

ANADROMOUS AND CATADROMOUS FISH COMMITTEE

Chairman: Mr C.P. Ruggles
Rapporteur: Mr A.V. Holden

The Committee held two meetings.

1. The Chairman welcomed those attending and proposed that at the first meeting the three Working Group reports and all theme papers should be discussed. At the second meeting, following the election of a new Chairman, all other papers submitted to the Committee would be presented. All papers were to be taken as read, hence authors were asked to briefly outline the main conclusions or findings of the research to allow more time for discussion. The Agenda was adopted.
2. Thirty papers were submitted to the Committee of which three had been referred to the Mariculture Committee. Six papers had been referred to the Anacat Committee from other Committees. One (E:22) contained a recommendation on the conduct, feasibility and environment impact studies prior to further Oncorhynchus introductions and was discussed at the second meeting of the Committee.
3. The Chairman of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon introduced the report (M:10) of a meeting of the Working Group held in Charlottenlund in May 1979, which updated the work of the previous joint ICES/ICNAF Working Group. The report confirmed much of the earlier information on age structure and sex ratios in the Greenland stock, but provided new information on the proportions of fish of North American and European origin. Recent data from scale analysis suggested that the North American component exceeded that from Europe, but the total of all data available indicated that the proportions were approximately equal. There is evidence that fish of European origin in Greenland waters are larger than those from North America. The effects of this fishery on home water fisheries had been examined in more detail, with reference to non-catch fishing mortality, natural mortality and the size difference of fish of different origins.
4. The Working Group had also considered the effect of the extension of the Norwegian fishery limits to 200 miles and the ban on long-line fishing on the Norwegian Sea fishery. In respect of home waters fisheries, there had been a general increase in the proportion of grilse. The possible biological implications of proposed salmon fishery regulations were discussed and recommendations made on items for future research, including the possible need for the Committee to establish a salmon scale exchange programme or workshop. The Chairman asked Dr Pippy (Canada) to assess the need for a scale reading workshop and report back to the Committee at the next annual meeting.

The Chairman of the Working Group recommended publication of the report in the Cooperative Research Report series, and this was agreed by the Committee.

5. The Committee endorsed the Working Group's recommendation that it should hold a further meeting in 1980 to pursue further its assessments of the status of the North Atlantic salmon stocks. It recognised that up-to-date scientific advice on the status of the stocks may be required in relation to the possible establishment of a North Atlantic Salmon Management Convention.
6. The Chairman of the Baltic Salmon Working Group presented his report on a meeting held in Sweden in April 1979. The Polish section of the Baltic Sea trout tagging experiment had taken place; but the Swedish part had to be postponed. The state of Baltic salmon stocks was discussed and a model of the exploited stocks was being developed. Transplantation experiments on sea trout involving transfer between Sweden, Finland and Poland were planned. The Working Group was to meet during the Statutory Meeting in Warsaw and report back to the Committee on Friday afternoon.
7. The Chairman of the Joint ICES/EIFAC Working Group on Eels introduced his report on the meeting held in Charlottenlund in March 1979. The rules and procedures for the Group had been designed to take account of the differing methods of operation of the two Organisations. The meeting had discussed stock assessment, elvers, catching methods, resource management and age determination. It was noted particularly that catches are not always reported, and that the determination of age is still a difficult problem. The Working Group proposed that a further meeting should be held in Hamburg from 24-26 June 1980, and this was agreed by the Committee.
8. The Administrative Report was agreed without amendment, but the Chairman drew the attention of the Committee to the absence, in most national reports, of any reference to actions taken in respect of Council resolutions. While information on research activities was valuable, every member country must state whether (or not) action has been taken on resolutions passed by the Council.
9. Eight papers were presented on the selected theme of factors affecting the transformation and survival of anadromous and catadromous fish species associated with the movement between fresh and sea water, excluding the effects of fisheries. Two discussed the various physical, physiological and behavioural parameters influencing parr-smolt transformation. One dealt with factors influencing survival of smolts released into saltwater and another with a comparison of the migratory behaviour and distribution of hatchery and wild juvenile salmon during their downstream migration. Three papers discussed the factors influencing the downstream migrations of salmon parr and precocious males before their development as smolts, and one paper reported on the survival and growth of 0+ coho salmon after transfer to sea water cages.

10. Mr D.J. Piggins was elected Chairman.
11. The Chairman of the Baltic Salmon Working Group presented recommendations concerning the sea trout experiments involving Poland, Finland and Sweden and the location and date for the next meeting of the Working Group. After discussion, the recommendations were adopted.
12. Following a request from the Chairman of the ACFM, it was agreed that a new Working Group on Baltic Salmon Stock Assessment should be formed to advise the ACFM on the status of Baltic salmon stocks. An appropriate recommendation was drafted.
13. Concern was expressed for the interaction of Oncorhynchus sp. with Atlantic salmon and sea trout. The Committee endorsed the recommendation contained in C.M. 1979/E:22 concerning the conduct of feasibility and environmental impact studies prior to any further Oncorhynchus introduction.
14. After discussion it was agreed that two special themes would be adopted for the 1980 meeting. These are:
 1. The status of Pacific salmon in the North Atlantic area, their interactions with native salmonids and plans for their introduction including their use in aquaculture.
 2. Estimates of fishing mortality, including non-catch fishing mortality, of Atlantic salmon and their value in managing salmon populations.
15. There being no further business; the Chairman thanked members for their cooperation and support over the past three years and closed the meeting.

Publications

The full list of publications will be given in Proc. Verb. de la Réunion 1979.

The Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee
recommends that :

- I(1) the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic salmon be published in the Cooperative Research Report series , edited by its Chairman.

Revised

The Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee recommends that:

- II (1) a further meeting of the Working ^{Group} ~~Party~~ on North Atlantic Salmon should be held at ICES headquarters from 15-17 April 1980, to pursue further its evaluation of the status of the North Atlantic salmon stocks.
- II (2) the Baltic Salmon Working Group should hold its 27th meeting at a date and place to be agreed later, in order to review progress on the Baltic Sea trout tagging experiments and sea trout transfer.

Revised

The Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee recommends, that

- III (1) the Joint ICES/EIFAC Working Group on Eels should meet in Hamburg 24-26 June 1980 with emphasis on reviewing different alternative methods for estimating stock size and yield from exploited European eel stocks.

The Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee recommends that:

- IV(1) the joint Finnish-Polish-Swedish experiment involving the transfer of sea trout should begin in 1980

- IV(2) all countries conducting Atlantic salmon tagging experiments in the North Atlantic should provide the Greenland Fisheries Investigation at Charlottenlund with appropriate summaries of these experiments to allow this laboratory to respond to requests for tagged fish information from Greenland recaptures. In addition, countries should report all direct tag returns from the Greenland fishery to the Greenland Fisheries Investigation at Charlottenlund.