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To

March 21, 2019

Dr. Emma Hatfield,

Secretary of North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

Subject: spawning protection forest river

Dear Dr.Hatfield,

WWF-Russia informs you that together with Greenpeace Russia we start information campaign on saving spawning protection forest river belts of Russia.

According to previous Russian forestry legislation since 1958, timber felling operations in spawning protection forest river belts were banned. Spawning protection forest river belts are the forests along the spawning water bodies s up to 1 kilometer wide.

But according to Federal Law No. 583-FZ "On Amendments to the Forest Code of the Russian Federation and Certain Legislative Acts of the Russian Federation to Improve Legal Regulation of Acts on Conservation of Forests on Lands of the Forest Fund and Lands of other Categories" signed by President Vladimir Putin on Dec. 27, 2018 the width of such forested belts shortens from 1 km to 50-200 m. This law comes into force since July, 1st, 2019. It causes 10 times decline of the spawning protection forest river belts area and threats to Pacific and Atlantic salmon, sturgeon, whitefishes and other valuable fish species.

In this case WWF Russia and Greenpeace start information campaign to appeal to Russian government to make changes in this law to return to old practice of spawning grounds saving forests classification.

As this change can cause significant harm to Atlantic salmon population we appeal to NPAFC and its member states and organizations to address Russian government to consider efforts to preserve spawning protection forest river belts. Please find attached joint WWF-Russia and Greenpeace Russia position on this problem.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Miron BORGULEV', is written over a faint blue line.

Miron BORGULEV

Director of Sustainable Maritime Fishery Program,

WWF-Russia