



Agenda Item 6.1  
For Information

**Council**

**CNL(14)31**

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

*EU – UK (England and Wales)*



## CNL(14)31

### *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>European Union</b>
<b>Jurisdiction/Region:</b>	<b>UK (England and Wales)</b>

#### **1: Changes to the Implementation Plan**

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

Section 2.4 of the Plan (definition of Mixed Stock Fisheries') has been further clarified as follows:

Within England and Wales, mixed stock fisheries (MSFs) have been defined as 'fisheries that predominantly exploit mixed river stocks of salmon'. A government policy to phase out MSFs that compromise the conservation of individual river stocks has been applied to MSFs operating in coastal waters. The two remaining such fisheries are the NE coast drift net fishery and the Anglian coastal fishery. Fisheries, including MSFs, operating within estuary limits are assumed to exploit predominantly fish that originated from waters upstream of the fishery; these fisheries are carefully managed to protect the weakest of the exploited stocks, guided by a decision structure and taking into account socio-economic factors and European Conservation status where applicable.

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

The setting of catch conditions (catch limits) to protect fisheries were first used in 2011 on the Severn Estuary, and this was repeated in 2012 and 2013. The use of catch limits on net and fixed engine fisheries elsewhere is being explored.

## 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.

The provisional annual review of stock status for 2013 showed the following river classifications:

- 7 rivers (11%) ‘not at risk’ – i.e.  $p > 95\%$  of meeting the management objective (MO);
- 6 rivers (9%) ‘probably not at risk’ – i.e.  $p > 50\%$  but  $< 95\%$  of meeting MO;
- 19 rivers (30%) ‘probably at risk’ – i.e.  $p > 5\%$  but  $< 50\%$  of meeting MO;
- 32 rivers (50%) ‘at risk’ – i.e.  $p < 5\%$  of meeting MO.

[NB: 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.]

The annual compliance assessment is based upon the trend in egg deposition over the previous 10 years. The significant increase in the numbers of rivers classified as “at risk” or “probably at risk” between the 2012 and 2013 seasons partly reflects the fact that egg deposition values in 2003 were typically very low. These earlier values were removed from the 10-year time series in the current assessment and replaced by the values for 2013, which were also generally low. For many rivers the effect of removing a low value at the start of the time series and adding it to the end was to alter the slope of the trend line, with many more rivers now indicating a declining trend. This, in turn, was reflected in the overall fall in categorisation following the compliance assessment.

Factors affecting stock abundance:

For rod fisheries, river flow is a key factor affecting angler effort and catches. In 2013, flows were generally below the long-term average in March and April and again for much of the summer (June to September inclusive). The summer represents an important period for most rod fisheries and relatively low flows at this time are likely to have affected runs of fish and provided conditions that were unfavourable for angling. This has likely contributed to the relatively low in-river catch in 2013.

### 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’).

	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2013 (tonnes)	16.0	5.6	61.5	83.1
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2012 (tonnes)	27.2	4.6	26.1	58.0
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2013 (tonnes)				14.3
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2013.	Provisionally, 9,302 salmon were released by rods in 2013, representing 69% of the declared catch.			

### 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 F1:</b>	Description of Action:	Conduct annual assessments of the status of salmon stocks.
	Expected Outcome:	Determination of the need for emergency regulatory controls or other new measures (including voluntary) on salmon fishing by nets and rods and implementation of changes.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	Assessment completed (see sec 2.1). Results reported to ICES and published in the annual Cefas/EA/NRW assessment of salmon stocks and fisheries.
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing – The annual assessment of salmon stocks and fisheries for 2013 will be presented to the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon in March 2014 and published subsequently.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objective achieved.
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of Action:	Conduct regular (normally every 5 or 10 years) reviews of current Net Limitation Orders (NLOs) and Byelaws for estuary and river fisheries using the Decision Structure for Fisheries Management ( <i>see Annex 2</i> ) and amend the NLOs (licence numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) as appropriate.  <i>[Mixed stock fisheries are addressed under Action F3]</i>
	Expected Outcome:	Determination of the need for changes to existing regulatory controls on salmon fishing by nets and rods and implementation of changes.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	The following NLOs for single stock fisheries were reviewed and renewed with the following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Kent and Leven lave (hand-held) net fisheries: licence numbers on the Kent have been reduced from 8 to 6, while a 2 net limit replaces a reducing (zero) Order on the Leven.</li> <li>• River Camel drift net fishery: 6 licences authorised (as previously).</li> </ul> Consultations are underway for the following NLOs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamar estuary NLO (2014)</li> <li>• Tavy estuary NLO (2014)</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lynher Estuary NLO (2014)</li> </ul> <p>New bag limit Byelaws have been introduced for the River Derwent (2 fish per day and no female fish to be retained after 30 September) and the River Crake (an 11 fish limit for the whole river for the season, to be administered by co-operation between local angling interests and subject to a mandatory carcass tagging scheme).</p>
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.
<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>Implement policy on mixed stock fisheries, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement new regulatory measures for Severn Estuary (currently under consultation) and NE coast mixed stock fisheries (measures agreed).</li> <li>Conduct 10 year review of NLO for Anglian coastal fishery and amend the NLO (licence numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) as appropriate.</li> <li>Conduct a review of the NE coast beach net fishery to 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 and amend the NLO (licence numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) as appropriate.</li> <li>Conduct further genetic stock assignment studies on catches in mixed stock fisheries.</li> </ol>
	Expected Outcome:	Implementation of regulations to bring all mixed stock fisheries in line with national policy and international guidance.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultations are underway for new regulatory measures for the lave and draft (seine) net fisheries in the Severn Estuary.</li> <li>A review of the Anglian fishery is underway and new regulatory measures are expected to be implemented before the end of 2014.</li> <li>Due in 2017.</li> <li>Genetic analysis is ongoing to determine the levels of resolution and associated assignment probabilities that can be obtained using Single Nucleotide Polymorphic (SNP) genetic markers. Samples of salmon from north east English rivers are being screened and together with information from Scottish rivers, the resolving</li> </ol>

		power between different rivers and assignment success rates to each river will be determined. This work is due to report in 2014
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.
<b>Action F4:</b>	Description of Action:	Joint promotion, with stakeholders, of catch and release in rod fisheries.
	Expected Outcome:	Increased uptake of catch and release in rod fisheries.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	Action taken in conjunction with new restrictions on net fisheries (NLOs) to increase C&R in rod fisheries.  C&R in rod fisheries has increased from 10% in 1993 to 60% or more in the last four years. In 2013, C&R is provisionally estimated at 69%, the highest in the time series.
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.
<b>Action F5</b>	Description of Action:	Ensure effective enforcement of fishery regulations:  a. Continue with prevention, disruption and intervention of illegal fishing, including intelligence-led enforcement and implementation of a ban on sale of rod caught fish and a carcass tagging scheme for net caught fish.  b. Review the effectiveness of fishery enforcement activities, including consistent application of a national intelligence model and best-practice in intelligence-led enforcement.
	Expected Outcome:	Reduced illegal fishing and corresponding response in salmon stocks in vulnerable rivers.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	a. prevention, disruption and intervention of illegal fishing:  A high level of compliance in use and recording of carcass tag has been seen amongst licensed net fishers in 2013, and no evidence of the sale of significant numbers of rod (or illegally) caught fish through fishmongers, hotels or restaurants. Furthermore, anecdotal evidence suggests illegal fishers are finding it more difficult to dispose of their catch through legitimate outlets.  Illegal fishing continues to pose a risk and intelligence is being used to direct operations to detect and disrupt it. In

		<p>the northeast of England, 10 men were arrested and charged with illegal fishing when, following analysis of intelligence information, officers observed them “stroke-hauling” (deliberately foul hooking salmon).</p> <p>In the south of England, a ‘Salmon Watch’ campaign has raised the profile amongst the public to the vulnerability of salmon and resulted in the provision of intelligence information. The campaign also involved checks of over 100 catering premises in areas and at a time when illegal salmon fishing is most likely. No illegally caught (untagged) salmon were detected although around 10% of the establishments visited admitted they had been offered (but not accepted) illegally caught fish. This is further evidence that carcass tagging is closing the loophole on the trade through legitimate outlets.</p> <p>In Wales, Natural Resources Wales officers, again undertook local ‘Buyer Beware’ campaigns among high risk fish dealers, restaurants and hotels.</p> <p>b. effectiveness of enforcement activities:</p> <p>Fisheries enforcement activities are continuing to be reviewed by the Environment Agency to make sure they provide a risk-based, intelligence-led and consistent enforcement service. Central to this is developing a framework that aligns its work with a national intelligence model. The aim is to implement this in 2014.</p>
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.

<b>3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration</b> ( <i>section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan</i> )		
<b>Action H1:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>Implementing Climate Change Adaptation Plans (produced by both government and private sector) and specifically:</p> <p>a. inspiring organisations to increase riparian shade over water bodies, through the ‘Keeping Rivers Cool Project’;</p> <p>b. influencing decisions in the next round of Water Company investment plans to ensure climate resilience for both water abstractions and wastewater management, and ensuring that due regard is given to their impact on the environment;</p> <p>c. ensuring climate change is considered within strategic environment planning frameworks (e.g. River Basin</p>

		<p>Management Plans (RBMPs), Common Agriculture Policy (CAP ) reform);</p> <p>d. supporting the regulation of robust thermal standards for transitional and coastal (TraC) waters to manage the impact of cooling water from Power Stations</p>
	<p>Expected Outcome:</p>	<p>The overall aim is to moderate the effects of climate change in waterbodies through landscape, river flow and water level management. Targets for tree planting and fencing are being set in the demonstration catchments for the ‘Keeping Rivers Cool Project’.</p>
	<p>Monitoring/Enforcement Results:</p>	<p>a. ‘Keeping Rivers Cool Project’: -</p> <p>Fencing and planting has been carried out on two pilot catchments, the rivers Ribble and Wye. Targets were met or exceeded for the 2012/13 planting season and are expected to be met in 2013/14. As at 17/2/14:</p> <p>Ribble pilot:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fencing: 9,221m (target 14,684m)</li> <li>• Trees planted: 10,069 (target 21,981)</li> </ul> <p>Wye pilot (natural regeneration pilot – fencing only):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1,100m fencing complete, 900m partial complete (target 13,000m)</li> </ul> <p>b. Water Company investment plans:</p> <p>In December 2013, water companies submitted their business plans to the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat), which will use them to determine what water companies can charge their customers. Defra have provided guidance to water companies on their business plans in the Statement of Obligations, which provides a steer to water companies on actions to take in relation to climate change:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water companies should consider energy consumption and reducing process emissions alongside other aspects of sustainable development in delivering a particular outcome; and</li> <li>• Under the Drainage Strategy framework, climate change is one of the pressures in the catchment that should be described and quantified.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, water companies need to consider climate change when they complete their Water Resources Management Plans. The Water Resources Planning Guideline indicates that companies should assess the impact of climate change on supply and demand and should also consider the impacts of climate change on any</p>

		<p>new options, and include carbon costs in its cost-effectiveness analysis.</p> <p>c. strategic environment planning frameworks:</p> <p>In England and Wales, climate change is considered in river planning and will be reported in RBMPs which are due for consultation in July 2014. Water and climate change elements will be enhanced in implementation of the reformed CAP, particularly the New Environmental Land Management Schemes.</p> <p>d. thermal standards:</p> <p>Work is in progress on draft thermal standards for transitional and coastal waters, with a view to defining a better evidence base, and this is expected to be progressed further in 2014.</p>
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>Improving river connectivity through implementing the 11 River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) in England and Wales and specifically by:</p> <p>a. taking a catchment-based approach and removing or easing barriers;</p> <p>b. implementing new regulations enhancing powers to require fish passage;</p> <p>c. undertaking further research on impacts of hydropower (including cumulative effects) and taking account of best scientific advice to maintain and where possible to improve fish passage.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	<p>a. &amp; b. Improvements to fish movement allowing greater access throughout rivers, and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential.</p> <p>c. Better understanding of the potential impacts of hydropower.</p>
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	<p>In 2013, the Ecological Status of water bodies in England &amp; Wales that support, or are expected to support, salmon as characterised by the fish classification system developed under the European Water Framework Directive were: High=14.7%; Good =45.7%; Moderate=29.0%; Poor=10.5%; Bad=0.2%.</p> <p>The following progress in 2013 is expected to contribute towards improving on this baseline:</p>

		<p>a. removing or easing barriers</p> <p>Work was undertaken on 37 fish barriers in England during 2013, improving access for salmon to 900km of river. In Wales, access for salmon was improved to 100km of river at 12 barriers.</p> <p>b. new regulations</p> <p>The Government is developing proposals for new regulations enhancing powers to require fish passage and screening in England and Wales; the aim is to implement these later in 2014</p> <p>c. research on hydropower</p> <p>Research is underway (funded by Defra and the Environment Agency) into the effects of new in-river hydropower schemes, particularly Archimedes screw turbines on upstream and downstream movements of fish, associated mortalities and potential cumulative effects.</p>
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.
<b>Action H3:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>Provision of appropriate river flows by:</p> <p>a. Implementing the 11 RBMPs and the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) programme (see: <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/32026.aspx">http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/32026.aspx</a>), taking a catchment-based approach; and</p> <p>b. Taking forward the Water Bill.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water bodies do not deteriorate from their current status; and</li> <li>• by 2027, provision of flows to support GES / GEP or any other alternative WFD objective set within the overall context of affordability and benefits to society.</li> </ul>
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	<p>a. RBMPs and Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) programme:</p> <p>The risk or damage to the environment associated with 77 unsustainable abstraction licences has been reduced or prevented since 2008. These include 53 licences changed voluntarily by abstractors and 24 licences changed compulsorily. Solutions associated with a further 10 licences have been implemented. These include installing fish passes and screens to reduce or prevent the risk of environmental damage. Four case studies have been worked up to demonstrate how hydromorphological</p>

		<p>measures can be used alongside reduction of abstraction and other licence changes as part of a catchment-based approach in order to help mitigate water resources impacts.</p> <p>A review of consents on all Natura 2000 rivers in Wales was concluded in 2013. New licences, where warranted, are expected in 2014. These will ensure that abstraction and entrainment are not impacting upon salmon (and other features) in each site.</p> <p>b. The Water Bill:</p> <p>The Bill has nearly completed its passage through Parliament. It includes a new duty for Ofwat to ensure the long-term resilience of both water supply services and the environment on which those services depend. This requires Ofwat to promote measures to manage water sustainably and reduce demand so as to reduce pressure on water resources. The Water Bill also includes a clause which would remove water companies' rights to compensation from variations or revocations to abstraction licences.</p>
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.
<b>Action H4:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use, through implementing the 11 RBMPs and also, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Investigating the sources of sediment (including catchment walkovers) to help identify the most appropriate remedial action;</li> <li>b. Increasing participation of stakeholders in the decision making process;</li> <li>c. Providing advice to land managers through projects such as Catchment Sensitive Farming and providing advice and support to other relevant stakeholders (e.g. to control erosion from road verges);</li> <li>d. Encouraging uptake of incentive schemes to promote better land management (e.g. agri-environment schemes);</li> <li>e. Regulation (e.g. cross-compliance), pollution prevention campaigns and improving soil protection;</li> <li>f. Reviewing Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition; and</li> <li>g. Making effective use of local partnerships and voluntary schemes identified in the 'Significant Water</li> </ul>

		Management Issues’ and ‘Living Waters for Wales’ programmes as part of the WFD planning process.
	Expected Outcome:	Improvements to land management practices and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential, as well as Natura 2000 Protected Area objectives within the overall context of affordability and benefits to society.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	<p>a. sources of sediment:</p> <p>Investigations and walkovers on catchments which are failing to achieve Water Framework Directive good ecological status (GES) have been carried out to help identify reasons for failure and how to tackle those failures 15,000 km of watercourse have been walked and over 25,000 issues identified. Data suggests nearly 5% of reasons for failure to achieve good status are attributed to fine sediment.</p> <p>b &amp; c. Stakeholder engagement:</p> <p>The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) initiative was launched in June 2013. This approach places value on collaborative decision-making and local action to help deliver improvements to water bodies across England. Catchment partnerships have been established in every catchment where there is an interest in doing so.</p> <p>Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) delivers practical solutions and targeted support to enable farmers and land managers to take voluntary action to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture to protect water bodies and the environment. CSF works in 80 catchments at different levels of intensity according to their WFD priority and the length of time CSF has been active. To date, over 17,800 farm holdings covering 2.2 million hectares have received CSF advice.</p> <p>d. Incentive schemes</p> <p>Environmental Stewardship is a UK government scheme that offers financial rewards for good stewardship and management of the land to improve the quality of the environment. It is delivered by Natural England on behalf of Defra as part of the Rural Development Programme for England and is available to farmers and land managers in England. In October 2013, 6,568,992 ha of agricultural land was under environmental stewardship through 51,193 agreements (source: Natural England).</p> <p>‘Glastir’ is Welsh Government’s agri-environment scheme and pays for the delivery of specific environmental goods and services. Natural Resources Wales play a very significant role in helping Welsh</p>

		<p>Government develop and deliver different elements of Glastir. Natural Resources Wales officers are contracted to visit farms selected by Welsh Government and undertake assessments that identify opportunities to improve, conserve or make more efficient use of water and soils. Findings are provided in a Water Management Plan. Some 200 farm visits were undertaken in 2013 covering over 40,000 Hectares of land.</p> <p>e. regulation, pollution prevention and soil protection</p> <p>The Rural Payments Agency (and Rural Payments Wales) undertook around 1,300 cross-compliance inspections in 2013. The Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales continued to follow up incidents and issues identified in catchment walkovers and WFD data. This included giving advice to farmers (during farm visits or workshops) on pollution prevention and complying with regulations. Material has been developed for Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales staff on dealing with sediment pollution, prevention and enforcement to improve soil protection. The review of GAEC 1 (see point f.) has also been undertaken to improve soil protection.</p> <p>f. Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC):</p> <p>In terms of land use change, the main GAEC reviewed in 2013 was GAEC 1 Soil Protection Review (SPR). It is under revision, with new arrangements planned to begin in 2015 to coincide with other new requirements under the Common Agricultural Policy. The purpose of SPR is to tackle degradation threats to soils, and farmers are currently required to keep annual records of how they are preventing and addressing soil degradation.</p> <p>g. local partnerships:</p> <p>The CaBA is helping identify the priorities within a catchment and broader aspects such as voluntary campaigns. Catchment partnerships are implementing actions and building on the good work of earlier pilots which demonstrated that working collaboratively brings about many benefits including stronger relationships with partners, an improved and agreed understanding of the problems faced and a greater commitment to action.</p>
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.

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

<b>Action A1:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>a. Regulate salmonid stocking in English and Welsh rivers by implementing and enforcing existing and proposed new (anticipated Oct 2013) live fish movements legislation. For rivers, the scheme will include limiting stock levels and preserving the genetic integrity of stocked fish. Out of catchment introductions of fish will only be permitted from sites authorised and regulated under the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.</p> <p>b. Ongoing review of evidence about impacts of stocking will be used to update the stocking guidance and procedures underpinning existing and proposed new regulations, and to influence fisheries and conservation organisations.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	Stocking operations are more focused, appropriate and lower risk leading to protected genetic integrity and reduced risks from inadvertent introduction of diseases, non-native invasive species, etc.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	<p>a. regulate salmonid stocking:</p> <p>This is ongoing. Other salmonid stocking initiatives in 2013 included: Ongoing discussions by the Environment Agency to agree stocking levels of brown trout with Natural England that will be incorporated into stocking permits issued by the Environment Agency for rivers.</p> <p>A target to stop all stocking of diploid brown trout in England and Wales will come into force in 2015. From this time only triploid brown trout will be permitted to be stocked. Current compliance with the policy lies at 79%, which is well above the 50% compliance target set for 2013.</p> <p>b. review of evidence on stocking:</p> <p>A conference on salmon stocking was held in Glasgow in November 2013. This was attended by a large numbers of scientists, managers and stakeholders and sought to establish consensus views on the merits of stocking. The organisers are planning to produce a number of short guidance documents, including a paper summarising the current scientific consensus on salmon stocking (as viewed by the majority of those attending).</p> <p>Natural Resources Wales has recently completed a review of stocking policy and hatchery operations in Wales. This is currently subject to public consultation:</p>

		<a href="http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/content/consultations/2014/consultation-nrw-salmon-stocking-hatcheries?lang=en">http://naturalresourceswales.gov.uk/content/consultations/2014/consultation-nrw-salmon-stocking-hatcheries?lang=en</a>
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.
<b>Action A2:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>a. Implementing and enforcing existing and proposed new live fish movement regulations, making sure fish movements are screened to prevent spread of non-native fish and diseases. Movements of fish from waters known to contain high-risk invasive species will be prohibited. Audit selected high-risk movements to ensure compliance.</p> <p>b. Implementing European Council Regulation No. 708/2007 concerning Use of Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture and the Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.</p> <p>c. Rapid and robust application of fish movement regulations to prevent the spread of new and/or emerging parasite or disease threats.</p> <p>d. Making sure in-river operations comply with biosecurity protocols.</p> <p>e. Encouraging anglers and other water users to remain vigilant to the risk of non-native species and pathogens, to report sightings and to take biosecurity measures (the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign; see <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/129217.aspx">http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/129217.aspx</a>)</p> <p>f. Working with fishery owners to eradicate non-native fish at high-risk sites and/or applying Import of Live Fish Act (IFLA) or new fish movement regulations enforcement to take action where site owners are not compliant.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Containment and/or eradication of undesirable non-native fish species.</li> <li>• Regulation of other fish species.</li> <li>• Prevention of <i>G. salaris</i> and other parasites and diseases occurring in England and Wales.</li> </ul>
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	<p>a. new live fish movement regulations:</p> <p>The new live fish movement regulation is due for implementation in May/June 2014. Good progress has been made in developing the Keeping and Introduction of Fish (England) Regulations. Operational instructions for the</p>

		<p>Environment Agency staff are in the final stages of production to facilitate the implementation of the regulations through conditioned site permits. This contains provisions to allow the audit of high risk movements and requirements on the industry to notify the Environment Agency of such movements. Welsh Government is also making progress with identical regulations and aiming to introduce these in Wales later in 2014.</p> <p>b. new EU Regulations:</p> <p>European Council Regulation No. 708/2007 concerning the Use of Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture and the Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 are being fully implemented.</p> <p>c. preventing the spread of parasite or disease threats:</p> <p>Regulation of fish movements through Section 30 of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 continues to provide a robust framework for controlling the spread of diseases and parasites, both new and existing. In addition there is continued monitoring of wild fish populations for new and emerging disease threats. Partnership projects are currently underway to assess the risks of <i>G. salaris</i> establishment, spread and impact.</p> <p>d. compliance with biosecurity protocols.</p> <p>Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales operational field staff are required to follow the principles of the Defra “check, clean, dry campaign” which is also widely promoted to all water users. (<a href="http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/">http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/</a>)</p> <p>e. communication with anglers and water users:</p> <p>AquaInvaders is a newly created mobile device ‘app’ available to anglers and other water users to help report new occurrences and distribution of 26 aquatic, non-native species (including 12 fish species). It was developed by the Nature Locator Project Team at Bristol University, in partnership with the Environment Agency, Scottish National Heritage, SEPA, British Sub Aqua Club and the Biological Records Centre. It is supported by the Angling Trust and Fisheries Trust Scotland. It is available in both Android and Apple formats.</p> <p>f. eradicating non-native fish at high-risk sites:</p> <p>A five year Water Framework Directive funded, programme to eradicate the highly invasive topmouth gudgeon using piscicides has been developed and implemented. Of 33 potential sites, 21 were confirmed to hold the species, of which 15 have been successfully</p>
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		<p>cleared of the species, leaving 6 sites to be treated. The programme is due to be completed in 2017.</p> <p>Fathead minnow has been eradicated from the only known site containing this species in England.</p> <p>Rapid response eradications will be delivered to react to novel invasive species should they be detected.</p>
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.
<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>a. On-going application of discharge controls and EU restrictions on prohibited substances;</p> <p>b. Research on effects of contaminants from fish farms on wild salmon populations.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	Improved water quality and compliance with WFD GES/GEP status.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	<p>a. discharge controls and prohibited substances: Application of national and EU regulations is continuing;</p> <p>b. contaminants from fish farms: Research funded by Defra is due to be completed in 2014.</p>
	Ongoing/completed:	Ongoing and on target.
	Achieved objective?	2013 objectives achieved.

<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>New Net Limitation Orders approved for rivers Camel, Kent and Leven.</p> <p>New bag limit Byelaws have been approved for the rivers Derwent and Crake</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.
Existing commitments unchanged.
4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
Existing measures remain in force.

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.

None.

4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.

None.