

North-East Atlantic Commission

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Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway)

Agenda item: 5

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In several fjord- and coastal regions, mixed-stock fisheries have not been permitted for many years due to low management target attainment. As a result of major revision of regulatory measures conducted in 2021 (IP Action F3), mixed stock fisheries are closed in 31 out of 49 regions, due to high probability of overexploitation of one or more stocks. With exception of Finnmark, mixed stock fisheries are closed in all coastal regions.

Only bag nets and rod and line are allowed. In fjord- and coastal regions in Finnmark bend nets were permitted until 2022. 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 2023, 371 fishermen participated in mixed-stock fisheries in fjord- and coastal regions. This is a 6 percent increase compared to the year before, and 61 percent decrease compared to the year prior to the latest major revision of regulatory measures (2020). 520 bag nets were used. The total catch of Atlantic salmon was 113 tons, 16 percent decrease from the previous year, and a 38 percent decrease from 2020.

A by-catch of 183 tons of pink salmon, 1.8 tons of seatrout and 112 kg anadromous arctic char were reported in 2023.

Mixed-stock fisheries are most extensive in Troms and Finnmark County, representing 60 percent of the fishermen, 58 percent of total gear and 58 percent of the total catches. No inseason measures in mixed stock fisheries were considered necessary in 2023.