

Council

CNL(11)24

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

EU – Ireland

Annual Report on actions taken under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2010

The Guidelines for the preparation of 'Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress', NSTF(06)10 (copy attached) indicate that the primary purpose of the annual reports is to provide a summary of all the actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year. In addition, details of any significant changes to the status of stocks, new factors affecting stocks, any changes to the management regime in place, and any changes to the Implementation Plan should be included in the report. Details of actions taken in accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention are also needed by the Council. **Please provide the following information to the Secretariat by 8 April 2011**

Section 1: Details of any significant changes to the management outlined in the introduction to the Implementation Plan.

There have been no major changes to the management plan as outlined in the Implementation Plan.

Section 2: A description of any significant changes in the status of stocks and information on catches. The Council has asked that the following information on catches be provided:

- (a) the provisional catch of salmon in tonnes for 2010;
- (b) the confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2009;
- (c) an estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2010;
- (d) the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2010.

Provisional catch for 2010 = 99t
Confirmed catch 2008 = 68t
Estimated unreported = 9.8t
Reported catch and release = 15,141 salmon

Section 3: A description of any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks.

No new factors have emerged which might significantly affect abundance of salmon stocks in Ireland

Section 4: An account of all actions taken under the Implementation Plan with regard to the management of salmon fisheries; habitat protection and restoration; aquaculture and related activities; and other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including the marine environment).

Management Action	Reporting Update	Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed)
Fisheries Management		
MGT 1 Collection of catch statistics	Commercial, recreational catch statistics	Catch statistics for 2010 fishery have been derived and provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and Loughs Agency (LA) for analyses by the Standing Scientific Committee for Salmon (SSC)
MGT 2 Collection of biological data:	Escapement, survival, exploitations rates	Data for 2010 assessment collected (tag recoveries, rap information, electro-fishing data) by the Marine Institute (MI) and Inland Fisheries Ireland.
MGT 3 Scientific assessment	Individual river catch options with risk analysis	Scientific assessment for 2011 fishery i.e. 59 1SW and 12 2SW stocks meeting CL with harvest fishery allowed, 15 1SW and 3 MSW stocks meeting 65% with C&R fishery allowed 66 1SW and 1 MSW stock below 65% CL no fishing advised. 4 hydro rivers below CL.
MGT 4 Management advice	Recommendations for fishery management options	Inland Fisheries Ireland provided management advice to support regulation of the 2011 fishery in line with the precautionary approach and NASCO guidelines and based on scientific advice provided by the Standing Scientific Committee for Salmon (SSC).
MGT 5 Departmental consideration of advice	Draft regulations	Regulations for the 2011 fishery have been drafted and implemented by Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)

MGT 6 Stakeholder consultation	Regulations	A one month public consultation process was completed for the 2011 fishery.
MGT 7 Government decision to prohibit mixed stock fisheries at sea	Good order in salmon fishery	No mixed stock fishery at sea on Irish stocks since 2006.
MGT 8 Move from district management of stocks to river specific management	Introduction of Salmon Hardship Scheme for commercial salmon fishermen. Cessation of mixed stock fishing at sea.	Scientific and management advice based on individual river assessments with age defined CLs for 16 rivers (SSC)
MGT 9 Introduction of Salmon Licence Conservation component for all licence holders	A conservation component amounting to 50% of Salmon Licence fee continues to be used for the conservation of Salmon and rehabilitation of salmon catchments.	Ongoing conservation and habitat restorations projects continue in 2011. Please see the attached Link for further details: http://www.fisheriesireland.ie/Salmon-Management/salmon-conservation-fund.html
MGT 10 Wild salmon fishery management initiatives - additional government funding	Fund for rehabilitation of salmon stocks giving priority to rivers below their Conservation Limits, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and which have the greatest prospect of recovery.	New monitoring and management initiatives for specific rivers are being resourced/supported through Inland Fisheries Ireland.
MGT 11 Continuation of wild salmon fishery management initiatives	Increased salmon stock monitoring activities e.g. new counters	Six new counters installed since 2007 (IFI)
	Catch and release evaluation studies	Ongoing evaluation of C&R – 15,159 salmon released in 2010 an increase of approximately 40% compared to 2009 (IFI statistics report, 2011)
	Pilot e-licensing scheme	In preparation (DCENR/IFI)
	Development and application of juvenile stock abundance electro-fishing index	Catchment wide electrofishing results now used in annual assessment to support catch data. (IFI/MI/SSC)
	Calibration of partial fish counters	Programme of validation of existing counter underway using PIT and telemetric tags (Boyne, and Blackwater (IFI, MI)
	Development and application of new rod exploitation estimation methods	Provisional assessment of the appropriateness of the current raising factor to be applied for 2012 fishery advice (SSC)
	Development of new marine survival indices for wild stocks	New index sites being developed. (MI)
	Evaluation of kelt re-spawning, identification of feeding locations and marine survival.	Kelt satellite tagging programme started in 2010 continues in 2011 (IFI).
MGT 11 Continuation of wild salmon fishery management initiatives	as above	No changes to previously reported (DCENR)

MGT 12 Improve accuracy of river wetted areas with increased number of stream and river measurements	Improved estimation of river specific Conservation Limits for catch advice and management of stocks	New estimates derived and will be applied in 2012 following peer review. (IFI, MI, SSC)
MGT 13 Development and appraisal of a forward running forecast model using Bayesian approach	Forecast model for individual river catch options	Model has been developed in 2009 and 2010 for NEAC and will be examined for suitability for providing multi-year forecast for Irish stocks in 2011 or 2012 (MI, SSC)
MGT 14 Investigate adaptive river specific management strategy to account for run timing and individual stock components	Scientific advice on in-season adaptive management	Currently being investigated (MI, SSC)
MGT 15 Genetic investigation of stocks contributing to in-river and estuarine commercial fisheries	Scientific advice on the operation of fisheries in specific rivers and estuaries	Genetic data studies undertaken in pilot fishery in 2010 to identify stock components of the commercial fishery in South West and South East of Ireland (IFI & UCC).
MGT 16 Continuation of wild salmon fishery management initiatives	as above	Initiatives being maintained (DCENR)
MGT 17 Application of forward running forecast model using Bayesian approach	More robust estimate of stock abundance in fishery year and catch options	As MGT 13 (MI, SSC)
Habitat Protection and Restoration		
HAB1 National assessment of water quality impacts on fish stocks including salmonids and habitats is currently carried being out under the WFD. This includes the designation of hundreds of operational sites (fish communities only) and surveillance sites (includes all parameters) which have been categorized by specific habitat type and quality.	Specific targets for habitat quality have been set under the WFD which must be met Implementation of certain corrective measures from a programme of measures arising from these evaluations.	Requirements for monitoring under the WFD have been met for 2010 (Department of Environment, DOE)
HAB 2 River management plans being prepared for each river and the threats to individual river habitat will be identified	Threats will be identified and prioritized.	A National Report is in preparation by the new inland fisheries authority Inland Fisheries Ireland IFI
HAB 3 Funding for remedial measures to be raised from the angling levy contributing to the Salmon Conservation Fund and Wild salmon fishery management initiatives - additional government funding	Remedial actions to be taken on specific prioritized rivers. 3 fish passage improvement projects. 32 river habitat rehabilitation projects	Projects are ongoing and involve river stock restoration projects and investigations of fish passage efficacy and fish counter accuracy (IFI)
HAB 4 Update the NASCO rivers database	Update or improve the information on habitats	NASCO database is regularly assessed and updated if necessary (IFI)

HAB 5 Improve the quantification of the National Freshwater Habitat Asset	More precise estimate of habitat sizes and types for estimation of CLs and river specific management and catch advice	New data available and methodology and will be implemented for 2012 season advice following peer review (MI, IFU, SSC)
HAB 6 OPW drainage plans Habitat rehabilitation on all drained rivers channels	Restoration of spawning and nursery areas on all drained rivers	Many Irish salmon rivers were subjected to arterial drainage schemes over the past forty years and as a result, the productive capacity of these river for salmon has been impacted. In 2009, the Office of Public Works (OPW), the body responsible for river drainage, began a programme of habitat rehabilitation of drained rivers to increase their capacity to produce juvenile salmonids. The initial five year work programme is being conducted in conjunction with the IFI and has an annual budget of over €1 million. The habitat rehabilitation programme includes input of instream structures, creation of pools and spawning areas and bankside fencing and planting. The programme will significantly increase salmonid production in targeted drained rivers. (IFI & OPW)
HAB 7 As part of a Water Framework Directive initiative, the Shannon River Basin District is undertaking a review of the extent to which the morphology of Irish rivers has been damaged.	A report will be prepared for Government on recommendations for river enhancement with a view to implementing the requirements of the Water Framework Directive	Report is in being compiled (DOE)
Aquaculture and related activities		
AQ1 Monitor the escapes of salmon annually from commercial and recreational fisheries	Report on number of escapes. Advise on mitigation actions including installation of temporary traps or netting to remove escapees	Two escape events reported to DAFF in 2010. DAFF now renamed as the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM)
AQ2 Action plan developed for responding to large scale escapes	Specific advice on mitigation measures including insertion of traps and netting in specific areas to remove escapee salmon	Information on escapees in Irish catches and freshwaters has been provided for the 2010 season to ICES WGNAS/NASCO.
AQ3 Action plan developed for responding to large scale escapes	Specific advice on mitigation measures including insertion of traps and netting in specific areas to remove escapee salmon	An action plan is under development (DAFM, DCENR, IFI, MI)
Monitoring of all commercial fin fish farms for sea lice 14 times per year, twice during March to May. Monthly for the remainder of year with the exception of December and January where a single	Monthly and Annual report from National Survey of sea lice on fish farms in Ireland annually published by Marine Institute. Farms are advised that when threshold levels of lice infestation occur	Farms have been monitored for 2010 in accordance with regulatory advice (MI, DAFM). Monthly monitoring has been carried out. Results have been reported to the DAFM for 2010 and 2011 to date.

inspection is carried out. One random and two standard cages are sampled.	a protocol is in place to treat the farm	Farms with higher lice levels than agreed trigger levels advised to treat fish (DAFM, MI)
AQ4 Support and facilitate, in conjunction with BIM, the development and implementation of the Coordinated Local Aquaculture Management System (CLAMS) and the Single Bay Management programmes.	Development and implementation of specific plans for individual bays and feedback to the industry	CLAMs operated in 2010 and continues to operate in 2010 (DAFM, MI)
AQ5 Provide technical advice and support to DAFM, in connection with the conduct of annual audits of finfish farms. Evaluation of existing licences.	Licence re-evaluation	Ongoing licence evaluation and re-evaluation by DAFM
AQ6 Evaluation of new licences.	Requires an independent assessment and recommendation from Minister and must comply with EU Directives requiring appropriate assessments in SAC areas.	As above AQ5
AQ7 Monitoring of sea lice on wild salmonids annual programme. 12 rivers in proximity of fish farms sampled annually from May to June	Report of sea lice infestation levels on wild salmonids	Monitoring continued for sample rivers in 2010 Results reported to regulating authorities. (IFI)
AQ 8 Benthic monitoring at each sites	Report to department	Reports received by DAFM
AQ 9 Commissioned by farms - carried out by consultants.		As AQ 8
AQ 10 Annual Fish Health Monitoring Programme	Report on individual farms	Reports provided to regulating authorities as required (MI, DAFM)
AQ11 Review of Applications Transfer of Aquaculture Stocks between sites.	Provide statutory advice to DAFM on fish movements and veterinary medicines and fish health advice on aquaculture applications as required.	All transfers of salmonids were subject to evaluation in 2010 and permission granted where conditions were satisfied. (DAFM, MI)
AQ 12 Examination of required fish health management plans	Advice to DAFM	Plans have been reviewed by MI and DAFM for 2010
AQ 13 Provide certification to allow the export of live fish and ova to the EU and Third Countries (approximately 50 site visits per year).	Certificates and advice	All required certificates were issued in 2010 (DAFM, MI)
AQ 14 Provide technical advice on internal fish movements and on fish disease issues. Send recommendations to DCMNR as required. Monitoring of hatchery introductions to wild rivers	Advice on internal transfers and database of introductions and transfers from hatcheries to rivers. Up to 200 certificates are issued each year	Technical advice received from Marine Institute, Irish Sea Fisheries Authority (BIM) and IFI for applications in 2009
AQ 15 SUMBAWS EU Experimental programme on the distribution and dispersal of sea lice larvae in	Report to EU	One scientific publication in press and one in prep. on the efficacy of lice treatments and survival of

relation to finfish aquaculture		experimental groups of hatchery salmon released into the wild. (MI, former CFB)
AQ 16 Interdepartmental review of the control and monitoring protocols including high level participation by relevant state agencies	Report and recommendations for management and control of salmon farms and sealice	Review group established by DAFM reviewing risk based assessments of aquaculture activities.
AQ17 Genetics of introductions etc	Advice on introductions of hatchery reared salmonids into the wild	Ongoing provision of advice from state agencies involved in genetic monitoring of wild and farmed stocks. (MI, IFI)
Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
Monitoring of returning adult salmon for the presence of parasites and diseases	To provide information on new or persistent parasites or diseases on returning adult salmon	Ongoing monitoring by IFI with diagnostics provided by MI. A high incidence of <i>Anasakis simplex</i> was reported while sampling a pilot fishery in 2010 in the South West of Ireland. The overall prevalence is being investigated by Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Section 5: Details of any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan.

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.