

Estimating benefits of new Baltic salmon fisheries management program

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ABSTRACT

A stated preference valuation survey (N = 1170) was conducted in turn of the year 2009 to anglers in the River Tornionjoki area in Finland and Sweden. The aim was to provide information for the EU commission about the angler's preferences and values about characteristics of new salmon fishery management plan in the Baltic Sea. Through the contingent valuation method (CVM) angler's willingness to pay (WTP) for the new regulation program associated to measures in the river area and in partly sea fisheries in Finland and Sweden was estimated. Particularly, the CIOE (classic and interval open-ended) question format was used. In addition, the choice experiment (CE) was applied to elicit marginal values for distinct attributes of the salmon fishery programs, which are: 1) the volume of salmon catch in sea fishery, 2) extent of fishing control in the river, 3) number of licences in the river Tornionjoki area (without and with quota), 4) number of days needed to catch one salmon in the river (fishing success), 5) number of smolt (juvenile salmon) from the river Tornionjoki (state of salmon stock), 6) number of new working places in the river area, and 7) salmon management fee. Tentative results indicate that anglers are willing to accept additional fishing costs in the case that new salmon management program would be implemented. Based on the data Finnish anglers seemed to be even more supportive for the new programme than Swedish anglers. The potential contributions of the study are related to heterogeneity among Finnish and Swedish anglers and preference uncertainty - in this case respondent's difficulty to make choice and uncertainty about the choice in CE and valuation uncertainty associated to CVM. The preliminary results are expected to be available in May/June 2009.

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