

**Council**

**CNL(11)35**

*Annual Report  
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

*EU - France*



## **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.**

- 1) Salmon management in rivers has not significantly changed since the creation of the Implementation Plan.
  
- 2) There have been changes to salmon management in maritime areas, and there is now stricter control of the regulations at sea.
  - The Order of the Prefect dated 17 December 2009 prohibits both professional and recreational sea fishing for salmon and sea trout in the Pays de la Loire region.
  - The Order of the Prefect dated 15 October 2010 prohibits fishing for salmonids with any kind of gear other than long line or rod and line in the Mont Saint Michel Bay, and limits catch to one fish per day per fisherman.
  - Salmon fishing at sea along the Aquitaine coast (particularly around the mouth of the Ardour) is under review.

Furthermore, it should be noted that only fishermen in possession of a CMEA (Commission for the Estuarine Environment and Diadromous Species) license are entitled to fish for diadromous species, including salmon.

3) A National Strategy for Migratory Fish Management was ratified on 14 December 2010 by the ministry responsible for ecology and freshwater fisheries and the ministry responsible for maritime fisheries. A national framework for the protection of diadromous species, including salmon, has been established. These strategic guidelines must now be converted into concrete measures. Some of these will be major: the need to improve the quality of aquatic habitats, to reinforce controls concerning the biological status of populations at sea and in freshwater, the authority of River Basin Committees and Migratory Fish Management Committees and, finally, supervision of stocking programmes (<http://www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr/IMG/pdf/Poissons.pdf>).

**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.**

In-river rod and line catch (recreational fishing)

- (a) Number of salmon caught and reported in 2010: 1,362  
Estimated 2010 catch in tonnes: 4.7t
- (b) Number of salmon caught in 2009: 1,079  
Estimated 2009 catch in tonnes: 3.6t
- (c) Estimated unreported catch in 2010: 349 salmon
- (d) Number of salmon caught and released in 2010: 16 (anglers are not obliged to fill in a fishing card so the figures are partial)

In-river net (professional) catch:

- (a) Reported number of salmon caught in 2010 : 67  
Estimated catch in 2010: 276.34kg
- (b) Number of salmon caught in 2009: 53  
Estimated catch in 2009: 265.46kg
- (c) Estimated unreported catch in 2010: 8 salmon (fishermen are not obliged to fill in a fishing card so the figures are partial)

Maritime catch (in estuaries and coastal areas):

In 2009, 490 salmon were caught by professional fishermen and 20 by recreational fishermen (2.5 tonnes in total) in the Gaves/Ardour region (estuary and coast).

In 2010, 1075 salmon (9 tonnes) were caught by professional fishermen.

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

With regard to freshwater fishing, the 2010 catch was higher than the 2009 catch, which was the lowest on record. The 2010 catch was however, below the decade average of 3,125 salmon. There was a very low number of 2 and 3 sea-winter spring-run salmon reported this year, representing 19% and 0.007% of the total catch respectively. A significant number of grilse were observed in the catch during the summer run in the Basse-Normandie area.

A study of the evolution of the migratory characteristics of French salmon populations since 1985 is currently being carried out by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research, using trap information and reported line catch in France. The preliminary results show that grilse and spring-run salmon have lost on average 2 – 3cm and 200 – 400g between 1985 and 2008. These changes are more significant for grilse than for 2SW salmon. It is also shown that during the same period the migration peak for grilse is about 1 month earlier, around mid-June, while the MSW peak one week earlier, towards the end of March. Additionally, the average annual return date for grilse and spring-run salmon is later and they tend to be small. A later return does not seem to offset poor marine growth conditions. This finding, which has also been observed in studies conducted on English and Scandinavian rivers, is worrying. In fact, 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.

### **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)
<b>Fisheries Management</b>		
<b>Action 1.</b> To establish the level of catch in estuaries and in coastal fisheries.	Maritime fishermen report their catch in their fishing log as a requirement under Council Regulation No. 1224/2009 establishing a Community Control System.	Ongoing
<b>Action 2.</b> To limit illegal practices which compromise the current spring-run salmon protection measures. To adopt, where necessary, additional or alternative measures.	Surveillance is carried out on rivers as a tool against poaching . This is undertaken by specialist migratory units and through ONEMA. The lack of a wide-reaching monitoring plan leads to a tendency to lower the number of checks being made.  With regard to fishing at sea, checks have been made in the places where salmon are sold in the Aquitaine region to ensure that the fish were caught by fishermen with CMEA licenses.	Ongoing
<b>Action 3.</b> To minimise illegal salmon catch in estuarine reserves and coastal areas (Mont-Saint Michel Bay and the Arques and Bresles river mouths)	In the Mont-Saint –Michel Bay:  2008: 5 missions have resulted in 2 proceedings for fishing with prohibited gear (dipnets, which are not legal gear for recreational fishermen)  2009: 10 missions of which 2 were at sea - 20 checks were made on professional fishermen using dipnets from land and 2 at sea – no infractions  2010: 2 missions - 1 on a professional fisherman using a dipnet from land – no infractions	Ongoing
<b>Action 4.</b> To ban estuarine and coastal fishing for migratory salmonids on all rivers containing salmon.	This action cannot be considered	No
<b>Action 5.</b> To estimate and limit salmon by-catch in gear used in estuarine and freshwater fisheries in the	There has been no recent activity on this subject.	Ongoing

Gironde and the Loire.	A 'relief' system (where fishermen may need to remove their nets for a number of days each week) allows salmon catch to be limited in estuarine areas.	
<b>Action 6.</b> To better assess exploited stocks (level and sea-age composition) in order to adapt exploitation of the stocks accordingly.	A study is currently being carried out on rivers to revise the distribution of the TACs. This should lead to effective management from 2013.	Ongoing
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>		
<b>Action 7.</b> To allow or facilitate migration: the downstream migration of smolts and access to spawning habitat for adult salmon.	As part of the water classification process and Ecological Continuity Restoration Plan, many studies and projects aiming to improve continuity are being carried out in all French basins.  It is, however, taking a long time to put these plans into action, due to the need for compromise with the hydro-electric industry. It should also be noted that progress with regard to downstream migration is currently very slow, but the goals contained in the Eel Management Plan (applicable to 1555 installations) should speed this process up.	Ongoing
<b>Action 8.</b> To analyse flow, temperature and pollution conditions likely to disrupt upstream and downstream salmon migration.	A study is being carried on the character of the relationship between hydrology and fish stocks. This will be of use with regard to summer-flow management.  A record of temperature readings at nuclear power stations is kept.	Ongoing
<b>Action 9.</b> To improve and assess freshwater salmon habitat.		
9.1. To re-establish natural sedimentary transport through bank erosion in the Vieux-Rhin.	This project is currently under consideration. It is hoped that work will commence in 2012. The aim is to re-establish sedimentary transport (through controlled bank erosion and re-using old deposits from the Rhine created during the construction of the power station).	Ongoing

9.2. Monitoring and reduction of agricultural run-off (monitoring the transportation of sediment and the relationship between rainfall and sedimentary transport).	Other than a few local initiatives, very little has been done.	No
9.3. Testing under-gravel salmonid survival	Under-gravel survival studies have recently been carried out: <a href="http://www.migrateurs-loire.fr/?084-survie-sous-gravier-dans-l-alagnon">http://www.migrateurs-loire.fr/?084-survie-sous-gravier-dans-l-alagnon</a> <a href="http://migrateurs-loire.fr/IMG/pdf/resumeombredane.pdf">http://migrateurs-loire.fr/IMG/pdf/resumeombredane.pdf</a>	Yes
9.4. Hydraulic management and water sampling adapted to salmon (Garonne-Dordogne).	Significant progress has been made in connection with sluice management and base flow levels on the Dordogne and Garonne.	Yes
<b>Actions in connection with Salmon Population Restoration Programmes</b>		
<b>Action 10.</b> To continue and increase long-term biological monitoring and to improve the quality of said monitoring (monitoring migration, juveniles and spawning ground counts etc.)	In-depth biological monitoring is being carried out on the 4 French index rivers (the Bresle, the Oir, the Scorff and the Nivelles). However, their quality level has been little assessed in recent years.	Ongoing
<b>Action 11.</b> To complete the genetic characterisation of salmon stocks	A study of the genetic structure of French stocks has been carried out by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research in Rennes.  <a href="http://www.rennes.inra.fr/rennes/la_sciences_et_vous/soutenances_de_theses/theses_soutenues_en_2010/structure_genetique_des_populations_de_saumon_atlantique_en_france">http://www.rennes.inra.fr/rennes/la_sciences_et_vous/soutenances_de_theses/theses_soutenues_en_2010/structure_genetique_des_populations_de_saumon_atlantique_en_france</a> .	Yes
<b>Action 12.</b> To describe the relationship between salmon populations in the Mont-Saint-Michel Bay rivers.	No study has been carried out to date in this respect.	No



<p><b>Action 13.</b> To quantify the proportion of native and stocked salmon populations in rivers of endangered or uncertain status.</p>	<p>We have received no new information on this subject</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p><b>Aquaculture and related activities</b>  <i>(only required if a jurisdiction wishes to supplement its FAR or has not submitted a FAR)</i></p>		
<p><b>Action 14.</b> Analyse the genetic and pathological risks associated with aquaculture (both in freshwater and at sea) and establish preventative or corrective measures favourable to wild salmon stocks and their restoration (Williamsburg Resolution)</p>	<p>See the Aquaculture FAR</p>	
<p><b>Action 15.</b> To apply the Williamsburg Resolution to the artificial reproduction and raising in captivity of juvenile salmon (with no genetic or health impacts)</p>		
<p><b>Action 16.</b> To apply the Williamsburg Resolution to removing adult salmon and stocking juvenile salmon in rivers</p>		
<p><b>Action 17.</b> To include France in the area free from <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> and to adopt adequate protection measures.</p>		
<p><b>Knowledge and Information Exchange Actions</b></p>		
<p><b>Action 18.</b> To establish conservation limits in all rivers populated by salmon where this has not already been done. To update the inventory of French salmon rivers.</p>	<p>Conservation limits have only been established on those rivers where fishing is managed using TACs (in Brittany and Basse-Normandie). They have not yet been established in any other basins. As the rivers which</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	contain salmon are already known, the inventory has not been updated. A thesis on this subject is planned to commence in January 2012, and the results should be known in 2015.	
<b>Action 19.</b> To organise a biennial national technical conference on salmon and the management of the resource	The first symposium on habitat management and stocking practices was held on 21 and 22 October 2009. A second workshop may be organised in 2012.	Ongoing
<b>Action 20.</b> To disseminate NASCO's recommendations and resolutions throughout France.	NASCO's guidelines produced as leaflets are distributed to those responsible for salmon management.	Ongoing

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

ONEMA, the Ministry for Over-Seas Territories and Departments and the ministry responsible for maritime fisheries hope to revise the French plan in order to make it more operational. The new plan will be sent to NASCO by March 2012.