

International Council for the
Exploration of the Sea

C.M.1978/M:8
Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BALTIC SALMON SYNOPSIS

"REVIEW OF BALTIC SALMON RESEARCH"

by

the Baltic Salmon Working Group

At the meetings of the Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee last year, the Synopsis of Baltic Salmon in preparation by the Baltic Salmon Working Group was discussed. As it was realized that the drafting was very nearly finished, it was agreed that it should be distributed to the Committee members for comments before a recommendation for publication in the Cooperative Research Reports series would be considered at the 1978 meeting of the Committee.

In agreement with the General Secretary and the Chairman of the Committee, copies of the manuscript are - for practical and economical reasons - issued in so small a number that only one member from each of the countries represented on the Committee has received a copy for examination.

Though Baltic Salmon is only a geographically isolated stock of the Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar), the Synopsis has been outlined as an ordinary FAO Synopsis on fish species. As the form and contents of this kind of description are considered to be well known, the introduction shall be restricted to a short reference to the occasion and the development of the project. Quotation of part of the preface, as follows, should give a sufficient, historical background.

"At the Statutory Meetings of ICES Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee in 1968 "Sea life of Atlantic salmon" was accepted as main subject for the meetings of the subsequent year. The Baltic Salmon Working Group prepared a joint contribution: "The exploitation and biology of Baltic Salmon in the marine phase", which was submitted to the Committee as ICES Doc. C.M.1969/M:10.

As the Working Group felt a general need for a more comprehensive compilation of the up-to-date knowledge on Baltic Salmon during the marine phase, it was decided to extend the original paper and prepare a sort of synopsis. The Committee made a recommendation, approved by the Council (C.Res.1974/2:19) to the effect that this Synopsis should be prepared for publication. It was agreed that the

x) General Secretary,
ICES,
Charlottenlund Slot,
DK-2920 Charlottenlund,
Denmark.

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Synopsis should follow, as far as practicable, the outline given by H Rosa Jr., 1965, FAO Fish.Synopsis (1) Rev.1 "Preparation of Synopsis on the biology of species of living aquatic organisms, Version No.2". In the light of the preparations in progress of a FAO Synopsis dealing with the whole species Salmo salar, general subjects common to the Atlantic and Baltic populations, especially concerning identity and biology (Chapters 1 and 3), are treated -to some extent - summarily.

As the sea life of salmon is fundamentally affected by a vast number of factors acting on the juvenile fresh water stage, the Working Group agreed to extend the Synopsis to cover the entire life cycle of Baltic salmon, entitled "Review of Baltic Salmon Research". It was further decided that a primary draft should be prepared by the following members of the Group: O Christensen (Denmark), P-O Larsson (Sweden), R Sych (Poland) and F Thurow (Federal Republic of Germany), each covering one or more of the seven chapters of the Synopsis, and that the two first mentioned should be responsible for the final drafting. Contributions were also supplied by other Working Group members: F Chrzan and Z Chelkowski (Poland), N Johansson (Sweden) and J Toivonen (Finland) as well as non-members: H-E Lundin and A Lindroth (Sweden) and N M Lishev and A R Mitans (USSR)".

In addition to the contributors two former members of the Anadromous and Catadromous Fish Committee should be mentioned, Prof. A Lindroth, who has read and commented critically upon the manuscript, and Dr K A Pyefinch, who has likewise provided many helpful comments and suggestions, particularly to improve the text for the English-speaking reader. The Working Group is indeed very grateful for their help.

The Working Group hopes that this attempt to bring together under one cover - if not all - at least an essential part of what is known about Baltic salmon will be useful in future research on this stock. At the same time, it may reveal what is still unknown and what needs further investigation. It is also our hope that this general review of Baltic salmon research may, to some extent, facilitate and encourage the preparation of a synopsis covering the whole species Salmo salar.