

Council

CNL(12)32

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

EU – UK (Scotland)

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

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 significant changes although the Fisheries Trust network developed management plans now covering 95% of mainland Scotland, Skye and the Outer Hebrides.

The Scottish Government has consulted on legislative proposals, mainly aimed at the operational management of fisheries and also aquaculture management and interaction issues, and expects to introduce a bill to the Scottish Parliament during 2012.

A National Fisheries Management demonstration project for Salmon and Sea Trout has been initiated on the River South Esk under the direction of Marine Scotland Science. The project started in Feb 2012 and will run for 3 years.

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) provisional catch of salmon in tonnes for 2011 = 169.0 tonnes (nominal catch, retained only)
- (b) confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2010 = 179.9 tonnes (nominal catch, retained only)
- (c) estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2011 = 22.5 tonnes.
- (d) provisional estimate of the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2011 = 67,989), and representing 73% of the provisional declared rod catch (by number).

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

none

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		
Where it is recognised, relative to (the establishment of conservation limits) that intervention is required for the conservation of salmon, fishery managers may seek voluntary reductions in fishing mortality or if necessary apply to Scottish Ministers for Salmon Conservation Regulations made under the 2003 Act. Scottish Ministers may change annual or weekly close times where necessary for conservation purposes.	Scottish Government is currently considering applications for 5 statutory salmon measures and has recently implemented measures on the River Annan.	Ongoing

<p>Rivers and Fisheries Trusts Scotland are currently developing fisheries management plans for each of the Trust areas throughout Scotland</p>	<p>Locally developed and agreed fisheries management plans are now in place for (95% of mainland Scotland as well as for Skye and the Outer Hebrides. Trusts are adopting management plans as a management tool and developing them on an ongoing basis.</p> <p>Fisheries Trusts continue to monitor local habitat. Scottish Government has funded a project officer post within Rivers and Fisheries trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) to support and co-ordinate applications to the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) restoration fund. The Scottish Restoration Fund has awarded funding to 90 plus projects, with a cumulative spend of over £3 million. The predominant project types that have received much of this are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - projects to remove dams and weirs that are acting as a barrier to fish migration and sediment transport - projects to look at restoration options for physical processes at a catchment or waterbody scale - projects to tackle riparian invasive plants, namely Giant Hogweed, Himalayan Balsam, Japanese Knotweed and Rhododendron. <p>Barrier work is a key focus of the fund, opening up significant areas of Scottish catchments but Invasive control projects are increasing to a level where they now account for a third of the funds spent by Trusts.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Develop multi-scale Conservation Limit and Spawning Escapement models taking into account uncertainties in the model input parameters.</p>	<p>The CL model has been developed to allow for uncertainty in salmon habitat identification using Monte Carlo simulation techniques. CL distributions for all 109 salmon fishery districts have been estimated using the model. Spawner escapement has been derived from rod catch information. Uncertainty in estimates of the parameters (i.e. exploitation rate, non-reported</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	catch, catch and release mortality and out of season returns) will be incorporated using Monte Carlo techniques.	
CLs can be developed at the scale of fishery districts provided that a series of assumptions is made regarding the underlying structure. Management issues relating to smaller scales, and catches in specific seasons, require alternative investigative tools. The outcome of detailed investigations by Marine Scotland Science into the use of catch data supports the idea that rod catch relate under certain circumstances to freshwater abundance but need to be used with caution.	Marine Scotland Science continues to use rod catch information to assess the status of stocks and to provide management advice. An assessment tool has been developed to identify those rivers in which rod catches are in significant decline. This tool helps managers to identify areas that require further investigation.	Ongoing
The Statutory Fisheries Committee continues to provide advice to Scottish Ministers and developers on the potential impacts of existing and proposed hydro-electricity and wave and tidal energy schemes on fish stocks.	The Fisheries Committee has now been embedded within the statutory regulator as the Fish and Fisheries Advisory Group which apart from technical advisors contains representatives from District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts	Complete
DSFBs to augment natural salmon production through use of hatcheries as appropriate.	As part of The Strategic Framework for Scottish Freshwater Fisheries a Working Group has been tasked to produce a code of good practice for stocking salmon. A draft report developed in partnership with stakeholders, SEPA, SNH and Marine Scotland was prepared in 2011 and will be incorporated into a code of good practice on fisheries management techniques during 2012 There are currently 46 hatcheries in operation producing 2.8M Ova, 3.1M unfed fry, 2.3M fed fry and 33K smolts.	Ongoing
Scottish Government to review the Gs contingency plan annually, publish updated plan	The Scottish Gs contingency plan was reviewed during 2011. The contingency plan is available at the following ; http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1062/0115961.pdf	Ongoing
Applications from fishery managers for licences to control piscivorous birds and mammals are dealt	From 1 January 2011 an area- based licence for managing seal predation was introduced. This follows successful piloting in	Ongoing

with on an ongoing basis	the Moray Firth which involved District Salmon Fishery Boards and Fisheries Trusts. We are considering rolling out this model in dealing with piscivorous birds.	
Habitat Protection and Restoration		
See specific management action above.	Over the last 10 years (figures are not available on an annual basis up to 2011 but will be collected from 2012 onwards) the estimate of total riparian habitat restored/enhanced is 1020Km. 166 barriers have been removed and another 97 physically eased creating 2186 Km of accessible river length.	
Aquaculture and related activities		
A TWG sponsor Group has been formed to provide a strategic overview and direction to ongoing work at the local level in the TWG sponsored regional steering groups , local area management groups and 4 TWG funded regional development officers	This has been superseded by a new SG funded Managing Interaction Working Group chaired by RAFTS with membership from Fisheries Trusts in the aquaculture areas, and Marine Scotland.	Ongoing
Strategic Framework for Scottish aquaculture published in May 2009 and is available on the Scottish Government website at; www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/05/14160104/4 . The UK (Scotland) Focus area on aquaculture contains full details of the implementation of the audit and inspection provisions of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007, the working groups established under the aquaculture strategic framework including Healthier Fish and Containment Groups, further developments of new Disease and Parasite Management requirements including an improved sea lice management reporting strategy .	Implementation of the framework is ongoing through its Working Groups, including recommendations of the Healthier Fish and Improved Containment Groups which informed the recent Scottish Ministers' consultation on legislative proposals due to be introduced to the Scottish parliament during 2012	Ongoing
Marine Scotland Science is engaged in the research into factors affecting salmon abundance and diversity.	Projects are currently being undertaken on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dispersal of sea lice from aquaculture facilities in relation to distributions of smolts. 	Ongoing

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effects of river flow regimes • Effects of marine renewable energy generation • Effects of sea lice • Effects of maternal condition on offspring condition • Interaction between salmon and beaver distributions • Influence of water chemistry and physical habitat on salmon parr 	
Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
Marine renewables development	<p>Marine Scotland has set out a research implementation strategy for offshore renewables. This document sets out the proposed research required to inform the further development of offshore renewable energy in Scotland’s seas. Of particular relevance to migratory fish the programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construct a coil system to investigate electro-magnetic force impacts on salmonids; • Evaluate generic methods for assigning fish caught in coastal zones; • Evaluate options for establishing the migratory routes of Atlantic Salmon in coastal areas; and • Draft plans for assessing impacts of WEMF on salmon and sea trout, and migratory routes of salmon. 	Ongoing

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

No new revisions