



Agenda item 5.1
For information

Council

CNL(19)22

***Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2018***

EU – Spain (Navarra)

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Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2018

The primary purposes of the Annual Progress Reports are to provide details of:

- any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the Implementation Plan;
- actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year;
- significant changes to the status of stocks, and a report on catches; and
- actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention

These reports will be reviewed by the Council. Please complete this form and return it to the Secretariat **no later than 28 March 2019**.

Party:	European Union
Jurisdiction/Region:	Spain (Navarra)

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan
1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan <i>(Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 December).</i>
No changes to the Implementation Plan have been proposed. A new Implementation Plan for the period 2019-2024 has been developed and submitted to the Spanish Ministry of Environment.
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
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.

2: Stock status and 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 (200 word max) summary of these changes.

<p>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.</p>				
<p>2.2 Provide the following information on catches:<i>(nominal catch equals reported quantity of salmon caught and retained in tonnes 'round fresh weight' (i.e. weight of whole, ungutted, unfrozen fish) or 'round fresh weight equivalent')</i>.</p>				
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2018 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	0.276			0.276
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2017 (tonnes)	0.102			0.102
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2018 (tonnes)	0			0
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2018.	Unknown, but catch and release is not a common practice in recreational salmon fisheries in Bidasoa River			

3: Implementation Plan Actions.

3.1 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to the Management of Salmon Fisheries (Section 2.8 of the Implementation Plan).

Note: The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.

Action F1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Data analysis for the establishment of the necessary reference limits.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Reference limits for every indicator of conservation status.
	Progress on Action to Date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)	Continues data collection for evaluation of the reference limits, that has not started due to be unable to invest the necessary financial resources
	Current Status of Action	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action F2:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) To collect biometric and biological data of every salmon captured on recreational fishing. (2) To collect biometric and biological data of every spawner salmon passing the salmon trap. (3) Electrofishing surveys on juvenile production

		<p>areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (4) Monitoring of redds and spawners. (5) To collect biometric and biological data of every salmon passing the salmon trap. (6) Setup of a rotary screw trap. (7) To collect biometric and biological data of smolts captured in the rotary screw trap. (8) Estimate annually the conservation status of the salmon stock. (9) Monitoring of the sanitary status. (10) Preparation of protocols for the above actions.
	<p>Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i></p>	<p>Data for stock trend analysis and evaluation.</p>

	<p>Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Biometric data (LF and weight), scale samples and biological samples for sex determination, collected for 66 salmon fished in 2018. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. (2) Biometric data (LF and weight), scale samples and biological samples for sex determination (until august), collected for 389 spawning salmon passing the salmon trap in 2018. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. (3) There have been 31 electrofishing surveys on juvenile production areas. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. (4) During the 2018 reed monitoring campaign, 32 redds and 18 spawners were observed in spawning areas. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. (5) Biometric data (LF and weight), scale samples and biological samples for sex determination (until august), collected for 389 spawning salmon passing the salmon trap in 2018. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. (6) Use of the rotary screw trap was discarded in 2017 due to the many problems that have been encountered in its set up and use. The expected outcome of this action will not be achieved (0%). (7) At the moment we are exploring new methodologies that could provide the biometric and biological data of smolts that migrate to the sea, but for this year the expected outcome of this action was not achieved (0%). (8) The conservation status of the salmon stock in the Bidasoa River has been estimated. Following the indicators proposed in the Salmon Management Plan for the period 2013-2018, the salmon stock in Bidasoa River is Unfavourable. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. (9) All spawners transferred to the fish farm have been treated preventively with antibiotics. On the fish farm there is a protocol for sanitary status monitoring and prophylactic treatments. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. All salmon passing the fish trap were monitored for sea lice and Red Vent Syndrome. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. (10) All protocols to carry out the above actions have been prepared. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.
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	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	All completed actions have been successful and the objectives were achieved, except for the actions related to the setup of the rotary screw trap and collection of biometric and biological data of smolts captured in the trap (6 and 7). Therefore, the number of smolts migrating yearly to the sea from the Bidasoa River basin remains unknown.
Action F3:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Establishment of the annual total authorized catch.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Annual estimate of the total authorized catch.
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	The total authorized catch (TAC) for the 2018 season was set at 66 salmon caught and the multi-sea-winter (MSW) protection measure was established at 16 MSW salmon. When 80% of the MSW TAC were caught (12 MSW salmon), the angling season was closed for a week. The expected outcome has been achieved.
	Current Status of Action	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes: annual catches reached the TAC 14 days before the end of the angling season and therefore the season was closed. Before that, the MSW protection measure entered into action when the salmon number 12 was caught and angling was banned for a week at the beginning of June.
Action F4:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Selection and transfer of wild spawners to the hatchery. (2) Artificial spawning and fry growth in captivity. (3) Differential tagging of fry according to stocking moment. (4) Supplemental stocking in the Bidasoa river and tributaries.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Increase of the emigrating smolt population and returning salmons.
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) 10 females and 23 males were selected in the trap in 2017 and transferred to the hatchery for the 2018 fry production. Therefore, the expected outcome has been achieved. (2) 113,754 eggs were obtained and they produced 77,631 fry. The expected outcome has been achieved. (3) All juvenile salmon fish stocked into Bidasoa River are marked. Fry stocked in July are adipose clipped (ADC) while parr stocked in autumn are marked with CWT+ADC. Differential DCWTsq marking between MSWxMSW, MSWx1SW and 1SWx1SW crossing is carried out. The expected outcome has been achieved.

		(4) In 2018, 57,075 salmon fry and 20,556 autumn parr were stocked in the Bidasoa River and its tributaries. The expected outcome has been achieved.
	Current Status of Action	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes

3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (Section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan). <i>Note: The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.</i>		
Action H1:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	An updated GIS database and maps. This information will be used to report the impact assessment of any construction that could affect the salmonid mesohabitats identified.
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	Not started. The evaluation has not started due to be unable to invest the necessary financial resources
	Current Status of Action	Not started
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H2:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	(1) Evaluation of the successfulness of the 10 fishway projects carried out in the last decade. (2) Preparation and implementation of 5 new projects to improve longitudinal connectivity.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Significant improvement of the river habitat accessible for salmon.
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	This action is included in a LIFE project (LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186). (1) During the 2016-17 migration, the first three fishways were evaluated (Murgues, Nabasturen and Iruribieta) in the main Bidasoa River; during the 2017-18 migration, two more fishways were evaluated (Nazas in Bidasoa River and Molino de Bera in Zia, tributary of Bidasoa) and during the 2018-19 migration, six more (Yanci I, San Tiburcio, Jorajuria and Sunbilla in the main Bidasoa River, Ezkurra dam and Ezpelura pipe in Doneztebe). The analysis of the data revealed that all evaluated fishways could facilitate the salmonids' migration upstream the barriers. 110% of the expected outcome has been achieved. (2) 120% of the expected outcome of this action was completed by 2017 with the demolition of six dams (two in main Bidasoa River, two in Ezkurra, one in Txaruta and one in Zalain streams)
	Current Status of Action	Completed

	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes
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3.3 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics (Section 4.8 of the Implementation Plan).
Note: The reports under ‘Progress on Action to Date’ should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.

Action A1:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Not applicable.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	
	Current Status of Action	
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	

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.
	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).
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.
	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.
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
	Not applicable
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.
	Not applicable
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
	Not applicable