

Council

CNL(11)33

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

EU – UK (Scotland)

**Annual Report on actions taken under Implementation Plans
for the Calendar Year 2010
UK (Scotland)**

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.

No significant changes to the management previously outlined.

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) 188.6t
- (b) 120.2t
- (c) 24.8t

81,497 (representing 70.4% of the combined retained and released rod catch).

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

Restoration projects funded through SEPA's restoration fund and their 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.

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		
Where it is recognised, relative to (the establishment of conservation limits) that intervention is required for the conservation of salmon, fishery managers may seek voluntary reductions in fishing mortality or if necessary apply to Scottish Ministers for Salmon Conservation Regulations made under the 2003 Act. Scottish Ministers may change annual or weekly close times where necessary for conservation purposes.	Scottish Government is currently considering a number of applications for statutory salmon measures.	Ongoing
Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) and its member trusts are currently developing fisheries management plans for each of the Trust areas throughout Scotland	Locally developed and agreed fisheries management plans are now in place for (90% of mainland Scotland as well as for Skye and the Outer Hebrides. Trusts are using	Ongoing

	<p>their management plans as a management tool and developing them on an ongoing basis.</p>	
<p>A number of habitat protection and restoration initiatives are in place.</p>	<p>Fisheries Trusts continue to monitor local habitat. Scottish Government has funded a project officer post within RAFTs to support and co-ordinate applications from Fisheries Trusts to the SEPA Restoration Fund.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Develop multi-scale Conservation Limit and Spawning Escapement models taking into account uncertainties in the model input parameters.</p>	<p>The CL model has been developed to allow for uncertainty in salmon habitat identification using Monte Carlo simulation techniques. CL distributions for all 109 salmon fishery districts have been estimated using the model. Spawner escapement has been derived from rod catch information. Uncertainty in estimates of the parameters (i.e. exploitation rate, non-reported catch, catch and release mortality and out of season returns) are incorporated using Monte</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	Carlo techniques.	
Until Conservation Limits (CLs) are available managers have to use other measures of abundance. The outcome of detailed investigations by Marine Scotland Science into the use of catch data supports the idea that rod catch data are a proxy for freshwater abundance.	Marine Scotland Science continues to use rod catch information to assess the status of stocks and to provide management advice. A catch-based assessment tool has been developed for local assessments in the UK (Scotland) Implementation Plan and Focus Area Report on Management.	Ongoing
The Statutory Fisheries Committee continues to provide advice to Scottish Ministers and developers on the potential impacts of existing and proposed hydro-electricity and wave and tidal energy schemes on fish stocks.	The Fisheries Committee was abolished by provision included in the UK Flood and Water Management Act 2010 has now been superseded by SEPA's Fish and Fisheries Advisory Group established under statute as a National Advisory Group for Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Planning. Membership of the Group includes technical advisors and representatives from District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts.	Ongoing
DSFBs to augment natural salmon production through use of hatcheries as	As part of The Strategic Framework for Scottish	The report which is being developed in partnership with stakeholders, SEPA, SNH and Marine

appropriate.	Freshwater Fisheries a Working Group has been tasked to produce a code of good practice for stocking salmon	Scotland is due to be published in 2011 and will be complementary to a code of good practice on fisheries management techniques
Scottish Government to review the Gs contingency plan annually, publish updated plan	The Scottish Gs contingency plan was reviewed, tested and updated during 2010.	The contingency plan is available on the Scottish Government's web site on the Marine Scotland pages at the following ; http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1062/0115961.pdf
Applications from fishery managers for licences to control piscivorous birds and mammals are dealt with on an ongoing basis	From 1 January 2011 an area-based licence for managing predation by seals is to be introduced. This follows successful piloting in the Moray Firth which involved District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts.	
Habitat Protection and Restoration		
See specific actions described above.		
Aquaculture and related activities		
A TWG Sponsor Group has been formed to provide a strategic overview and direction to ongoing work at the local level in the TWG sponsored regional steering groups , local area management groups and 4 TWG funded regional development officers.	This has been superseded by a new SG funded Managing Interaction Project chaired by RAFTS with membership from Fisheries Trusts in the aquaculture areas, aquaculture producers and supported by Marine Scotland Science.	
Strategic Framework for Scottish Aquaculture published in May 2009 and is available on the Scottish Government website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working Group chairs reported progress on the Strategic Framework to Minister for 	

<p>at; www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/05/14160104/4. The UK (Scotland) Focus area on aquaculture contains full details of the implementation of the audit and inspection provisions of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007, the working groups established under the aquaculture strategic framework including a Healthier Fish and Containment, further developments of new Disease and Parasite Management requirements including an improved sea lice management reporting strategy .</p>	<p>Environment and membership of Ministerial Group on Aquaculture on 22 June 2010. Updates available on the Marine Scotland Website at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/mingroup</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Improved Containment Group is developing a Scottish Technical Standard for fish farm equipment that will define standards for specific farming locations to ensure equipment is fit for purpose on a site by site basis. A contractor was appointed in December 2010 on an 8 month, project through SARF to develop a draft standard in conjunction with industry. • Reported fish farm escapes in 2010 were at their lowest since statutory reporting was introduced in 2002 and down significantly on last year. • The Healthier Fish and Shellfish Group are strengthening both the industry’s approach to sea lice and disease control and how this is delivered through regulation and inspection. • The group submitted a paper of recommendations to improve fish health and biosecurity in Scotland to the Minister for 	
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	<p>Environment for consideration at MGA on 22 June 2010.</p> <p>The main elements of the report are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a requirement that all operators enter into Farm Management Agreements in their management area; • The establishment of an independent arbitration system linked to the SSPO to settle disputes within management areas when they arise; • Reporting of sea-lice treatment failures and exceptional mortality events above specified thresholds; and • the introduction of unannounced inspection of farms by the Fish Health Inspectorate. 	
Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
<p>Marine Scotland Science is engaged in research into factors affecting salmon abundance and diversity.</p>	<p>The following research programmes are currently underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-smolt mortality of Atlantic salmon • Analysis of post-smolt life history by scale reading • Coastal mortality and seal predation on salmonid fish • Size and condition of 	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>returning grilse (1SW) and MSW salmon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishery management models for interacting, sustainable Scottish salmon sub-populations • Development of a general spatial model of within-river population structuring in Scottish Atlantic salmon 	
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Section 5: Details of any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan.

None.

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 Salmon & Recreational Fisheries Team
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