



Agenda item 5.1  
For information

**Council**

**CNL(19)37**

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

***EU – UK (Northern Ireland)***



**CNL(19)37**

***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**.

<b>Party:</b>	<b>European Union</b>
<b>Jurisdiction/Region:</b>	<b>UK (Northern Ireland)</b>

<b>1: Changes to the Implementation Plan</b>
<b>1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan</b> <i>(Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 December).</i>
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>
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.

<b>2: Stock status and catches.</b>
<b>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.</b>
<b>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</b>

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.

**2.2 Provide the following information on catches:(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’).**

(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2018 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	4.39t	0	0	4.39t
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2017 (tonnes)	4.85t	0	0	4.85t
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2018 (tonnes)	0.1t			0.1t
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2018	3249 salmon released (c.65%)			

**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	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Management and control of mixed stock commercial fisheries.																																				
<b>F1:</b>	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Legislation in place preventing any commercial mixed stock fishery when any contributing stock is below MT.																																				
	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.)	<p>NI salmon stocks assessed and scientific advice on mixed stock fisheries provided for 2018 season. No mixed stock commercial fisheries to operate in NI in 2018.</p> <p>No commercial salmon fisheries have operated in the DAERA area since 2012 with the 2018 assessment as follows with results publicly available on the DAERA website:</p> <p><b>Table 1. Attainment of Management Objective for contributory stocks to the DAERA area commercial Mixed Stock Fishery (MSF).</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Indicator Stock/River</th> <th>(No. Yrs)</th> <th>No. years ≥MT (No. Yrs)</th> <th>MT Met</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Finn Counter</td> <td>2012-16 (5)</td> <td>0 (5)</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Roe Counter</td> <td>2012-16 (5)</td> <td>5 (5)</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mourne Counter</td> <td>(0)1</td> <td>N/A</td> <td>N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Faughan Counter</td> <td>2012-16 (5)</td> <td>5 (5)</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lower Bann Counter</td> <td>2013-17 (5)</td> <td>2 (5)</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bush Trap</td> <td>2013-17 (5)</td> <td>2 (5)</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glendun Counter</td> <td>2013-17 (5)</td> <td>1 (5)</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shinna Counter</td> <td>2013-17 (5)</td> <td>0 (5)</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Indicator Stock/River	(No. Yrs)	No. years ≥MT (No. Yrs)	MT Met	Finn Counter	2012-16 (5)	0 (5)	No	Roe Counter	2012-16 (5)	5 (5)	Yes	Mourne Counter	(0)1	N/A	N/A	Faughan Counter	2012-16 (5)	5 (5)	Yes	Lower Bann Counter	2013-17 (5)	2 (5)	No	Bush Trap	2013-17 (5)	2 (5)	No	Glendun Counter	2013-17 (5)	1 (5)	No	Shinna Counter	2013-17 (5)	0 (5)	No
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		No commercial salmon licences have been issued since 2010 in the Loughs Agency area and given the failure of the River Finn commercial fisheries have been suspended by Regulatory Declaration.																																																																																																																									
	Current Status of Action	Completed																																																																																																																									
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	YES																																																																																																																									
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Management and control of recreational fisheries.																																																																																																																									
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Legislation in place to prevent the recreational exploitation on primary salmon rivers where stocks are below MT.																																																																																																																									
	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.)	<p>NI salmon stocks assessed and scientific advice on recreational fisheries provided for 2018 season as follows and publicly available on the DAERA website :</p> <p><b>Table 3.</b> Status of salmon stocks in primary salmon rivers of the DAERA area, assessment data available, and recommendations for harvest or catch and release angling for 2018. C&amp;R = Catch &amp; Release, HS = Harvestable Surplus.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">River (M ova)</th> <th rowspan="2">Managem. Target</th> <th colspan="2">Assessment Data</th> <th rowspan="2">Attainment Managem.</th> <th rowspan="2">Objectiv Status</th> <th rowspan="2">Tags</th> </tr> <tr> <th>Adult Counter</th> <th>Juvenile Electrofishing</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>L. Bann</td> <td>16.76</td> <td>Counter</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Main</td> <td>3.13</td> <td>Tracking</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blackwater</td> <td>2.47</td> <td>Tracking</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sixmile</td> <td>2.0</td> <td>Tracking</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballinderry</td> <td>1.96</td> <td>Tracking</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moyola</td> <td>2.92</td> <td>Tracking</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U. Bann</td> <td>1.98</td> <td>Tracking</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>HS</td> <td>90</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clady</td> <td>1.43</td> <td>Counter</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>HS</td> <td>145</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agivey</td> <td>2.49</td> <td>Rod catch</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>HS</td> <td>217</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bush</td> <td>2.66</td> <td>Trap</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballycastle</td> <td>1.51</td> <td>Rod catch</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glendun</td> <td>0.48</td> <td>Counter</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glenarm</td> <td>0.44</td> <td>Rod catch</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>HS</td> <td>38</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shinna</td> <td>0.30</td> <td>Counter</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melvin</td> <td>IF14</td> <td>Rod catch</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>HS</td> <td>119</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Erne</td> <td>IF11</td> <td>Counter</td> <td>Electrofishing</td> <td>No</td> <td>C&amp;R</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Whilst 5 salmon rivers had an identifiable harvestable surplus in DAERA area in 2018, only three rivers were actually opened for harvest. Of the two that remained catch and release one was with agreement with the angling club and the other due to precautionary approach.</p> <p>In the LA area all rivers were open with a harvestable surplus in 2018 except the River Finn ( cross border catchment) which remains as catch &amp; release</p>	River (M ova)	Managem. Target	Assessment Data		Attainment Managem.	Objectiv Status	Tags	Adult Counter	Juvenile Electrofishing	L. Bann	16.76	Counter	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	Main	3.13	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	Blackwater	2.47	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	Sixmile	2.0	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	Ballinderry	1.96	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	Moyola	2.92	Tracking	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	U. Bann	1.98	Tracking	Electrofishing	Yes	HS	90	Clady	1.43	Counter	Electrofishing	Yes	HS	145	Agivey	2.49	Rod catch	Electrofishing	Yes	HS	217	Bush	2.66	Trap	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	Ballycastle	1.51	Rod catch	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	Glendun	0.48	Counter	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	Glenarm	0.44	Rod catch	Electrofishing	Yes	HS	38	Shinna	0.30	Counter	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0	Melvin	IF14	Rod catch	Electrofishing	Yes	HS	119	Erne	IF11	Counter	Electrofishing	No	C&R	0
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<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Management and protection of vulnerable MSW stocks.																																																																																																																																								
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Reduced exploitation and mortality of MSW component.																																																																																																																																								
	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>	DAERA area – Mandatory C&R of salmon on all rivers before 1st June, with the exception of Lough Melvin, a cross border catchment. However whilst a maximum of two salmon per season per angler is allowed in the DAERA area of the Lough Melvin catchment, the full tag allocation is never utilised.  In the Loughs Agency area the main MSW fishery is the cross border river Finn which is subject to catch & release only and has been since 2010. MSW fish exploitation is allowed in the remainder of the LA area but is subject to a maximum allocation of 10 tags per angler for the retention of either salmon or sea trout over 40cm																																																																																																																																								
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<b>Action F4:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Setting & monitoring conservation limits and management targets for salmon rivers in NI.																																																																																																																																								
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	To set an MT and provide an annual assessment of compliance with CLs for all primary salmon rivers to assist with the effective management and exploitation of those stocks.																																																																																																																																								
	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>	All primary salmon rivers in NI have been surveyed (habitat assessment) and CL's established. Monitoring of all primary rivers undertaken in 2018. In the DAERA area compliance with CLs were as follows: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2012</th> <th>2013</th> <th>2014</th> <th>2015</th> <th>2016</th> <th>2017</th> <th>2018</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Lower Bann</td> <td>87</td> <td>78</td> <td>65</td> <td>90</td> <td>225</td> <td>133</td> <td>129</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Agivey</td> <td>153</td> <td>101</td> <td>76</td> <td>193</td> <td>154</td> <td>221</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Clady</td> <td>120</td> <td>160</td> <td>108</td> <td>104</td> <td>232</td> <td>123</td> <td>192</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moyola</td> <td>71</td> <td>44</td> <td>14</td> <td>45</td> <td>112</td> <td>66</td> <td>53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballinder ry</td> <td>53</td> <td>28</td> <td>30</td> <td>44</td> <td>110</td> <td>65</td> <td>79</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Blackwater</td> <td>83</td> <td>45</td> <td>40</td> <td>65</td> <td>160</td> <td>95</td> <td>47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>U Bann</td> <td>127</td> <td>121</td> <td>70</td> <td>110</td> <td>272</td> <td>161</td> <td>196</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sixmile</td> <td>26</td> <td>46</td> <td>60</td> <td>53</td> <td>131</td> <td>78</td> <td>77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Main</td> <td>129</td> <td>53</td> <td>102</td> <td>104</td> <td>264</td> <td>156</td> <td>222</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bush</td> <td>79</td> <td>144</td> <td>83</td> <td>82</td> <td>139</td> <td>71</td> <td>55</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ballycastle</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>91</td> <td>86</td> <td>52</td> <td>37</td> <td>52</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glendun</td> <td>88</td> <td>178</td> <td>55</td> <td>88</td> <td>37</td> <td></td> <td>27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glenarm</td> <td>134</td> <td>116</td> <td>80</td> <td>140</td> <td>131</td> <td>174</td> <td>53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Shimna</td> <td>32</td> <td></td> <td>46</td> <td>78</td> <td>53</td> <td>84</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Erne</td> <td>10</td> <td>18</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melvin</td> <td>&gt;300</td> <td>&gt;300</td> <td>&gt;300</td> <td>&gt;300</td> <td>&gt;300</td> <td>&gt;300</td> <td>&gt;300</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Lower Bann	87	78	65	90	225	133	129	Agivey	153	101	76	193	154	221		Clady	120	160	108	104	232	123	192	Moyola	71	44	14	45	112	66	53	Ballinder ry	53	28	30	44	110	65	79	Blackwater	83	45	40	65	160	95	47	U Bann	127	121	70	110	272	161	196	Sixmile	26	46	60	53	131	78	77	Main	129	53	102	104	264	156	222	Bush	79	144	83	82	139	71	55	Ballycastle	n/a	91	86	52	37	52	19	Glendun	88	178	55	88	37		27	Glenarm	134	116	80	140	131	174	53	Shimna	32		46	78	53	84		Erne	10	18	13	14	13	13	12	Melvin	>300	>300	>300	>300	>300	>300	>300
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<b>Action F5:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Long Term Monitoring of Salmon Stocks in an Index River (R Bush) for NI
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Long term dataset of adult returns, smolt migration, stock recruitment data, freshwater survival, marine survival, biological characteristics of the R Bush stock.
	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>	All the datasets completed in 2018 and annual survival metrics determined for the Bush salmon stocks. The smolt run in 2018 was 17 967 fish. The total adult return of wild salmon to the Bush river in 2018 was 728 fish, with a marine survival rate of 3.2% for 1SW salmon
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F6:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Fin-clipping and coded-wire tagging of reared salmon.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	All reared salmon to be readily identified from wild fish and removed to be incorporated into the captive breeding programme.
	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>	In 2018 as follows: 5097 - 1+ age class hatchery smolts Coded Wire Tagged & Fin clipped 3102 - 2+ age class hatchery smolts Coded Wire Tagged & Fin clipped 25171 - 1+ age class hatchery smolts were fin clipped 28542 - 2+ age class hatchery smolts were fin clipped
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F7:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Assessment of riverine and inshore survival of salmon smolts
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Acoustic telemetry studies of smolts on the River Bush and other target catchments to assess riverine mortality and identify possible areas of significant losses
	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>	50 Wild River Bush smolts & 50 hatchery smolts were acoustically tagged in 2018 as part of the EU/NASCO Smoltrack project. Results have indicated potentially significant losses of smolts in the river-sea transition area. Other acoustic studies conducted on emigrating smolts from Lough Neagh indicated poorer survival in the natal rivers and the lake and better survival in the lake outflow and estuary. Further work is planned to focus on target areas and to develop potential management options. Loughs Agency annually reviews smolt production in the River Faughan.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing

	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?																													
<b>Action F8:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Improving recreational catch returns and statistics																												
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Development of electronic recreational licencing and catch return system.																												
	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>	In the DAERA area catch returns can be made via a variety of methods but these are not directly linked to the Online system. With IT changes planned it is hoped to link these up to allow DAERA to send out reminders directly to game anglers and for them to submit their returns. Both DAERA and LA have alerted anglers and clubs of the need to make a catch return at the end of the season in 2018. LA introduced an e licencing system in 2017 with online catch returns which continued through 2018																												
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing																												
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?																													
<b>Action F9:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Monitor recruitment of 0+ age class salmon in all primary salmon rivers in NI.																												
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Annual monitoring of 0+ recruitment in all primary salmon rivers.																												
	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>	Semi-Quantitative electric fishing surveys were completed on all primary salmon rivers in the DAERA area of N. Ireland (see figure below) In the DAERA area 600 sites were surveyed and in Loughs Agency surveyed the main rivers within the Foyle and Carlingford area 522 sites were completed.																												
		<table border="1"> <caption>DAERA Area 2018 Fry Index Data</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>River</th> <th>Fry Index (no. 5 min)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>AGIVEY</td><td>30.0</td></tr> <tr><td>CLADY</td><td>20.0</td></tr> <tr><td>MAIN</td><td>30.0</td></tr> <tr><td>BLACKWAT...</td><td>10.0</td></tr> <tr><td>UPPER...</td><td>15.0</td></tr> <tr><td>SIXMILE</td><td>2.0</td></tr> <tr><td>BALLINDER...</td><td>8.0</td></tr> <tr><td>BUSH</td><td>45.0</td></tr> <tr><td>BALLYCAST...</td><td>13.0</td></tr> <tr><td>GLENDUN</td><td>13.0</td></tr> <tr><td>GLENARM</td><td>23.0</td></tr> <tr><td>MONEYCA...</td><td>5.0</td></tr> <tr><td>SHIMNA</td><td>5.0</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	River	Fry Index (no. 5 min)	AGIVEY	30.0	CLADY	20.0	MAIN	30.0	BLACKWAT...	10.0	UPPER...	15.0	SIXMILE	2.0	BALLINDER...	8.0	BUSH	45.0	BALLYCAST...	13.0	GLENDUN	13.0	GLENARM	23.0	MONEYCA...	5.0	SHIMNA	5.0
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Finn	30									
Mourne + tribs	25									
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing								
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?									
<b>Action F10:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Fishery protection and enforcement activities								
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	To protect salmon stocks by detecting, deterring and disrupting any illegal activity directed at damaging or removing salmon stocks								
	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.)	Organised patrols (on land and water) are carried out in both the DAERA and LA areas to deter, disrupt and detect illegal fishing activities. In 2018, 1330 patrols were carried out in the DAERA area and 1 detection made re the illegal capture of salmon. However a total of 80 illegal nets were seized and any illegal caught salmon were released unharmed. In addition 44 inspections were carried out on commercial premises where salmon can be bought or sold. In the Loughs Agency area in 2018, 28 successful prosecutions were made. 24 illegally captured salmon taken and 109 seizures were made, including 43 salmon nets.								
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing								
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?									

<b>3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration</b> (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>		
<b>Action H1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Licencing, best practice advice and monitoring of hydro-electric installations.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Maximum possible consideration of fisheries and ecological issues in licencing for hydro schemes.
	Progress on Action to Date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g.	Procedures are now in place to ensure Fisheries are consulted at pre, and during the abstraction application determination process, for all Hydro Electric Abstraction proposals. DAERA seek to establish high levels of mitigation for fishery protection and fish

	<p><i>website links) will not be evaluated.)</i></p>	<p>passage purposes. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) set licence conditions establishing hands of flow (Q80 for salmonid rivers) and environmental residual flows and maximum abstraction rates which are used as restrictive controls in order to meet EU regulations such as WFD etc. Where relevant mitigation measures can also be included eg fish raceways, additional pools, fish migration closures. Monitoring is by a process of self regulation as abstraction data has to be legally provided by licence holders to the NIEA for auditing. Three sites were also assessed for compliance of abstraction licence conditions in 2018 on the Carey, Agivey and Crumlin rivers.</p> <p>The NIEA regularly reviews its guidance for “run of the river“ hydro schemes. Other scientific evidence gathered e.g., acoustic tagging has been used to advise licence conditions and policy development of HEPs. In the DAERA area 125 site inspections were carried out at hydro sites in 2018 to ensure compliance with fisheries legislation. Where abstraction problems arise DAERA will seek to work with local anglers / stakeholders to identify the specific issues and ensure salmon stocks are protected. In 2018 smolts were tagged from a number of rivers in the L Neagh catchment and the results have highlighted significant losses in some catchments compared to others. Further work is planned in 2019 to identify the specific factors impacting emigrating smolts on these rivers.</p>
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Mitigating the impact of drainage maintenance schemes on salmon habitat.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Ensure sensitive / mitigated engineering solutions & seek opportunities to restore and enhance salmonid habitat within the impacted stretch
	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>	Fisheries advice was provided for the 2018 river drainage maintenance works programme in both the DAERA and Loughs Agency areas to ensure protection of fish stocks and habitat at the sites where works were carried out.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H3:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Management and control of water quality in salmon producing rivers in NI.

	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Protection against degradation of salmonid habitat through pollution or waste disposals
	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>	NIEA also carried out approximately 1790 investigations in relation to reports of water pollution in 2018. Further actions were taken as appropriate. There were 7 incidents in 2018 in which fish were killed due to water pollution – 5 were classified as Major, 1 as Moderate and 1 as a slight fish kill. All discharges are regulated and fisheries advice is provided on them as part of the planning application process. Please note data has not yet been finalised for 2018. The interim 2018 WFD status indicates a significant risk that the 2021 targets are unlikely to be met. If deterioration continues, this will impact on Environmental outcomes and indicators as set out within Programme for Government, and achievement of minimum requirements of WFD. Further interventions may be required to prevent deterioration and deliver improvements, and it is essential that these are considered as part of joined up policies on environment, land use, agriculture and economy. DAERA will use this evidence to underpin the policy positions with regard to emerging strategies on the environment and agriculture, in the context that nutrients, including phosphorus, are causing deterioration.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H4:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	To improve connectivity of salmon rivers in NI.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	To gather information and carry out surveys to identify potential barriers to fish passage in primary salmon rivers in NI subject to resources. Where opportunities are identified and the necessary resources / permissions obtained to mitigate and reduce the number of barriers.
	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>	In the DAERA area fish passage was improved on the Carey River to ensure access to the fish pass provided. Fish passage was also assessed after the installation of a HEP scheme at the site of natural falls on the R Bush. Collection of acoustic tagging data from the R. Bush site both before and after installation the HEP has facilitated an assessment of the impact of the scheme and of the efficacy of the fish passage measures. The results, findings and recommendations of this work will be published later in 2019.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing

	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H5:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	To protect salmonid habitat against illegal impacts.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Reduction in illegal alterations of salmonid habitat. Increase education and awareness of stakeholders and wider public on the negative impacts of habitat loss for salmon stocks.
	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>	Operational patrol targets are set and monitored and the numbers of detections are recorded in each area. In 2018 in the DAERA area 1 detection and in the LA 2 detections were made re the illegal removal of river bed material. Any proposed removal of material from the river bed requires an authorisation. In 2018 in the DAERA area 80 & and in the LA area 90, applications were received and assessed for permission to remove material from the river bed. These included road developments, bridge repair works, flood protection measures and erosion control. Follow up inspections were also carried out to ensure compliance with conditions of the permission.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H6:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	To produce an overall inventory of current and potential salmon habitat on primary salmon rivers in NI.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	To have surveyed all the major salmon rivers within NI and to have salmon habitat inventory data on a GIS database. To help identify and prioritise subsequent habitat enhancement actions.
	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>	All primary salmon rivers in DAERA & Loughs Agency areas have been surveyed and added to GIS inventory
	Current Status of Action	Completed
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	YES
<b>Action H7:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	To enhance degraded habitat on salmon rivers in NI.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	To support and provide advice for habitat enhancement schemes on salmon producing rivers in NI including both from government and stakeholder resources.
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g.</i>	The following works were carried out in 2018: DAERA area – Ballydown area of Upper Bann – habitat units habitat units inc spawning gravel & cobble substrate into the following rivers -

	<i>website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	<p>Blackwater River - Lough Melvin Tribs Colebrooke River Dooragh River Bannagh River Kesh River 1200m of fencing to prevent livestock accessing the river bank was also carried out on a section of the Blackwater river Glenshesk River – creation of holding pools</p> <p>LA area - the following rivers had, salmonid habitat enhancement / protection / improvement works carried out: Camowen river Altnaghree River River Dennett Quiggery river Brackagh burn Bonds Glen River Drumragh river</p>
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	

### 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.*

<b>Action A1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Monitor sea lice levels in a wild salmon stock in N. Ireland.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Annual assessment of sea lice levels on adult salmon returning to the River Bush
	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.)	Sea lice infestation levels were monitored in the returning adults on the River Bush. In 2018 99% of fish had no sea lice, with 0.7% low to moderate and 0.3% moderate to high levels of sea lice infestation. This are the lowest numbers recorded in the time series and are probably a reflection of the low flow conditions on the River Bush in 2018.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Monitor for escapee aquaculture salmon in a wild salmon stock in N. Ireland.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Escapee aquaculture salmon are monitored annually at the River Bush trap.

	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>	No escaped salmon observed in 2018 at the Bushmills trap.																																																																																																																																											
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing																																																																																																																																											
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?																																																																																																																																												
<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Monitoring sea lice levels in aquaculture salmon in N. Ireland.																																																																																																																																											
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	An annual assessment of sea lice levels of sea cage reared salmon in N. Ireland																																																																																																																																											
	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>	Data for 2018: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th rowspan="2">Date</th> <th rowspan="2">No. Of fish Checked</th> <th rowspan="2">No. Of positives (total lice seen)</th> <th rowspan="2">No. Of positive fish</th> <th rowspan="2">Percentage fish infected</th> <th colspan="4">Number of Lice/Fish</th> </tr> <tr> <th>1</th> <th>2</th> <th>3</th> <th>4</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>16/01/2019</td> <td>200</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>0.5%</td> <td>max</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>10/12/2018</td> <td>298</td> <td>20</td> <td>19</td> <td>6.4</td> <td></td> <td>Max</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>14/11/2018</td> <td>291</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1.4</td> <td>max</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>24/10/2018</td> <td>359</td> <td>10</td> <td>9</td> <td>2.5</td> <td></td> <td>Max</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>29/08/2018</td> <td>300</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>1.3</td> <td>max</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>18/07/2018</td> <td>310</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>20/06/2018</td> <td>307</td> <td>23</td> <td>23</td> <td>7.5</td> <td>max</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>30/05/2018</td> <td>261</td> <td>14</td> <td>10</td> <td>3.8</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Max</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25/04/2018</td> <td>228</td> <td>25</td> <td>22</td> <td>9.6</td> <td></td> <td>max</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>21/03/2018</td> <td>326</td> <td>26</td> <td>26</td> <td>8.0</td> <td>max</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Date	No. Of fish Checked	No. Of positives (total lice seen)	No. Of positive fish	Percentage fish infected	Number of Lice/Fish				1	2	3	4	16/01/2019	200	1	1	0.5%	max				10/12/2018	298	20	19	6.4		Max			14/11/2018	291	4	4	1.4	max				24/10/2018	359	10	9	2.5		Max			29/08/2018	300	4	4	1.3	max				18/07/2018	310	0	0	0					20/06/2018	307	23	23	7.5	max				30/05/2018	261	14	10	3.8				Max	25/04/2018	228	25	22	9.6		max			21/03/2018	326	26	26	8.0	max																																							
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<b>Action A4:</b>	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Monitoring levels of genetic introgression of aquaculture salmon into wild stocks in NI																																																																																																																																											
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Triennial assessment of levels of genetic introgression of aquaculture salmon into wild stocks adjacent to the sites for salmon aquaculture in NI																																																																																																																																											
	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 most recent data suggests there has been a decrease in the level of genetic introgression of farmed genetic material into wild stocks in UK NI between 2014 and 2018. In the 2014 study a maximum of 5.9% of juveniles had genomes of part farmed origin, compared to 1.9% in the 2018 study.																																																																																																																																											
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**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.
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.
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
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.
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.