



Agenda Item 8.1
For Information

Council

CNL(13)33

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

EU - UK (Scotland)

CNL(13)33

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.

The Scottish government introduced proposed legislative changes mainly aimed at the operational management of fisheries, aquaculture management and interaction issues in October 2012.

The National Fisheries Management Demonstration, under the direction of Marine Scotland Science, taking place on the River South Esk completed the first year of operation and is being further developed to progress for the next two years.

In October 2012, the Scottish Government introduced an Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill before the Scottish Parliament that will underpin the sustainable development of the fish farming and freshwater fishing sectors. The purpose of the Bill is to ensure that farmed and wild fisheries - and their interactions with each other - continue to be managed effectively, maximising their combined contribution to supporting sustainable economic growth with due regard to the wider marine environment. Key features of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill include: New legal measures for fish farms operators – including statutory farm management agreements, requirements for technical equipment standards, and control mechanisms for the operation of wellboats. Moves to improve the management and governance of District Salmon Fisheries Boards, making them more transparent and accountable, with powers for Ministers to intervene if that is not the case. Safeguards for the shellfish industry, with measures to ensure shellfish waters continue to be protected from pollution once the EU Shellfish Waters Directive is repealed in 2013. Powers to impose charges in connection to services provided by Marine Scotland in carrying out of functions relating to fish and shellfish farming, freshwater

fisheries, and sea fisheries. Some additional enforcement powers to support sea fishery officers in carrying out monitoring and investigation duties, and the extension of Fixed Penalty Notices to respond to issues of regulatory non-compliance

It is anticipated that the Bill will conclude its passage through the Scottish Parliament by early summer 2013.

The Scottish Government has recently announced that it will commission an independent review of the management of all salmon and freshwater fisheries. The terms of the review are currently being scoped.

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.**

- (a) the provisional catch of salmon in tonnes for 2012; 130.4t (1SW: 42.2t, MSW: 88.2t) (These values refer to nominal catches)
- (b) the confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2011; **159.1t (1SW: 33.0t, MSW: 126.1t)** (These values refer to nominal catches)
- (c) an estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2012; 18t
- (d) the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2012. 66250 (1SW: 22427, MSW: 43823)

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		
<p>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.</p>	<p>Scottish Government is currently considering applications for 1 statutory salmon measure.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<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</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>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. To date 217 barriers have been assessed for improved fish passage and 106 have been physically eased increasing newly accessible river length by 2252Km</p>	
<p>Develop multi-scale Conservation Limit and Spawning Escapement models taking into account uncertainties in the model input parameters.</p>	<p>Conservation Limits (CLs) and associated measures of spawning escapement and returns to homewaters will be available for Scottish salmon stocks by the summer of 2013. This information will be used to inform the management of salmon stocks objectively, consistently and in line with NASCO guidance.</p> <p>Conservation Limits are derived from monitored data from the river North Esk, transported to other areas on the basis of the relative wetted area and productivity of the salmon habitat. Estimates of stock abundance are primarily derived from fishery returns.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>Assessment will generally be possible down to the fishery District scale, the lowest scale routinely available from the fishery data. Districts correspond either to a single river catchment together with adjacent coast or to groups of neighbouring river catchments and associated coastline (Topic Sheet no. 67, Collecting the Marine Scotland Salmon and Sea Trout Fishery Statistics: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2012/09/5760))</p> <p>Much of the data used to provide the biological basis of the models has been derived from long term monitoring undertaken by MSS on the river North Esk together with additional information from a limited number of other rivers. Biological data from a wider range of stocks is required to ensure robustness of the assessments of Scottish stocks at the District scale.</p> <p>Further development is also required to allow assessment at sub-catchment scales to inform for example management of spring salmon stocks.</p>	
<p>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</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>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.</p>	<p>helps managers to identify areas that require further investigation.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Complete</p>
<p>DSFBs to augment natural salmon production through use of hatcheries as appropriate.</p>	<p>As part of The Strategic Framework for Scottish Freshwater Fisheries a Working Group was 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 was incorporated into a code of good practice on fisheries management techniques prepared by the Institute of Fisheries Management during 2012 There are currently 31 hatcheries in operation producing 2.7M Ova, 3.2M unfed fry, 1.5M fed fry and 73K smolts.</p>	
<p>Scottish Government to review the Gs contingency plan annually, publish updated plan</p>	<p>The Scottish Gs contingency plan was reviewed during 2012. The contingency plan is available at the following ; http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/1062/0115961.pdf</p>	
<p>Applications from fishery managers for licences to control piscivorous birds and mammals are dealt with on an ongoing basis</p>	<p>From 1 January 2011 an area- based licence for managing seal predation was introduced. This follows successful piloting in the Moray Firth. The issue of licences for</p>	

	control of seal and piscivorous birds has transferred to discrete licensing functions within the public sector.	
Habitat Protection and Restoration		
See specific management action above.	During 2012 approximately 82Km were added to give a total of approximately 1102Km 106 barriers have been physically eased creating 2252 Km of accessible river length.	Ongoing.
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	The Ministerial Group on Aquaculture (MGA) has been refocused in 2013 to enable Scotland's aquaculture industry to achieve 2020 sustainable growth targets, as set out in the draft National Marine Plan; to grow marine finfish production 32% and shellfish (especially mussels) 80% sustainably by 2020 from a 2011 baseline. The Ministerial Group for Sustainable Aquaculture (MGSA) will meet for the first time in May 2013 and work alongside the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill to secure the sustainability of aquaculture growth, principally with regards to salmon farming, and managing its interactions with the wildfish sector, to enable both sectors to flourish in Scotland. MGSA	Ongoing

<p>Disease and Parasite Management requirements including an improved sea lice management reporting strategy .</p>	<p>membership includes aquaculture industry, wild fish interests, Environment NGO representation and regulators. The main body will be supported by the more focussed and project-based working groups set out below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity • Interactions • Science and Research • Improved Containment • Shellfish • Fish Health & Welfare • Wellboats <p>An annual MGSA Aquaculture Forum will also be established which will build on previous MGA membership and be comprised of aquaculture stakeholders.</p>	
<p>Marine Scotland Science is engaged in the research into factors affecting salmon abundance and diversity.</p>	<p>Projects are currently being undertaken on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • dispersal of sea lice from aquaculture facilities in relation to distributions of smolts • Effects of river flow regimes • Effects of marine renewable energy generation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation status of spring salmon on the S Esk • 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 	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)</p>		
<p>Marine renewables development</p>	<p>Marine Scotland has set out a research implementation strategy</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

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

A new implementation is currently being prepared

Section 6: Information on the number of salmon that escaped from salmon farms (both freshwater and marine facilities) in 2012. The Council has asked that information be provided on the number of farmed salmon reported to have escaped from salmon farms together with an estimate, if available, of the number of escaped farmed salmon that was unreported.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/science/Publications/MSFOIEIrDisclosures/Esacpes20082012>

Freshwater sites – 3180

Marine sites - 20