

Council

CNL(11)27

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

EU – UK (Northern Ireland)

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

UK - NI

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

- 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.

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.**

- (a) 16.2
- (b) 16.2
- (c) Zero
- (d) 1561

[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

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

No commercial fishing for salmon took place in the Foyle area in 2010. Six commercial fishing licenses 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 NI 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.

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		
<i>DCAL Area</i>		
Voluntary buy-out of remaining 6 commercial fishers	No uptake. Discussions stalled.	No.
Recommendations for additional precautionary fishery conservation measures (nets and rods)	Fully developed and under Departmental consideration	Ongoing.
Ban sale of rod caught salmon	Pending necessary changes to Foyle legislation.	Ongoing.
Promote catch and release in rod fisheries	25%	Ongoing

<i>Loughs Agency areas</i>		
2 regulations (see section 1 above)	Catch and release on River Finn and Foyle permit waters	Yes
	Suspension of netting in Foyle catchment	Yes
Data collection to inform catchment management		
<i>DCAL Area</i>		
Develop adult counting facilities	New counting weir fully operational on Shimna River Projects for facilities on Clady and Garvary well advanced. Calibration of Fish counting facility at Portna (Lower Bann).	Ongoing
Habitat Surveys & development of catchment specific CLs	Moyola River, Upper Bann	Ongoing
Juvenile population assessment	1200 sites electric fished	Yes
Inform population composition of fisheries	Genetic baseline of DCAL area populations determined and population contribution to commercial fisheries mapped.	Yes
Fish passage assessment	Hydro acoustic tracking studies on Bush, and Lower Bann [suspected migration barriers]	
Collect catch data	Carcass tag database fully maintained	Yes
<i>Loughs Agency Area</i>		
Catchment status reports	Fully compiled and published in July 2010 ¹	Yes
Habitat Protection and Restoration		
<i>DCAL Area</i>		
Habitat restoration and enhancement	Programmes on following rivers: ²	Yes

¹ <http://www.loughs-agency.org/angling/content.asp?catid=127>

projects	Quoile/ Annacloy Lagan (fish passage) Bush Ballinamallard Ballinderry/ Rock Ballymoney/ Breckagh Moyola (fish passage) Main / Clough	
Draft Local Management Area Action Plans implementing River Basin Management plans under the EU Water Framework Directive.	Drafts completed for 2010 ³ .	Yes.
<i>Loughs Agency Area</i>		
See attachment		
Aquaculture and related activities		
Management of 1 salmon farming operation	Cage inspection protocols (containment) and health screening of farm stock.	Yes.
Stocking “policy”	Publish policy guidance ⁴	Yes.

² www.dardni.gov.uk/riversagency/index/rivers-agency-publications/rivers_agency_publications_press_releases/rivers_agency_publications_press_releases_2010/rivers_publications_press_releases_government_agencies_improve_river_habitat_for_fish.htm

<http://www.northernireland.gov.uk/index/media-centre/news-departments/news-dcal/news-releases-dcal-january-2011/news-dcal-280111-river-habitat-improvements.htm>

³ http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/water-home/wfd/north_eastern_rbp/ne-actionplans.htm

⁴ http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/stocking_programme_advisory_leaflet-2.pdf

Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
Supportive Breeding Programmes	Erne (whole catchment programme), Clady, Glenarm, Glenariffe, Ballycastle, Ballinderry, Dun, Sixmile, Agivey, Blackwater, Moyola, Kilkeel ,Bush. [A review is planned in 2011]	Yes
Strategic Marine Management	Draft State of the Seas report for UK-NI ⁵	Yes
Contribution to SALSEA programme	Smolt tagging [74,590 animals released]	Yes

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

None.

⁵ <http://www.afbini.gov.uk/stateoftheseas>

Habitat Protection and Restoration – Foyle and Carlingford (Loughs Agency area)

Derg Spawning gravel	Cleaning and installation	Yes
Glenlark Low pH	Installation of limestone rubble mats	Yes
Glenlark Fish passage	Removal of obstruction	Yes
Owenkillew Erosion & loss of habitat	Bank protection & habitat unit installation	Yes
Moygannon Erosion and loss of habitat	Bank protection and fencing	Yes
Clanrye Erosion and loss of habitat	Deflectors	Yes
Drumragh/Seskin ore River Erosion	Introduction of Habitat Units and Fencing	Yes
Loss of Habitat	Deflector Groynes	Yes

	Fencing	Yes
Drumragh/Fintona River Erosion	Bank Side Revetment	Yes
Loss of Habitat	Habitat Improvement	Yes
	Fencing	Yes
Strule/Cappagh Burn Erosion	Bank Protection	Yes
Loss of Habitat	Introduction of Habitat Units	Yes
	Fencing	Yes
Erosion	Bank Side Revetment	Yes
Degradation of Spawning	Introduction of Habitat Units	Yes
Camowen/Granagh Burn Erosion	Bank Side Revetment	Yes

Degradation of Spawing	Introduction of Nursey Habitat	Yes
Camowen/Loughmacrory Degradation of Spawing Gravel	Habitat Unit with Spawning Beds	Yes
Camowen/Ballinamullan Burn Erosion	Habitat Unit	Yes
Loss of Habitat	Bank Side Revetment	Yes
	Fencing	Yes
Camowen/Ballinamullan Burn Erosion	Revetment	Yes
Fish Passage	Placement of V notch Weir	Yes
River Finn Gravel Compaction	Gravel Loosening	Yes
Finn/River Reelin Gravel Compaction	Gravel Loosening	Yes
Finn/River Reelin Erosion	Bank Revetment	Yes

	Fencing	Yes
	Tree Planting	Yes