

Helsinki, 26 August 2010

Attn: Commissioner Maria Damanaki

*Ref: Draft Salmon Action Plan*

**Subject: The deteriorating situation of Salmon and its impact on the Salmon Action Plan**

Dear Madam,

The Finnish Association for Nature Conservation would like to draw your attention to the fact that, according to a recent follow-up study produced by the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, the spawn migration of Salmon to the rivers of the Gulf of Bothnia has decreased dramatically compared to last year. For instance, in the river Tornionjoki, the number of migrating Salmon has dropped to half from the level in 2009. The river Tornionjoki is, by far, the most important salmon river in the Baltic Sea, whereby its condition has a direct impact on the entire Salmon population in the Baltic Sea.

The deteriorating situation of Salmon should be taken into account when finalising the Salmon Action Plan. The level of allowed fish mortality should be reduced by all necessary regulatory means.

First and foremost, the fishing of mixed Salmon populations in sea should be banned. The Salmon population of many small rivers is extremely endangered and cannot cope with indiscriminate fishing in the Baltic Sea. The fishing of Salmon should take place in the rivers and estuaries, not in the open seas. This has also been suggested by the Scientific, Technical and Economic Committee for Fisheries (STECF).

As a secondary measure, EU decisions on fish quotas should be adapted to the scientific instructions provided by the [International Council for the Exploration of the Sea](#) (ICES). This would require reducing Salmon quotas by half, at the minimum.

Furthermore, the surveillance and compilation of statistics should be improved, especially in the case of longline fishing in the Baltic Sea and Poland.

Yours sincerely,

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For further information:

The follow-up study produced by the Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute can be found in Finnish from the following internet addresses:

a) results in 2010:

[http://www.rkti.fi/kala/kalavarat/tornionjoen\\_lohi\\_meritaimen/tornionjoen\\_nousulohien\\_kaikuluota\\_us/alustavia\\_luotaustuloksia\\_kesalta.html](http://www.rkti.fi/kala/kalavarat/tornionjoen_lohi_meritaimen/tornionjoen_nousulohien_kaikuluota_us/alustavia_luotaustuloksia_kesalta.html)

b) results in 2009:

[http://www.rkti.fi/kala/kalavarat/tornionjoen\\_lohi\\_meritaimen/tornionjoen\\_nousulohien\\_kaikuluota\\_us/luotaustulokset\\_kesalta\\_1.html](http://www.rkti.fi/kala/kalavarat/tornionjoen_lohi_meritaimen/tornionjoen_nousulohien_kaikuluota_us/luotaustulokset_kesalta_1.html)