

## **RESOLUTION IV**

### **IBSFC Salmon Action Plan 1997-2010**

(adopted during the Extraordinary Session, February 1997)

For the purpose of this Action Plan the following definitions apply:

1. **Wild Baltic Salmon**  
An offspring of natural spawning Salmon, having spent its entire life in the wild.
2. **Wild Salmon river**  
Habitat where wild Salmon populations reproduce successfully.
3. **Potential wild Salmon river**  
River currently lacking wild Salmon populations, but having a potential for re-establishment of them.
4. **Reared Salmon**  
Salmon used for wild population enhancement, reproduction of populations where wild population cannot reproduce naturally and for farming, which have spent a part or all of their life cycle in captivity.
5. **Release techniques**

#### **River releases**

Release of smolt and earlier Salmon life stages in rivers and river mouths.

#### **Coastal release**

Release of smolts into coastal waters.

#### **Delayed release**

Release of smolts kept in cages in the sea for some period before they are released.

#### **Enhancement release**

Release of smolts or earlier Salmon life stages in wild Salmon rivers or potential wild Salmon rivers, taking into account the need for genetic diversity.

6. **Terminal Fishery**  
Fishery targeting reared Salmon instead of wild or mixed stocks.

### **Long Term Objective 2010**

1. To prevent the extinction of wild populations, further decrease of naturally produced smolts should not be allowed.
2. The production of wild Salmon should gradually increase to attain by 2010 for each Salmon river a natural production of wild Baltic Salmon of at least 50% of the best estimate potential and within safe genetic limits, in order to achieve a better balance between wild and reared Salmon.
3. Wild Salmon populations shall be re-established in potential Salmon rivers.
4. The level of fishing should be maintained as high as possible. Only restrictions necessary to achieve the first three objectives should be implemented.
5. Reared smolts and earlier Salmon life stage releases shall be closely monitored.

### **Medium and Short Term Strategies**

### **To protect wild Salmon populations**

1. The lists of rivers potentially or actually capable of holding wild Salmon populations should be prepared before 15 January 1997 for adoption by the IBSFC in February 1997. The list should be attached to this Action Plan and recommendations for updating should be made during the annual IBSFC Sessions.
2. The annual TAC for Salmon shall be fixed in accordance with the long term management objective.
3. A summer ban as specified in the IBSFC Fishery Rules shall be maintained.
4. Coastal States are requested to adopt appropriate national measures such as closed areas and periods to supplement IBSFC Recommendations and Resolutions.
5. The wild Salmon rivers included in the list attached to this Action Plan shall be treated with special care.

In these rivers where the ongoing releasing projects exist only necessary time - limited enhancement releases-ending as soon as possible to achieve the said objective- shall take place, with the aim to restore the populations while preserving genetic diversity.

Only native material shall be used and where this is not available, appropriate stocks from nearby donor rivers shall be used.

The Contracting Parties shall inform the IBSFC of their enhancement and re-establishment plans in wild and potential wild salmon rivers.

6. An inventory should be made of the barriers and obstacles for wild Salmon migrations and describing the quality of their habitats.
7. Wild Salmon habitats should be improved taking into account the local circumstances of rivers.
8. The control and management of fisheries in rivers with wild Salmon populations and rivers where such populations are re-established should be strengthened.

### **To promote fishing activities**

1. Releases in areas including rivers where wild Salmon do not reproduce naturally and delayed release experiments should be such that they minimise interactions with wild Salmon.  
Such experiments should be done taking into account the concept of the precautionary approach to avoid any adverse effects such as genetic influence.
2. To the greatest extent possible the fishing pattern should be shifted from the mixed wild and reared population fishery to a fishery targeting mainly reared populations.  
To achieve this, further investigations and experiments on all relevant techniques for the rational introduction of terminal fisheries should be conducted.

### **To increase the science on Salmon**

1. The broodstocks for releases in the Baltic Sea should be appointed using the best available biological and genetic advice.  
This advice should be provided by a technical sub-group of the Salmon Action Plan Surveillance Group to be constituted.
2. To ensure that the interactions between reared and wild populations are minimised, a programme of fin clipping should be elaborated and implemented for all reared and released Salmon. Fish released for enhancement purposes may be identified in a different way.
3. Continued co-ordination of scientific research is needed to analyse migration patterns of Salmon, including straying of Salmon from delayed release, and to discover the underlying causes of M74 in Salmonids.

4. National and regional index rivers should be designated for the pilot monitoring of wild Salmon populations considering, at least, the escapement and smolt production.
5. A "Surveillance Group" shall be appointed for constant monitoring of the impact of the Action Plan and propose amendments to it. The Surveillance Group shall meet well before the Annual Session of the IBSFC.