



## Atlantic Salmon Federation

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# ASF Policy Respecting Interceptory Fisheries

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\*Resolved November 13, 1997 (Board of Directors U.S.):

In the working to achieve its salmon conservation goals ASF recognizes the following fundamental principles relating to interception:

1. Atlantic salmon are anadromous, spending a part of their life cycle in the ocean and ascending fresh-water rivers to spawn. ASF recognizes the essential importance of healthy freshwater and marine habitats to ensure the natural production of optimum numbers of salmon. ASF supports the free and unobstructed passage of salmon from their marine pastures to their rivers of origin, and the free and unobstructed passage of smolts from their rivers of origin to marine feeding pastures.
2. Salmon in the ocean comprise fish from many discrete populations. Fishing such mixed populations generates an unpredictable risk of irreversibly damaging individual river stocks. This is inconsistent with best management practices and with precautionary approaches to fisheries management. Mixed stock fisheries currently exist in Canada, Norway, United Kingdom, Ireland, Greenland, and the Faroe Islands.
3. Under provisions of the Convention of the Law of the Sea relating to anadromous stocks, Greenland and the Faroe Islands are entitled to a share of the harvest of Atlantic salmon which migrate and feed within their area of fisheries jurisdiction. ASF acknowledges that the NASCO Convention provides a forum for consultation and cooperation among NASCO members concerning stocks subject to the Convention. ASF also acknowledges the role of the West Greenland and the North-East Atlantic Commissions of NASCO to propose regulatory measures, including annual quotas based upon the best available scientific advice, in the areas of fisheries jurisdiction of Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The NASCO convention does not specifically deal with the risks posed by mixed population fisheries.
4. ASF will work with Greenland and the Faroe Islands in the development of economic alternatives to salmon fishing in Greenland and the Faroe Islands with the intent of reducing the conservation risks posed by mixed population fisheries while preserving the cultural and economic vitality of local communities. ASF will continue to promote economic alternatives to commercial salmon fishing at Greenland and the Faroes and will encourage their adoption as rapidly as possible. ASF will continue in the interim to support programs which seek to exchange the annual quotas at Greenland and the Faroe Islands for economic-based alternatives that encourage salmon fishermen to seek other opportunities to gain their livelihood in preference to commercial salmon fishing. ASF will encourage cooperation among salmon-producing and salmon-harvesting countries to ensure conservation of Atlantic salmon stocks.

Recognizing the foregoing Principles ASF must actively oppose management practices and government policies that are in conflict with these Principles.

1. ASF opposes the commercial interception of mixed salmon populations migrating to or from marine feeding pastures.
2. ASF opposes commercial harvests of salmon before they have separated into discrete populations and have entered their home rivers.
3. ASF opposes commercial harvesting of mixed populations of Atlantic salmon, except in the case of Greenland and the Faroe Islands where mixed population fishing practices will continue under scientifically-based quota agreements determined by NASCO. ASF will support efforts to provide economic alternatives to the commercial salmon fishery.

Notwithstanding any of the foregoing, especially the reliance upon scientific advice to fix annual quotas at Greenland and the Faroes, ASF endorses the precautionary principle in its approach to managing Atlantic salmon populations when scientific data are uncertain or inadequate.