

Minister of Climate and Environment
Mrs. Tine Sundtoft
Norway

Minister of Agriculture and Environment
Mr. Kimmo Tiilikainen
Finland

FISHING REGULATION IN THE TANA RIVER

Dear Ministers,

Negotiations between Norway and Finland concerning the management of the Tana River salmon fisheries have been going on for three years.

No agreement has yet been made even though the parties agree on the main issue – the Tana salmon population is over exploited, and measures must be put in place to reduce the exploitation as a whole, and for specific tributaries in particular.

The Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers (NJFF) and the Finnish Federation for Recreational Fishing (SVK) are therefore writing this letter to you, as the responsible Ministers, to address our concern about the management of the Tana River wild salmon population.

Substantial parts of Norwegian and Finnish salmon anglers are our members and our organizations share a common view on what measures we think will make a difference for the Tana salmon. We urge you to put forward the following recommendations:

1. The total allowable catch of the fisheries of Tana River salmon stocks must be reduced to a sustainable level

The maximum total numbers of salmon allowed to be landed based on scientific advice must be put in place and it must cover all fisheries in the river.

This can include daily, weekly or yearly bag-limits both for anglers and all other salmon fishers.

Reducing number of angling tourists as a regulation method does not lead to the sustainable level of total catches if there is no equal limitation/regulation of other fisheries and if there is no catch limits for all salmon fishers.

2. Postponed opening of the fishing season protects weak salmon stocks

Early opening of fisheries is a threat to weak salmon stocks of tributaries (Karasjoki, Iesjoki, Inarinjoki/Anar) which have early runners. The mixed stock fisheries of weak salmon stocks in Tana River system must be reduced by postponed opening of the fishing season, which will reduce the fishing pressure on these stocks. The opening date of all fisheries must at least be changed from May 20th to June 5th.

Angling tourism is not a substantial threat to those weak stocks, because the main season for tourists starts in late June.

Regulation in threatened tributaries must be given specific regulations (or be protected from fishing).

The Tana salmon are in a critical situation, and the situation will get worse if nothing is done. The two signing organizations therefore sincerely hope that the Ministers will promote our views to their respective delegations.

Asker and Helsinki 05.10.2015

Sincerely



Norwegian Association of
Hunters and Anglers

Runar Rugtvedt
Secretary General



Finnish Federation for
Recreational Fishing

Markku Markkula
President