



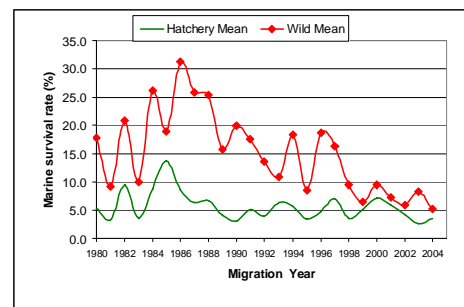
Emerging Problems

- Late 90's situation very serious
- 1998 – Salmon Review Group
- Focused on the resource and what it could support in context
- Concept of a Conservation Limit came to the fore
- Marine survival increasingly poor – Climate Change mediated effects / SALSEA

Emerging Problems

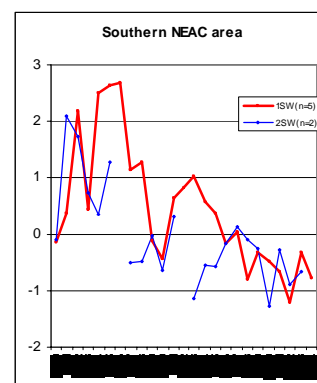
- Centuries old problems – ownership, access, methods
- 1960's particularly high marine survival
- Political decision to increase the number of drift net licences
- By early 70's conflict drift and draft
- Very high catches continued next two decades - up to 90%+

Marine survival (smolt migration to adult return to the coast) of Irish salmon stocks



Emerging Problems

- Some years > 1 million salmon were caught
- Early 80's MSW declines – signs of problems to come
- Mid 80's a major review recommended to Government that fishery unsustainable in the longer term
- Great deal of heated debate but situation became even more difficult > illegal fishing and poor resources for protection



Standardised survival values for wild salmon stocks from Southern NEAC area (Ireland, UK, France) showing a serious declining trend for 1SW and 2SW salmon

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An integrated structure

- Series of very reaching recommendations
- Inclusive process for the first time - all stakeholders
- Cognisance of national and international obligations
- National Salmon Commission
- Standing Scientific Committee

Established under the 1999 Fisheries (Amendment) Act

The National Salmon Commission

- Angling stakeholders*
- South East Salmon Federation
 - Federation of Irish Salmon & Sea Trout Anglers
 - Donegal Angling Federation
 - Ireland West Angling
 - Kerry Anglers Federation
 - National Anglers Representative Association
 - Salmon & Sea Trout Recreational Anglers of Ireland

Established under the 1999 Fisheries (Amendment) Act

The National Salmon Commission

- Represents:
- Government* (DCMNR)
 - Managers* (Central and Regional Fisheries Boards, BIM, ESB)

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The National Salmon Commission

- Industry stakeholders*
- The Irish Fish Processors and Exporters Association
 - Irish Salmon Growers Association
 - Bord Failte

Established under the 1999 Fisheries (Amendment) Act

The National Salmon Commission

- Commercial fishing stakeholders*
- East/South East Netsmen Association
 - Irish Salmon Traditional Netsmen's Association
 - Cork Drift Net Association
 - Irish Fishermen's Organisation
 - Burtonport Fishermen's Co-op Society
 - Donegal Traditional Inshore Fishermen's Association
 - Galway & Connemara Salmon Fishermen's Association
 - Traditional Draughtnet Association

Role of NSC

Assist and advise:
on conservation, management protection and development

Recommend schemes including :

- Tagging of salmon*
- TACs and quotas*

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Standing Scientific Committee

to advise and assist the Commission on all technical and scientific matters in relation to the performance of the Commission's functions.

National Obligations ??

Government Policy is

"To conserve the inland fisheries resource in its own right and to facilitate exploitation of the resource on an equitable and sustainable basis".

Standing Scientific Committee of the National Salmon Commission 2000 to 2006

Marine Institute
Bord Iascaigh Mhara
Central Fisheries Board
Environmental Protection Agency
National Parks and Wildlife Service
Coastal Research Centre, University College, Cork
The Loughs Agency
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland

International Obligations ??

ICES/NASCO 2005

Stocks should be maintained above Conservation Limits

The only fisheries for salmon should be on river stocks that are shown to be above Conservation Limits

For stocks below Conservation Limits catches should be reduced to increase the probability of meeting the CL.

Due to the different status of individual stocks within the stock complex, mixed stock fisheries present particular threats to stock status.

Terms of reference for the Commission 2006

5. Having regard to the conservation, management, protection and development of the national salmon resource

to make practical recommendations to the Minister incorporating :

- best practice internationally
- national obligations under relevant legislation of the European Communities
- And reflect the needs of individual ecosystems

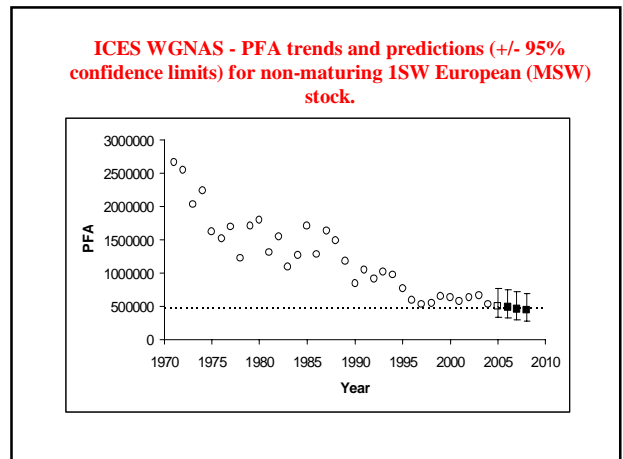
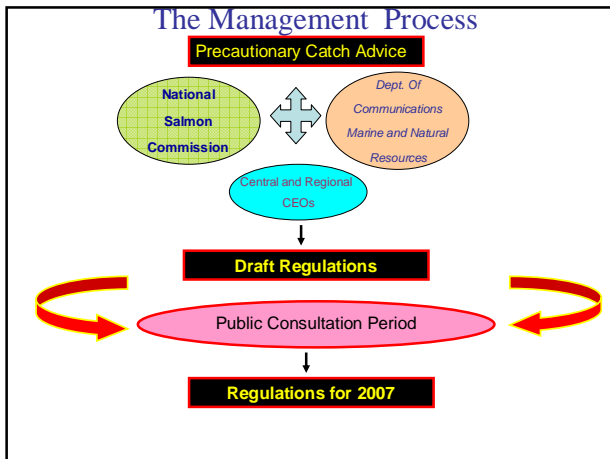
International Obligations ??

The Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna).

If a species is included under this Directive, it requires measures to be taken by individual member states to maintain or restore them to favourable conservation status in their natural range.

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- ### Scientific Advice 2006
- Many stocks well below Conservation Limits – including some of the SAC's
 - Close the mixed stock drift net fisheries
 - Close the majority of salmon rivers to salmon harvest
 - Run remaining inshore net fisheries and the rod fisheries strictly on a quota basis
 - Policy shift – from rational harvest to conservation

- ### Future Predictions?
- What does the future hold?
 - 12 to 50 years or more to recover
 - Poor marine survival – 2006 poorest yet
 - Limited commercial opportunities – may see further constraints / ranching?
 - Restricted rod angling opportunities – catch and release and method restriction
 - C & R Quotas

- ### Lessons Learned
- The need for numbers!
 - Clarity of roles – science, management and political
 - Not to leave science, management or stakeholder views isolated
 - Inclusive and biologically integrated process
 - Timely action
 - Work where possible on a voluntary basis and within realistic timelines
 - Think through crisis options in advance
 - Could ICZM have solved the problem ?
 - Alternatives and a more considered response

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