

Council

CNL(11)13

Summary of Annual Reports on Implementation Plans

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Background

1. The Council's Guidelines for the Preparation of Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress, NSTF(06)10, indicate that reports to the Council should be provided in two formats: written annual reports and focus area reports (FARs) presented at Special Sessions and subject to review. The primary purpose of the annual reports is to provide a summary of all the actions that have been taken under Implementation Plans in the previous year including details of any actions in accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention. The information sought is as follows:
 - details of any significant changes to the management outlined in the introduction to the Implementation Plan;
 - a description of any significant changes in the status of stocks and information on catches;
 - a description of any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks;
 - an account of all actions taken under the Implementation Plan;
 - details of any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan.
2. In order to avoid duplication of reporting the Council has agreed that no information needs to be provided in the annual return on the focus area topic under consideration unless a jurisdiction wished to supplement its FAR or had not submitted a FAR. However, for 2011 reporting on all aspects of the Implementation Plan was anticipated.
3. To date, annual returns, using the agreed format, have been received from the following Parties and jurisdictions: Canada (CNL(11)31); Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) - Greenland, (CNL(11)20); EU – Denmark, (CNL(11)21); EU – Finland, (CNL(11)22); EU – France, (CNL(11)35); EU – Germany, (CNL(11)23); EU – Ireland, (CNL(11)24); EU – Sweden, (CNL(11)25); EU – UK (England and Wales), (CNL(11)26); EU – UK (Northern Ireland), (CNL(11)27); EU – UK (Scotland), CNL(11)33; Norway, (CNL(11)28); Russian Federation, (CNL(11)29); and the USA, (CNL(11)30).

Changes to management outlined in the Introduction to Implementation Plans

4. The following changes have been notified:

Canada: A Recovery Strategy was published for the endangered Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon which included identification of freshwater critical habitat. In addition, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessed all 16 Designatable Units (DUs) of Atlantic salmon in Canada. DUs in the southern range were more at risk than in the northern range. Recovery potential assessments for the threatened and endangered units are planned for 2011-2012 in support of the listing decision. Under the *Species at Risk Act*, the Government of Canada is required to formally respond to these assessments with a listing decision.

In 2010, there was a general agreement among Aboriginal Groups in Nova Scotia not to harvest in rivers that were below their conservation requirements; it is expected that this will also apply in 2011. Some areas were closed to hook and release fishing due to low abundance. Live gene banking has been implemented for some rivers.

EU - France: There have been changes to salmon management in the maritime areas with stricter control of the regulations at sea and prohibitions on fishing for salmon at sea in some areas and gear restrictions in others. A National Strategy for Migratory Fish Management was adopted in 2010 with new guidelines developed on improvement of habitat and stocking practices.

EU - Germany: To implement the 'Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine' measures have been selected that are in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and the program "Rhine 2020" / "Salmon 2020". These measures will be implemented in phases by 2015 or 2020/2027. These measures are detailed in the Annual Report CNL(11)23. They include introduction of a monitoring programme on the Rhine, continuation of the stocking programme on the Rhine and continuation of stocking in the Elbe.

EU - UK (England and Wales): There have been no significant changes to the management described in the Implementation Plan for England and Wales (as updated in 2009). However, some new powers that were included in the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 were implemented in 2010. These included:

- extension to the list of prohibited instruments to include the tailer (even as an accessory to angling);
- wider byelaw making powers (e.g. allowing amendment to close seasons entirely in byelaws and not constrained by statutory minimum durations and start/end dates);
- emergency byelaw making powers;
- clarification that byelaw making powers apply to privileged fixed engines as they do for all fixed engines;
- power to place conditions on historic installations (privileged fixed engines).

EU - UK (Northern Ireland):

- No significant reorganisation of management entities or primary (legislative) management tools.
- The River Roe and tributaries confirmed as a Special Area of Conservation with salmon population as a qualifying feature.
- The River Erne salmon population has begun to rebuild from a quasi-wild remnant stock rebuilding programme and might now be considered as ‘restored’ rather than ‘maintained’.
- Two regulations made under the Foyle Fisheries Act :
 - a) The Foyle Area and Carlingford Area (Angling) (Amendment) Regulations 2010 which allowed for the introduction of catch and release in the River Finn and River Foyle permit waters
 - b) The Foyle Area (Control of Fishing) Regulations 2010 which allows for the suspension of angling / netting / catch and release based on management targets for the Rivers Mourne, Finn, Faughan and Roe including a provision for suspension in the event of droughts.

Changes in Stock Status and Catch Statistics

5. The catch statistics and information on unreported catches and on catch and release are presented in Annex 1 using the format previously agreed by the Council.

EU – UK (England and Wales): The annual review of stock status for 2010 shows:

- 13 rivers (20%) were classified as ‘not at risk’ – i.e. had a high probability (> 95%) of meeting the management objective;
- 12 rivers (19%) were classified as ‘probably not at risk’ – i.e. had a probability of 50% to 95% of meeting the management objective;
- 16 rivers (25%) were classified as ‘probably at risk’ – i.e. had a probability of 5% to 50% of meeting the management objective;
- 23 rivers (36%) were classified as ‘at risk’ – i.e. had a very low probability (<5%) of meeting the management objective.

Note: The ‘at risk’ category means that stocks are falling well short of the management objective.

EU – UK (Northern Ireland): The River Finn was declared catch and release under the Foyle Area (Control of Fishing) Regulation 2010

The River Bush (key indicator river for UK-NI) stock attained 56% of CL in 2010.

Data for other monitored rivers:

Percentage compliance 2010 with conservation limits for monitored rivers in the DCAL area of UK (N. Ireland):

River	2010
Blackwater	n/a
Main	61
Glendun	64
Moneycarragh	n/a
Shimna	76

Percentage compliance 2010 with management target for monitored rivers in the cross border Loughs Agency area:

River	2010
Mourne	n/a
Finn	25
Roe	197
Faughan	228

EU – Sweden: Angling in rivers has gradually increased its proportion of the total catch. Unfortunately no effort data is available, e.g. number of fishing permits, number of fishermen, fishing hours. No salmon trap nets were operated during 2010 in Swedish coastal waters. This is the first time in over hundred years without commercial coastal fishing of salmon. The whole catch of salmon is today from non-commercial fishing in rivers. The number of trap nets used has decreased almost continually for a long period. Three commercial fishermen still have permits to use one trap net each, but permits will not be renewed to avoid mixed-stock fisheries.

USA: There have been no significant changes to the status of stocks as described in the US Implementation Plan. Vessel and dealer landings as well as the observer database were queried to identify any landings of Atlantic salmon for 2010. According to the dealer and vessel landings data, there were no reported landings of Atlantic salmon in 2010. Thus, the provisional catch of Atlantic salmon for 2010 was zero tons. The confirmed catch for 2009 was zero tons. Unreported catch for 2010 was zero tons. There was no recreational fishery for sea-run Atlantic salmon in the US in 2010. In 2010, recreational fisheries on post-spawned domestic broodstock occurred in the Merrimack River, an area south of the GOM DPS. Roughly 1,180 broodstock were released to the river to support the fishery. While data for the 2010 season are not yet available, there have been roughly 1,400 permits sold each year. Broodstock are known to be captured and killed in the fishery for consumption. However, the time series of creel data for this fishery suggests that the majority of anglers practice catch and release.

New factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks

6. The following new factors have been reported:

Canada: In an effort to identify the impact of removing barriers or improving fish passage, the Fish Passage Extension Tool is under development. The tool measures upstream and downstream habitat by type and assesses the cumulative effect of habitat fragmentation in the Maritimes Region. Determining which barriers will be addressed, and how, will be a combination of identifying highest priority sites and taking advantage of opportunities that present themselves.

In Quebec Region, work was undertaken in 2010 to plan fish habitat compensation projects (including spawning grounds, rearing/wintering habitat and migratory habitat) to be built by 2013. These projects will be designed to offset habitat loss as a result of the Romaine River hydroelectric development and will enhance significantly habitat availability for salmon in a river where habitat quality is a limiting factor.

Quebec Region is also working with the proponent of a small hydroelectric facility on the Shel Drake river to give fish access to high quality habitat upstream from the dam, as part of another habitat compensation project. This project could potentially support a salmon population of 3,000 individuals over the long-term. The Province of Quebec initiated work on the elaboration of the province's first formal Atlantic Salmon Management Plan in late 2010.

EU – France: A very low number of 2 and 3SW spring-run salmon were reported in 2010, representing 19% and 0.007% of the total catch respectively. Preliminary results from a study of changes in the migratory characteristics of French salmon populations show that grilse and spring-run salmon have declined in length by an average of 2 – 3cm and in weight by 200 – 400g, between 1985 and 2008. These changes are more significant for grilse than for 2SW salmon. It has also been shown that, during the same period, the migration peak for grilse is about 1 month earlier, around mid-June, while the MSW peak is one week earlier, towards the end of March. Studies carried out in several European countries suggest that marine survival is positively linked to growth. It is possible, therefore, to assume that marine survival of salmon has fallen. Furthermore, the number of eggs produced per female is dependent on their physical condition. These results, taken as a whole, suggest that egg deposition has decreased throughout recent decades and this phenomenon could continue over the coming years. These findings will be taken into account during the revision of the TACs, planned for 2012 – 2014.

EU – Germany: In the "Master Plan migratory fish Rhine", identified measures will be implemented gradually and should influence the development of salmon stocks positively. There are concerns about possible accidental catches and poaching of salmon in the Rhine catchment and in coastal areas. A number of initiatives to improve habitat quantity and quality and accessibility are reported for the Rhine, Weser and the Elbe. Predation of salmon is a concern and protection of other 'competing' species limits the extent to which effective measures can be introduced for salmon. In the Elbe, farmed salmon of unknown origin have been caught during electro-fishing surveys.

EU – Sweden: Salmon parr densities in salmon rivers in western Sweden are still at a historical low level (period 1985 – 2009). There was a reduction in the number of salmon smolts released in the comprehensive stocking program 2002 – 2008 probably affecting the number of returning spawners and the catches. During the period 2000 – 2010 the average number of smolts released annually has been approximately 170,000. Fish that originated from ranched salmon smolts, released as a part of programmes to compensate for hydropower development, made up as much as 76% of total catch in 2009, but only 70% in 2010 due to increased catches of wild salmon.

EU – UK (England and Wales): Parts of January, February, November and December 2010 saw some of the lowest temperatures recorded in decades in England and Wales. Rivers were low, clear and, in some cases, partly frozen with possible implications for survival of young salmon. Increase in bird predation during this time has been reported for other species such as grayling but not specifically for salmon. The cold winter of 2009/10 was followed by an early summer drought – the most significant since 1976 in some areas, which may have impacted on smolt and possibly MSW runs. The remainder of the summer and autumn was wet and some rivers recorded record adult returns.

EU – UK (Northern Ireland): No commercial fishing for salmon took place in the Foyle area in 2010. Six commercial fishing licenses were issued in 2010 in the DCAL area. Overall for UK-NI this represents a significant reduction on recent years when 34 licenses were issued. There was a concomitant increase in rod catch in the Foyle area. Commercial catch by the 5 operating DCAL licensed engines rose by ~20% in 2010 compared to 2009. Rod catch in the DCAL area was stable.

Whilst detailed monitoring data indicates that implementation of the UK-NI Salmon Management strategy (Implementation plan) is conserving and re-building stocks, this management activity remains against a background of low marine survival relative to before 1997. Thus, reduced exploitation and freshwater habitat management measures can only buffer that decline. Unprecedented cold weather was experienced in late 2010 during which many rivers froze. The impact on spawning success and future year class strength will be informative of this previously unseen phenomenon within the region.

EU – UK (Scotland): Restoration projects funded through the Scottish Environment Protection Agency's Restoration fund and its Priority Rivers Project which aims to address the problem of diffuse pollution are likely to have a significant effect on access and water quality and contribute to salmonid production.

Management Actions taken under the Implementation Plans

7. As there is a considerable amount of information on the management actions taken it is reported in the returns for each jurisdiction and is not summarised here.

Revisions to Implementation Plans

8. **EU – Germany:** The ICPR would appreciate a professional exchange with NASCO regarding the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the stock situation of the Atlantic salmon at sea.

Section E of the German Implementation Plan “Waters flowing directly to the North Sea” should be deleted.

EU – Ireland: The current management structure for inland fisheries in Ireland changed with the establishment of Inland Fisheries Ireland in July 2010. This has not resulted in any significant changes to the management plan except as regards the responsibilities for inland management.

Secretary
Edinburgh
26 May 2011

Table 1: Official Catch Statistics

	Provisional 2010 Catch (Tonnes)	Provisional 2010 Catch according to Sea Age						Confirmed 2009 Catch (Tonnes)
		1 SW		MSW		Total		
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
Canada	146	54,200	92.7	11,000	53.2	65,200	145.9	126
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)								
Faroe Islands								
Greenland	40							26
European Union	511							327
Norway	642							595
Russian Federation	88							71
USA	0							0

Note: The breakdown of the Canadian catch by sea-age is into 'small' and 'large' salmon.

Table 2: Catches of Atlantic Salmon by the Parties to the NASCO Convention

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	European Union	Finland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
1960	1636	60	2641		1576	1100	40	1
1961	1583	127	2276		1456	790	27	1
1962	1719	244	3894		1838	710	45	1
1963	1861	466	3842		1697	480	23	1
1964	2069	1539	4242		2040	590	36	1
1965	2116	861	3693		1900	590	40	1
1966	2369	1338	3549		1823	570	36	1
1967	2863	1600	4492		2058	883	25	1
1968	2111	1167	3623		1752	827	150	1
1969	2202	2350	4407		2083	360	76	1
1970	2323	2354	4069		1861	448	52	1
1971	1992	2511	3745		1847	417	35	1
1972	1759	2146	4261	32	1986	462	38	1
1973	2434	2402	4604	50	2126	772	73	3
1974	2539	1945	4432	76	1973	709	57	1
1975	2485	2086	4500	76	1754	811	56	2
1976	2506	1479	2931	66	1530	542	45	1
1977	2545	1652	3025	59	1488	497	10	2
1978	1545	1159	3102	37	1050	476	10	4
1979	1287	1694	2572	26	1831	455	12	3
1980	2680	2052	2640	34	1830	664	17	6
1981	2437	2602	2557	44	1656	463	26	6
1982	1798	2350	2533	83	1348	364	25	6
1983	1424	1433	3532	79	1550	507	28	1
1984	1112	997	2308	75	1623	593	40	2
1985	1133	1430	3002	49	1561	659	45	2
1986	1559	1490	3524	38	1597	608	53	2
1987	1784	1539	2593	49	1385	559	47	1

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	European Union	Finland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
1988	1311	1136	2833	34	1076	419	40	1
1989	1139	701	2450	52	905	359	29	2
1990	912	542	1645	59	930	316	33	2
1991	711	533	1139	69	877	215	38	1
1992	520	260	1506	77	867	166	49	1
1993	373	35	1483	70	923	140	56	1
1994	355	18	1919	48	996	141	44	0
1995	259	86	1852	-	839	130	-	0
1996	290	92	1474	-	787	131	-	0
1997	229	59	1179	-	630	111	-	0
1998	157	17	1183	-	740	130	-	0
1999	152	19	1016	-	811	102	-	0
2000	153	29	1336	-	1176	124	-	0
2001	148	42	1407	-	1267	114	-	0
2002	148	9	1245	-	1019	118	-	0
2003	141	9	1012	-	1071	107	-	0
2004	161	15	978	-	784	82	-	0
2005	139	14	884	-	888	82	-	0
2006	132	23	703	-	931	91	-	0
2007	112	25	453	-	767	63	-	0
2008	158	26	444	-	807	73	-	0
2009	126	26	327	-	595	71	-	0
2010	146	40	511	-	642	88	-	0

1. The European Union catch from 1995 includes the catches by Finland and Sweden.
2. The catch for Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) includes the catch for Greenland when it was a member of the European Union and the catches up to 1983 by Denmark.
3. Figures from 1986 are the official catch returns to NASCO but where no return to NASCO has been made ICES data have been used.

Catch and release

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Canada	62,106	58,961	54,425	51,442	57,005	45,886	49,279	42,820	58,000	47,892	58,300
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Union	27,346	33,504	32,984	34,968	55,064	60,145	62,812	82,977	81,301	71,133	115,065
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,512	6,696	15,041
Russian Federation	12,624	16,410	25,248	33,862	24,679	23,592	33,380	44,341	41,881	-	14,585
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	424	-	61	-	-
Total	104,994	112,482	118,233	125,629	144,042	138,773	154,156	176,313	202,155	125,721	202,991

Notes: The catch and release figure for EU - UK(Northern Ireland) is for the FCB area only.
 There were no obligations to report caught-and-released fish in Russia in 2009 and records for 2010 are incomplete. Catch and release catches have typically been high in Russia (average of 36,500 salmon in the 5 years 2004 to 2008) and are believed to have remained at this level. However, there were no obligations to report caught-and-released fish in Russia in 2009 and records for 2010 are incomplete.

Unreported catches

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Canada	133	124	81	84	118	101	101	56	-	21	-	18
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	10-15	10	10	11	10	11	11	11	12	10	5	
European Union	215	240	169	165	125	116	114	95	72	54	47	70
Norway	320-540	440-760	500-860	410-690	320-600	252-420	285-475	299- 499	247 - 411	260 - 432	166 - 338	206 - 344
Russian Federation	237-255	249-309	200-252	166-206	99-152	110	70-103	70-103	25 - 77	-	-	-
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	917-1,160	1,065-1,445	962-1,374	838-1,158	674-1,007	593-761	584-807	534-767	360 - 576	362 - 534	218 - 390	294 - 432

Note: The information for Canada in 2010 is incomplete, as only 3 of 4 administrative regions reported