salmon stocks in the Tana watercourse in 2024 continued to show a negative status with all-time low spawning stocks and low estimates of pre-fishery abundance. The overall low returns of 1SW salmon continued, and it is therefore expected that the return of MSW salmon will be low in 2025.

The monitoring of the salmon stocks indicates that the survival rate at sea has decreased dramatically in recent years, with low pre-fishery abundance as a result. There has been no harvestable surplus in Tana or its tributaries in 2019 – 2024, with a few exceptions, and there will most likely not be any harvestable surplus available in 2025 either.

Finland and Norway have started a process to renew the Fisheries Agreement for River Näämämöjoki / Neiden. An important starting point is to renew the agreement and fishing rules to secure sustainable fishing and adaptive management of the Neiden / Näämämö salmon stocks and other fish species. The new fishing rules will also be in conformity with NASCO's principles for salmon management. Local stakeholders are involved in the in the renewal process of the fisheries agreement.