



Mr Jonas Gahr Støre,
Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs
c/o Icelandic Foreign Office
Reykjavík

September 28, 2011

Dear Minister,

During your visit to Iceland in November 2008 the North Atlantic Salmon Fund's coalition sent you a formal complaint about your country's deplorable management of Norway's wild Atlantic salmon stocks and the salmon of your neighbouring countries that have the misfortune to swim through your coastal waters. Since then the situation has grown worse and, according to your own national science committee, the stocks of 110 of your country's salmon rivers are seriously depleted, several beyond repair.

For fourteen years now, Norway has openly violated Article 66 of the United Nations' Law of the Sea and destroyed wild salmon stocks of its neighbouring countries. Our conservation partners in Russia and the Faroe Islands have also issued formal letters of complaint but your Government has ignored them. Conveniently, Norway makes use of this Law of the Sea article to administer its fishing activities in the waters of the Faroe Islands but ignores it and pleads poverty when it comes to wild salmon native to Finland and the Kola region in Russia.

This year, to add to our concerns, an investment of more than NOK-20 million in what was proving to be a highly successful conservation agreement in the Trondheim region, is in jeopardy. This is the result of a major failure of the salmon farming industry to conduct its business in a safe and proper manner. I am referring to the Hitra farms disaster last February.

The damage that will be done by this mass escape of farmed fish could destroy all the good work that was being done by efforts of the river owners, local communities and our international partners to give the Trondheim wild salmon stocks a secure future. Indeed, it could prove to be very damaging of some of Norway's remaining famous salmon rivers.

You may not be aware that we have formally requested your Ministry of the Environment to have the law courts appoint assessors to provide an official appraisal of the damage that has been done. True to that Ministry's form nothing has yet been done.

For twenty years the management policies the Norwegian Government has followed for wild salmon have been a failure. Despite the continuing downward trend of Norway's wild salmon stocks you still pursue the same agenda and the same destructive path.

This makes no sense to other North Atlantic partners.

Yours sincerely,

Orri Vigfússon, Chairman
North Atlantic Salmon Fund.

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