

			
	Lachs- und Meerforellen-Sozietät e. V.		
	Fliegenfischergemeinschaft zum Schutz anadromer Salmoniden		

Ihr Ansprechpartner:
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**Ministry of Economic Affairs,
Agriculture and Innovation
Deputy-Minister Henk Bleker
Postbus 20401
NL-2500 EK Den Haag**

Recreational cast net/gill net fishing in the Dutch coastal zone

Dear Minister Bleker,

I feel that it is time to contact you regarding the preservation of the fragile stocks of atlantic salmon in Germany.

We are an independant organisation that is involved in the restauration of German salmon rivers. We do support local activities with knowledge, pr work and funds.

A lot of effort and money has been put into these project and now as most rivers can be run freely by migrating fish we are facing other problems. Of the stocked and naturally raised fish only a fraction are returning to their place of birth. With no commerical fishing carried out on the feeding grounds around Greenland and the Faroese islands, we suspect that many of the returning fish are caught by the recreational gill net fisherman that operate along the Dutch coast.

We do understand that there is an official ban on this kind of fishing but the exeptions that are allowed in the Wadden Sea are are doing an unacceptable damage. Even if it is mandatory to release trout and salmon that are accidently caught in gill nets none of these fish will survive.

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This mixed stock fishing on salmon bound for Danish, German, French and Belgian rivers is a serious threat to our fragile stocks and we are asking you to consider a total ban on this kind of fishing.

We feel that it is unfair to ruin the countless hours of work done by our volunteers along with the financial loss. Isn't it much more worthwhile to grant the king of fish a free passage to fulfill his life cycle rather than than to allow a few people to carry out their old fashioned privileges?

We are looking forward to a positive response to our request.

Yours sincerely

**Hartmut Kloss
Secretary LMS e.V.**

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