



Agenda Item 6.1
For Information

Council

CNL(14)21

*Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2013*

EU – Denmark

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Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2013

The primary purposes of the Annual Progress Reports are to provide details of:

- any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the Implementation Plan;
- actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year;
- significant changes to the status of stocks, and a report on catches; and
- actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention

These reports will be reviewed by the Council. Please complete this form and return it to the Secretariat **by 1 April 2014**.

Party:	European Union
Jurisdiction/Region:	Denmark

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan

1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan and, where appropriate, provide a revised plan.

No changes

1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.

In the Nissum Fjord (Storå river) all pound nets during smolt migrating period in spring shall have (since 2013) reduced the upper line of the yard about 30 - 50 cm below sea surface; this facilitate that salmon and sea trout smolt are not caught (see also F2).

2: Stock status and catches.

2.1 Provide a description of any significant changes in the status of stocks relative to the reference points described in the Implementation Plan and of any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks.

No changes

2.2 Provide the following information on catches:(nominal catch equals reported quantity of salmon caught and retained in tonnes ‘round fresh weight’ (i.e. weight of whole, ungutted, unfrozen fish) or ‘round fresh weight equivalent’).

(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2013 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	1472 individuals; or about 10.598 tonnes		0.038	10.636
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2012 (tonnes)	1688 individuals; or about 12.154 tonnes		0.036	12.19
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2013 (tonnes)		About 6.0		6.0
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2013.		Taken	Released	Total
	Storå	112	393	505
	Skjern Å	253	684	937
	Varde Å	116	449	565
	Sneum Å	70	152	222
	Konge Å	31	57	88
	Ribe Å	59	169	228
	Brede Å	12	10	22
	Vidå	19	18	37
	Gudenå	About 800	NA	
Total (minus Gudenå)		672	1932	2604
Released/Total %			74.2	

3: Implementation Plan Actions.

3.1 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to the Management of Salmon Fisheries (section 2.8 of the Implementation Plan)

Action F1:	Description of Action:	In several areas bird predation from especially cormorants (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis</i>) is a considerable and well documented problem (Denmark has at present the largest cormorant populations in Europe). Denmark has a national cormorant plan that regulates recruitment where problems with predation on salmonids i.e. salmon and sea trout have been documented.
	Expected Outcome:	Reducing the mortality on salmon and trout parr in rivers and during their smolt migration from rivers through estuaries to the North Sea
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	<p>Electrofishing in rivers and tracking in fjords. Tracking (PIT and acoustic tags) have showed about 50 % mortality of salmon and sea trout smolt in Ringkøbing Fjord (Skjern Å) and Nissum Fjord (Storå) during migrating period in spring.</p> <p>In the same rivers monitoring (electro fishing) has showed, that, especially during hard winter periods, cormorants feed heavily on salmon and trout parr and grayling. The very mild winter 2013/2014 might show a reduced mortality.</p> <p>In the present national cormorant plan the local sport fishers have permission to shoot cormorants feeding in the rivers (Skjern Å and Storå) during winter. In the fjords the commercial fishers have permission to shoot cormorants when there is a documented problem. General in the whole country, no new established cormorant colonies are accepted.</p>
	Ongoing/completed:	On-going (2009 - 2014)
	Achieved objective?	Maybe, but it seems doubtful that shooting activities can reduce the cormorant problems.
Action F2:	Description of Action:	By-catch of salmon and sea trout is currently being evaluated in a research project in the Ringkøbing Fjord.
	Expected Outcome:	Identification of the by-catch size. If it is a problem an even more restricted fishery (other species than salmonid) in the fjords will be suggested. If it not a problem the present restriction will be continued.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	Earlier tracking results with acoustic tags have showed that the salmon smolt migrate from the Skjern Å to the outlet of Ringkøbing Fjord into the north Sea within two to three days. Therefore all pound nets during smolt migrating period in spring shall have reduced the upper

		line of the yard about 30 - 50 cm below sea surface; this facilitate that salmon and sea trout smolt are not caught. Action F2 concerns the eventually effects from gill nets catching flounder and whitefish on salmon and sea trout.
	Ongoing/completed:	On-going (2012 - 2016)
	Achieved objective?	
Action F3:	Description of Action:	As described in paragraph 1.2 of the Implementation Plan, there is at present no reliable reference point for salmon in the four rivers with wild salmon, and the present at least 1000 spawners annually is more considered as an objective within the present management plan from 2004, but as described in paragraph 1.2 the new management plan 2013/2014 will assess whether there can be made reliable reference points; at least in the four rivers with wild salmon and based on monitoring results.
	Expected Outcome:	Reliable reference points
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	On-going
	Achieved objective?	No, the present national management plan has not been revised.

3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (<i>section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan</i>)		
Action H1:	Description of Action:	<p>There have been thousands of obstacles and weirs in connection with fish farms, irrigation, factories, hydropower stations, culverts etc. Many man made obstructions have been removed during the last twenty years but there are still many obstacles for migrating salmon and sea trout in Danish rivers. For example, in 2010 the hydropower station in River Varde Å was closed providing both access to upper parts of the river and about 16 km of the original main stem of the river was reopened and is now used for spawning by salmon and sea trout.</p> <p>In contact with local authorities, anglers and stakeholders river restorations projects are selected and evaluated in relation to maximise the effect of the input of financial resources.</p> <p>These activities are also initiated and a follow up of EU's Water Plans (Water Frame Directive) that has as results an improvement of the environmental conditions in river, lakes and coastal areas.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	It is expected that about 1500 migratory obstructions

		(most of them small in small streams) shall be removed, but it is expected that both salmon and sea trout benefit from this.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	On-going
	Achieved objective?	The results have not been assembled and evaluated.
Action H2:	Description of Action:	About 1000 km river streams, mostly smaller streams, will be restored from earlier canalization, pipe laying and dredging. This mostly benefits sea trout populations, but it is expected that also salmon populations to a minor degree will benefit from this and use these streams as spawning and growth up areas.
	Expected Outcome:	New spawning and nursery areas for mainly sea trout but also to a certain degree salmon.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	On-going
	Achieved objective?	The results have not been assembled and evaluated.
Action H3:	Description of Action:	As described in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.5 of the Implementation Plan, the original spawning and rearing areas for salmon before human activities is estimated in 2006 in river Skjern Å but not known in the other seven rivers going to the North Sea, but monitoring results and identification of spawning areas since 2004 (see paragraph 1.2) have identified present and potential habitats for salmon in Danish rivers. The present spawning and growth up areas at present are below the total (i.e. present and potential) habitats for salmon and as described in paragraph 1.5 it is expected that the total habitats for salmon shall be reached within a foreseeable time period.
	Expected Outcome:	More habitats are opened up for spawning and growth up for salmon and these areas will be identified and quantified
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	In year 2014 present and potential spawning and rearing areas in Storå, Varde Å and Ribe Å shall be identified.
	Ongoing/completed:	On-going
	Achieved objective?	

3.3 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transgenics (section 4.8 of the Implementation Plan)

Action A1:	Description of Action:	Not relevant here for Denmark, see Implementation plan
	Expected Outcome:	
	Monitoring/Enforcement	

	Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	

4: Additional information required under the Convention	
4.1	Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification.
	No action
4.2	Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures.
	No action
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
	No action
4.4	Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not Party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention.
	No action
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
	No action