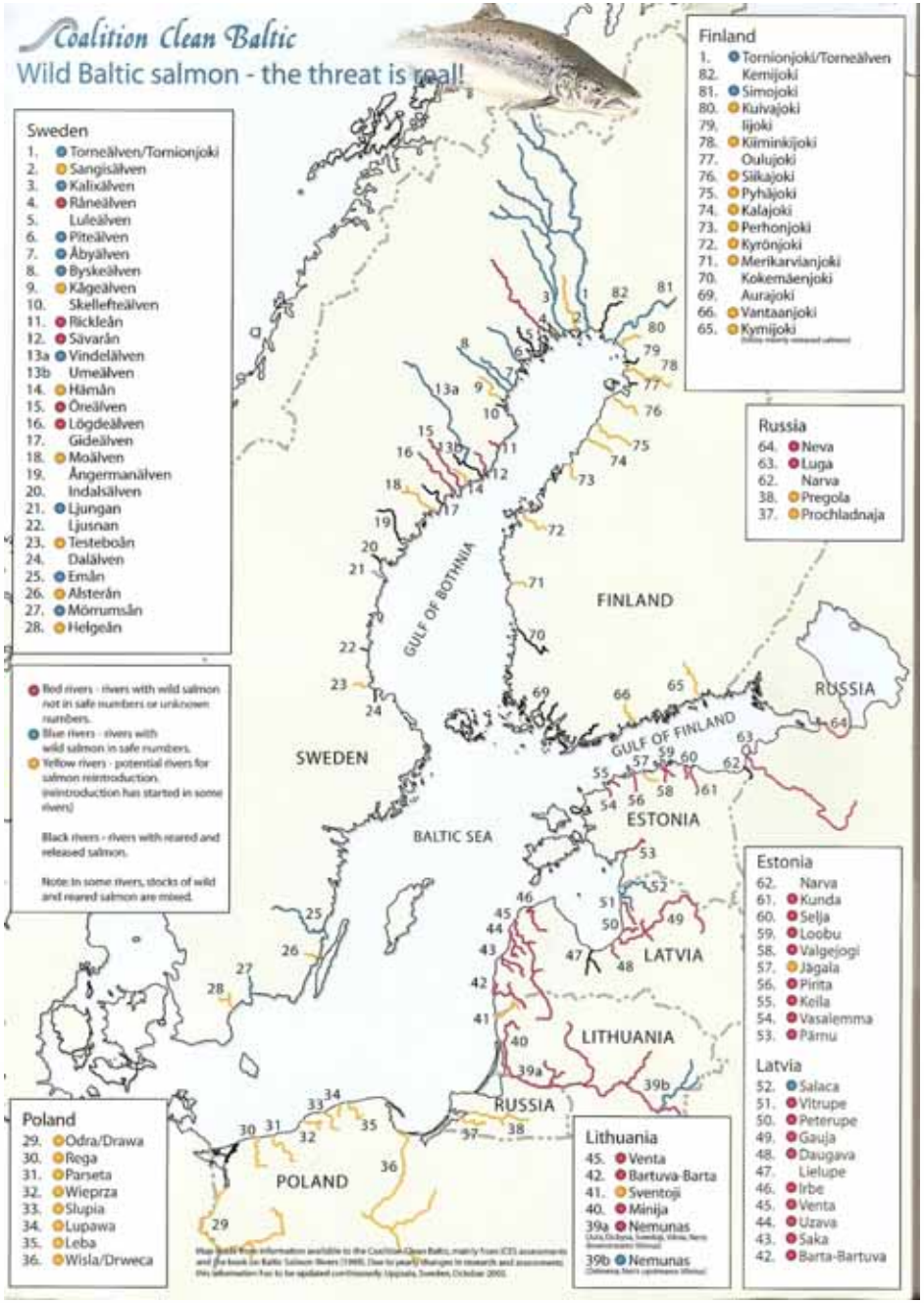
Man & Water AB
International Network

Swedish Baltic Salmon Rivers

Lennart Nyman


Coalition Clean Baltic
Wild Baltic salmon - the threat is real!
Sweden
1. Torneälven/Tornionjoki
2. Sangisälven
3. Kalixälven
4. Råneälven
5. Luleälven
6. Piteälven
7. Åbyälven
8. Byskeälven
9. Kågeälven
10. Skellefteälven
11. Rickleån
12. Sävarån
13a Vindelälven
13b Umeälven
14. Hömån
15. Öreälven
16. Lögdeälven
17. Gideälven
18. Moälven
19. Ångermanälven
20. Indalsälven
21. Ljungan
22. Ljusnan
23. Testeboån
24. Dalälven
25. Emån
26. Alsterån
27. Mörrumsån
28. Helgeån
Red rivers - rivers with wild salmon not in safe numbers or unknown numbers.
Blue rivers - rivers with wild salmon in safe numbers.
Yellow rivers - potential rivers for salmon reintroduction. (reintroduction has started in some rivers)
Black rivers - rivers with reared and released salmon.
Note: In some rivers, stocks of wild and reared salmon are mixed.
Finland
1. Tornionjoki/Torneälven
82. Kemijoki
81. Simojoki
80. Kuivajoki
79. Iijoki
78. Kiiminkijoki
77. Oulujoki
76. Siikajoki
75. Pyhäjoki
74. Kalajoki
73. Perhonjoki
72. Kyrönjoki
71. Merikarvianjoki
70. Kokemäenjoki
69. Aurajoki
66. Vantaanjoki
65. Kymijoki
Russia
64. Neva
63. Luga
62. Narva
38. Pregola
37. Prochladnaja
Estonia
62. Narva
61. Kunda
60. Selja
59. Loobu
58. Valgejõgi
57. Jägala
56. Pirita
55. Keila
54. Vasalemma
53. Pärnu
Latvia
52. Salaca
51. Vitrupe
50. Peterupe
49. Gauja
48. Daugava
47. Lielupe
46. Irbe
45. Venta
44. Uzava
43. Saka
42. Barta-Bartuva
Lithuania
45. Venta
42. Bartuva-Barta
41. Sventoji
40. Minija
39a Nemunas
39b Nemunas
Poland
29. Odra/Drawa
30. Rega
31. Parseta
32. Wieprza
33. Slupia
34. Lupawa
35. Leba
36. Wisla/Drweca
GULF OF BOTHNIA
FINLAND
GULF OF FINLAND
RUSSIA
SWEDEN
BALTIC SEA
ESTONIA
LATVIA
LITHUANIA
RUSSIA
POLAND

Present situation in control/index rivers (assessment units 1 and 2, sub-divisions 30-31 – Gulf of Bothnia) – ***number of ascending wild salmon***:

	2007	**2008**	**highest on record**
Kalix River	6,489 (part of the run)	7,031	8,890 (2001)
Pite River	518 (entire run)	605	1,628 (2004)
Åby River	109 (part of the run)	208	208 (2008)
Byske River	2,098 (part of the run)	3,308	3,308 (2008)
Ume/Vindel River	4,023 (entire run)	5,157	6,052 (2002)

Other Baltic rivers with natural reproduction of wild salmon

Råne River		no statistics, small run	
Rickleå River	no statistics, new fishway, limited reproduction		
Sävar River		no statistics, limited reproduction	
Öre River		no official statistics, but good run and excellent potential	
Lögde River		no official statistics, small run but salmon are spreading upstream	
Emå River		47(491)	133(560) ***(fish caught)***
Mörrum River	215(509)		188(589) ***(fish caught)***

The 2008 salmon run was early, big and short in duration. River discharge was high and cold and the fish ascended the rivers rapidly, which also somewhat impaired the coastal fisheries because of the short duration of the run. No conclusive data yet on commercial catch in the sea, but coastal fisheries appear to have done well. They normally catch fish in the 4-8 kg size range. With the ban on drift netting it is assumed that more and bigger fish will be caught next year. Sport fishing in Torne, Kalix and Byske Rivers are already at a record high.

Suggested measures to improve wild salmon production

1 Principal measures should be carried out where catches are highest and where the salmon population is well separated from other populations.

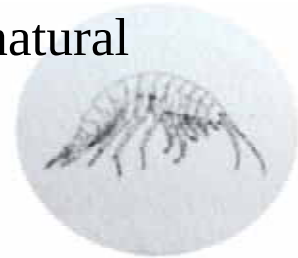
2 The ban on drift netting is probably the single most important measure to improve wild salmon runs and thus production.

3 Increase spawning population in rivers by releasing big fish, or by catching and killing every other fish, except female fish.

4 Improve environmental conditions in rivers previously subjected to timber floating, by restoring biotopes in rapids, fast running areas and on spawning sites. This is particularly important in small rivers which are most damaged.

5 Water quality must be checked continuously to discover signs of pollution, acidification and forest fertilization.

6 Better data on natural salmon production is required. As an example, Finnish scientists have calculated that the downstream migration of smolt in Torne River (in 2008) comprised roughly 1.2 million fish. This number is twice as high as was previously thought to be the “natural smolt production potential” of Torne River (Tornionjoki).



7 All salmon rivers should be classified and quantified according to calculated production figures, to simplify selection of prioritized salmon rivers.

8 Few additional measures need to be done in the large salmon rivers, because it appears that the spawning areas are already saturated with spawners. Main focus should then be on small salmon rivers, which would also improve genetic status of the Baltic salmon stock. Electro-fishing studies have shown that salmon parr densities are higher than was deemed potentially possible only 10 years ago. Furthermore, these studies also show that parr are found in almost all areas samples, as opposed to only 40% in the early 90s.

9 Because of the still very high production of smolt in hatcheries it is imperative that hatchery routines follow best scientific advice, with the principal aim to retain as much genetic variation as possible and to increase the rate of survival of reared smolt in the natural environment. These measures will also decrease the risk of “genetic contamination” of wild salmon by hatchery fish.

10 It is important to realize that the status of sea trout stocks is much worse than that of salmon, even in some small rivers.

River Torne/Tornionjoki, forming the border between Finland and Sweden, is of high significance to both nations, not only because it is the single most productive salmon river in the Baltic basin, but also because it has been so difficult to agree on a fish- and fishery management that is acceptable to both nations.

Some of the basic problems:

1 Sweden wants to agree first on the coastal fisheries which are complicated by the fact that commercial salmon fishing in Sweden takes place entirely in privately owned waters, whereas Finnish commercial fishing takes place in common or state-owned waters which then are easier to decide on by the state.

2 There are 15 Swedish commercial fishers as opposed to 5 on the Finnish side of the border.

3 Sweden argues that all categories of fishers should be given a share of the catch as long as the fishery is maintained at a sustainable level.

4 Finland would rather see that the coastal fisheries are stopped to favor the sport fishery on the river, which yield a much higher economic return.

5 The Swedish view is also shared by the Haparanda township which wants to continue support to the small-scale coastal fisheries to help maintain a “living archipelago”.

6 A possible way forward would be to agree on the same starting date for all fisheries. Now some fishers are granted an exemption to fish as early as they see fit in the archipelago on the Swedish side, and the same rule also applies to adipose fin-clipped (hatchery) salmon. For wild salmon fishing is free after June 11.