



Agenda Item 8.1
For Information

Council

CNL(13)26

***Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans***

EU - UK (England and Wales)

CNL(13)26

Annual Report on actions taken under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2012

The Guidelines for the Preparation of Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress, NSTF(06)10, 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 5 April 2013**

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

There have been no significant changes to the management described in the Implementation Plan for England and Wales (as updated in 2009) during 2012.

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 2012;**
- (b) the confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2011;**
- (c) an estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2012;**
- (d) the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2012.**

Information on catches:

- (a) provisional catch of salmon in tonnes for 2012 = 56.9 tonnes (fish caught and retained only)
- (b) confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2011 = 135.8 tonnes (nominal catch, retained only)
- (c) estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2012 = 15 tonnes [8 tonnes under-reporting and 7 tonnes due to illegal catches]
- (d) provisional estimate of the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2012 = 11,514 (51.5 tonnes), and representing 65% of the provisional declared rod catch (by number).

Status of stocks:

The annual review of stock status for 2012 showed:

- 9 rivers (14%) were currently classified as ‘not at risk’ – i.e. had a high probability (>95 %) of meeting the management objective;
- 15 rivers (23%) were currently classified as ‘probably not at risk’ – i.e. had a probability of 50% to 95% of meeting the management objective;
- 18 rivers (28%) were currently classified as ‘probably at risk’ – i.e. had a probability of 5% to 50% of meeting the management objective;
- 22 rivers (34%) were currently classified as ‘at risk’ – i.e. had a very low probability (<5%) of meeting the management objective.

[The ‘at risk’ category does not mean that stocks are in danger of becoming extinct, but rather that they are falling well short of the management objective – i.e. of meeting or exceeding the conservation limit in four years out of five, on average.]

There has been a progressive decrease in the proportion of rivers regarded as ‘at risk’ over the past 9 years and a marked increase in the proportion of rivers assessed as ‘probably at risk’ and ‘probably not at risk’. These trends are predicted to continue. The changes in categorisation over the time series suggest an overall increase in the number of rivers moving towards compliance with the management objective of meeting the CL four years out of five, on average.

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

<p>Climate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many areas in England and Wales experienced very dry conditions in the spring of 2012, with record low flows for this time of year on some rivers; • This was followed by record rainfall and extreme high flows in many areas in the late spring, summer and autumn of 2012; April and June were the wettest in the England and Wales time series, dating from 1766, while the summer months (June, July, August) were the wettest since 1912; • This had major effects on fisheries, and it is likely that it will have affected salmon populations at various freshwater stages in the lifecycle.

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		
ACTION 1: By 2009, establish the programme for developing new salmon management plans.	The programme for developing salmon management plans has been completed. Sea Trout and Salmon Catchment summaries giving the details to support the 11 River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in England & Wales are being developed. These build on the existing Salmon Action Plans but also include other catchments where salmon are recovering from historic degradation. A timetable to produce 82 such plans for salmon (and sea trout as appropriate) by 2014 is in place. Draft plans for the North East Region were under preparation in 2012.	Action completed; further work ongoing
ACTION 2(i): Continue the development of procedures for	The Environment Agency and Cefas continue to keep the procedures for setting and using Conservation Limits and Management Targets	Ongoing

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using reference points in the assessment and management of salmon stocks	under review. Both the analytical methods and presentation of results have been updated in the Cefas/EA Annual Assessments of Salmon Stocks and Fisheries; the latest report is available on the internet on the Cefas and Environment Agency websites.	
<p>ACTION 2(ii): By 2009, apply the Salmon Lifecycle Model (SLM) to a number of salmon rivers in order to evaluate its performance; identify improvements/areas for further model development; and clarify the role of SLM alongside current CL setting and compliance procedures in the management of salmon stocks.</p> <p>NB: This Action was updated in 2009 to indicate that work on the SLM was on hold pending a full review.</p>	The Environment Agency commissioned a full review of the Salmon Lifecycle Model (SLM) and concluded that while some elements of the model may merit further examination (e.g. the exploitation model), development and implementation of the SLM as a whole was no longer practicable in view, for example, of changing assessment priorities associated with the EU Water Framework Directive. A salmonid life-cycle simulation model is being developed to support the interpretation of salmonid research and provide management advice (Defra contract SF0257: Salmonid life-cycle models).	Action updated; review completed
<p>ACTION 2:(iii): By 2009, evaluate use of a model to predict rod exploitation rates and to improve current CL compliance procedures.</p>	There is an ongoing programme to review and refine the approaches used to assess salmon stocks. Work has been undertaken to improve the estimation of exploitation rates in stock assessments, and to review the balance between the use of default (generic) and river-specific data. Further improvements have been made to the exploitation estimates for England and Wales provided for the ICES stock assessment models.	Action completed; further work ongoing

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<p>ACTION 3: By 2012 evaluate and determine the measures for the east coast mixed stock salmon fisheries consistent with England and Wales policy.</p>	<p>A review of the NE Coast fishery has been completed and new Net Limitation Orders put in place. Both drift net and fixed beach (T&J) net fisheries are being phased out as fishermen leave the fishery. Any remaining drift net fishery will be closed in September 2022. The Environment Agency has also been asked to consider options for imposing a cap on the catches in the fishery. The Environment Agency will review the NLO in 2017 and provide a full evaluation of the potential for maintaining some nets (other than drift nets) that will conform to national policy and NASCO guidance on salmonid fishery management; this will inform decisions on the future of this component of the fishery.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>ACTION 4: Undertake annual reviews of the status of stocks in each principal salmon river and determine the need for immediate changes to regulatory measures through the application of the Decision Structure.</p>	<p>The annual reviews for 2012 were completed and the results are summarised in Section 2 of this report. These data are published annually in the Cefas/Environment Agency Annual Assessment of Salmon Stocks and Fisheries in England and Wales (see Action 2(i)). Regulations are also reviewed as part of this process. The combined package of regulatory measures introduced in 2012 on the Severn net fishery and Wye rod fishery is believed to have significantly reduced exploitation of Wye salmon in 2012. This river has been considered to be ‘at risk’ of failing its management objective for several years.</p>	<p>Completed for 2012</p>
<p>ACTION 5: Review Net Limitation Orders (NLOs) for net fisheries prior to their expiry or as required by annual stock status assessments, and determine the requirements for, and implement, new controls. This process will</p>	<p>The following actions were taken in 2011/12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – NE coastal net fishery: New Net Limitation Orders (NLOs) were approved for the drift and T/J net fisheries in Dec 2012; – Taw/Torridge estuary: New NLO for 1 draft net was approved – Christchurch Harbour (Rivers Hants Avon and Stour) estuary: a zero NLO was approved 	<p>Completed for 2012</p>

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<p>include undertaking stakeholder consultation and applying the Decision Structure.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Poole Harbour (Rivers Piddle and Frome) estuary: a new NLO was approved – for 1 seine net – Rivers Wye, Taff & Ely: mandatory catch and release on the rod fishery was introduced – River Derwent: Byelaw proposals were developed (not yet introduced) for a 2 fish per day bag limit and 100% C&R for October – Rivers Kent, Leven and Crake: Consultations are underway in relation to new NLOs for the lave net fisheries. – Severn Estuary: Consultations are underway in relation to new NLOs for lave and draft net fisheries. – River Camel: Consultations are underway in relation to new NLO for the drift net fishery. 	
<p>ACTION 6: Review the following byelaws for salmon fisheries prior to their expiry in 2008, and determine the requirements for subsequent controls through the application of the Decision Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Region byelaws – annual close season for salmon & trout; • National byelaws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – annual close season for salmon & trout fishing other than with rod & line; 	<p>The National measures were reintroduced for a further 10 year period commencing in 2008, retaining the closure of most salmon net fisheries until 1st June and the requirement for catch and release in rod fisheries until 16th June.</p> <p>All the Regional byelaws that were tied to the National byelaw were re-examined at the same time as the above review and new byelaws were introduced at this time for the Southwest Region.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – early season catch and release in specified fisheries and by rod & line; early season method restriction for salmon with rod and line		
ACTION 7: By positive engagement with other relevant jurisdictions, directly and through the EU and NASCO, seek to ensure that exploitation of any English or Welsh salmon stock in home-water fisheries outside England and Wales does not exceed 1%.	There is no fishery that is known currently to be exploiting more than 1% of any English or Welsh salmon stock outside UK home-waters.	Completed for 2012
Habitat Protection and Restoration		
ACTION 8: Continue the development and implementation of the River Fisheries Habitat Inventory (RFHI) as part of development of the Salmon Lifecycle Model to 2009 (see Action 2 above).	RFHI has been superseded by the Fisheries Classification Scheme (FCS2) which is now employed by the Environment Agency to help prioritise actions to improve salmon stocks and to meet EU Water Framework Directive (WFD) classification requirements.	Completed
ACTION 9: Continue and expand the range of initiatives to bring about significant changes in land use to protect and enhance river habitats - including agri-environment schemes, implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD),	The WFD assessment process has identified a range of rivers where fish populations are at less than ‘good status’, and the reasons why there is an impact have been identified for many. Work is being undertaken to identify the appropriate measures needed to achieve the objectives of the WFD and hence improve failing salmon populations. These measures have been reported in the first RBMPs, and many are now being implemented through partnerships between Government Agencies and third sector groups such as Rivers Trusts.	Ongoing

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information campaigns and tighter regulation; report annually on activities.	Programmes include projects aimed at reducing diffuse pollution especially from agricultural runoff.	
ACTION 10: Deliver strategic programmes targeted to address degraded salmon habitat and involving collaboration between stakeholder groups to optimise what is achieved; report annually on activities.	Strategic programmes are now driven by the outcomes of the WFD assessments of water body status and are delivered through the RBMPs, with the Environment Agency, The Rivers Trust, Natural England, Wildlife Trusts and the Coal Authority working in collaboration. There is an increasing focus on delivering at the catchment level. More information can be found at: Catchment based approach to water management . In 2012, the UK Government allocated £92 million to improve water body status under WFD, some of which will have benefited salmon. This programme is a small part of the overall effort of many organisations to protect and improve the water environment. Formal reporting of progress will be every six years as required by the WFD (next report due in 2015). Salmon specific activities are routinely reported to local liaison groups.	Ongoing
ACTION 11: Deliver the annual programmes of river improvements, including those identified within SAPs and those organised by Rivers Trusts, to advise land managers and protect and restore river and riparian habitats; report annually on activities.	Actions to improve salmon stocks (now identified through the RBMP process – see Action 1 above) have been taken forward in 2012 by individual and joint programmes as described by Actions 9 and 10 above. This has included installation of fish passes and other habitat improvements as part of the UK Government funded £92 million programme mentioned in Action 10 of which £9.6 is being spent specifically to address water bodies where fish are a failing element. These latter projects are being run by the Wildlife Trusts, Rivers Trust, Natural England, and the Environment Agency. Over half of the £9.6 million is being spent on improving river connectivity for fish; many of these schemes will benefit salmon.	Completed for 2012

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Aquaculture and related activities		
<p>ACTION 12: Control the stocking of salmonids and other species within the terms of the current national policies for introductions and transfers; report annually on stocking activities.</p>	<p>All fish introductions to inland waters require consent under Section 30 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975. Additional controls apply to high risk non-native species under Orders made under the Import of Live Fish Act 1980. Licensed introductions under this act include consent under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 for specific species. The Environment Agency is not able to self consent its own fish introductions, but applies management controls to ensure compliance with best practice. Juvenile salmon are stocked from hatcheries for mitigation, restoration or enhancement purposes in a number of catchments. These programmes are conducted within the terms of the National Stocking Policy and specific guidance on ‘Schemes to stock rivers with salmon, sea trout and brown trout from locally sourced broodstock’. Full details of the numbers of fish stocked in these programmes, and the stage (eggs, fry, parr and smolts) of release, are included in the Salmonid and Freshwater Fisheries Statistics published annually by the Environment Agency (available at Annual Fisheries Statistics)</p>	<p>Completed for 2012</p>
<p>ACTION 13: Continue to assess the incidence of salmon farm escapees in monitored rivers in England and Wales, and take appropriate action if levels increase significantly.</p>	<p>There were no reports of salmon suspected to be of farmed origin being caught in rod or net fisheries in England or Wales in 2012.</p>	<p>Completed for 2012</p>
<p>ACTION 14: In 2008, report on results of research on the impacts of in-river aquaculture facilities on juvenile and adult salmon; plan and implement appropriate follow-up</p>	<p>Defra Project SF0241 – “The impact of intensive in-river aquaculture on wild salmonids” was completed. A further project has been undertaken to determine the accuracy of methods used in SF0241 to measure steroid levels and to confirm or otherwise the results of the previous study. The study showed broad agreement between the steroid</p>	<p>Completed; new research initiated</p>

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work by 2010.	<p>measurements obtained by two techniques, but high steroid concentrations were not recorded in any river water samples collected upstream or downstream of the farms. Cefas has developed a position paper on ‘In-river aquaculture effluents and wild salmonids’ summarising the conclusions from recent research.</p> <p>Follow-on research (Defra Project SF0256 – “The impacts of contaminants and temperature on freshwater fish populations”) on the impacts of fish farm effluents on smolt survival has been initiated.</p>	
Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
ACTION 15: Report annually on results of research into factors affecting marine survival of salmon and develop new research programmes; plan and implement appropriate follow-up actions.	Results of current and completed research projects along with new research programmes relating to salmon survival at sea are reported annually in the IASRB Inventory of Salmon Research. Annual assessments of marine survival for indicator rivers in England and Wales are included in the annual Cefas/Environment Agency stock status report (see Action 2(i) & Action 16).	Completed for 2012
ACTION 16: Maintain on-going monitoring programmes and publish results with an assessment of the status of salmon stocks in England and Wales in April each year for dissemination to ICES and stakeholders.	The Cefas/Environment Agency Annual Assessment of Salmon Stocks and Fisheries in England and Wales is published in April and presented to the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon. This contains further details of developments summarised above in this progress report. The full report is available from the Cefas or Environment Agency websites.	Completed for 2012

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

No new revisions