



A.H. Baldwin

Pink Salmon in Finnmark

FUTURE STRATEGIES AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR INVASIVE SPECIES



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COUNTY GOVERNOR OF FINNMARK

National efforts in 2017

- Norwegian environmental agency organized collection of information from catches and observations of pink salmon (NINA).
- Surveys conducted in selected rivers by some researches and private consultants covering a long stretch of the Norwegian coast.
- A national report on catches and observations of pink salmon in Norwegian rivers.
- Ordered a risk assessment from the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment.
- Make routines for future registration of catches and observations.
- Establish monitoring in order to uncover self reproducing stocks of pink salmon.
- Review what measures can be used to decimate and prevent establishment of self reproductive stocks of pink salmon in Norwegian rivers.



Future perspectives in Finnmark

- We must plan for an increase in size of yearly pink salmon runs in Norwegian rivers.
- We can expect an increase in the number of rivers with self reproducing stocks.
- We must narrow down which areas that are “most attractive” for pink salmon in order to prioritize efforts.
- Provide information to fishers, fishing right owners and managers about the importance of reporting and measures to prevent establishment of self reproducing stocks.



NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration)

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Future monitoring

- Local river management has become more knowledge oriented over the past decades and many rivers now have better methods for monitoring than before.
- With proper information and coordination, these local assets can be implemented in an extensive monitoring program.
- There is an imminent need for information to anglers and coastal fishermen with regards to pink salmon in order to get accurate and representative data.
- Efforts must be made to clarify to what degree pink salmon has established stocks in Norwegian rivers.



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Intensive monitoring

- Intensive efforts can be made in selected river systems to clarify several issues:
 - What localities in the river are used for spawning?
 - When do the eggs hatch?
 - When does smolt migration begin?

Many of the questions may well be answered by literature and existing knowledge. Carrying out own work will however provide us with an overview of the situation in actual rivers in our region and add more to the general knowledge.



Paul Souders, Corbis

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Risk analysis

- We have sufficient knowledge about the prevalence and abundance of pink salmon to make a risk assessment.
- Some key questions must however be answered, especially with regard to interaction and potential negative effects.
- From the risk assessment, counter measures can be organized and executed.



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Counter measures

- Net and spear fishing has been carried out by local river managers in the past to decimate ascending pink salmon.
- These measures are highly relevant to continue.
- Some evaluation, tweaking and guidance may be needed to optimize effectivity.



Otto Hellebust

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Contingency planning in Finnmark

- The County Governor of Finnmark is working on a regional action plan for invasive species.
- Information about the catch report procedures will be communicated to the Finnmark Estate and local river management.
- Intensive monitoring will hopefully be put into effect in some rivers with support of national authorities.
- Information about and organization of decimation measures will also be given, to establish readiness in case of large runs ascending in Finnmark rivers.



Odd Lehto 2017

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Thank you



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