



25 YEARS IN FAVOR OF THE PEOPLE AND THE SALMON OF THE VALLEY OF TORNE-MUONIO RIVER
TORNE-MUONIO RIVER ASSOCIATION

EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Directorate General for Maritime Affairs and Fisheries

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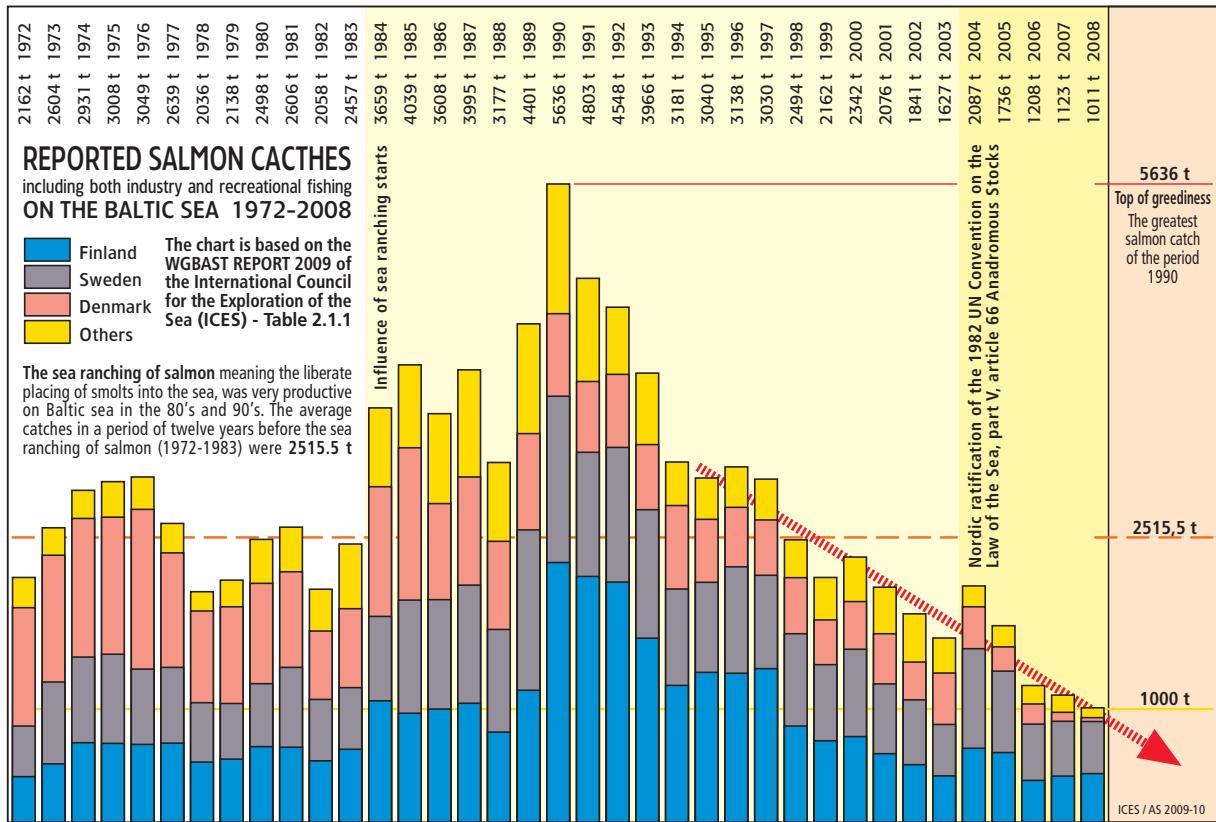
Dear Ms. Montesi,

Thank you for your letter on the 25th of october 2010. The wild salmon of Torne river is a third of the Baltic sea natural salmon stock. It's an essential matter for us so we are not satisfied with the fact that you didn't answered to any of our questions.

You fixed our attention on "*the fact that when drafting its proposal, the Commission is legally bound to base its calculations for all fisheries stocks on scientific advice that is independent from the Commission... and hence the scientific advice is adjusted accordingly*". We are well informed that the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF) has in its statement quoted the advice of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), but that STECF can't change ICES recommendation more than 15% according to a rule given by European Commission. How is that independent?

We now know the decision of the Fisheries Council on the 26th of october 2010 resulting in Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of salmon being more than twice the scientific advice of ICES (250109/120000). The satisfaction of the Commission was announced in the statement 27/10/2010. TAC of salmon by 250109 means no limits for sea fishing so the total kill, IUU-fishing and catch wastage included, will be more than 300000! We have to assume that you are not aware that this kind of harvesting of Baltic Sea salmon stock on the sea will result in a rapid extinction of wild salmon of the rivers here in the northern Baltic sea. Will you accept responsibility for that?

We agree with your argument "*that the legal framework of the EU, including the concept of exclusive and shared competences between the Union and its Member States is in full compliance with international law and is successfully applied in the context of numerous UN conventions*". However we adhere firmly to our view that the basis of sharing TAC of salmon between Baltic countries has to be changed to be in accordance with the Article 66 Anadromous Stocks of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, part V. – Although all countries around the Baltic Sea have ratified it, the basis of the TAC has not been corrected.



As we wrote to the European Commissioner Ms. Maria Damanaki the condition of the wild salmon stock of Torne river is not acceptable. Both the quantity and the percentage of returning salmon have dramatically collapsed in recent years the last summer being the worst for a long time. Only 17200 salmons returned into the river including only about 1000 grilses when the absolute minimum shoud be at least 10000! The reason is excessive harvesting of salmon on the sea. For instance in 2009 more than 100 000 salmons of the wild stock of Torne river were killed on the sea while the river catch on Torne river was only 5 800 salmons.

Unlike stakeholders of the sea fisheries, who do not own a litre of the water they fish, the people here at the riverbank have owned their land for centuries being the real stakeholders. So the people here at the river banks of Torne and Muonio rivers have been severely discriminated every year, when Danish and Polish "stakeholders" on the sea have harvested larger quantities of wild salmon stock of Torne river than what has returned to its home river. We refer to the Article 66 Anadromous Stocks of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, part V and we think that our criticism is well justified.

We think we deserve a thorough and well reasoned answers to our questions by the European Commissioner Ms. Maria Damanaki.

Pello the 2nd of november 2010

Yours faithfully

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YEAR	REPORTED BALTIC SALMON CATCHES x1000 kg										TOTAL	CATCH WASTAGE		IUU-FISHING		TOTAL x1000 kg		PCS x1000	TAC PCS	ICES Advise
	Finland	Sweden	Denmark	Germany	Poland	Estonia	Latvia	Lithuania	Russia	CCCP		ICES	Estimation	ICES	Estimation	ICES	Estimation			
1972	403	477	1045	117	13					107	2162									
1973	516	723	1119	107	17					122	2604									
1974	703	756	1224	52	20					176	2931									
1975	697	787	1210	67	10					237	3008									
1976	688	665	1410	58	7					221	3049									
1977	699	669	1011	77	6					177	2639									
1978	532	524	810	22	4					144	2036									
1979	558	491	854	31	4					200	2138									
1980	668	556	886	40	22					326	2498									
1981	663	705	844	43	45	25	184	36	61	306	2606	318	192-495	460	138-1100	3474	3051-4063			
1982	543	542	604	20	38	50	174	30	57	311	2058	246	147-384	355	105-864	2731	2401-3199			
1983	645	544	697	25	76	58	286	33	93	470	2457	301	181-467	434	130-1037	3277	2877-3833			
1984	1073	745	1145	32	72	97	364	43	88	592	3659	428	256-673	620	181-1533	4836	4254-5673			
1985	963	999	1345	30	162	91	324	41	84	540	4039	457	270-729	660	180-1690	5304	4661-6244			
1986	1000	966	848	41	137	76	409	57	74	616	3608	436	262-680	629	186-1520	4798	4216-5618			
1987	1051	1043	955	26	267	92	395	62	104	653	3995	463	277-730	659	184-1673	5262	4625-6188			
1988	797	906	778	41	93	79	346	48	89	562	3177	380	226-596	561	170-1339	4226	3713-4944			
1989	1166	1416	850	52	80	103	523	70	141	837	4401	541	325-842	789	240-1865	5880	5161-6874	850		
1990	2294	1468	729	36	195	93	607	66	148	914	5636	798	477-1239	1104	323-2549	7745	6734-9091			
1991	2171	1096	625	28	77	86	481	62	177	806	4803	651	377-1030	942	278-2170	6572	5713-7719			
1992	2121	1189	645	27	170	32	278	20	66	396	4548	637	349-1040	919	253-2175	6290	5414-7466	688		
1993	1626	1134	575	31	191	32	256	15	90	393	3966	558	336-861	794	252-1796	5461	4758-6395	928	759	500
1994	1209	851	737	10	184	10	130	5	45	190	3181	408	244-632	674	262-1442	4370	3836-5085	789	720	500
1995	1324	795	556	19	133	9	139	2	63	213	3040	421	252-651	888	475-1646	4455	3923-5164	758	620	
1996	1316	940	525	12	125	9	150	14	47	220	3138	473	280-735	928	478-1758	4658	4073-5435	906	570	
1997	1357	824	489	38	110	10	170	5	27	212	3030	449	256-715	1022	577-1851	4619	4042-5396	773	520	
1998	850	815	495	42	118	8	125	5	36	174	2494	351	212-539	777	439-1388	3709	3272-4281	661	520	410
1999	720	672	395	29	135	14	166	6	25	211	2162	318	189-492	1056	752-1612	3614	3220-4137	584	510	410
2000	757	771	421	44	144	23	149	5	27	204	2342	240	133-390	1263	950-1828	3923	3527-4444	670	540	410
2001	606	616	443	39	180	16	136	4	37	193	2076	311	189-475	1057	772-1588	3519	3148-4008	609	520	410
2002	509	572	334	29	197	16	108	11	66	201	1841	296	180-453	960	695-1454	3201	2857-3658	568	510	410
2003	410	454	454	29	198	10	47	3	22	82	1627	263	165-397	1034	803-1461	3045	2743-3438	543	510	410
2004	654	879	370	35	88	7	34	3	16	60	2087	339	195-537	1711	1391-2332	4297	3872-4871	625	495	
2005	616	719	214	24	114	8	23	3	15	49	1736	278	159-442	933	665-1439	3076	2726-3552	478	477	
2006	370	497	178	18	117	8	14	2	5	29	1208	203	120-319	500	315-855	2009	1763-2340	319	475	
2007	408	484	79	15	95	7	26	2	6	41	1123	163	91-264	515	347-829	1889	1670-2183	302	444	324
2008	451	460	34	25	44	9	9	2	6	26	1039	166	77-292	252	62-627	1542	1294-1897	273	379	
2009	434	507	78	9	51	7	15	1	2	25	1103	199	98-344	545	336-969	1936	1660-2336	389	325	
2010																	294	133		
2011																	250	120		