



Agenda Item 6.1  
For Information

**Council**

**CNL(14)29**

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

***Russian Federation***



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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**.

|                             |                           |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Party:</b>               | <b>Russian Federation</b> |
| <b>Jurisdiction/Region:</b> | <b>Russian Federation</b> |

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| <b>1: Changes to the Implementation Plan</b>   |
| <b>1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan and, where appropriate, provide a revised plan.</b>            |
| None   |
| <b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b> |
| None   |

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| <b>2: Stock status and catches.</b>   |
| <b>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.</b> |
| There were no significant changes in the status of stocks relative to the reference points described in the Implementation Plan. No new factors which might significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks were identified.                |

| <b>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’).</b> |  |           |         |       |
|---|--|-----------|---------|-------|
|   | In-river   | Estuarine | Coastal | Total |
| (a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2013 (tonnes)  | 41.8   | 0.0       | 35.7    | 77.5  |
| (b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2012 (tonnes)   | 44.5   | 0.0       | 37.9    | 82.4  |
| (c) estimated unreported catch for 2013 (tonnes)  | n/a  | n/a       | n/a     | n/a   |
| (d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2013.  | 3732 salmon released (39%) of the total rod catch. Catch and release rates have previously been high (average 33575 or 84% of the total rod catch in the five years 2004 to 2008) and are believed to have remained at this level. However, there were no obligations to report caught-and-released fish in Russia since 2009. |           |         |       |

### **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)**

| <b>Action</b> | <b>Description of Action:</b>          |  |
|---------------|--|--|
| <b>F1:</b>    | <b>Description of Action:</b>          | Determine problem areas. Estimate the level of unreported catches. Take further measures to reduce unreported catches.   |
|               | <b>Expected Outcome:</b>               | Reduced level of unreported catches in problem areas.  |
|               | <b>Monitoring/Enforcement Results:</b> | The major component of the illegal catch in the Barents Sea basin (Kola Peninsula and Pechora Rievr) comes from in-river fisheries and considerable part of the illegal catch in the White Sea basin (Kola Peninsula and Archangelsk region) comes from coastal areas and this contributes the greatest uncertainties. Results form study conducted on the Tuloma River (Barents Sea basin, Kola Peninsula) showed that between 30 and 50% of the total adult return were taken by illegal in-river fisheries (Samokhvalov et al., 2014). There is a particular problem with illegal catches on the Pechora river where scientific sampling programmes suggest that the illegal catch on this river is very high. The level of non-reporting has increased considerably in early 1990s due to the economic changes in Russia and temporary reduction of control and enforcement. Since late 2000s the higher level of non-reporting occurred in recreational fisheries due to unclear legislation for reporting. The level of Illegal catch of 3 tonnes was estimated for the Republic of Karelia in 2013. Illegal catch was guess-estimated and based on local knowledge of fisheries. No other estimates of unreported catches are available for 2013. |

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|                   | Ongoing/completed:              | Ongoing   |
|                   | Achieved objective?             | Further measures to reduce unreported catches are needed. The level of unreported catches should further be estimated.  |
| <b>Action F2:</b> | Description of Action:          | Develop genetic baseline for Atlantic salmon populations. Characterise the exploited stocks in mixed-stock fisheries. Develop recommendations for management measures for coastal salmon fisheries.   |
|                   | Expected Outcome:               | Comprehensive genetic database of Atlantic salmon baseline for management purposes.<br><br>Stock specific migration model of various salmon stocks migrating along Norwegian and Russian northern coastal areas.<br><br>Recommendations for management measures for the coastal salmon fishery to minimize mixed-stock fishing.   |
|                   | Monitoring/Enforcement Results: | The Kolarctic Atlantic Salmon project 2011-2013 (Kolarctic ENPI CBC programme) has generated one of the most comprehensive and detailed genetic datasets for any fish species. This dataset gives the first complete overview of genetic structure of salmon from northern Europe. More than 13000 individuals from over 200 samples collected from over 180 rivers in northern Norway and Russia have been analysed for 31 DNA markers. The genetic baseline developed for this project allows for precise identification of salmon caught at sea to individual rivers/reporting groups, providing opportunities for more adaptive and informed management of coastal salmon fisheries.<br><br>The development of such a genetic baseline allows for further studies of the marine distribution and stock specific migration model of various salmon stocks migrating along Norwegian and Russian northern coastal areas.<br><br>The Kolarctic Salmon project has analysed over 20 000 samples from coastal fisheries in northern Norway and Russia's White Sea. The samples from coastal fisheries were assigned to rivers and regions in the study area, and estimates of exploitation of salmon of different origin in time and space is currently being developed. Preliminary results from this project indicate that the highest exploitation of Russian salmon takes place in the eastern regions of county Finnmark, and a decreasing trend in exploitation of Russian salmon in Norwegian coastal fisheries through the fishing season. |

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|                   |                                 | <p>None of over 2000 adult salmon sampled in the White Sea in 2011-2012 were assigned to the rivers outside the White Sea basin except one fish from Pechora river taken in the Ponoï estuary. Salmon originated from 25 rivers and a vast majority of fish was from 17 rivers of Murmansk region. 52% of samples from coastal catches taken in the Terskiy Bereg of the Kola Peninsula had origin of Varzuga river and 23% were assigned to Strelna river: the biggest salmon rivers in the area. The occurrence of salmon from rivers draining in the Kandalaksha bay and from rivers of Archangelsk region was negligible. 44% of salmon collected from coastal catches in the Zimniy Bereg of Archangelsk region originated from rivers of the Kola Peninsula and 51% had origin of Severnaya Dvina River. 88% of illegal catches taken in the Kandalaksha bay consisted of salmon from Umba river. 91% of salmon from Ponoï river estuary had origin of this river.</p> <p>The reports from the Kolarctic Salmon project will provide a detailed analysis of the coastal migration of different salmon stocks from northern Norway and Russia, and their exploitation in different areas, and provide managers with tools for regulating fisheries on a more informed basis.</p> |
|                   | Ongoing/completed:              | Ongoing   |
|                   | Achieved objective?             | The genetic baseline for Atlantic salmon populations has been developed. Stock specific migration model and recommendations for management measures for coastal salmon fisheries are under development.   |
| <b>Action F3:</b> | Description of Action:          | Develop conservation limits for salmon stocks.  |
|                   | Expected Outcome:               | Data on the current status of salmon stocks. Conservation limits for all salmon stocks.   |
|                   | Monitoring/Enforcement Results: | <p>Conservation limits have been set for all salmon stocks in the Murmansk region. Estimates of adult returns to rivers were derived by direct counting at barrier fences and fish ladder (3 stocks) and by mark-recapture method in recreational fisheries (5 stocks). In the Arkhangelsk region and in the Nenets Autonomous Region conservation limits have been set for exploited salmon stocks. In the Republic of Karelia no conservation limits have been established.</p> <p>The study is needed to re-establish conservation limits for salmon stocks in the Murmansk and Archangelsk regions on the basis of data from reassessing the carrying capacity of the rivers (see Action H1). The study to establish</p>  |

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|                   |                                 | conservation limits for Karelian rivers has not been planned yet.  |
|                   | Ongoing/completed:              | Ongoing  |
|                   | Achieved objective?             | The completion of task requires additional funding.  |
| <b>Action F4:</b> | Description of Action:          | Develop stricter rules to manage the fisheries conducted by indigenous small nations of the North.   |
|                   | Expected Outcome:               | Clearer legislation to manage the fisheries conducted by indigenous small nations of the North.  |
|                   | Monitoring/Enforcement Results: | <p>The new coastal fishery by Sami communes of the Murmansk region began in 2010 in the White Sea, where it had never been recorded in the past. The fishery continued in the coastal areas of the White Sea in 2011 and 2012. In 2010-2012 the quotas for this fishery were established by the Territorial Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries on the basis of applications from Sami communes which didn't take into account the status of salmon stocks due to unclear legislation.</p> <p>In 2013 new amendments to the procedure rules of the Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish came into force by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 170, 08.04.2013. The amendments allow the Regional Commissions to establish quotas for indigenous people fisheries on the basis of scientific advice only taking into account the status of salmon stocks.</p> |
|                   | Ongoing/completed:              | Completed  |
|                   | Achieved objective?             | Yes  |

| <b>3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan)</b> |                                 |   |
|--|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Action H1:</b>  | Description of Action:          | Develop inventories of salmon rivers. Estimate salmon habitat and productive capacity.  |
|  | Expected Outcome:               | Inventories of salmon rivers to provide baseline data on salmon habitat and productive capacity for management in relation to estuarine and freshwater habitat.   |
|  | Monitoring/Enforcement Results: | The task to reassess the carrying capacity of the Barents Sea rivers of the Murmansk region was completed. The re-assessment of the carrying capacity of the White Sea rivers of the Murmansk and Archanglesk regions is underway. No study to estimate salmon habitat and productive capacity in the Republic of Karelia has been planned. |
|  | Ongoing/completed:              | Ongoing   |
|  | Achieved objective?             | The completion of task requires additional funding.   |

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| <b>Action H2:</b> | Description of Action:          | Develop and implement detailed habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers.   |
|                   | Expected Outcome:               | Detailed habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers.   |
|                   | Monitoring/Enforcement Results: | General recommendations on habitat restoration were prepared for a number of rivers of the Murmansk region. No detailed plans have been developed for specific rivers. |
|                   | Ongoing/completed:              | Ongoing.   |
|                   | Achieved objective?             | Further work is needed.  |

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

|                   |                                 |   |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Action A1:</b> | Description of Action:          | Develop and bring into force the Federal Law “On aquaculture” and related by-laws.  |
|                   | Expected Outcome:               | The Federal Law “On aquaculture” and related by-laws.   |
|                   | Monitoring/Enforcement Results: | The Federal Law “On aquaculture” No. 148-FZ, 02.07.2013 came into force in 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014.  |
|                   | Ongoing/completed:              | Ongoing.  |
|                   | Achieved objective?             | Related by-laws are required.   |
| <b>Action A2:</b> | Description of Action:          | Minimise the risk of further spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> .  |
|                   | Expected Outcome:               | Measures to prevent the introduction or further spread of parasite.   |
|                   | Monitoring/Enforcement Results: | <p>In Northern Russia, <i>G. Salaris</i> was for the first time found in the Keret river (Karelia, the White Sea basin) in 1992, where it caused considerable damage to salmon stocks. <i>G. Salaris</i> was introduced into the river through aquaculture activities. The discovery of <i>G. Salaris</i> in the Keret river led to establishing annual monitoring programmes for a number of salmon rivers in the Karelia Republic and the Murmansk region from 1993. Findings from those studies demonstrated that there was no <i>G. Salaris</i> in index salmon rivers of the White, Baltic and Barents Seas basins within the Murmansk region. In the Arkhangelsk region, parasitological monitoring for <i>G. Salaris</i> in Atlantic salmon rivers has never been carried out.</p> <p>There’s a risk of further spread of parasite in rivers of the Republic of Karelia and a risk of its introduction to the Murmansk region through recreational fisheries and through freshwater aquaculture activities. Veterinary control is applied for aquaculture. No measures to prevent the introduction or further spread of parasite through recreational fisheries have been developed.</p> |



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|                   | Ongoing/completed:              | Ongoing.   |
|                   | Achieved objective?             | Annual monitoring programmes were carried out.   |
| <b>Action A3:</b> | Description of Action:          | Control introductions and transfers.   |
|                   | Expected Outcome:               | Control movements into a Commission area of reproductively viable non-indigenous anadromous salmonids or their gametes.  |
|                   | Monitoring/Enforcement Results: | The requirements and rules relating to introduction of aquatic species came into force by the Order of the Federal Agency for Fisheries No. 433, 06.05.2010 in accordance with the Federal Law “On fisheries and conservation of aquatic biological resources” No. 166-FZ, 20.12.2004. As required by that Order a comprehensive scientific substantiation is needed for any introduction of aquatic species to take place. No movements into the Commission area of reproductively viable non-indigenous anadromous salmonids or their gametes have been planned. |
|                   | Ongoing/completed:              | Ongoing.   |
|                   | Achieved objective?             | Achieved objective.  |

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| <b>4: Additional information required under the Convention</b>   |
| 4.1 Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification.  |
| <p>The Federal Law “On aquaculture” No. 148-FZ, 02.07.2013 came into force in 1<sup>st</sup> January 2014. The Federal Law established basic requirements for aquaculture activities. Related by-laws have not been adopted yet.</p> <p>New amendments to the procedure rules of the Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish came into force by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 170, 08.04.2013. The amendments allow the Regional Commissions to establish quotas for indigenous people fisheries on the basis of scientific advice only taking into account the status of salmon stocks.</p> |
| 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 details.  |
| 4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.  |
| <p>The current Fishing Regulations for the Northern Fisheries Basin of the Russian Federation came into force in 2009 by the Order of the Federal Agency for Fisheries No. 13, 16.01.2009). New Fishing Regulations have been developed and due to come into force soon by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture. The current Fishing Regulations contain no specific rules for salmon fisheries in the Barents Sea which can be interpreted as a ban of those fisheries, but such a ban is not explicitly written out in the Regulations. New Fishing Regulations among other new</p>  |

restrictive rules for Atlantic salmon coastal fisheries explicitly prohibits salmon fisheries in the Barents Sea.

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 details.

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 details.