Agenda item 5.1
For information

Council

CNL(19)13

Summary of Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans

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The Annual Progress Reports (APRs) summarised here are the sixth and final APRs to be made under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans (IPs) using the agreed template (as revised in 2017). The following information is requested:

- any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan;
- any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management;
- any significant changes in the status of stocks, details of catches and any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks;
- an update on progress against all actions included in the Implementation Plan;
- any actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The APRs submitted prior to the Review Group's meeting on 10 and 11 April were evaluated. The Review Group's findings are presented in document CNL(19)12. In this paper, the Secretariat has summarised the information provided in section 1 (changes to Implementation Plans and new initiatives / achievements relating to salmon conservation and management), section 2 (stock status and catches) and section 4 (additional information required under the Convention) of all the APRs, including those submitted but not evaluated by the Review Group. Section 3 of the APRs covers the progress made over the last year on each of the actions detailed in the IPs and these have been evaluated (if submitted prior to the Review Group meeting) and summarised in the Review Group's report. At the time of preparation of this report, no APR has been received for EU – UK (Scotland).

1. Changes to Implementation Plans

1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan

None reported.

1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

Canada

While the trend of declining returns continued in 2018, the Government of Canada implemented a series of measures to ensure that salmon conservation remains a top priority. The management regime of mandatory catch and release has been implemented in nearly all of the southern ranges of the Atlantic coast. In the northern ranges, a combination of measures was used, including limits to catch, catch and release, and even the closing of rivers where sustainability targets were not being met.

To inform decision-making, Canada continued to engage with Indigenous groups, other levels of government, and non-governmental stakeholders, as well as rely on science assessment data.

Lastly, the Government of Canada initiated a process to advance the objectives and principles of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy. This included establishing

a working group comprised of members of the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Advisory Group to initiate the development of the domestic Salmon Policy Implementation Plan. The Plan was drafted as a consensus based document, and once approved, will serve to guide the collective efforts of all stakeholders to ensure salmon conservation and sustainability.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Faroe Islands*:** No major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management but consistent with the scientific advice no salmon fishery was conducted in the waters around the Faroe Islands in 2018.

***Greenland*:** In 2018, a new Executive Order introduced several new measures in the management and control of the salmon fishery in Greenland. This included:

- licensing of private fishermen;
- 0-catch-reporting;
- Non-reporting will result in no license being issued in the coming season.

Additionally, a new initiative to assist the implementation of the new measures was initiated. The Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture and the Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK) forwarded a letter to the licensed fishermen that had not reported in order to inform them again on the new regulatory measures and urge them to report their catches. This was further supported by a Press Release with the same message. This resulted in an improved reporting rate of more than 70% as per this date.

European Union

***Denmark*:** The rebuilt stocks in the four major rivers are now at a level where supportive stocking can be phased out. This has happened in the river Storå where the last salmon were stocked in 2017. If the improvement of numbers continue, stocking will be commenced, whereas sportsfishing will continue at current level.

***Finland*:** New agreement between Finland and Norway on the River Teno / Tana salmon fisheries was applied second time for fishing season 2018. Fishing rules reduce fishing time for all gear types used. Aim is to reduce fishing mortality by 30%, in order to enable recovery of weak salmon stocks especially in the upper reaches of the Teno system. New agreement is in line with the NASCO recommendations concerning stock-specific, target-based management of salmon fisheries. Monitoring data from the River Teno indicated that the new regulation has reduced fishing mortality at the expected rate. The observed reduction rate will enable recovery of the weak salmon stocks in the estimated time-frame, two salmon generations, as planned.

***France*:** Most of the regional management actions are referenced in the PLAGEPOMIs. They consider management methods that must be applied locally in order to preserve the species. The strategic elements of PLAGEPOMIs must be integrated into the Master plans for development and water management (SDAGE) so that the two documents are coherent on measures relating to aquatic environments. SDAGE should be updated for the third cycle 2022 – 2027 and published in December 2021.

In France, the link with the action plans for the marine environment is based on the compatibility of the SDAGE with the environmental objectives of these plans, so the actions on the salmon are well focused on the ecological continuum.

The 2nd cycle of the French implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, adopted in 2019, addresses salmon conservation and management. Environmental indicators linked to salmon conservation and management are followed up in that framework.

***Germany*:** Due to new developments and findings the 'Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine' of 2009 (ICPR report no. 179) has been updated. Complementary measures such as the evaluation and control of fishways, of measures against illegal fishery, and of stocking strategies as well as increasing reference to other fish species than salmon and sea trout have been added. Also, the 200 ha of juvenile salmon habitats identified in the Swiss Aare catchment and the High Rhine tributaries downstream the mouth of R. Aare extending the known salmon and juvenile fish habitat in the Rhine catchment to 1200 ha have been taken into account. A new chapter on the state of knowledge and protection techniques for downstream fish migration has equally been added.

A chapter on the balance presents the implementation of the most important measures and recommendations so far listed in the Master Plan 2009.

The overarching objective of the Master Plan Migratory Fish is still to achieve self-sustaining and stable populations of migratory fish in the Rhine catchment.

Further information on future challenges for migratory fish in the Rhine are available in the concerned ICPR report no. 247 and the corresponding fact sheet.

***Ireland*:** The North-South Standing Scientific Committee for Inland Fisheries (NSSSCIF) was formed in early 2018 to support the all-island provision of scientific advice relating to the conservation and sustainable exploitation of the inland fisheries resource including such matters concerning Atlantic salmon. Scientific advice is provided in response to requests from the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and its agency Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI), the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs from Northern Ireland and the Loughs Agency, a North-South Implementation Body. This group is also tasked to give consideration to the co-ordination and effective use of scientific resources for data collection and research projects linked to the above. The NSSSCIF Terms of Reference facilitates the formation of Expert Groups drawn from within the membership of the Committee, or additional invitees as required, to advise and contribute on any particular species, aquatic habitat or biosecurity issues. To this end, the NSSSCIF has established an expert group, the 'Technical Expert Group on Salmon', to provide scientific advice (including annual river-specific stock assessments) to guide the NSSSCIF and IFI management in the decisions and policy development relating to salmon in Ireland.

***Spain (Asturias)*:** There are no major changes in fishing regulations. Some wild specimens in fishing season have been donated by fishermen for artificial spawning. Fishing is allowed only by anglers in the river. While fishing in the sea or on the coast is prohibited.

***Spain (Galicia)*:** The Interreg Project MIGRAMIÑO-MINHO, with the participation of Spain and Portugal, started at the end of 2016 with the aim of improving the status of migratory fish populations of the international reach of river Miño and of their riverine habitat conditions and is still ongoing.

***Spain (Navarra)*:** Under the framework of the LIFE IREKIBAI project (LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186), a salmon radiotracking scheme has been implemented during 2018. 28 adult salmon were marked in the lower parts of the Bidasoa river basin when they entered from the sea and were tracked during the upstream migration. As a result of the

monitoring, important aspects related to the fluvial phase of the salmon life cycle in the Bidasoa River were identified: identification of upstream and downstream migration problems; reproductive success ratio; before and after spawning survival; spawning dates and location; degree of the basin colonization; etc. The analysis of the data gathered through the monitoring is still ongoing and the results will be published in the webpage of the LIFE IREKIBAI project as soon as they are available.

***Sweden*:** Coastal catch of salmon has been insignificant in 2015 – 2018 due to new fishing rules and a restricted licensing system. Hence, mixed-stock fishery on the coast is not a problem anymore. Restrictions on landing of large salmon in rivers below full reproductive capacity will be enforced in 2020.

***UK (England and Wales)*:** New byelaws came into effect in England in December 2018 to reduce fishing mortality in English fisheries and on the Border Esk (border river with Scotland); the proposals were developed by the Environment Agency (EA) in England and followed an extensive period of consultation. The new measures will apply from the 2019 season and aim to protect and restore stocks, the measures include:

- the closure of many net fisheries, including all remaining drift net fisheries, and the introduction of mandatory catch-and-release (C&R) of salmon in some other net fisheries where some fishing for sea trout will be allowed to continue. The latter fisheries will be permitted provided these predominantly take sea trout, do not threaten sea trout stocks and provided any salmon caught can be safely released;
- the introduction of mandatory C&R by anglers on rivers classed in the lowest stock status category and all rivers categorised as recovering rivers (i.e. those that only support small stocks or where small populations have re-established in recent years in previously polluted catchments following improvements in water quality);
- the introduction of voluntary C&R targets in excess of 90% on rivers classed as 'probably at risk'. Compliance with the C&R target will be reviewed in 2020 with a view to either continuing the voluntary measures or implementing mandatory C&R byelaws if stocks cannot be adequately protected by voluntary means;
- renewal of the existing 'spring salmon' provisions to protect larger, early running salmon.

A similar package of measures to reduce exploitation of salmon in Welsh fisheries was also developed by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) in response to widespread failure of individual river stocks against their Conservation Limits and following a formal consultation process. These measures remain under consideration (a Local Inquiry has been held to review and advise on the proposals). If approved, the measures would:

- introduce mandatory C&R fishing of salmon at all times for rod fisheries in all rivers in Wales;
- introduce method prohibitions on bait (worm, prawn and shrimp), use of treble hooks and use of barbed hooks (barbless acceptable). Exceptions apply on the three cross-border rivers;
- introduce mandatory C&R fishing and method controls on 2 of the 3 cross-border rivers – Dee and Wye (the Environment Agency take integrated lead for fisheries matters on the River Severn, the other cross-border river and measures will be reviewed here in early 2019).

- introduce mandatory C&R of salmon at all times in all net fisheries, with the exception of a small net fishery on the Wye. The latter has had catches capped at 2 fish per licence under terms of a lease;
- introduce revised start and finish dates for net fishing seasons.

Welsh Government will make the final decision on whether to implement these byelaws or not, or what form they should take. Until that decision is made, existing byelaws remain in place. However, salmon stocks remain vulnerable and so fishermen have been urged to return all salmon to the river; anglers have also been asked to only use methods that give released fish the best chance of survival.

Alongside these proposals for increased regulation of fisheries, both the EA and NRW are actively pursuing measures to improve the quality of the riverine environments utilised by salmonid stocks. Progress with actions is provided in this APR.

***UK (Northern Ireland)*:** As part of the IYS, the River Bush Salmon Station will host a two day public event in 2019 to inform visitors of the ongoing salmon research, monitoring and conservation work in N. Ireland. In addition there will be an exhibition open during office hours throughout the summer months to allow the public to see poster displays and a number of films commissioned specifically for the IYS – one on the work at the Bush and the other a children's animation on the life cycle of the salmon drawn by local school children.

Norway

In 2018, all Norwegian salmon stocks (448) were classified for the period 2010 – 2014. 188 stocks were classified in accordance to the National Quality Norm for Wild Salmon. 260 stocks with insufficient information were classified after a simplified system developed by the Norwegian Scientific Advisory Committee for Atlantic Salmon (SACAS).

91 stocks were classified as good or very good quality, 158 stocks had moderate quality and 182 stocks were classified as poor or very poor quality. 17 stocks are under re-establishment after eradication of *G. salaris*.

The most important impact factors were identified as; escaped farmed salmon, sea lice, hydropower production and other habitat alterations. The risk for worsening is assessed as none or low for 35% of the stocks and moderate for 50%. For 14% of the stocks the risk for further deterioration are assessed as high.

Russian Federation

A new Federal Law on Recreational Fishery was adopted in 2018. The Federal Law will come in force in 2020 and will be a basis for regulation of recreational fisheries at fishing sites for valuable fish species such as Atlantic salmon.

United States of America

There has been considerable progress with the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative. For the East Coast of the United States, the IYS was launched on October 30, 2018 at the New England Aquarium in Boston, Massachusetts. The event included an opening lecture by Catherine Schmitt (author of The Presidential Salmon) and Madonna Soctomah (Former Passamaquoddy Tribal Representative with the Maine State Legislature) and a social event launching the new Atlantic salmon exhibit at the Aquarium. There was also a kick-off event at the Maine Discovery Museum on February 28, 2019 that included a lecture from Ed Baum (author of Maine Atlantic

Salmon: A National Treasure) and a gallery event, featuring artist Karen Talbot's 'Maine's River Run Fish.' We have also developed several new outreach tools and contracted with a marketing firm to help guide IYS-related messaging to the four key audience groups.

In October of 2018, the Maine Department of Marine Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a new program to help fund Atlantic salmon recovery work and reduce the regulatory burden associated with road and bridge construction projects. The Atlantic Salmon Restoration and Conservation Program provides public and private parties working on road and bridge construction projects, bank stabilizations, dam repairs or other in-water projects the flexibility to pay a fee in lieu of mitigation efforts required by federal law to offset unavoidable environmental impacts of the construction activity. The in-lieu-fee program requires that funds paid are used to support other restoration work that results in, at minimum, no net loss of habitat or habitat function. Once sufficient funds are available, grant proposals will be solicited and evaluated by a review committee, convened by the Maine Department of Marine Resources, and made up of representatives from state and federal agencies. Mitigation projects will be selected based on an analysis of their ability to compensate for impacts of the projects paying into the program, and to provide significant benefits to Atlantic salmon and the ecosystem upon which they depend.

2. Changes in Stock Status and Catch Statistics

The catch statistics and information on unreported catches and on catch and release are presented in Annex 1 using the information provided in the APRs. The provisional catch in 2018 (997 t) is lower than the catch in 2017 (1074 t). Incomplete information is available on the extent of catch and release fishing and unreported catches.

2.1 **Provide a description of any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks and, if there has been any significant change in stock status since the development of the Implementation Plan, provide a brief summary of these changes**

The following information was provided:

Canada

Abundance of Atlantic Salmon stocks in eastern Canada continued to decline in most areas, particularly in the southern regions of the species range. Reductions in the annual recreational retention limits in Newfoundland and Labrador and continued catch and release only or closure of fisheries in the Maritime provinces reflect the realized low abundances in 2016 and 2017. Low river discharges and warm water temperatures necessitated in-season restrictions on recreational fisheries for the purpose of reducing the impact of catch and release fisheries during those stressful events.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Faroe Islands*:** The 2017 ICES Advisory Committee Report (CNL(17)8)) indicates that PFAs of both maturing 1SW and non-maturing 1SW salmon for Northern NEAC show a general decline over the time period (since 1983), with the decline being more marked in the maturing 1SW stock. Both stock complexes have, however, been at full reproductive capacity prior to the commencement of distant-water fisheries (i.e. meeting the SER with at least 95% probability) throughout the time-series. PFA of maturing 1SW and of non-maturing 1SW salmon for Southern NEAC demonstrate

broadly similar declining trends over the time period (since 1971). Both stock complexes were at full reproductive capacity prior to the commencement of distant-water fisheries throughout the early part of the time-series. However, in around half of the years since the mid-1990s, the non-maturing 1SW stock has been at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity before any fisheries took place. The maturing 1SW stock, on the other hand, was first assessed as being at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity in 2009, and has been at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity or suffering reduced reproductive capacity in around half of the years since then.

There are no new factors in Faroese waters which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks.

European Union

***Germany*:**

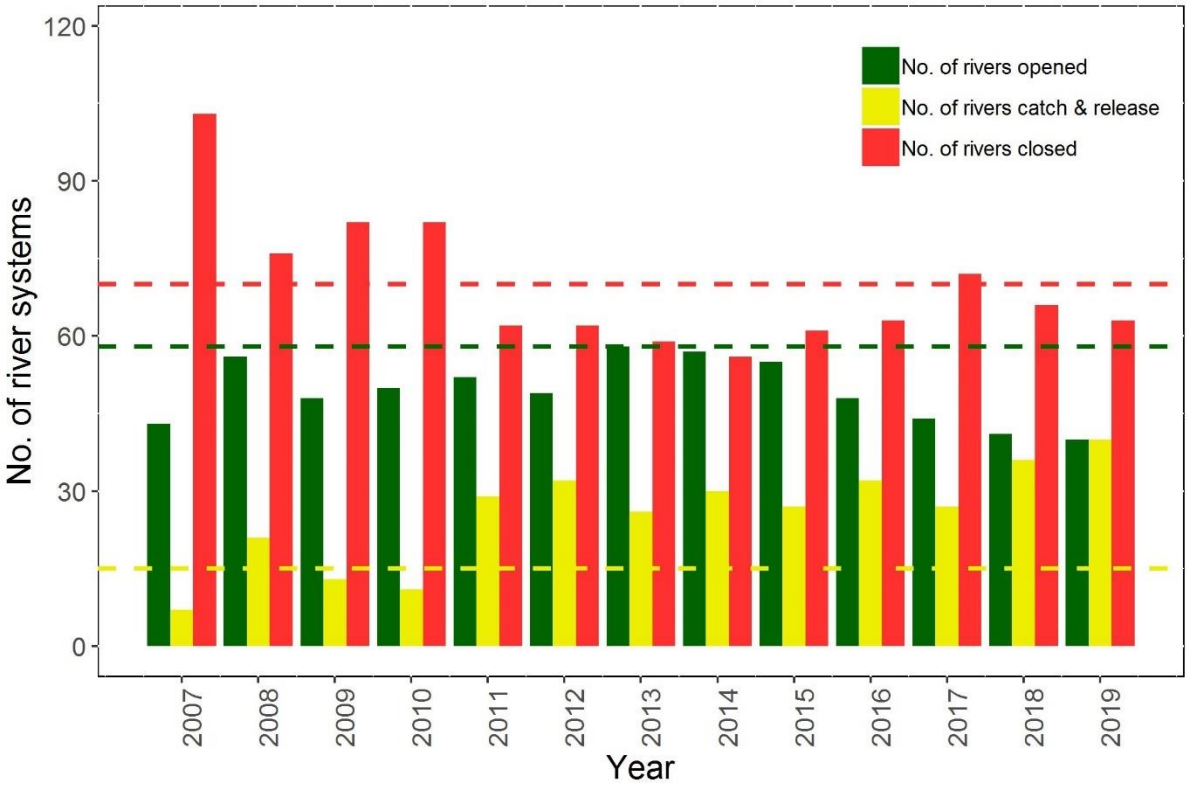
Rhine: The registered numbers of returning adult salmon was very low compared to the previous years. In total 223 (preliminary results) salmon were registered in the Rhine catchment in 2018 compared with 541 in the previous year. The low number of returning salmon is attributable to the severe low water situation in the Rhine lasting from early summer until autumn 2018, which has probably hindered upstream migration of salmon into the tributaries. The number of registered adult salmon returning from the sea and observations of natural reproduction of salmon in the Rhine tributaries are documented (see graph and statistics attached). In 2018 1.727.742 young salmon have been introduced in suitable tributaries by stocking measures. An important milestone for the ecological restoration of the Rhine is the partial opening of the Haringvliet dam in one of the estuaries of the Rhine near Rotterdam in the Netherlands. Since autumn 2018, the network between the Rhine and the North Sea and therefore the migration route in this area is improved because the sluice gates on the Haringvliet dam will be regularly left open even at high tide. When the fourth fish pass at Gerstheim in the Upper Rhine comes fully in operation in June 2019, a further section of the main stream of the Rhine will be accessible for migratory fish.

Elbe: In 2018, the general conditions for the salmon migration have been extraordinarily unfavourable in the upper Elbe. The drought, which had persisted for months, resulted in extremely low water levels in both the Elbe and its tributaries. High air temperatures also caused water temperatures well above the long-term reference values until mid-November. In a comparison of all years since the first return of adult salmon in 1998, 2018 was the year with the lowest water discharges in the salmon spawning rivers during the salmon run in October and November. As a result, only a few adult salmon have been detected in the upper Elbe tributaries of Saxony. In the lower Elbe, 2018 is considered as an extraordinarily bad salmon year due to the extreme drought, as well. In the tributaries of the middle Elbe, the extreme drought did not have quite as negative consequences for the salmon run as in the upper and lower Elbe. Average numbers of returning salmon were reported in the project rivers in Brandenburg and Saxony-Anhalt.

Weser: Also in the Weser and its tributaries, hardly any salmon were recorded in 2018.

***Ireland*:**

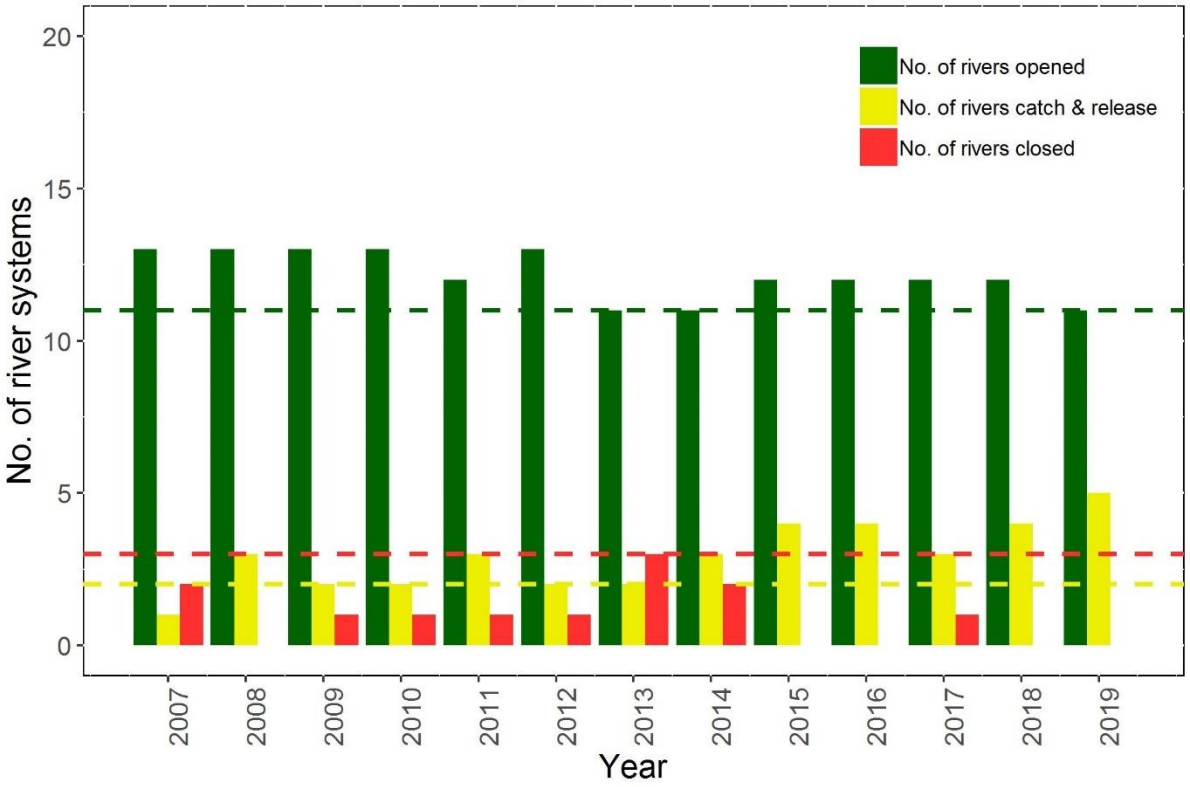
Summary of status of stocks and catch advice and forecast for 2019 fishery season



(Dashed lines indicate corresponding baseline stock status reference points as set out in the Implementation Plan)

The stock status and catch advice forecasted for the 2019 fishery is that 40 rivers have an advised harvestable surplus as they are exceeding their conservation limits (CL). A further 40 river systems could open for catch and release-only (C&R-only) fishing based on exceeding a minimum fry threshold (≥15 salmon fry/5 min electro-fishing average) in catchment-wide electrofishing surveys or based on Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) management criteria that they meet 50% or over of their CL but do not exceed their CL. 63 river systems should be closed for fishing as they do not exceed the management target of meeting at least 50% of CL, electrofishing thresholds have not been met or there is insufficient information for full stock assessment. In comparison to the baseline stock status reference points as set out in the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plan, this represents a progressive decline in the number of systems open as a harvest fishery, an increase in fisheries open solely for C&R and a marginal decline in closed fisheries.

There are 16 river systems for which a separate assessment is made for multi-sea-winter (MSW) salmon where there are significant fisheries. Of these, 11 have an advised harvestable surplus as they are exceeding their CL. Five of these river systems can open for C&R-only fishing based on exceeding the minimum fry threshold in catchment-wide electrofishing surveys or based on IFI management criteria that they meet 50% or over of their CL but do not exceed CL.



In addition, there are four assessments on river systems used for hydropower which have been assessed as being below their CL (Upper Liffey (Dublin), Upper Lee (Cork), Upper Shannon (Limerick) and the River Erne).

In applying the scientific advice to management, it should be noted that where rivers are only marginally above their CL they may be restricted to C&R-only fishing so that the actual number of rivers open for harvest under regulation can be less than the number of rivers actually achieving CL. It should be noted that previous to the 2018 advice, C&R-only fishing was permitted in systems where 65% or over of the CL was met but the CL was not exceeded, or a minimum fry threshold (≥17 salmon fry/5 minute electro-fishing average) was achieved.

***Spain (Asturias)*:** No important changes. Catches have increased slightly.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Catch number	**356**	**247**	**1045**	**1301**	**837**	**1210**	**1094**	**1138**	**498**	**601**

Restocking programmes with native fish. Parr production in hatchery in 2018 is 214772 parr.

***Spain (Galicia)*:** There was a big drought again in Galician rivers during 2018 which probably affected to the final catch. No other significant changes.

***Spain (Navarra)*:** There have not been new factors which may affect the abundance of salmon stocks since last year. Since the development of the Implementation Plan, several barriers have been removed and as a result, there seems to be an improvement on the colonisation rate of the basin by the migrating spawners, as they seem to reach faster and in greater numbers to the upper areas of the Bidasoa River basin, where they were seldom seen in the past. The size of the stock varies among years, but on average it seems to remain around 420 spawners.

***Sweden*:** The commercial coastal fishery for salmon is insignificant since 2015, with only two traps operating and no reported catches of salmon as they are focusing on other species (garfish, brown trout). The development is due to a ban on gill-net fishing in deeper coastal waters as well as restrictive issuing of new licenses to operate fixed engines / traps. Also, there is a bag-limit on the coast for non-commercial fishermen using rod and line.

***UK (England and Wales)*:** The provisional annual review of stock status for 2018 resulted in the following river classifications against the designated management objective (MO) – i.e. of meeting or exceeding the conservation limit in four years out of five (i.e. >80% of the time):

- 0 rivers (0%) 'not at risk' – i.e. p>95% of meeting the MO;
- 4 rivers (6%) 'probably not at risk' – i.e. p>50% but <95% of meeting the MO;
- 36 rivers (56%) 'probably at risk' – i.e. p>5% but <50% of meeting the MO;
- 24 rivers (38%) 'at risk' – i.e. p<5% of meeting the MO.

[NB: *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.]*

Factors affecting stock abundance:

Several rivers in E&W have seen a progressive decline in numbers of returning salmon since around 2010. This has been driven by a marked reduction in the abundance of 1-sea-winter salmon (or grilse) – the dominant run component on most salmon rivers in E&W in the last 20 – 30 years. While, in part, this decline has been compensated for by increased runs of multi-sea-winter salmon (generally larger and more fecund fish than grilse), many river stocks are still failing to meet Management Objectives (above). These recent changes in the abundance and composition of returning salmon appear to be linked to changes in the marine environment – possibly long-term cyclical changes affecting the North Atlantic.

In addition to the influence of marine factors on adult returns, poor recruitment of salmon fry was a cause of significant concern in 2016 in many English and Welsh rivers. Available evidence indicated a very poor smolt run in 2017 on one river in southern England where almost all the smolts migrate as one-year-olds. For most other rivers in England and Wales, where two-year-old smolts predominate, smolt runs are also likely to have been well below average in 2018.

The summer of 2018 was particularly dry and relatively warm in England and Wales and flows on most rivers were well below seasonal averages from May through to the autumn. This, along with elevated temperatures is expected to have contributed to the poor runs and catches that were widely observed in 2018.

***UK (Northern Ireland)*:** Salmon returns to the DAERA area of N. Ireland were impacted by a period of long, dry summer weather and drought conditions on many rivers. Returns of adults to many catchments on the east coast of N. Ireland were particularly reduced and it is suspected that this was due to the impact of the sustained drought on these smaller rivers systems. In the Loughs Agency Foyle area, the results were mixed for the four rivers with Management Regulations and which are assessed using fish counters results. The Rivers Roe and Faughan continued to exceed their MTs while the Finn as in previous years did not attain its MT but showed a significant improvement on previous years. The Mourne did attain its MT, after adjustment for fish crossing the weir and not passing through the counting channel.

Russian Federation

No new threats to Atlantic salmon stocks were identified in 2018. However, adult Atlantic salmon in the Kola and the Tuloma rivers continued to show signs of disease, diagnosed in 2015 as ulcerative dermal necrosis (UDN).

United States of America

Provisionally, adult returns to U.S. waters in 2018 were 869.

3. Implementation Plan Actions

Details of progress against the actions included in individual Implementation Plans is reported in the Annual Progress Reports for each jurisdiction and have been evaluated and summarised by the Review Group (see CNL(19)12).

4. Additional information required under the Convention

4.1 Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Greenland*:** New Greenland Government's Order no. 5 of 21 September 2018 on salmon fishing.

European Union

***France*:** Unveiled on 4 July 2018, the Biodiversity Plan aims to strengthen France's action to preserve biodiversity or to restore it when it is degraded. The aim is to improve the lives of French people in the short term and to guarantee that of future generations. Some actions are connected with our IP. For example:

Action 39: we will launch an operational study aimed at absorbing 20 main black spots in ecological coherence regional schemes and will restore the aquatic continuity over 50,000 km of watercourses in 2030. It is about selecting obstacles of ecological continuities (road and rail infrastructures, dams, etc.) and work towards their removal. This work will contribute in an exemplary way to the ecological continuities restoration and accelerate the implementation of the green and blue weft.

Action 42: By 2020, national multi-species or habitats action plans will be developed for the most endangered species, particularly in overseas territories. These action plans make it possible to synthesize available knowledge and threats and identify the priorities that will be brought by the plan partners. The interest of multi-species plans and habitats is to be able to identify the actions that contribute to the preservation of several species, simultaneously, and thus multiply the action.

The 2nd cycle of the French implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, adopted in 2019, addresses salmon conservation and management. Environmental indicators linked to salmon conservation and management are followed up in that framework.

***Spain (Cantabria)*:** Management Plans for each SAC (were approved during 2017, https://boc.cantabria.es/boces/verBoletin.do?idBolOrd=19089).

***Spain (Navarra)*:** A new angling regulation is adopted every year. The only aspect that concerns the salmon is the number of fish that can be captured (TAC).

***UK (England and Wales)*:** Various new NLOs and byelaws, as specified in Section 2.

Russian Federation

A new Federal Law on Recreational Fishery was adopted in 2018. The Federal Law will come in force in 2020 and will be a basis for regulation of recreational fisheries at fishing sites for valuable fish species such as Atlantic salmon.

4.2 **Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures**

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Greenland*:** A new Multi-annual Regulatory Measure 2018 – 2020 (WGC(18)11) was adopted in 2018 and with it a new Executive Order. This entails that the following new measures has entered into force:

- licensing of private fishermen;
- 0-catch-reporting

Non-reporting will result in no license being issued in the coming season.

European Union

***Finland*:** In River Näätämöjoki, local co-operation among fishing rights owners has continued and resulted in voluntary reduction of their fishing effort in latest years, reduced fishing days for traditional gears compared to regulations in the Näätämö fisheries agreement. Recreational fishing effort in River Näätämönjoki is based on a quota for the amount of fishing licences across three fishing zones, and the quotas have been set both temporally (different parts of the season) and spatially by the state authority (Metsähallitus).

***Ireland*:** In 2018 the Irish Government established a steering group of key stakeholders to examine the barriers to fish passage in the lower River Shannon, where two substantial dams associated with the Shannon hydro-electric scheme are present in its lower reaches since the late 1920s. The Shannon is the largest catchment in Ireland and traditionally held substantial stocks of wild salmon throughout its system. These stocks have progressively declined over the last century and wild salmon are largely extirpated upstream of the dams. The steering group is considering the impact of barriers to fish migration at the dams and is tasked with making recommendations for improving fish passage in the environs. It is expected to make its recommendations within eighteen months. Associated with this initiative, an extensive nationwide assessment of barriers to fish migration in Irish river systems is being undertaken through the State-funded IFI National Barriers Programme, as well as the EU-funded AMBER and EPA-funded RECONNECT projects.

***Spain (Navarra)*:** The ongoing LIFE IREKIBAI project (LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186) has the main objective of improving the connectivity of the Bidasoa River. The project will run until 2020. For the year 2019, it is foreseen that under this project a programme of 'Salmon adoption' is going to be implemented. The program foresees that anglers donate the captured salmon alive, so it can be used as breeder in the fish farm owned by the Government of Navarre. The produced fries would be used for restocking the Bidasoa River.

***UK (England and Wales)*:** Proposed new fishery regulations in Wales are currently under consideration (Section 1.2). Compliance with the voluntary catch-and-release targets established for rivers in England is due to be reviewed in 2020; mandatory provisions may be considered if targets not achieved.

4.3 **Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles**

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Greenland*:** Fishery targeting salmon beyond 12nm is already prohibited / illegal by law in Greenland.

European Union

***Spain (Asturias)*:** Fishing prohibited in the sea since 2002. Ley 6/2002 del Principado de Asturias.

4.4 **Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not Party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention**

None reported.

4.5 **Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations**

None reported.

North American Commission Members only

4.6 **Details of any new measures to minimise by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member**

Canada

The mixed stock fishery in Labrador occurs primarily in the estuaries. No additional measures have been implemented, however DFO science continued genetic sampling to determine the origin of salmon harvested in the Labrador mixed stock fishery. The sampling data from 2018 indicate that 98 – 99% of the fish captured originate from Labrador rivers.

4.7 **Details of any alteration to fishing patterns that result in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party except with the consent of the latter**

No details reported.

Secretary
Edinburgh
14 May 2019

Annex 1

Table 1: Official Catch Statistics[1]

	Provisional 2018 catch				Confirmed 2017 catch			
	In-River	**Estuarine**	**Coastal**	**Total**	**In-River**	**Estuarine**	**Coastal**	**Total**
Canada	36.6	46.1	6.8	**89.5**	67.6	33.8	8.4	**109.9**
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)								
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
Greenland	-	-	39.9	**39.9**	-	-	-	**28**
European Union	121.3	35.6	35.5	**192.4**	150.2	38.5	36	**224.7**
Norway	272	-	323	**595**	377	-	290	**667**
Russian Federation	44	0	35.9	**79.9**	33.9	0	12.9	**46.8**
USA	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
TOTAL	**473.9**	**81.7**	**441.1**	**996.8**	**628.7**	**72.3**	**347.3**	**1076.4**

[1] Where no return to NASCO has been made ICES data have been used.

Table 2: Catches of Atlantic Salmon by the Parties to the NASCO Convention[1]

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)[2]	European Union[3]	Finland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
1960	1636	60	2641		1576	1100	40	1
1961	1583	127	2276		1456	790	27	1
1962	1719	244	3894		1838	710	45	1
1963	1861	466	3842		1697	480	23	1
1964	2069	1539	4242		2040	590	36	1
1965	2116	861	3693		1900	590	40	1
1966	2369	1338	3549		1823	570	36	1
1967	2863	1600	4492		2058	883	25	1
1968	2111	1167	3623		1752	827	150	1
1969	2202	2350	4407		2083	360	76	1
1970	2323	2354	4069		1861	448	52	1
1971	1992	2511	3745		1847	417	35	1
1972	1759	2146	4261	32	1986	462	38	1
1973	2434	2402	4604	50	2126	772	73	3
1974	2539	1945	4432	76	1973	709	57	1
1975	2485	2086	4500	76	1754	811	56	2
1976	2506	1479	2931	66	1530	542	45	1
1977	2545	1652	3025	59	1488	497	10	2
1978	1545	1159	3102	37	1050	476	10	4
1979	1287	1694	2572	26	1831	455	12	3
1980	2680	2052	2640	34	1830	664	17	6
1981	2437	2602	2557	44	1656	463	26	6
1982	1798	2350	2533	83	1348	364	25	6
1983	1424	1433	3532	79	1550	507	28	1
1984	1112	997	2308	75	1623	593	40	2
1985	1133	1430	3002	49	1561	659	45	2
1986[3]	1559	1490	3524	38	1597	608	53	2
1987	1784	1539	2593	49	1385	559	47	1
1988	1311	1136	2833	34	1076	419	40	1
1989	1139	701	2450	52	905	359	29	2
1990	912	542	1645	59	930	316	33	2
1991	711	533	1139	69	877	215	38	1
1992	520	260	1506	77	867	166	49	1
1993	373	35	1483	70	923	140	56	1
1994	355	18	1919	48	996	141	44	0

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)[2]	European Union[3]	Finland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
1995	259	86	1852	-	839	130	-	0
1996	290	92	1474	-	787	131	-	0
1997	229	59	1179	-	630	111	-	0
1998	157	17	1183	-	740	130	-	0
1999	152	19	1016	-	811	102	-	0
2000	153	29	1336	-	1176	124	-	0
2001	148	42	1407	-	1267	114	-	0
2002	148	9	1245	-	1019	118	-	0
2003	141	9	1012	-	1071	107	-	0
2004	161	15	978	-	784	82	-	0
2005	139	14	884	-	888	82	-	0
2006	132	23	703	-	931	91	-	0
2007	112	25	453	-	767	63		0
2008	158	26	444	-	807	73	-	0
2009	126	26	327	-	595	71	-	0
2010	146	38	496	-	642	88	-	0
2011	179	28	510	-	696	89	-	0
2012	126	33	403	-	695	82	-	0
2013	137	47	382	-	476	78	-	0
2014	118	58	313	-	490	81	-	0
2015	140	58	289	-	585	80	-	0
2016	135	27	257	-	612	56	-	0
2017	110	28	223	-	667	47	-	0
2018	90	40	192	-	595	80	-	0

[1]Figures since 1986 are the official catch returns to NASCO. Where no return to NASCO has been made ICES data have been used. [2]The catch for Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) includes the catch for Greenland when it was a member of the European Union and the catches up to 1983 by Denmark; [3]The European Union catch from 1995 includes the catches by Finland and Sweden;

Table 3: Catch and release[1]

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Canada	62,106	58,961	54,425	51,442	57,005	45,886	49,279	42,820	58,000	47,892	58,300	77,641	50,811	59,207	39,534	64,159	69,950	49,513	50,184
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-
European Union[2]	27,346	33,504	32,984	34,968	55,064	60,145	62,812	82,977	81,301	71,133	115,065	99,086	97,499	74,445	53,985	68,986	74,504	73,155	
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,512	6,696	15,041	14,303	18,611	15,912	20,229	25,433	25,206	25,876	22,024[4]
Russian Federation[3]	12,624	16,410	25,248	33,862	24,679	23,592	33,380	44,341	41,881	-	14,585	-	4,743	3,732	8,479	7,028	10,793	10,110	10,799
United States[4]	0	0	0	0	0	0	424	-	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes. [1] Where no return to NASCO has been made ICES data have been used. [2]Not all EU Member States provide complete information on catch and release. [3]Since 2009, there has been no obligation to report fish caught and released in the Russian Federation. [4]In the U.S., no sea-run salmon are subject to recreational fishing but small recreational fisheries occur on domestic broodstock in the Merrimack, Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers in Southern New England; these rivers are outside the geographic range of endangered Atlantic salmon.

Table 4: Unreported catches

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Canada	133	124	81	84	118	101	101	56	-	21	-	18	29	31	24	21	25	27	27	24
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	10-15	10	10	11	10	11	11	11	12	10	5	12.3	10	10	10	10	10	10	-	-
European Union	215	240	169	165	125	116	114	95	72	54	47	70	71	59	57	38	41	22	23	
Norway	320-540	440-760	500-860	410-690	320-600	252-420	285-475	299-499	247-411	260-432	166-338	206-344	298	298	204	210	250	262	285	263
Russian Federation	237-255	249-309	200-252	166-206	99-152	110	70-103	70-103	25-77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes. The information for Canada in 2010 is incomplete, as only 3 of 4 administrative regions reported. Not all EU Member States provide an estimate of unreported catch. No estimate has been provided by the Russian Federation since 2008. The 2016, 2017 and 2018 unreported catch for Canada are provisional figures.