

North South Standing Scientific Committee on Inland Fish (NSSSCIF)

By Zoom 3rd November, 2020

Draft Summary Notes

Present: Cathal Gallagher (IFI), Fiona Kelly (IFI), (IFI), Paddy Gargan (IFI) (For TEGOS Presentation), Sarah McLean, (LA), Robert Rosell (AFBI, NI), Sandra Doyle (IFI, Secretariat).

Apology: Richard Kennedy (AFBI, NI),

TEGOS Salmon Advice

CG advised the group that IFI would be giving a scientific briefing to the Management meeting on their recommendations this Thursday (5/11/20).

PG gave a presentation on this advice to the group.

PG's presentation covered the salmon catch advice for 2021 which included the process involved, angling exploitation rates, forecasting returns, etc.

CG asked that an analysis be drawn up to show change on the rivers (Munster Blackwater) – PG to get Colm to do up a slide on the retrospective figures.

A request had been received from the Tullaghan Anglers to electro-fish. This could be considered a joint venture with IFI, AFBI and the Loughs Agency after Covid.

CG stated that the information was being collated into a database.

Discussion took place in relation to the CL levels and CG suggested that a comment be included from a scientific point of view in relation to the surplus/deficit levels.

CG thanked PG for his presentation.

We will look at the sea trout trends once PG has given his presentation.

RR suggested that a joint netting survey could be done on Melvin including the other smaller lakes if they were accessible.

FK suggested that EDNA sampling should also be considered.

RR outlined that a sampling service is available in the U.K. at a cost per unit and are not expensive.

It was agreed that a note be sent to Seamus outlining the plan and costings can be sent at a later date.

Salmon advice for NI – RR informed the group this normally happens late December / early January. A presentation can then be made for information purposes.

SMcL will tie in with RR with results at that stage also.

Erne Working Group

FK felt that the remit of the group is unclear.

CG and Seamus to agree on the remit.

CG felt that they need to understand the situation in relation to migration species and how it will impact on the climate and how it compares internationally and what can be done?

FK – a report to be brought back to this group.

CG – the focus of the group will be to collate and bring in the climate era and see how it will impact.

Blue Fin Tuna

Large numbers of blue fin tuna appeared this year – 650 fish tagged.

RR said equivalent numbers were in Ree and Derg – to look at the temperature records.

FK – would be interesting to look into the spring temperature records in Sheelin.

Date of Next Meeting

CG – A progress meeting to be held in mid-December and another one after March where the NI salmon advice can be presented.