

NASF NEWSLETTER



July 3, 2020

Welcome to the North Atlantic Salmon Fund's Newsletter. You are receiving this email because you have supported NASF's conservation efforts in the past. We hope to use this space to keep environmentalists and committed salmon conservationists such as yourself updated on the fight to save wild salmon and to keep critical habitats healthy and clean. That magical time of year has arrived once again where salmon return to their home rivers on both sides of the Atlantic, and we hope 2020 will be a great season for all of you and for the salmon. We hope you enjoy our newsletter and welcome your thoughts and comments!

Yours sincerely,

Elvar Örn Fridriksson

NASF Iceland, Program Director / Framkvæmdastjóri

Overview:

- Updates on salmon conservation efforts in Greenland and the Faroe Islands
- Iceland: The start of salmon season
- Recent headlines
- Featured Salmon Conservationist

Greenland

This upcoming season, NASF is looking forward to further implementing the 2018 commercial conservation agreement with Greenland and KNAPK. New stipulations require that fishermen obtain licenses and report each catch to remain eligible for a license the following year. NASF is optimistic that increased reporting of salmon harvesting will aid conservation efforts and preserve this mixed-stock fishery for future generations.

In 2019, a new appendix was signed to assist with quota adherence and monitoring efforts. Adjustments include delaying the 2020 season opening to September 1, maintaining that those who did not report in 2019 will not be eligible for licenses in 2020, and introducing a monetary penalty for over harvest. In addition, plans are underway for an electronic reporting system and media campaigns to run throughout the season to remind fishermen to report. We are happy to have engaged successfully with the fishing community in Greenland, hiring on-the-ground community leaders to ensure more accurate reporting.

The Greenland Salmon Conservation agreement runs through the 2029 season.

Faroe Islands

NASF is happy to report that another season with no commercial fishing concluded earlier this year in the Faroe Islands. The historic deals enacted by founder Orri Vigfusson have ensured that no salmon harvests have been made since 2001. NASF thanks its partners at Laksaskip for their good faith commitment and adherence to this agreement.

Iceland



Salmon season has started in Iceland!

The salmon rivers in Iceland are now opening up one by one. Overall, the fishing so far has been very promising and by far exceeds expectations. 2019 was one of the worst salmon seasons ever in Iceland.

2020 looks different and we are seeing more fish and snow and water levels are very promising. We have high hopes for 2020 and will make sure to keep you updated on the progress of the season.

Recent Headlines



Icelandic regulation proposes sea-lice threshold levels that are up to 15 times higher than in Norway

A draft proposing new sea lice regulations has been introduced by the Ministry of Fisheries, making the allowed amount of sea lice up to fifteen times more than is permissible in Norway. Read more about the dangers of sea lice [here](#).

IKEA showing interest in sustainably-farmed salmon

The Swedish furniture outlet announced that they are seeking suppliers of land-based salmon as part of their new food supply strategy. Find the article [here](#).

(Note: Intrafish subscription required)



Iceland must learn from Norway's experience when it comes to sea lice

Guðni Guðbergsson, the head of freshwater at the Marine Research Institute, claims that sea lice limits are not enough, and that Iceland should report and contain sea lice levels to improve the health of salmon stocks. Find the article [here](#).

Iceland giving away its nature on a silver platter

New discussions have arisen around the provisions of Fisheries Management Act, regarding gifts of marine fish quotas. The Act has resulted in decades of mostly non-Icelandic companies buying and selling these quotas from one another. Read more [here](#).





First Nations groups want Mowi site closed after salmon escape

Several chiefs of First Nations in British Columbia have asked Norwegian salmon farmer Mowi to cancel their operations after a thousand salmon escaped in May. Keeping reading [here](#).



Valgarður "Valli" Ragnarsson

NASF's Featured Salmon Conservationist

We are happy to have **Valgarður "Valli" Ragnarsson** as our featured salmon conservationist. Ragnarsson is a leaseholder of the **Huseyjarkvisl River** as well as a guide and employee of LOOP tackle. He developed his interest in Atlantic Salmon at

a young age when his grandfather introduced him to the sport. Ragnarsson's conservation efforts began when the concept of catch and release was introduced in Iceland.

Eighteen years ago, he took over the lease of the Huseyjarkvisl River and introduced catch and release. The Huseyjarkvisl River, which had fallen behind, has since seen improvements that have resulted in five times the amount of salmon and roughly double the amount of trout. Ragnarsson also shares a remarkable story of a hen fish that was caught in Spring 2018 and again in June 2020, growing 22 inches in that timespan.

When asked about his interest in Atlantic Salmon, Ragnarsson states: "It fascinates me how little we know about salmon. Also the beauty of this fish is matched by none, and I find it very fascinating how resilient it is and how it never ceases to amaze you."

We applaud the progress and conservation efforts that Valli has created and implemented at the Huseyjarkvisl river!