



Agenda item 5.1
For information

Council

CNL(19)40

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

***Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Faroe Islands***

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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:	Denmark
Jurisdiction/Region:	Faroe Islands

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 revisions to the Implementation Plan are planned	
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.	
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 (see action F1).	

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.	
The 2017 ICES Advisory Committee Report (CLN17(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.

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’).*

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

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 <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	The Faroe Islands will continue to manage any salmon fishery through international cooperation and on the basis of the advice from ICES regarding the stocks contributing to the Faroese salmon fishery in a precautionary manner and with a view to sustainability.
	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>	A multi-annual decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 was adopted at the 2015 Annual Meeting of NASCO’s North-East Atlantic Commission, NEA(15)10. At the 2018 Annual Meeting of NASCO’s NEAC a new multi annual decision was adopted to also cover 2018/2019, 2019/2020 and 2020/2021 (NEA(18)12). Under this decision Faroese management decisions

		will be made with due consideration to the advice of ICES concerning the biological situation and the status of the stocks contributing to the salmon fishery. The 2017 ICES advice (CNL(17)8) states that in the absence of any fisheries in the fishing seasons 2016/2017 to 2018/2019, there is a less than 95% probability of meeting the conservation limits (CLs) for the two age groups (potential 1-sea-winter (1SW) and multi-sea-winter (MSW) spawners) of the Southern NEAC stock complex. Therefore, in the absence of specific management objectives, ICES advises that there are no mixed-stock fisheries options on the NEAC complexes at the Faroes in the fishing seasons 2016/2017 to 2018/2019. Consistent with the 2017 advice from ICES, no salmon fishery was conducted by the Faroe Islands in 2018 in order to contribute to the conservation and rebuilding of the Atlantic salmon stocks.
	Current Status of Action	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	

3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (Section 3.4 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 H1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	
	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.)	
	Current Status of Action	
	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.

Action A1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Continue to apply NASCO's 'Williamsburg Resolution' and 'Guidance on Best Management Practices to Address Impacts of Sea Lice and Escaped Farmed Salmon on Wild
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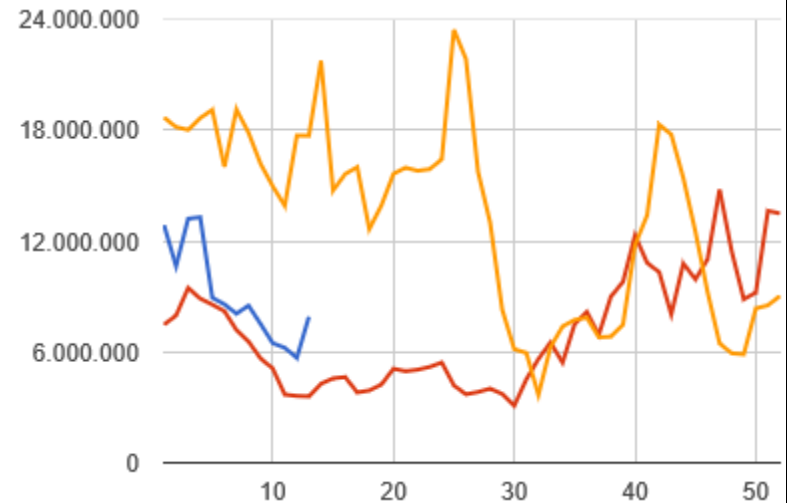
		Salmon Stocks' in order to minimise the risk of impacts from salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Continuing progress in reducing sea lice and escapees.
	Progress on Action to Date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)	<p>Sea lice management has high priority and comprehensive legislative and management measures have rendered positive results. The regulatory framework for sea lice management was updated in 2016 (Executive Order 75/2016),</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lowering the threshold from 2 to 1½ sexually mature female lice per fish, - permitting treatment on a cage by cage basis and - introducing a carrot and stick “traffic light” regime; reduction of smolt numbers at farms repeatedly breaching threshold or applying pesticides, whilst farms with few lice or treatments may, ceteris paribus, remain at equilibrium or increase the smolt number. <p>The order also requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - effective lice control plans - fortnightly lice counts by an independent party - lice counts to be available the following day - specification of lice specie, life stage and size - stamping out (slaughter of all fish) within 2 months in case of 3 consecutive threshold breaches - evaluation and recount after each treatment - scrutiny of ineffective treatment - reporting to the Food and Veterinary Authority (FVA) of ineffective treatment, suspicion of immunity or inconsistency with anticipated results. <p>Lice counts are published on the FVA website.</p> <p>The CVO may order additional or more frequent counts – also of other lice species – or coordinated fallowing of nearby fjords.</p> <p>Since 2016 lumpfish, <i>Cycloturus Lumpus L.</i>, have also been introduced to farms as a measure to combat sea lice.</p> <p>The average size of smolts put to sea has increased to 270 gr. in 2018, thus lowering time at sea and hence the lice infestation window below 17 months.</p>

The table below shows counts of salmon lice, *Lepeophtheirus salmonis*, and annual breaches from 2011 to 2018.

Year	Breaches*	No. of inspections
2011	16	183
2012	32	357
2013	23	555
2014	45	469
2015	63	470
2016	67	570
2017	73	560
2018	31	519

* instances above threshold

Total weekly number of sexually mature female salmon lice, *Lepeophtheirus salmonis*, calculated on basis of fortnightly counts in all operations (2017 orange, 2018 red, 2019 blue)



Above, the number of lice is given as total calculated number, not as lice pr. fish. Hence, annual deviations also relate to the standing number of fish at any given time. On a perennial scale, the annual number of slaughtered fish may serve as an indirect indication of developments between years. In 2017 and 2018, the number, average and total weight (bled and gutted) of slaughtered salmon from aquaculture operations was as follows*:

2017: 14.555.253 salmon slaughtered, weight average 4,89 kg – total tonnage 71.172 tons.

2018: 13.302.234 salmon slaughtered, weight average 4,87 kg – total tonnage 64.732 tons

*Source: industry.fo (Faroe Islands House of Industry)

Containment

Contingency plans in case of escapes, attempts to recapture escaped fish and report of escape incidents to the CVO/FVA are mandatory. Escape incidents are considered at next production cycle permit, but are not directly penalised, in all likelihood yielding fairly reliable reporting.

Escape incidents tend to occur as a consequence of adverse weather conditions or during handling of nets during delousing and transport to slaughter. In order to minimise escapes, all fish farming equipment and facilities must be built and installed with the adequate strength and other properties necessary to ensure responsible operations in accordance with the legislation and should be used with the necessary care and precaution.

Since mortalities have to be reported by farmers on a daily basis in order to both alert the CVO/FVA of possible disease problems and for the farmers to be able to ensure optimal feeding, escapees may be indirectly verified by calculation of loss of fish at slaughter. Relatively reliable estimates of escapees are therefore available with some delay. Farms must also report suspected cases through observed hole in nets and subsequently report the calculated number of missing fish at slaughter. From 2011, the following incidents of escape or holes in nets have been reported:

2011: 2 incidents, number unknown, average size 1.9 kg. Occurred during delousing treatments and when moving fish into a new net pen.

2012: 4 incidents, thereof 2,741 escapees in two incidents, no numbers reported for the 2 other incidents. Average weight 4.8 kg. Occurred when moving fish to slaughter, sorting of fish into two net pens and during storms.

2013: 4 incidents, estimated at 25,000 fish averaging 2.8 kg. Occurred during winter storms and when moving fish into a new net pen.

2014: 2 incidents estimated at 40,000 averaging 4.8kg. Occurred during storms and when moving fish into a net pen prior to slaughter.

		<p>2015: 5 suspected incidents reported (net holes), no fish found missing by slaughter.</p> <p>2016: 1 suspicion, no escapees seen or found missing.</p> <p>2017: 3 suspicions, thereof 2 escape incidents, one involving 109,515 escapees, average size 1.8 kg, occurred during storm, suspicion of large drifting item having ripped the net open and one incident involving 80.465 escapees, average size 2 kg.</p> <p>2018: 1 suspicion, net side of cage above sea level damaged, no escapees observed and no fish missing by slaughter.</p>
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	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.
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.