

A.H. Baldwin

Pink Salmon in Finnmark

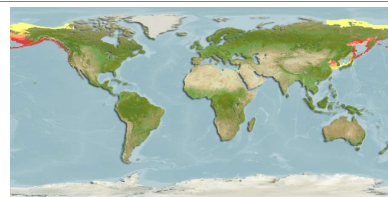
PINK SALMON EMERGING IN NORWAY AND IN FINNMARK COUNTY – STATUS FOR CATCHES AND NEED FOR KNOWLEDGE IN THE MANAGEMENT, IN RISK ASSESSMENTS AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING



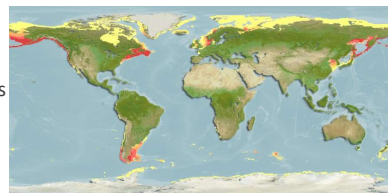
FYLKESMANNEN I FINNMARK -
MILJØVERNDELINGA

Background

- Transplanted in NW Russia from 1956 onwards. Russian transplantations were discontinued in 2002.
- During this period the pink salmon stocks have become self reproductive in some rivers in Russia, and transplantations are no longer necessary.
- Every year since early 1960's there has been observations and catches of pink salmon in Norwegian coastal waters and rivers.
- In 1977 pink salmon smolts were documented migrating to the sea from Bergebyelva in eastern Finnmark.
- There is a high probability that self reproducing stocks is established in many rivers in Finnmark.
- In 2017 there was massive runs of pink salmon registered in Finnmark rivers and elsewhere in Norway.



Natural distribution (fishbase.org)



Suitable habitat (fishbase.org)

Pink salmon – an invasive species

- Pink salmon is considered an invasive species in Norway and is considered to represent a “very high risk” (SE) in the Norwegian “Black list”. This is a list of invasive and unwanted species which is deemed to be harmful to ecosystems and natural occurring species.
- Establishment of self reproducing stocks is highly undesirable.
- Norway’s long coastline and numerous rivers makes monitoring and measures to prevent establishment of pink salmon stocks challenging.
- There is established an extensive monitoring and management system for Atlantic salmon along the whole of the Norwegian coast.



Monitoring and counter measures

- Observations of pink salmon in Finnmark has mainly come through catch reports.
- Catch reports are however not well suited for making estimates of total number of ascending individuals.
- When comparing the number caught by anglers in rivers with the number observed by divers/video, a large discrepancy may be found.
- Monitoring methods involving video and snorkeling have become more widespread the last decade, and provides more reliable data.
- When high numbers of pink salmon have been observed, measures of decimation have been implemented, e.g. net fishing.



Future challenges

- More knowledge is needed:
 - prognosis of yearly runs.
 - which Norwegian rivers have self reproducing stocks.
 - which Norwegian rivers are prone to establishment of self reproducing stocks of pink salmon.
 - what interactions and potential negative effects can be expected on endemic species.
- There is a need for implementation of a monitoring of pink salmon:
 - Extensive monitoring via annual surveys by local fishery management and sea catches by coastal fishermen.
 - Intensive monitoring in selected rivers: Ascension, spawning, hatching, sea migration.
 - Readiness with regards to decimation measures in high risk areas.



Eilif Aslaksen NRK - 2017

Thank you for coming and good luck!



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