

CNL(08)29

Council

***Report On Canada's Implementation Plan
June 2008***

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ACTION ITEMS	REPORT – JUNE 2008
<p>An overhaul of the <i>Fisheries Act</i> is being considered by the Canadian government. The changes being considered will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Require for the first time the consideration of a <i>precautionary approach</i> to conserve aquatic resources ○ Put in place a <i>science-based</i> ecosystem approach to fisheries management ○ Introduce provisions concerning <i>Aquatic Invasive Species</i> ○ Enhance the approach in dealing with and enforcing fish habitat provisions. 	<p>Bill C-32 was introduced in the House of Commons (Canadian Parliament) and went through the First Reading on November 29, 2007.</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Second Reading ● Third Reading ● Royal Assent (Bill C-32 will become law after it receives Royal Assent) <p>Prior to receiving approval and coming into effect there will be extensive consultations with stakeholders.</p>
<p>Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy. The Policy was released to the public, for consultations, in May 2007. Wild salmon will be conserved by managing populations by “Salmon management areas” (SMAs). The status of SMAs will be evaluated through monitoring programs in index rivers and assessed against selected benchmarks, and reported publicly. Habitat protection and management for wild Atlantic salmon will focus on an integrated approach involving assessment of habitat condition, identification of indicators and benchmarks, and monitoring of status. Ecosystem considerations will be incorporated into salmon management, particularly in relation to marine survival.</p>	<p>Following the release of the draft Policy in May 2007, regional consultations were held between Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and stakeholder groups through the Winter 2007. Written comments were solicited through the Departmental website until March 2008. A DFO working group will review comments and incorporate revisions to the draft Policy where appropriate in June 2008. A copy of the final draft Policy will be sent to stakeholders in Summer/Fall 2008 and will be forwarded to senior management for consideration in the Fall 2008.</p>

<p>Canada will maintain its annual participation of science personnel to the ICES Working Group North Atlantic Salmon to address questions posed by NASCO, to the development of catch advice for marine fisheries, and to further the international collaborations on salmon research at sea.</p>	<p>ICES meeting was held the week of April 7th, 2008. DFO scientists attended the meeting. Report CLN(08)7 distributed by ICES.</p>
<p>Canada will meet informally with the United States at intersessional meetings.</p>	<p>The North American Commission meeting was held in Montreal, Quebec on April 23-24, 2008. Results: Exchanged information on aquaculture and provided information to the US on acid rain in Canada.</p>
<p>Based on the status of Atlantic salmon stocks and the advice from ICES, Canada will maintain the closure of commercial Atlantic salmon fisheries.</p>	<p>The commercial Atlantic salmon fishery will remain close.</p>
<p>Canada will annually provide a summary of the status of Atlantic salmon stocks to NASCO via the questions addressed by ICES. The details of this annual assessment will form the basis for development of domestic regional Atlantic salmon management plans. The management objective is to maintain the spawning escapement in each river above the conservation limit. Management measures to control undesired consequences of the fisheries are user specific and consider stock status relative to conservation objectives and socio-economic factors of the fisheries.</p>	<p>ICES meeting was held the week of April 7th, 2008. DFO scientists attended the meeting. Report CLN(08)7 distributed by ICES.</p>
<p><i>Canada's Aboriginal Fisheries will be subject to negotiated annual agreements or licenses which will stipulate gear, season and catch limits, and catch reporting.</i></p>	<p>In Québec and in DFO Gulf Region, Aboriginal peoples' food fisheries took place subject to agreements or through permits issued to the bands. In Labrador, food fishery arrangements with the Labrador Innu Association, the Innu First Nation and the Labrador Metis Nation results in fisheries in estuaries and coastal areas. Harvests in 2007 are provisional and total 48t.</p>

<p>Continue to work with the aboriginal communities and aboriginal governments to reduce the catch of large salmon (some of which are 2SW fish) and incorporate live capture fishing gears which allow for selective harvesting where concerns exist on the status of the river-specific stocks.</p>	<p>There were four subsistence fisheries groups in Labrador in 2007. There was no FSC fishery in the straits area. Most catches (95%) in Canada now take place in rivers or in estuaries. The remainder of the catches is mainly located close to river mouths.</p>
<p>Canada's Recreational Fisheries will be regulated by seasons as well as with daily and seasonal bag limits and subject to gear restrictions. As well all retained salmon must be tagged.</p>	<p>Licences are required for all persons fishing recreationally for Atlantic salmon. Gear is generally restricted to fly fishing and there are restrictive daily/seasonal bag limits. Recreational fisheries management in 2007 varied by area from complete closures of all fisheries to retention of both small and large salmon. Except in Québec and Labrador only small salmon could be retained in the recreational fisheries. A large portion of the Maritime provinces and Anticosti Island were closed to salmon angling.</p>
<p>Canada will cooperate with France and encourage the provision of catch statistics; biological samples and other data for detailed analysis of the SPM fishery and will encourage France to become a member of NASCO. Continue to meet with French officials annually, and encourage them to adjust their fishery to meet conservation concerns.</p>	<p>Canada met bilaterally with France on March 18-19, 2008. Results: France indicated that the SPM fishery had diminished and the catch was down. The catch for 07/08 was 1.8 t. France indicated they would continue to provide information to NASCO. Canada invited France to join NASCO and although they indicated they would attend as observers for this year, no decision had been taken as to whether they would join the organization as members.</p>
<p>In season counts of returning salmon to index rivers of eastern Canada will continue to be made available on the Internet to track the status of rivers in eastern Canada.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Consult with recreational stakeholders (fall 2007) on adjustments to the 5-year (2007-2011) fisheries management plan which provides a balance between conservation and rebuilding with fishing opportunities for Newfoundland and Labrador and the Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence.</p>	<p>A meeting of stakeholders was held in the fall of 2007. This meeting resulted in agreement to continue with the current advisory process and as well identify key issues that would be resolved outside the regular advisory process.</p> <p>DFO also hosted a workshop in January 2008, where proposed amendments to the Plan were discussed. Subsequent meetings were held with all major stakeholders through the Salmonid Advisory Committees (SAC) in St. John's and Goose Bay in February 2008 to fully discuss the proposed adjustments to</p>

	the Plan and to also prioritize the significant issues tabled during the special salmon meeting in the fall of 2007 and the January 2008 workshop.
Canada will improve catch data reporting, with emphasis on validating unreported catch. A review will be done on reporting methodology for weakness in reliability and consistency.	Canada will continue to examine the issues concerning unreported catches with a view to developing a credible reporting methodology to address weaknesses in reliability and consistency in unreported catch estimates.
Canada will analyze the issue of unreported catch and will implement changes to reporting methodology to improve reliability and consistency in reporting of catch including unreported catch.	Same as above
Enforcement activities will be maintained and efforts will continue to improve the effectiveness of enforcement measures to thwart illegal fishing. Enforcement activities, violations, prosecutions and penalties assessed will be summarized annually. There will be continued effort to increase the severity of the penalties related to illegal fisheries on Atlantic salmon.	Ongoing
Maintain protection for Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic salmon under the <i>Species At risk Act</i>.	Waiting for a Recovery Potential Assessment to be completed. In brief, when the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) designates aquatic species as threatened or endangered, DFO, as the responsible jurisdiction under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), is required to undertake a number of actions. Many of these actions require scientific information on the current status of the designable unit (DU), threats to its survival and recovery, and the feasibility of its recovery. Formulation of this scientific advice has typically been developed through a Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA) that is conducted shortly after the COSEWIC assessment. This timing allows for the consideration of peer-reviewed scientific analyses into SARA processes including recovery planning.
Report on development on the recovery plan for Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon.	A Recovery Potential Assessment is currently being conducted to address recovery planning. The report is expected to be available this summer.

<p>The ASCF will report annually on projects funded for salmon habitat and conservation initiatives.</p>	<p>The \$30 million has been invested is generating income. Submissions for projects throughout Atlantic Canada, and Quebec for the first year's projects have been received (June 2008). A review of the submissions will be undertaken and projects will be selected.</p>
<p>Continue the Nova Scotia Salmon Association Adopt-A-Stream program habitat restoration projects.</p>	<p>The Nova Scotia Salmon Association administers the Adopt-A-Stream program on behalf of conservation groups and recreational anglers in Nova Scotia. The program provides project funding and technical support to help community volunteer organizations undertake projects to protect repair, and improve, the aquatic and riparian habitats of local wetlands, lakes, streams, rivers and estuaries.</p>
<p>The Nova Scotia Acid Rain Campaign Committee (Nova Scotia Salmon Association and Atlantic Salmon Federation) will monitor the effectiveness of the targeted liming project on the West River Sheet Harbor at achieving the conservation objectives related to increased salmon and trout freshwater production.</p>	<p>Continued to operate the West River, Sheet Harbour lime doser, which worked as anticipated in raising Ph value to support aquatic life, and set the stage for improved salmon production. Continued to fund raise for the liming project.</p>
<p>Canada will promote acid rain as an issue for NASCO attention.</p>	<p>The issue of acid rain was discussed with the US at the NAC meeting held in March. Canada provided its update at that time.</p>
<p>Canada will promote the dissemination and exchange of information about acid rain impacts and ways to reduce its effects.</p>	<p>Canada has not only met all its current domestic and international commitments on acid rain, it has exceeded them. In 1997, SO₂ emissions were 24% below the eastern Canada cap, representing a 54% reduction from 1980 levels. Also, SO₂ emissions were nearly 30% below the Southeast Canada cap for the year 2000, and are estimated to be 18% below the 3.2 million tonne national cap. As a result, some lakes have started to show signs of biological recovery.</p> <p>In fulfillment of the commitment to further reduce SO₂ emissions, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia announced a further halving of their provincial sulphur dioxide targets by 2010 to 2015.</p>
<p>A revised I&T delivery model is expected by 2008 –09.</p>	<p>The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) has initiated the process of amending Regulations under the Health of Animals Act to support</p>

	<p>implementation of a National Animal health Program (NAAHP). The proposed amendments will align Canada's national aquatic animal health management more closely with international standards for animal health attestation. In 2007, the CFIA launched consultations with key stakeholders regarding the proposed regulatory changes.</p> <p>In early 2007, a Transition Steering Committee (TSC) was established to assess and address the implications of new CFIA regulatory framework on ITC activities and provide recommendations to ensure smooth transition.</p> <p>This committee has focused on the collection of federal-provincial information, including I&T policies and regulations, I&T committees operating procedures, CFIA operating procedures for imports and domestic movements, which will be necessary to inform future decisions regarding the management of introductions and transfers. This collaborative work will continue through 2008 with the aim of identifying possible delivery options to in 2009.</p>
<p>Amendments to Health of Animals Regulations are expected by 2008 – 09.</p>	<p>Included in above section</p>
<p>Regional Fish Health Facility to be fully operational by 2008-09.</p>	<p>Funding for a Regional Fish Health Facility to be located in St. Albans was announced in the 2007 provincial budget. This facility will help the province ensure that its aquaculture resource is protected over the long-term through effective disease management while enabling producers to operate in an environmentally-sustainable manner.</p> <p>The facility is currently being constructed and the staffing process has begun. The facility is anticipated to be fully operational by 2009.</p>
<p>Industry to ratify New Brunswick's Code of Containment by 2008.</p>	<p>The New Brunswick Salmon Growers Association (NBSGA) in collaboration with the province of New Brunswick and DFO have developed a <i>Code of Containment for Culture of Atlantic Salmon in Marine Net Pens in N.B.</i> This Code has been accepted by the NBSGA Board of Directors and has been made available for use by the industry and government.</p>

<p>Provincial regulatory amendments for the Code expected by March 2008.</p>	<p>DFO and the province of New Brunswick (NBDAA) have jointly developed the <i>Southwest New Brunswick Breach of Containment Governance Document</i>. This document details the roles and responsibilities of both DFO and NBDAA, and provides a clear and concise statement of salmon aquaculturists obligations to DFO and NBDAA respecting breaches and recaptures of farmed Atlantic salmon. It will be utilized by salmon aquaculturists operating in south-western New Brunswick and will compliment the <i>Code of Containment for Cultured Atlantic Salmon in Marine Net Pens in New Brunswick</i> developed by the New Brunswick Salmon Growers Association (NBSGA). Provincial regulatory amendments are underway and include: 1-Mandatory reporting; 2) Submission of a containment plan should a breach occur. The Governance document also requires industry to submit a recapture plan for approval so that a recapture authorization can be issued. Future work is to include the development of SOP's in support of the Code of Containment and an auditing component.</p>
<p>For 2006 – 2007, the Fisheries and Oceans Minister has appointed a representative to inform, promote the SALSEA program in Canada and to focus upon the need for public and private participation in this important international Atlantic salmon research to identify the causes and the possible solutions to the causes of mortality at sea.</p>	<p>Representations were made consistently to both Fisheries and Oceans, Canada and the Atlantic Salmon Federation.</p>
<p>Canada is expecting to commit \$100,000 CAN to the SALSEA program in 2007/08.</p>	<p>Canada gave a grant of \$100,000 CAN to the SALSEA program in 2007.</p>
<p>Continue to contribute to the IASRB inventory of research programs related to salmon mortality at sea on an annual basis.</p>	<p>Inventory of research program outlining on-going and completed projects provided to IASRB</p>
<p>Canada will continue the research on early marine migration and survival of smolts, postsmolts and kelts using acoustic telemetry. Several of these projects represent close collaborations between DFO, Atlantic Salmon Federation, province of Quebec, and universities. These activities will be</p>	<p>Same as above. Ongoing research</p>

enhanced by the new Oceans Tracking Network initiative.	
Canada will also promote links between NASCO's SALSEA program and similar programs underway in the North Pacific on Pacific salmon. Such opportunities will be available when Canada participates in North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) annual meetings and scientific meetings and exchanges.	Meeting will be held in the fall of 2008.
Promote and attend the joint NASCO/NPAFC meeting proposed for 2010.	Update expected in 2008.
Develop a research strategy, 2008-2009, for the study of Atlantic Salmon marine ecology in consultation with the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the United States National Marine Fisheries Service. This will entail access to Canadian science vessels and joint collaboration to collect information on salmon marine ecology.	Canada is contributing \$800,000 in-kind to collaborative Atlantic Salmon research. Canada's contribution to the SALSEA program constitutes of 24 days of ship time for scientists to collect data on Atlantic salmon at-sea mortality in August 2008. Costs for ship time total approximately \$500,000 and another \$300,000 for personnel, equipment and logistics.
Report on the findings of the research strategy to the North American Commission of NASCO and the IASRB (2009-2010).	Report will follow at a later date
Canada will establish and maintain a public education program including a network to raise awareness and to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species.	DFO developed the Canadian Action Plan to address the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species with provincial and territorial governments in consultation with stakeholders. The Action Plan was approved by the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers in 2004. Budget 2005 provided DFO with \$10 M over 5 years (until 2010) to assist with the implementation of the aquatic component of the national Strategy.
Canada will consult and develop an action plan to address invasive species (2006-2011).	Same as above
Canada will bolster its environmental enforcement to address aquatic invasive species (beginning late 2007).	Same as above
Canada will report annually as required in Article 14 and 15 of the Convention.	Report was sent to NASCO.

Meet and consult annually with First Nations, Aboriginal groups and stakeholders to seek input on effectiveness of management measures.	Ongoing. Regional management groups regularly meet with First Nations/Aboriginal groups to prepare annual or multi-annual Integrated Fisheries Management Plans.
Maintain assessments on about 75 rivers and, where possible, increase the number of assessments of stock status and the effectiveness of management measures.	Of the 64 rivers assessed, 36% were above conservation limits.
Undertake a socio-economic survey of the recreational fishery in Canada in 2010.	Will report after completion of the survey.
Canada will report annually on the number and extent (area of habitat affected) of habitat remediation activities undertaken annually. Many of these would be corrective measures to remediate dated and deficient historical structures.	Corrective measures were undertaken in several instances as were as court order payments to Funds for remedial work. In one case this payment totaled \$500,000.
Provide a summary of <i>Fisheries Act</i> habitat protection activities which relate to salmon habitat on an annual basis.	For 2006/07 there were 3,349 inspections and 198 warnings issued. In addition there were 760 federal environmental assessments being undertaken related to protection of aquatic habitat.
Continue to publicly announce convictions and penalties for prosecutions for destruction of fish habitat.	In 2006-07 there were 14 convictions for destruction of fish habitat. There were a number of convictions that entailed fines of \$10,000. There also penalties of \$750,000 for pollution by a pulp mill and \$100,000 against a mining company.
Provide an in depth report at a Special Session of NASCO on the progress being made to protect, recover and restore salmon related habitat. The report will outline the trends in rivers affected by acid rain and the progress made on Canada-Wide Acid Rain Strategy.	Habitat report to follow when scheduled as a focus subject on the NASCO agenda.
The Canadian government has introduced the Regulatory Framework for Air Emissions. This sets overall national fixed emissions caps for air pollutants. This will lead to reductions in air pollutant emissions that cause smog and acid rain by up to 55% as early as 2012.	Under this Framework, as of December 2007 the federal government required major industries to report their air emissions by May 31, 2008.