

Council

CNL(12)31

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

EU – UK (Northern Ireland)

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

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

- No significant reorganisation of management entities or primary (legislative) management tools since 2010.

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.

- (a) 12.8
- (b) 12.4
- (c) 0.2
- (d) Est 1,776

[The River Finn was declared catch and release under the Foyle Area (Control of Fishing) Regulation 2010]

The River Bush (key indicator river for UK-NI) stock attained 45% of CL in 2011.

Data for other monitored rivers:

- Percentage compliance 2011 with conservation limits for monitored rivers in the DCAL area of UK (N. Ireland).

River	2011
Blackwater	45
Main	55
Glendun	68
Moneycarragh	n/a
Shimna	23

- Percentage compliance 2011 with management target for monitored rivers in the cross border Loughs Agency area.

River	2011
Mourne	n/a
Finn	36
Roe	143
Faughan	152

NB) All compliance data in both the DCAL and Loughs Agency Areas are *minimum* estimates:

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

Marine survival of salmon to the River Bush in NI remains very low and, consistent with other NASCO jurisdictions, is the major factor affecting abundance of NI populations.

No commercial fishing for salmon took place in the Foyle area in 2011. Angling in the River Finn was restricted to catch and release only.

Six commercial fishing licenses issued in 2011 in the DCAL area. Commercial catch by the 5 operating engines fell by ~40% in 2011 compared to 2010

Overall for UK-NI this represented a continuation of the very significant reduction in licensing of commercial fishing engines seen in 2010.

Provisional data suggests a slight increase in rod catch in the Foyle area in 2011 compared to the reduced final figure for 2010. Rod catch in the DCAL area was stable.

Whilst detailed monitoring data indicates that implementation of the UK-NI Salmon Management strategy (Implementation plan) is conserving and re-building stocks in freshwater, this management activity remains against the background of low marine survival relative to before 1997. Thus, reduced exploitation and freshwater habitat management measures can only buffer that decline.

This being the case, the DCAL Minister has asked for a voluntary cessation to the taking of salmon in 2012 by any fishing engines in the DCAL jurisdiction. It is hoped that there shall be no commercial fishing and that anglers shall practice catch and release in 2012.

The Loughs Agency has echoed this call for 2012.

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		
<i>DCAL Area</i>		
Voluntary buy-out of remaining 6 commercial fishers	Discussions to secure undertakings to not fish in 2012 are encouraging. The option of permanent buy-outs remains on the table for these discussions.	Ongoing.
Recommendations for additional precautionary fishery conservation regulations (nets and rods)	Fully developed and are likely to issue for public consultation in 2012.	Ongoing.
Ban sale of rod caught salmon	Pending necessary changes to Foyle legislation.	Ongoing.
Promote catch and release in rod fisheries	The DCAL Minister has personally led a call for this action in 2012 and beyond, since echoed by Loughs Agency.	Ongoing
<i>Loughs Agency areas</i>		
Declarations for 2011 under 2010 regulations	Catch and release on River Finn and Foyle permit waters	Yes
	Suspension of netting in Foyle catchment	Yes
Data collection to inform catchment management		
<i>DCAL Area</i>		
Develop adult counting facilities	New counting weir fully operational on Shimna River Projects for facilities on Clady and Garvary nearing completion. Calibration of Fish counting facility at	Ongoing

	Portna (Lower Bann) 2010-12.	
Habitat Surveys & development of catchment specific CLs	Moyola, Upper Bann	Ongoing
Juvenile population assessment	>500 sites electric fished	Yes
Inform population composition of fisheries	Information on the river population contribution to commercial fisheries used to inform policy development (see section 3)	Yes
Fish passage assessment	Hydro acoustic tracking studies on Moyola and Lower Bann [suspected migration barriers]	Ongoing
Collect catch data	Carcass tag database fully maintained	Yes
<i>Loughs Agency Area</i>		
Catchment status reports	Fully compiled and published ¹	Yes
Habitat Protection and Restoration		
<i>DCAL Area</i>		
Habitat restoration and enhancement projects	Programmes on following rivers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ballinamallard (report attached) - Moyola - Burren (Shimna) - Lodge Burn (L. Bann) - Dun <p>.....</p>	Yes
Local Management Area Action Plans implementing River Basin Management plans under the EU Water Framework Directive.	Four plans finalised ² .	Ongoing.

¹ <http://www.loughs-agency.org/conservation/publications.asp?sectionid=6&catid=243>

² http://www.doeni.gov.uk/nica/water-home/wfd/north_eastern_rbp/ne-actionplans.htm

<i>Loughs Agency Area</i>		
All below Habitat enhancement and protection		
Habitat enhancement Derg	Spawning ford creation, spawning substrate limited.	completed
Habitat enhancement Owenkillew	Spawning ford creation, spawning substrate limited.	completed
Owenregh East	Creation of habitat units x 2 tree/bush trimming	Completed
Glenelly	Spawning ford/gravel loosening	Completed
Glenelly	Maintenance/repair of existing groynes and gravel cleaning	
Owenkillew	Approx 50m of hard bank protection to reduce input of fine sediment adjacent to spawning habitat	Completed
Burn Dennet	Rivers Agency emergency works post severe flood LA facilitated habitat improvement and flap valve removal	Completed
Burn Dennet	Selective coppicing throughout stretch on both banks, habitat units installation, bank protection, stock proof fencing with gated access	Completed
Burn Dennet	Selective coppicing throughout stretch on both banks to reduce tunnelling	Completed
Burn Dennet	Selective coppicing throughout stretch on both banks to reduce tunnelling	Completed
Faughan	Post 1970"s arterial drainage schemes. Habitat improvement scheme consisting of selective coppicing (de-tunnelling) to improve light penetration/primary	Completed

	productivity, fencing, habitat units installed.	
Drumragh	Bank protection to protect spawning beds, nursery habitat introduction and buffer zone creation	Completed
Drumragh	Bank protection to protect spawning beds, nursery habitat introduction and buffer zone creation	Completed
Drumragh	Bank protection due to severe erosion, introduction of spawning and nursery habitat	Completed
Camowen	Bank protection to limit erosion and nursery habitat introduction	Completed
Camowen	Bank protection and introduction of spawning and nursery habitat, buffer zone creation	Completed
Finn	Bank protection of severely eroding bank adjacent to extensive spawning habitat. Hard bank protection implemented	Completed
Aquaculture and related activities		
Management of 1 salmon farming operation	Research on interaction with wild stocks and sea lice monitoring consistent with recommendation of FAR review group shall commence in 2012	Ongoing.
Stocking “policy”	Maintain policy guidance ³	Yes.
Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
Supportive Breeding Programmes	Erne (whole catchment programme). Glenavy	Yes

³ http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/stocking_programme_advisory_leaflet-2.pdf

	A short review in 2011 pointed to a more precautionary approach. No programmes authorised by NGO/ angling sector.	
Strategic Marine Management	Policy development towards a NI Marine Bill continued ⁴ .	Yes

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

None.

⁴ http://www.doeni.gov.uk/index/protect_the_environment/natural_environment/marine_and_coast/marine_policy/northern_ireland_marine_bill.htm

Completion of Ballinamallard River Enhancement Scheme

The planting of native broadleaf trees along an 800m stretch of the Ballinamallard River during February, signalled the end of an enhancement scheme involving staff from DCAL Inland Fisheries and Rivers Agency.



Native tree planting

Works were carried out in two stages during 2010-11 with the co-operation of DARD Forest Service and incorporated a number of drainage and habitat improvements including:

Removal of fallen trees inhibiting river access;

Reuse of fallen trees as natural bank protection;

Construction of low level D-groynes to create flow diversity;

Berm lowering to create extra storage during flood events;

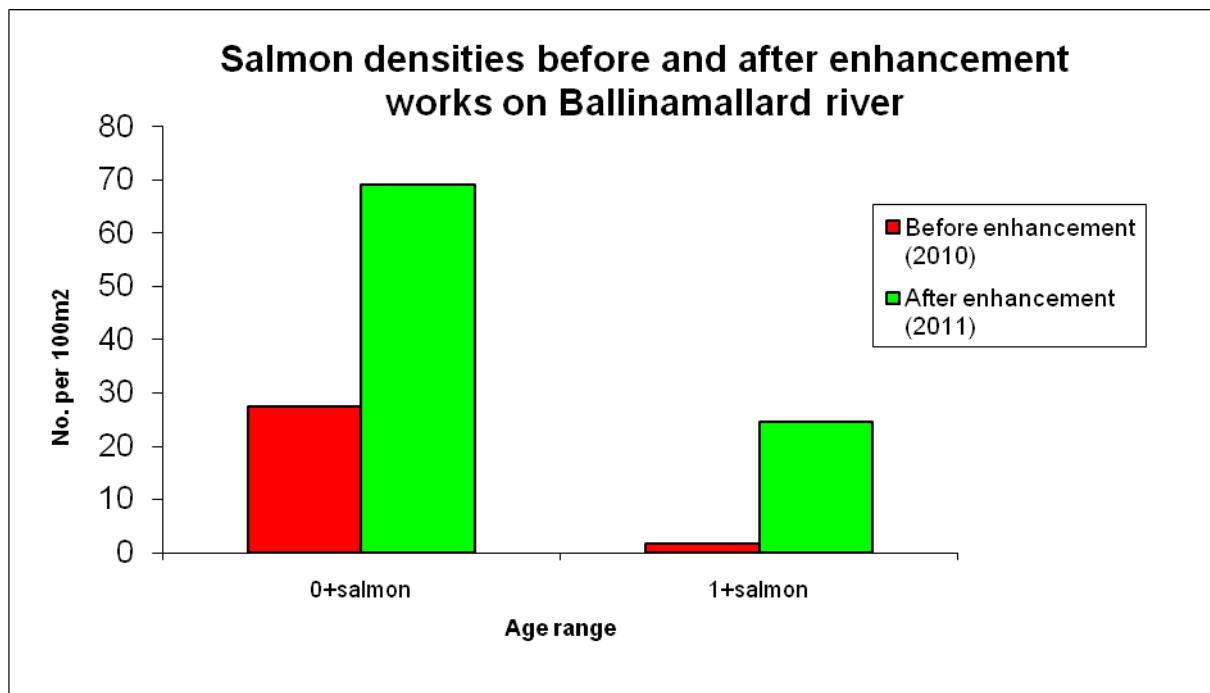
Addition of approximately 1200 tonnes of nursery cobble and spawning gravel for salmonids;

Treatment and removal of Alien Invasive Species;

Improved access for anglers;

Otter Holt creation.

Fish numbers were recorded before and after the enhancement works and during the winter of 2010-11 several fresh redds were observed on the newly added gravels. The following graph illustrates the increase in numbers observed for salmon.



It is hoped that the habitat works carried out will continue to aid the natural recruitment of salmon and trout in the Erne catchment.

Staff from DCAL (John Kane & Greg Hood) and Rivers Agency (Gareth Greer & Geoffrey Slater) were involved in the design of the works which were then successfully implemented by Rivers Agency Direct Labour organisation.

Extra Photos of works during and post works



Fallen trees used as bank protection



Low level D-groynes to increase low flow diversity



D-groyne during higher flow event



Berm-lowering to increase storage during flood events



Otter Holt Creation



Improved angling access