



Mr Jonas Gahr Støre,
Norwegian Minister for Foreign Affairs
Transfer through Icelandic Embassy
Oslo.

October 20, 2011,

Dear Minister,

I wish to add to our letter that was delivered to you by the Icelandic Foreign Minister in Reykjavik, September 28th. We are driven to do this because the situation for wild Atlantic salmon stocks in Norwegian waters gets steadily worse.

This afternoon a scientific report was published by scientists of Russia, Norway and Finland. It confirms that substantial numbers of wild salmon native to Russian rivers are being indiscriminately intercepted by Norwegian nets in Finnmark.

The impact is serious throughout the netting season but the implications of the report are especially grave in respect of the very vulnerable spring salmon that are caught in Finnmark. These international scientists say that between 60% and 70% of these fish is of Russian origin.

These are salmon that would otherwise reach the Kola rivers to help feed the poverty-stricken rural communities that live there and try to sustain a vital tourist industry on which they rely. The Norwegian nets used are to a large extent bend nets (Krogarn) despite the fact that this is a fishing method banned in most other places in the world.

Despite the obvious gravity of the effects of the mass escape from the Hitra Island farms last January, the massive outbreak of sea lice in Finnmark in recent weeks and the need for speed in quantifying the extent of the likely damage the legal assessors who should have done this by now have still to be appointed. This totally unnecessary delay will jeopardize the collection of evidence necessary to establish a robust case against the culprits.

As if all this was not more than enough to horrify all of us who devote our best efforts to restoring the international stocks of wild Atlantic salmon we have just heard that there are plans to increase yet again the salmon netting efforts in Norway. As you well know this would contravene the UN Law of the Sea and it would totally ignore the demands of the Russian government that Norway should immediately stop its netting of Russian salmon.

Sincerely,

Orri Vigfússon

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