CNL(98)42

Decision of the Council on Implementation of the Oslo Resolution

The Council decides as follows:

Reporting Procedures

The Parties should provide comprehensive information to the Council in advance of each Annual Meeting concerning the measures in force to protect the wild stocks from adverse impacts of aquaculture. This information should be based on the list of measures contained in Annex 1. The returns should also indicate whether or not the measures are mandatory and how they are enforced. The information provided by the Parties should be recorded by the Secretariat in a database in the same way as the information provided under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention.

During NASCO's Annual Meetings time should be allocated on the agenda for discussion of the measures taken by the Parties. The Council will focus each year on the measures implemented by two or three Parties so that experiences of minimising impacts of salmon aquaculture can be shared.

Measures

In order to have confidence that the wild stocks are protected from irreversible genetic change, from ecological impacts and from the impacts of diseases and parasites, the measures in the Oslo Resolution need to be fully implemented. Stronger measures should be considered where appropriate.

Not to change the structure of the Oslo Resolution but to clarify the differences between enhancement, ranching and farming and to stress that the major aquaculture impact is currently that of salmon farming.

Enhancement

Priority should be given to ensuring that the existing measures in the Oslo Resolution concerning enhancement and the guidelines on stocking, if and when agreed, are fully implemented.

Ranching

Priority should be given to ensuring that the measures in the Oslo Resolution concerning ranching are fully implemented.

Farming

Priority should be given to ensuring that the measures in the Oslo Resolution concerning salmon farming are fully implemented.

Renewed efforts should be made to minimise escapes and a more effective enforcement policy should be adopted by the Parties. Efforts to improve recapture procedures should be increased provided that these can be conducted without adversely affecting the wild stocks.

There is a need to co-operate on improvements in the management of salmon farming so as to reduce escapes and protect wild stocks was recognised. There should be a closer co-operative effort on developing guidelines on physical containment measures and husbandry practices for salmon farms. The salmon farming industry should be invited to participate in this process. Efforts should be made to obtain better data on the effectiveness of containment measures and on the level of escapes.

Sterile salmon might offer a way forward to protect the genetic integrity of the wild stocks but could have disadvantages in terms of yield, fish health, ecological impacts, consumer resistance and other marketing factors. However, these disadvantages would have to be balanced against the risks to the wild stocks from existing practices. This question should be the subject of a substantial review by the Council in 1999 when the results of ongoing research should be available.

The Parties should give emphasis, where appropriate, to the use and effects of wild salmon protection zones. Whilst not included in the Oslo Resolution, the value of gene banks, though expensive, as a measure to protect the genetic diversity of the wild stocks where these are threatened with loss and as part of restoration programmes was recognised.

Introductions and Transfers

The North-East Atlantic Commission has developed a Resolution containing guidelines to protect wild salmon stocks from introductions and transfers and the North American Commission has developed Protocols on introductions and transfers, although neither of these initiatives has been fully implemented. These agreements are consistent with the Oslo Resolution.

Research

To endorse the recommendations from the Convenors of the ICES/NASCO Symposium for future research. In addition the desirability of research into the effects of time spent in sea cages prior to escape on rate of return of farmed salmon and on methods to reduce predator damage at salmon farms was recognised. Details of relevant ongoing research should be submitted to NASCO with the annual returns made under Article 15 of the Convention so that the Council may play a role in avoiding duplication of research effort.

Liaison Group

To strongly endorsed the need for close dialogue with the salmon farming industry through the Liaison Group established between NASCO and the International Salmon Farming Association (ISFA).

Annual Return Of Information Under Article 5 Of The Resolution By The Parties To The Convention For The Conservation Of Salmon In The North Atlantic Ocean To Minimise Impacts From Salmon Aquaculture On The Wild Salmon Stocks

(Where additional space is required to complete your return, please use separate sheets and indicate which section the measures refer to (e.g. 1.2.2)).

1. General Measures		Details of Action Taken
1.1	**Sites:**	
1.1.1	Sites only to be assigned for aquaculture where hydrographical, epidemiological, biological and ecological standards can be met	
1.1.2	Siting of units to avoid risk of damage by collision	
1.1.3	Adequate marking of aquaculture units	
1.2	**Operations:**	
1.2.1	Management of aquaculture units to prevent and control diseases and parasites	
1.2.2	Management of aquaculture units to prevent escape of fish	
1.3	**Transfers:**	
1.3.1	Transfers conducted so as to minimise potential for disease/parasite transmission and for genetic and other biological interactions	
1.3.2	Introduction of mechanisms to control transfers where necessary	

2.	**Measures To Minimise Genetic And Other Biological Interactions**	
2.1	**Design standards for Aquaculture Units:**	
2.1.1	Establishment of standards and technical specifications for the design and deployment of aquaculture units (marine and freshwater)	
2.1.2	Optimisation of containment of fish through use of appropriate technology for prevailing conditions	
2.1.3	Regular routine inspection and maintenance of aquaculture systems and upgrading of equipment as new technological improvements become available	
2.1.4	Regular monitoring and use of efficient security systems	
2.2	**Salmon Enhancement:**	
2.2.1	Use of local stocks wherever possible	
2.2.2	Implementation of criteria for broodstock selection and management	
2.3	**Salmon ranching:**	
2.3.1	Use of local stocks or alternatively local ranching stocks	
2.3.2.	Harvesting of ranched fish at or close to release site or in fisheries managed in a way that prevents over-harvesting of wild stocks	
2.3.3	Establishment of site specific contingency plan in the event of large escapes	

2.4	**Salmon farming:**	
2.4.1	Use of local broodstocks where practicable	
2.4.2	Efforts to recapture escaped farmed salmon	
2.4.3	Establishment of site specific contingency plan in the event of large escapes	
3.	**Measures To Minimise Disease And Parasite Interactions**	
3.1	**Control and prevention of diseases and parasites:**	
3.1.1	Aquaculture production process conducted in accordance with appropriate fish health protection and veterinary controls, including the application of appropriate husbandry techniques to minimise risk of diseases (vaccination, use of optimum stocking densities, careful handling, frequent inspection of fish, proper diet and feeding regimes, avoidance of unnecessary disturbance, detailed health inspections, disinfection of transportation equipment and use of disinfection baths at production facilities)	
3.1.2	Treatment or removal of diseased stock and measures to ensure diseased fish are not released to the wild	
3.2	**Stocking density:**	
3.2.1	Aquaculture production adapted to the site's holding capacity and stocking density should not exceed levels based on good husbandry practices	

3.3	**Removal of dead of dying fish:**	
3.3.1	Removal of dead/dying fish and disposal along with waste materials in an approved manner	
3.3.2	Establishment of procedures for effective removal and disposal of infectious material	
3.3.3	Establishment of contingency plans for disposal of mortalities from emergency situations	
3.4	**Adequate Separation:**	
3.4.1	Separation of aquaculture facilities on the basis of a general assessment of local conditions	
3.5	**Year Class Separation:**	
3.5.1	Rearing of different generations in separate locations where possible	
3.6	**Fallowing of Sites:**	
3.6.1	Use of a fallowing regime wherever possible	
3.7	**Use of Medicines and Disinfectants:**	
3.7.1	Careful use of medicines and disinfectants in accordance with manufacturers' instructions, Codes of Practice and in compliance with regulatory authorities	
3.8	**Lists of Diseases:**	
3.8.1	Lists of prevailing infectious diseases and parasites and methods for control to be maintained by appropriate authorities	

4.	**Research And Development**	
4.1	**Research, small-scale testing and full-scale implementation of:**	
4.1.1	Wild salmon protection areas	
4.1.2	Sterile salmon	
4.1.3	Tagging and marking	
4.1.4	Designation of aquaculture regions	
4.1.5	Alternative production methods (land-based, closed or contained floating facilities and other containment technologies)	
4.1.6	Use of local broodstocks	
4.1.7	Understanding of genetic interactions	
4.1.8	Prevention and control of disease and parasites	