

Council

CNL(12)28

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

EU – Ireland

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

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**

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

There have been no major changes to the management plan as outlined in the Implementation Plan.

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.**

Provisional catch (harvest) for 2011 = 87 t (32 t commercial harvest, 55 t angling harvest)
Confirmed catch 2010 = 99 t
Estimated unreported = 9 t
Reported catch and release = 12,732 salmons

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

No new factors have emerged which might significantly affect abundance of salmon stocks in Ireland in 2011

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		
MGT 1 Collection of catch statistics	Commercial, recreational catch statistics	Provisional catch statistics for 2011 fishery have been derived and provided by Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) and Loughs Agency (LA) for analyses by the Standing Scientific Committee for Salmon (SSC)
MGT 2 Collection of biological data:	Escapement, survival, exploitations rates	Data for 2011 assessment collected (tag recoveries, trap/counter information - MI), (counters, electrofishing data -(Inland Fisheries Ireland. IFI)
MGT 3 Scientific assessment	Individual river catch options with risk analysis	Scientific forecast assessment with risk analysis for the for 2012 fishery provided i.e. 58 1SW and 13 2SW stocks meeting CL with harvest fishery allowed, 15 1SW and 2 MSW stocks meeting 65% with C&R fishery allowed 68 1SW and 1 MSW stock below 65% CL no fishing advised (includes 3 hydro rivers below CL).
MGT 4 Management advice	Recommendations for fishery management options	Catch advice has been provided for regulations for the 2012 fishery in line with the precautionary approach and NASCO guidelines (SSC)
MGT 5 Departmental consideration of advice	Draft regulations	Regulations for the 2012 fishery have been drafted and implemented by Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)

MGT 6 Stakeholder consultation	Regulations	A one month consultative public consultation process has been completed for the 2012 fishery.
MGT 7 Government decision to prohibit mixed stock fisheries at sea	Good order in salmon fishery	No mixed stock fishery at sea on Irish stocks since 2006. Mixed stock fishing in 2 embayments with up to 3 contributing stocks all above CL.
MGT 8 Move from district management of stocks to river specific management in 2007	Introduction of Salmon Hardship Scheme for commercial salmon fishermen. Cessation of mixed stock fishing at sea.	Scientific and management advice based on individual river assessments with age defined CLs for 16 rivers (SSC)
MGT 9 Introduction of Salmon Licence Conservation component for all licence holders	Regulations allowing harvests only on river stocks meeting Conservation Limits	Regulations for 2012 will only allow harvest in rivers meeting and exceeding CL. (DCENR)
MGT 10 Wild salmon fishery management initiatives - additional government funding	Salmon Conservation Fund for rehabilitation of salmon stocks giving priority to rivers below their Conservation Limits, and which have the greatest prospect of recovery.	Rehabilitation of rivers ongoing through improvement in spawning, improved fish passage, creation of juvenile salmon habitat in a range of rivers nationally.
MGT 11 Continuation of wild salmon fishery management initiatives	Increased salmon stock monitoring activities e.g. new counters.	Eight new fish counters installed since 2007
	Catch and release evaluation studies	Ongoing evaluation of C&R – Provisionally, 11,383 salmon released in 2011 compared to 15,159 in 2010 (IFI statistics report, 2011 and 2012)
	Pilot e-licensing scheme	In preparation (DCENR/IFI)
	Development and application of juvenile stock abundance electro-fishing index	Catchment wide electrofishing results now used in annual assessment to support catch data. (IFI/MI/SSC)
	Calibration of partial fish counters	Programme of validation of existing counters underway using PIT and telemetric tags (Boyne, Liffey, Blackwater) (IFI, MI)
	Development and application of new rod exploitation estimation methods	Provisional assessment of the appropriateness of the current raising factor to be applied for 2013 fishery advice (SSC)
	Development of new marine survival indices for wild stocks	New index sites being developed on East coast. (MI)
MGT 11 Continuation of wild salmon fishery management initiatives	as above	No changes to previously reported (DCENR)
MGT 12 Improve accuracy of river wetted areas with increased number of stream and river measurements	Improved estimation of river specific Conservation Limits for catch advice and management of stocks	New estimates derived and will be applied in 2013 following publication of peer review in Oct 2011. (IFI, MI, SSC)

MGT 13 Development and appraisal of a forward running forecast model using Bayesian approach	Forecast model for individual river catch options	Model has been developed in 2010 for NEAC and will be examined for suitability for providing multi-year forecast for Irish stocks in 2014 and beyond (MI, SSC)
MGT 14 Investigate adaptive river specific management strategy to account for run timing and individual stock components	Scientific advice on in-season adaptive management	Currently being investigated (MI, SSC)
MGT 15 Genetic investigation of stocks contributing to in-river and estuarine commercial fisheries	Scientific advice on the operation of fisheries in specific rivers and estuaries	Genetic studies undertaken in Shannon River as part of Shannon River Salmon Rehabilitation Programme under the National Beaufort Awards Scheme.
MGT 16 Continuation of wild salmon fishery management initiatives	as above	Initiatives being maintained (DCENR)
MGT 17 Application of forward running forecast model using Bayesian approach	More robust estimate of stock abundance in fishery year and catch options	As MGT 13 (MI, IFI, SSC)
Habitat Protection and Restoration		
HAB 1 National assessment of water quality impacts on fish stocks including salmonids and habitats is currently carried being out under the WFD. This includes the designation of hundreds of operational sites (fish communities only) and surveillance sites (includes all parameters) which have been categorized by specific habitat type and quality.	Specific targets for habitat quality have been set under the WFD which must be met Implementation of certain corrective measures from a programme of measures arising from these evaluations.	Requirements for monitoring under the WFD have been met for 2011 (Department of Environment, DOE)
HAB 2 River management plans being prepared for each river and the threats to individual river habitat will be identified	Threats will be identified and prioritized.	A National Report is in preparation by the new inland fisheries authority Inland Fisheries Ireland IFI
HAB 3 Funding for remedial measures to be raised from the angling levy contributing to the Salmon Conservation Fund and Wild salmon fishery management initiatives - additional government funding	Remedial actions to be taken on specific prioritized rivers. 3 fish passage improvement projects. 32 river habitat rehabilitation projects	Projects are ongoing and involve river stock restoration projects and investigations of fish passage efficacy and fish counter accuracy (IFI)
HAB 4 Update the NASCO rivers database	Update or improve the information on habitats	NASCO database is regularly assessed and updated, most recently in 2011 (IFI)
HAB 5 Improve the quantification of the National Freshwater Habitat Asset	More precise estimate of habitat sizes and types for estimation of CLs and river specific management and catch advice	New data available and methodology were published in 2011 and will be implemented for 2013 season catch advice. (MI,UCC, IFI, SSC)

HAB 6 OPW drainage plans Habitat rehabilitation on all drained rivers channels	Restoration of spawning and nursery areas on all drained rivers	Many Irish salmon rivers were subjected to arterial drainage schemes over the past forty years and as a result, the productive capacity of these river for salmon has been impacted. In 2009, the Office of Public Works, the body responsible for river drainage, began a programme of habitat rehabilitation of drained rivers to increase their capacity to produce juvenile salmonids. The initial five year work programme is being conducted in conjunction with the IFI and has an annual budget of over €1 million. The habitat rehabilitation programme includes input of instream structures, creation of pools and spawning areas and bankside fencing and planting. The programme will significantly increase salmonid production in targeted drained rivers. (IFI, OPW)
HAB 7 As part of a Water Framework Directive initiative, the Shannon River Basin District is undertaking a review of the extent to which the morphology of Irish rivers has been damaged.	A report will be prepared for Government on recommendations for river enhancement with a view to implementing the requirements of the Water Framework Directive	Report is in being compiled (DOE)
Aquaculture and related activities <i>(only required if a jurisdiction wishes to supplement its FAR or has not submitted a FAR)</i>		
AQ1 Monitor the escapes of salmon annually from commercial and recreational fisheries	Report on number of escapes. Advise on mitigation actions including installation of temporary traps or netting to remove escapees	To be updated.
AQ2 Action plan developed for responding to large scale escapes	Specific advice on mitigation measures including insertion of traps and netting in specific areas to remove escapee salmon	Information on escapees in Irish catches and freshwaters has been provided for the 2011 season to ICES WGNAS/NASCO.
AQ3 Action plan developed for responding to large scale escapes	Specific advice on mitigation measures including insertion of traps and netting in specific areas to remove escapee salmon	An action plan is under development (DAFM, DCENR, IFI, MI)
Monitoring of all commercial fin fish farms for sea lice 14 times per year, twice during March to May. Monthly for the remainder of year with the exception of December and January where a single inspection is carried out. One random and two standard cages are sampled.	Monthly and Annual report from National Survey of sea lice on fish farms in Ireland annually published by Marine Institute. Farms are advised that when threshold levels of lice infestation occur a protocol is in place to treat the farm	Farms have been monitored for 2011 in accordance with regulatory advice (MI, DAFM). Monthly monitoring has been carried out. Results have been reported to the DAFM for 2011 and 2012 to date. Farms with higher lice levels than agreed trigger levels advised to treat fish (DAFM, MI)

AQ4 Support and facilitate, in conjunction with BIM, the development and implementation of the Coordinated Local Aquaculture Management System (CLAMS) and the Single Bay Management programmes.	Development and implementation of specific plans for individual bays and feedback to the industry	CLAMs operated in 2011 and continues to operate in 2012 (DAFM, MI)
AQ5 Provide technical advice and support to DAFM, in connection with the conduct of annual audits of finfish farms. Evaluation of existing licences.	Licence re-evaluation	Ongoing licence evaluation and re-evaluation by DAFM
AQ6 Evaluation of new licences.	Requires an independent EIS and recommendation from Minister and must comply with EU directives requiring appropriate assessments in SAC areas.	As above AQ5
AQ7 Monitoring of sea lice on wild salmonids annual programme. 12 rivers in proximity of fish farms sampled annually from May to June	Report of sea lice infestation levels on wild salmonids	Monitoring continued for sample rivers in 2011 Results reported to regulating authorities. (IFI)
AQ 8 Benthic monitoring at each sites	Report to department	Reports received by DAFM
AQ 9 Commissioned by farms - carried out by consultants.		As AQ 8
AQ 10 Annual Fish Health Monitoring Programme	Report on individual farms	Reports provided to regulating authorities as required (MI, DAFM, EU Commission, OIE)
AQ11 Review of Applications Transfer of Aquaculture Stocks between sites.	MI were appointed Competent Authority in 2008. All movements of live fish must be notified to the MI in advance and the notification must be accompanied by a veterinary report. Based on this report, the MI decides whether the movement can occur or not.	All transfers of salmonids were subject to evaluation in 2011 and permission granted where conditions were satisfied. (MI)
AQ 12 Examination of required fish health management plans	Carried out prior to granting a Fish Health Authorisation under Council Directive 2006/88/EC.	All Plans submitted in 2011 have been reviewed by MI and authorised sites now appear on a national register which is available at www.marine.ie/fishhealth
AQ 13 Provide certification to allow the export of live fish and ova to the EU and Third Countries (approximately 50 site visits per year).	Certificates and advice	All required certificates were issued in 2011 (DAFM, MI)
AQ 14 SUMBAWS EU Experimental programme on the distribution and dispersal of sea lice larvae in relation to finfish aquaculture	Report to EU/Publications	Three publications have been produced arising from on the efficacy of lice treatments and survival of experimental groups of hatchery salmon released into the wild. (MI, IFI)

AQ 15 Interdepartmental review of the control and monitoring protocols including high level participation by relevant state agencies	Report and recommendations for management and control of salmon farms and sealice	Review group established by DAFM reviewing risk based assessments of aquaculture activities.
AQ16 Genetics of introductions etc	Advice on introductions of hatchery reared salmonids into the wild	Ongoing provision of advice from state agencies involved in genetic monitoring of wild and farmed stocks. (MI, IFI)
Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
Monitoring of returning adult salmon for the presence of parasites and diseases	To provide information on new or persistent parasites or diseases on returning adult salmon	Ongoing monitoring by IFI with diagnostics provided by MI. A high incidence of <i>Anasakis simplex</i> was reported while sampling a pilot fishery in 2010 in the South West of Ireland. The overall prevalence is being investigated by Inland Fisheries Ireland but seems to have been less obvious in 2011

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

The current management structure for inland fisheries in Ireland changed with the establishment of a new authority in 2010 i.e. Inland Fisheries Ireland. This has not resulted in any significant changes overtly to the management plan except in responsibilities for inland management. Ireland has drafted new legislation (S.I. No .477) relating to the implementation of the Habitats Directive, this is important as Salmon are protected under Annex II of this directive. This legislation supports Ireland's efforts in the conservation on protection of wild salmon stocks.