

Council

CNL(12)27

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

EU – Germany

**Annual Report on actions taken under Implementation Plans
for the Calendar Year 2011
EU-Germany**

The Guidelines for the preparation of 'Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress', NSTF(06)10 (copy attached) indicate that the primary purpose of the annual reports is to provide a summary of all the actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year. In addition, details of any significant changes to the status of stocks, new factors affecting stocks, any changes to the management regime in place, and any changes to the Implementation Plan should be included in the report. Details of actions taken in accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention are also needed by the Council. **Please provide the following information to the Secretariat by 6 April 2012**

The annual report 2011 is structured according to the catchments of the rivers Rhine, Ems, Weser and Elbe and to the German Federal States.

Rhine: Data and further information were provided by Baden-Wuerttemberg, North Rhine-Westphalia, Hesse and the International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine (ICPR) on behalf of riparian Federal States.

Ems: Data and further information were supplied from Lower Saxony.

Weser: Data and further information were provided from Lower Saxony.

Elbe: Data and further information were provided from Lower Saxony, Saxony, Saxony-Anhalt and Brandenburg.

Section 1: Details of any significant changes to the management outlined in the introduction to the Implementation Plan.

Rhine:

ICPR

The extent of the annual stocking measures with Atlantic Salmons in 2010 was comparable to that of preceding years. Table 2 in the ICPR-Report No. 190 „Progress on Implementing the Master Plan Migratory Fish in the Rhine Bordering States during 2010“ (www.iksr.org) shows where stocking measures were carried out and which stock of salmons were used at what stage. For 2011, data about salmon stocking are being collected at the ICPR and will be available in April 2012.

North Rhine-Westphalia

There were no significant changes to the management compared to 2010.

Hesse

There were no significant changes to the management compared to 2010.

Baden-Wuerttemberg

There were no significant changes to the management compared to the preceding years. In 2011 started the salmon monitoring according to the EU habitats directive in Baden-Wuerttemberg. This includes the monitoring of adult salmon in upstream traps and juvenile monitoring in the corresponding Rhine tributaries.

Ems:

Lower Saxony

There were no significant changes to the management compared to the preceding years.

Weser:

Lower Saxony

There were no significant changes to the management compared to the preceding years.

Elbe

Lower Saxony

There were no significant changes to the management compared to the preceding years.

Brandenburg

In 2011 Salmon stocking in the Stepenitz river and his tributaries was continued with 30.000 six months old parrs and additional 3.000 smolts of the Skjern Å strain. The yearly stocking of the Pulsnitz river was continued in 2011 with 15.000 six months old parrs of the Lagan strain.

Saxony-Anhalt

Salmon stocking was continued in the Nuthe river catchment with 10.000 six months old parrs and additional 1000 smolts of the Skjern Å strain.

Saxony

In 2011 salmon stocking was continued with offspring of the Swedish Lagan strain and offspring of caught returnees from the Lachsbach river.

Section 2: A description of any significant changes in the status of stocks and information on catches. The Council has asked that the following information on catches be provided:

- (a) **the provisional catch of salmon in tonnes for 2011;**
- (b) **the confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2010;**
- (c) **an estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2011;**
- (d) **the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2011.**

Rhine:

ICPR

The ICRP-Report No. 190 „Progress on Implementing the Master Plan Migratory Fish in the Rhine Bordering States during 2010“ (www.iksr.org) shows a compilation of the identification of adult salmon in the Rhine system (table & graph). Since 1990, evidence is given of 6,222 salmon returning to the Rhine, of which 549 in 2010. Numbers for 2011 are being collected at the ICPR and will be available in April 2012.

North Rhine-Westphalia

As elsewhere in Germany, the exceptional long drought in autumn 2011 has hampered the upstream migration of adult salmon. In 2010 385 salmon were recorded in the Sieg catchment and 12 in the Wupper catchment. In 2011 only 196 salmon were counted in the Sieg system and 6 in the Wupper system. In the Sieg catchment the real number of returned salmon spawners was estimated twice the counted number, because many salmon by passed the monitoring stations and ascended about the weirs instead. In the Wupper catchment area the returnee numbers are uncertain, because there are no monitoring stations and the few counted salmon were caught by using electric fishing.

There were some single notifications of salmon caught and released by rod fishing.

Hesse

In 2010, three salmon returnees were monitored in the Wisper river and in 2011, one in the Main river and 9 in the Lahn river.

Baden-Wuerttemberg

Salmon migration is regularly recorded in the upstream counting stations of the fish pass at the barrages Iffesheim and Gamsheim. In this way, the status of stocks in the upper Rhine can be evaluated. Currently there are no significant changes in the status of salmon stocks. In 2010 18 salmon were recorded in the upstream counting station of the fishway at the barrage Iffesheim and 26 salmon in the upstream counting station of the fishway at the barrage Gamsheim. In 2011 50 adult salmon used the fishway Iffesheim and 48 salmon the fishway Gamsheim. In both fishways the migration was impaired due to construction works. 20 unreported salmon catches are estimated for Baden-Wuerttemberg in 2011. Targeted catch and release fisheries on salmon is not practiced.

Ems:

Lower Saxony

In 2010 salmon was mainly caught by recreational fishing and amounted to approximately 20 kg for the Ems catchment. For 2011 no data are available.

In 2011 there was no evidence of adult salmon returnees in Ems tributaries.

Weser:

Lower Saxony

In 2010 a salmon catch of about 50 kg was estimated for the Weser catchment. For 2011 no data are available.

The year 2011 showed first signs that a successful natural reproduction of salmon took place in the river Wümme. This happened for the first time since the reintroduction of salmon started in the Weser catchment in the year 1995.

As part of the reintroduction program in some tributaries of the Weser estuary, spawners were caught by using electric fishing for breeding purposes. In 2011 a total of just 3 spawners were caught.

Elbe

Lower Saxony

There are no significant changes to the status of stocks compared to the preceding years. In autumn 2011 289 salmon were counted in the two counting stations at the weir in Geesthacht. The counted total upstream migration numbers at the weir Geesthacht from September 2010 to November 2011 was 458 salmon. The weir in Geesthacht is temporarily surmountable for upstream migrants depending on water levels. Therefore, the number of fish caught in the counting stations does not reflect the total number of migratory salmon in the Elbe river.

As part of the reintroduction program, spawners were caught in some tributaries of the Elbe estuary by using electric fishing for breeding purposes. Probably according to the exceptional low water situations in 2011 the number of caught salmon for breeding purposes in 2011 was much lower than in 2010. In the Oste river only 9 salmon were caught in 2011 compared to 66 in 2010.

In 2010 a salmon catch of about 280 kg was estimated for the Elbe catchment in Lower Saxony. Targeted catch and release fisheries on salmon is not practiced. For 2011 no data are available.

Brandenburg

The positive salmon population trend in the Stepenitz catchment continues. The number of downstream migrating smolts would be sufficient for a self-sustainable salmon population, but the number of adult returnees is still too low. In 2010, a total number of 57 spawners (202 kg) were detected and in 2011, 24 spawners (122 kg) were found in the Stepenitz river.

In the Pulsnitz river there is no evidence of adult returnees since 2009.

Saxony-Anhalt

In 2011 the first salmon returnees and salmon reeds were observed in the Nuthe river (first stocking in 2009).

Saxony

In 2011 a total number of 26 adult salmon returnees were detected in Saxony.

In the Kirnitzsch river salmon reproduction were observed in 2010 and 2011, although no salmon stocking was carried out since 2004. It seems that the salmon stock in the Kirnitzsch river was able to survive without further supporting stocking measures.

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

Rhine:

ICPR

The most important incidence concerning the restoration of river continuity in the Rhine catchment in 2011 was a decision of the Dutch government to go on with their originate plans to partly open the Haringvliet Sluices, an important “entrance” for Salmon to the Rhine and Meuse river systems. It is expected that the realisation of this project called “de Kier”, including comprehensive accompanying measures, will take until 2014, so the opened sluices will function in 2015.

Following the “Masterplan Migratory Fish Rhine” (ICPR-report No. 179, table in annex, www.iksr.org) and following the management plans according to the European Water Framework Directive (WFD), measures are successively carried out in the Rhine Bordering States. Measures comprise:

1. Restoration of river continuity concerning the up- and downstream migration of salmon and other migrating fish species;
2. Improvement of spawning and juvenile habitats;
3. Limiting losses of salmon due to accidental catches (including inadvertent by-catches) and to poaching.

On 25th January 2012, fish experts from all over the Rhine catchment had an exchange about the progress in national implementation of the “Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine” in 2011.

The progress of measures is just being compiled to make a balance of the ICPR-programme “Rhine 2020 / Salmon 2020”. A publication can be expected by the end of the year 2012.

In addition to this, the expert group “FISH” within the ICPR is reconsidering technical questions to get ahead in the programme for migratory fish: state of the art concerning downwards continuity, breeding and hatching of salmon, stocking stages, quality of habitats, natural reproduction, orientation of salmon migrating in the Delta of the Rhine vs. illegal catches (results of telemetric studies).

During the annual meeting of fish experts in January 2012, several delegations of the ICPR mentioned the exceptional drought / low water situations in 2011, leading to suboptimal conditions for downwards migration of smolts in spring and for upwards migration of adult salmon to their spawning places in autumn.

North Rhine-Westphalia

To meet the needs of migrating salmon and other fish species different measures were carried out during the reporting period. At the Wupper river two new fish ways at unsurmountable barrages were built. At the Sieg river a big fish way is currently under construction. This measure represents a pioneering project for up- and downstream migration at a hydropower plant. Here, different water intake screen designs and constructional solutions for fish ways to enable the safe downstream migration of fish will be tested.

Baden-Wuerttemberg

In 2011, the quantity and quality of salmon habitats were improved in almost all project waters. For this purpose, obstacles have been redesigned to improve the longitudinal connectivity, and structural improvement measures have been implemented to optimize the quality of the habitat. Further measures to improve the longitudinal connectivity and improve habitat conditions are urgently necessary. Efforts to increase the use of hydroelectric power are contrary to successful salmon reintroduction.

Predation on downstream migrating smolts by piscivorous birds significantly reduce salmon stock levels.

Elbe

Lower Saxony

In 2011, farmed salmon have been repeatedly caught by electric fishing in the Oste river.

Brandenburg + Saxony-Anhalt

Following adverse impacts on salmon stocks were mentioned:

1. Runoff conditions during upstream or downstream migration due to droughts or human impacts such as adverse water management of hydropower plants has hampered the migration.
2. Salmon nursery habitats were harmed by mechanical river maintenance.
3. Adverse weir operating has led to severe injuries of migrating salmon (Injury rate 37,5 % in 2011) and high sediment discharges in the Stepenitz river.
4. There is an increased entry of iron ochre into the river Schwarze Elster due to the inflow of open-cast mining water.
5. Cormorant predation in salmon nursery habitats has increased significantly in wintertime while standing waters are covered by ice .
6. Siltation of spawning habitats is increasing permanently due to agricultural use and road drainage.
7. Construction works on barrages are carried out during the migratory stage.

Section 4: An account of all actions taken under the Implementation Plan with regard to the management of salmon fisheries; habitat protection and restoration; aquaculture and related activities; and other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including the marine environment).

| Management Action | Reporting Update | Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed) |
|--|------------------|--|
| Fisheries Management | | |
| <u>Rhine</u> | | |
| <u>ICPR</u> | | |
| There are no changes in comparison to 2010. In the entire Rhine catchment, including the Dutch coastal area, catching and possessing salmon and sea trout is forbidden by law. | | ongoing |

| | | |
|---|--|---------|
| <u>North Rhine-Westphalia</u> | | |
| Protection of salmon returnees | Fishing ban areas around the mouths of Rhine tributaries like Sieg river and Wupper river were extended. The fisheries surveillance were strengthened during migration time of salmon and sea trout, due to volunteering fisheries inspectors. | ongoing |
| | | |
| | | |
| <u>Elbe</u> | | |
| <u>Saxony-Anhalt</u> | | |
| Enable Migration | In October 2011 measures were taken, to catch salmon returnees downstream from an insurmountable weir in the lower reach of the Mulde river and carry the spawners into the upper reaches (Chemnitz river) in Saxony. These efforts will be continued in 2012. | ongoing |
| | | |
| | | |
| Habitat Protection and Restoration | | |
| <u>Rhine</u> | | |
| <u>ICPR</u> | | |
| See question 3. (part of the „Master Plan” and of WFD-management plans) | | |
| Data collection of salmon habitat | In 2009, there were about 100 ha of accessible salmon habitat in the Rhine catchment. The potential is much higher. The ongoing data collection will show the progress in restoring and making accessible salmon habitat in the Rhine catchment in 2010/2011. | ongoing |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|-----------|
| <i>North Rhine-Westphalia</i> | | |
| Habitat and species protection | The new period (2011-2015) of the Wanderfischprogramm (Fish Migratory Scheme) is launched by the Ministry for Climate Protection, Environment, Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection of the German State of North Rhine-Westphalia, accompanied by a corresponding brochure . | ongoing |
| <i>Hesse</i> | | |
| Improving migration | In the Wisper river one weir was equipped with a fish ramp. | completed |
| <i>Baden-Wuerttemberg</i> | | |
| Improving migration | In the salmon project rivers Alb, Murg, Rench, Kinzig, Elz-Dreisam and Wiese, in 2011 a total of 6 upstream migration facilities and 4 downstream fish migration facilities were built and furthermore one structure-improving measure was implemented. | completed |

Aquaculture and related activities

Rhine

ICPR

There is no salmon aquaculture for food production in the Rhine catchment. Salmon rearing for stocking purpose is done in the following hatcheries:

Lower Rhine (Northrhine-Westfalia): Aquaculture Albaum; Salmon Centre „Hasper Talsperre“ near Hagen (cooperation for stocking in Rhineland-Palatinate and Hesse)

Middle Rhine & tributaries: Breeding House Aumenau, river Lahn, Hesse (cooperation for stocking in Rhineland-Palatinate)

Upper Rhine, France: Pisciculture „Saumon du Rhin“, Obenheim (cooperation for stocking in Baden-Württemberg); Petite Camargue Alsacienne (Alsace), Pisciculture Boismont (Lorraine / Moselle)

Upper Rhine, Baden-Württemberg: Trout farm Rösch (Gengenbach), Breeding house Karlsruhe, Salmon hatchery Wolftal (on the river Kinzig, Black Forest), Breeding house “IG Elz”, Kollnau

In the whole Upper Rhine area, frys from the salmon hatchery Chanteuges in France (Allier/Loire-catchment) are also used for stocking.

| | | |
|--|---|---------|
| | | |
| <i>North Rhine-Westphalia</i> | | |
| Authorization of an EU-funded project for the construction of a Wild Salmon Center at the Sieg river. | The center will be completed by the end of 2012. The incubation of eggs of salmon returnees shall start in the same year. | ongoing |
| | | |
| In <i>Baden-Württemberg</i> there is no production of salmon as food fish. Fry, parrs and smolts are reared to be used for stocking purposes only. | In 2011, a total of 281.350 salmon fry were reared in the following 5 hatcheries: Gengenbach: 16.300 Obenheim: 160.000 Karlsruhe: 9.800 Wolftal: 85.250 Waldkirch: 10.000 In addition, 4.600 smolts were stocked of the hatchery Wolftal. Altogether 285.950 salmon were stocked in salmon project rivers in Baden-Württemberg. | ongoing |

Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)

| | | |
|--|---|---------|
| Elbe | | |
| <i>Lower Saxony</i> | | |
| In 2011 poaching occurred to a larger extent on salmon downstream of the weir Geesthacht . | To tackle the poaching problem at the weir Geestacht the strengthening of fisheries surveillance and the extension of the fishing ban area around the weir Geestacht is intended. | ongoing |

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

| |
|--|
| <p><u>ICPR</u></p> <p>No special comment. Regarding the implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, the ICPR would appreciate further professional exchange with NASCO about salmon stocks.</p> <p>The following improvements are demanded by <i>Brandenburg+Saxony-Anhalt</i>:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial support of required salmon monitoring and habitat restoration measures. 2. Financial support and improved regulatory measures of spawning habitat protection. 3. Improvement of regulatory measures against salmon poaching in the Elbe river. |
|--|