

Council

CNL(11)26

***Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans***

EU – UK (England and Wales)

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 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).

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.**

Information on catches:

- (a) provisional catch of salmon in tonnes for 2010 = 112.7 tonnes (fish caught and retained only)
- (b) confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2009 = 54.0 tonnes (nominal catch, retained only)
- (c) estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2010 = 19.6 tonnes [9.7 tonnes under-reporting and 9.9 tonnes due to illegal catches]
- (d) provisional estimate of the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2010 = 14,103 (51.8 tonnes), and representing 59% of the provisional declared rod catch (by number).

Status of stocks:

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.

[The ‘at risk’ category does not mean that stocks are in danger of becoming extinct, but rather that they are falling well short of the management objective – i.e. of meeting or exceeding the conservation limit in four years out of five, on average.]

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

Climate: 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.

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		
ACTION 1: By 2009, establish the programme for developing new salmon management plans.	Sea Trout and Salmon Catchment summaries giving the details to support the 11 River Basin Management Plans in England & Wales are being developed. These build on the existing Salmon Action Plans but also include other catchments where salmon are recovering from historic degradation. A timetable to produce 82 such plans for salmon (and sea trout as appropriate) by 2014 is in place.	Action completed; further work ongoing
ACTION 2(i): Continue the development of procedures for	The Environment Agency and Cefas continue to keep the procedures for setting and using Conservation Limits and Management Targets	Ongoing

Management Action	Reporting Update	Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed)
using reference points in the assessment and management of salmon stocks	under review. Both the analytical methods and presentation of results have been updated in the Cefas/EA Annual Assessments of Salmon Stocks and Fisheries; the latest report is available on the intranet at http://www.cefas.defra.gov.uk and http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/33945.aspx	
ACTION 2(ii): By 2009, apply the Salmon Lifecycle Model (SLM) to a number of salmon rivers in order to evaluate its performance; identify improvements/areas for further model development; and clarify the role of SLM alongside current CL setting and compliance procedures in the management of salmon stocks. UPDATE TO ACTION IN 2009: Action on hold:	Various models and modelling approaches are being investigated to support the interpretation of salmonid research and provide management advice (Defra contract SF0257: Salmonid life-cycle models). Options for continuing the development of the Environment Agency's Salmon Lifecycle Model are under discussion.	Action updated; further work ongoing
ACTION 2:(iii): By 2009, evaluate use of a model to predict rod exploitation rates and to improve current CL compliance procedures.	There is an ongoing programme to review and refine the approaches used to assess salmon stocks. Work has been undertaken to improve the estimation of exploitation rates in stock assessments, and to review the balance between the use of default (generic) and river-specific data.	Action completed; further work ongoing
ACTION 3: By 2012 evaluate and determine the measures for the east coast mixed stock salmon fisheries consistent with England and Wales policy.	A review of the NE Coast fishery has commenced and will be completed to guide and support the development of new regulations before the current NLO expires in 2012	Yes, ongoing
ACTION 4: Undertake annual reviews of the status of stocks in	The annual reviews for 2010 were completed and the results are shown in Section 2 of this report. These data are published annually in the	Completed for 2010

Management Action	Reporting Update	Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed)
<p>each principal salmon river and determine the need for immediate changes to regulatory measures through the application of the Decision Structure.</p>	<p>Cefas/Environment Agency Annual Assessment of Salmon Stocks and Fisheries in England and Wales (see Action 2(i)). [Regulations are also reviewed as part of this.]</p>	
<p>ACTION 5: Review Net Limitation Orders (NLOs) for net fisheries prior to their expiry or as required by annual stock status assessments, and determine the requirements for, and implement, new controls. This process will include undertaking stakeholder consultation and applying the Decision Structure.</p>	<p>The following actions were taken in 2009/10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NE coastal net fishery: a review of current measures has commenced in preparation for the forthcoming renewal of the NLO; – Filey Bay, Yorkshire: a new byelaw limiting fishing times and practices for fishing nets in the bay was introduced in 2010 in order to minimise the by-catch of seabirds breeding on nearby cliffs (a designated conservation site); – Rivers Dee and Glaslyn net fisheries: a proposal to close these net fisheries is being considered; – Rivers Taff and Wye: proposals to introduce mandatory catch and release are under consideration; – River Yorkshire Esk: a fishery review is underway in support of a proposal to renew a byelaw protecting fish in the tideway; – River Ribble: a mid-term review of the byelaws and NLO are underway. <p>Certain provisions of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 came into effect in 2010 (see Section 1 above)</p>	<p>Completed for 2010</p>

Management Action	Reporting Update	Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed)
<p>ACTION 6: Review the following byelaws for salmon fisheries prior to their expiry in 2008, and determine the requirements for subsequent controls through the application of the Decision Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Region byelaws – annual close season for salmon & trout; • National byelaws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – annual close season for salmon & trout fishing other than with rod & line; – early season catch and release in specified fisheries and by rod & line; <p>early season method restriction for salmon with rod and line</p>	<p>Completed in 2009</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>ACTION 7: By positive engagement with other relevant jurisdictions, directly and through the EU and NASCO, seek to ensure that exploitation of any English or Welsh salmon stock in home-water fisheries outside England and Wales does not exceed 1%.</p>	<p>Following the closure of the Irish coastal drift net fishery in 2007, there is no fishery that is known currently to be exploiting more than 1% of any stock in England and Wales outside UK home-waters.</p>	<p>Completed for 2010</p>

Habitat Protection and Restoration

<p>ACTION 8: Continue the development and implementation of the River Fisheries Habitat Inventory (RFHI) as part of development of the Salmon Lifecycle Model to 2009 (see Action 2 above).</p>	<p>There has been no specific progress in developing or implementing RFHI during 2010 (see also 2ii above). However, RFHI has influenced the development of FCS2, a classification system which the Environment Agency is using to help prioritise actions to improve salmon stocks and to meet EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification requirements.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>ACTION 9: Continue and expand the range of initiatives to bring about significant changes in land use to protect and enhance river habitats - including agri-environment schemes, implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), information campaigns and tighter regulation; report annually on activities.</p>	<p>The WFD assessment process has identified a range of rivers where fish populations are at less than good status, and the reasons why there is an impact has been identified for many. Work continues to identify the appropriate measures needed to achieve the objectives of the WFD and hence improve failing salmon populations. These measures have been reported in the first River Basin Management Plans A recent evaluation of a Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) phases 1 and 2 initiative found that the project has reduced water pollution by up to 30%. CSF will use the evidence and experience gathered over the past four years to continue to address the impact that agriculture can have on water.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>ACTION 10: Deliver strategic programmes targeted to address degraded salmon habitat and involving collaboration between stakeholder groups to optimise what is achieved; report annually on activities.</p>	<p>These are now driven by the outcomes of the WFD assessments of water body status and are delivered through the River Basin Management Plans with the Environment Agency and Rivers Trusts working in collaboration. Formal reporting of progress will be every six years as required by the WFD. Salmon specific activities are routinely reported to local liaison groups.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>ACTION 11: Deliver the annual programmes of river improvements, including those identified within SAPs and those organised by Rivers Trusts, to</p>	<p>Actions to improve salmon stocks (now identified through the RBMP process – see Action 1 above) have been taken forward in 2010 by individual and joint programmes led by Rivers Trusts and the Environment Agency. This has included installation of fish passes and other habitat improvements with a capital spend in the region of £2</p>	<p>Action completed for 2010</p>

advise land managers and protect and restore river and riparian habitats; report annually on activities.	million Completed actions are reported on the Rivers Trusts' website http://www.associationofrivertrusts.org.uk/environment/index.htm and through the Environment Agency corporate performance management systems.	
Aquaculture and related activities		
ACTION 12: Control the stocking of salmonids and other species within the terms of the current national policies for introductions and transfers; report annually on stocking activities.	Juvenile salmon are stocked from hatcheries for mitigation, restoration or enhancement purposes in a number of catchments. These programmes are conducted within the terms of the National Stocking Policy and specific guidance on 'Schemes to stock rivers with salmon, sea trout and brown trout from locally sourced broodstock'. Full details of the numbers of fish stocked in these programmes, and the stage (eggs, fry, parr and smolts) of release, are included in the Salmonid and Freshwater Fisheries Statistics published annually by the Environment Agency (available at http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/33945.aspx) Introductions and transfers of other species are controlled under the Introduction of Live Fish Act and Wildlife and Countryside Act. Research is underway to more fully investigate the risks associated with past and potential introductions and evaluate the potential consequences of climate change.	Action completed for 2010
ACTION 13: Continue to assess the incidence of salmon farm escapees in monitored rivers in England and Wales, and take appropriate action if levels increase significantly.	There were no reports of salmon suspected to be of farmed origin being caught in rod or net fisheries in England or Wales in 2010.	Action completed for 2010
ACTION 14: In 2008, report on results of research on the impacts of in-river aquaculture facilities on juvenile and adult salmon; plan and implement appropriate follow-up work by 2010.	Defra Project SF0241 – "The impact of intensive in-river aquaculture on wild salmonids" was completed and scientific publications from this research are being prepared. Follow-on research (Defra Project -SF0256-The impacts of contaminants and temperature on freshwater fish populations) has been initiated.	Action completed; new research initiated

Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
ACTION 15: Report annually on results of research into factors affecting marine survival of salmon and develop new research programmes; plan and implement appropriate follow-up actions.	Results of current and completed research projects along with new research programmes relating to salmon survival at sea are reported annually in the IASRB Inventory of Salmon Research.	Action completed for 2010
ACTION 16: Maintain on-going monitoring programmes and publish results with an assessment of the status of salmon stocks in England and Wales in April each year for dissemination to ICES and stakeholders.	The annual Cefas/Environment Agency Annual Assessment of Salmon Stocks and Fisheries in England and Wales is published in April and presented to the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon. This contains further details of developments summarised above in this progress report. The full report is available at http://www.cefas.defra.gov.uk or at http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/library/publications/33945.aspx	Action completed for 2010

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

No new revisions
