



Agenda Item 6.1  
For Information

**Council**

**CNL(14)32**

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

***EU – UK (Scotland)***



## CNL(14)32

### *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 (Scotland) (March 2014)</b>

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

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

The Implementation Plan for the period 2013-18 has been updated throughout to reflect progress and developments since it was first published. This addresses the points raised at (2.1) and (3). A copy is attached below.

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

The implementation Plan already identifies a significant amount of planned activity during 2013-18, most particularly the Independent review of wild fisheries management in Scotland. Details of the review, its remit and scope can be accessed at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreview>

Progress and milestones (adjusted where appropriate) have been reflected in the revised plan.

#### **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.**

See para 1.3 of the revised Implementation Plan.

<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)				
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2012 (tonnes)				
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2013 (tonnes)				
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2013.	NB – AVAILABLE ON 29 APRIL 2014			

### **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) – See 1 above.**

<b>Action F1:</b>	Description of Action:	Instigate an independent review of the management of salmon and freshwater fisheries in Scotland with the aim of creating a management system which is robust, sustainable and fit for purpose in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.
	Expected Outcome:	Modernised management system which has greater alignment of responsibility with accountability and facilitates management of fisheries in context of modern requirements and challenges.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of Action:	(a) Implementation of local fishery management plans with agreed actions to monitor, mitigate and improve conditions for salmon.  (b) Develop Scottish salmon counter network to improve assessment of salmon stocks.
	Expected Outcome:	Determination of the need for changes to regulatory controls or other measures on salmon fishing by nets and rods and implementation of changes.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	

<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of Action:	(a) Develop Scottish salmon counter network to improve assessment of salmon stocks and aid development of meaningful CLs and assessment of spawning escapement.  (b) Develop methods to aid assessment of the precise nature of MSFs.  (c) Scoping work on better understanding marine migration routes.
	Expected Outcome:	Improved data on salmon stocks and populations facilitates fisheries management planning, including management of MSFs.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	
<b>Action F4:</b>	Description of Action:	(a) On going DSFB fulfilment of obligations to enhance and protect salmon fisheries (including enforcement of legislation). Activities will vary depending on nature of problems but focus on disruption and intervention of illegal fishing, including intelligence-led enforcement. Work with DSFBs and IFM in developing tools and training for enforcement, including improving national coordination of enforcement.  (b) Scottish Government consultation on proposals to introduce a statutory carcass tagging scheme for net caught fish, making it illegal to sell untagged salmon and sea trout (it is already illegal to sell rod caught fish).
	Expected Outcome:	Reduced illegal fishing and corresponding response in salmon stocks. Improve professionalism and national coordination in salmon fisheries enforcement.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	
<b>Action F5</b>	Description of Action:	(a) Development and implementation of monitoring/research strategy for potential marine renewable and salmonid interactions.  (b) the Ministerial Group for Sustainable Aquaculture(MGSA) and its working groups;  (c) Scottish Government and salmon farming industry match-funded research through the Scottish Aquaculture Research Forum (SARF) into any measurable impact from sea lice in a Scottish context ;  (d) enhanced industry-led voluntary sea lice reporting over 30 river catchment areas;

		<p>(e) Marine Scotland is undertaking a 3-year project to identify areas of opportunity and restriction for aquaculture which will include consideration of the risk to wild salmonids;</p> <p>(f) Scottish Government and SEPA funded work to improve auto DEPOMOD modelling tool to further enhance the sensitivity of the tool for SEPA discharge consents;</p> <p>(g) Scottish Government funded research to develop shelf modelling and sea lice modelling; and</p> <p>(h) Scotland's Aquaculture Database and Website is being developed in partnership by Marine Scotland, The Crown Estate, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and The Food Standards Agency in Scotland. This brings together data collected by regulators about Aquaculture in Scotland and makes it accessible through a data search tool and an interactive map. The website is expected to go live by the Autumn 2013</p>
	Expected Outcome:	<p>(a) Investigation of potential impacts of marine renewable energy generation on Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>(b - h) framework to enable delivery of sustainable aquaculture growth targets by 2020 with due regard to the marine environment</p>
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	

### 3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (*section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan*)

<b>Action H1:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>Implement Climate Change Adaptation Plans (produced by both government and private sector).</p> <p>a. MSS to implement a national river temperature monitoring strategy for salmon rivers in collaboration with CAMERAS (co-ordinated agenda for marine, environment and rural affairs science) partners and local fishery trusts</p> <p>b. National temperature monitoring network to be used to identify areas of the river network that will be (1) sensitive to climate induced temperature change and (2) appropriate for management action</p> <p>c. Riparian shade to be increased in sensitive and appropriate water bodies, through collaborative projects undertaken by DSFBs and/or fisheries trusts;</p>
-------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

		<p>d. Influence decisions in the next round of Scottish Water investment plans to ensure climate resilience for both water abstractions and wastewater management, and ensure that due regard is given to their impact on the environment;</p> <p>e. Ensure climate change is considered within strategic environment planning frameworks (eg RBMPs, Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform);</p> <p>f. Support the development and regulation of scientifically justifiable and robust thermal standards for freshwater, transitional and coastal (TraC) waters to manage the impact of industries including power generation.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	The overall aim is to moderate the effects of climate change in waterbodies through landscape, landuse and discharge management
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>Improve river connectivity through the identification and easing / removal of barriers.</p> <p>a. A joint dataset has been developed by SEPA, MSS and local fisheries trusts that builds on previous barrier mapping exercises by MSS. This dataset is used to identify where there are currently barriers to migration. In combination with the MSS salmon distribution map and local fisheries management plans, barriers can be prioritised for easement or removal. Fish passage is also a requirement of Good Ecological Potential (GEP) under WFD, so there is a general expectation that those activities causing a barrier to migration will be required to fund appropriate solutions (subject to cost and benefits see above). Funding for barrier removal can come from a variety of local, national and EU sources. The SEPA restoration fund has some guaranteed resources for habitat improvement over the period 2013-2018 and barrier removal is associated with high priority subject to assessment of costs and benefits.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	a. Improvements to fish movement allowing greater access throughout rivers, and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	

	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	
<b>Action H3:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>Ensure appropriate provision of river flows</p> <p>a. Providing an evidence base from which to assess the flow requirements of salmon. MSS has a project investigating the hydraulic requirements of salmon and the transferability of hydraulic suitability data among catchments. This type of information is important for objectively identifying the likely effects of changing flow regime. In addition projects are under way within SEPA to assess the discharge conditions associated with poor and bad ecological status / potential in order to prioritise future management action.</p> <p>b. Implementing RBMP process and issue of CAR licenses for abstraction and impoundment where the objective is to maintain / achieve Good Ecological Status / Potential, which will consider salmon as part of the overall process. In addition there will be consideration of salmon flow requirements in the revision of discharge standards under WFD and improvements to WFD fish tools to try and improve detection of ecological problems associated with discharge regime.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved scientific understanding of habitat requirements for salmon to underpin decision making</li> <li>• Water bodies do not deteriorate from their current status; and</li> <li>• Revision of discharge regimes 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:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	
<b>Action H4:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use.</p> <p>Reductions in diffuse pollution and morphological impacts will be achieved through the controlled activity regulations (CAR) and associated “General Binding Rules” and adherence to other guidelines such as the forest and water guidelines. GBRs include requirements for buffer strips to reduce fine sediment and nutrient</p>



		delivery and encourage the growth of riparian vegetation. a. Working with partners to extend range of activities for which SRDP (Scottish Rural Development Programme) funding can be obtained to further reduce morphological and diffuse pollution pressures beyond that prescribed by CAR.
	Expected Outcome:	Improvements to land management practices and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential, as well as Natura 2000 Protected Area objectives with associated benefits to salmon. Benefits would be obtained within the overall context of affordability and benefits to society.
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	

<b>3.3 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics</b> ( <i>section 4.8 of the Implementation Plan</i> )		
<b>Action A1:</b>	Description of Action:	Continue to regulate salmonid and freshwater fish stocking in Scottish rivers by implementing and enforcing existing introductions legislation under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)( Scotland) Act 2003, Wildlife and Countryside Act (Scotland) 1981 and Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.
	Expected Outcome:	Greater transparency in stocking operations and hatchery management
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	
<b>Action A2:</b>	Description of Action:	a. Implementing European Council Regulation No. 708/2007 concerning Use of Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture.  b. 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).
	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 Scotland.</li> </ul>

	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	
	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	
<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of Action:	<p>The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 aims 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.</p> <p>The Act includes an enabling power for the Scottish Ministers to make regulations prescribing technical requirements for equipment used for and in connection with fish farming; and which make provision to ensure the requirements are complied with.</p> <p>The Ministerial Group on Aquaculture (MGA) was refocused in 2013 to 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. Membership includes aquaculture industry, wild fish interests, Environment NGO and regulators. The main body will be supported by the more focussed and project-based working groups including on Interactions; on Science and Research; an Interactions Working Group and an Improved Containment Working Group. Chairs will provide an update on progress of their groups at the next meeting of MGSA in November 2013.</p>
	Expected Outcome:	<p>The technical requirements will further improve containment, minimise the risk of escapes occurring, and ensure installation and deployment of fish farming equipment that is well maintained and appropriate for the site conditions at which the farm operates and minimise the potential for adverse impact on wild salmonids.</p> <p>MGSA will provide a framework to secure the sustainability of salmon aquaculture growth whilst managing its interactions with the wildfish sector, to enable both sectors to flourish in Scotland. The interactions group will facilitate improvements in the current relationship between the wild and farmed fishing sectors, with a view to establishing closer, productive, cooperative working relationships for the overall benefit of the people of Scotland and the environment.</p>
	Monitoring/Enforcement Results:	

	Ongoing/completed:	
	Achieved objective?	

<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.
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.
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
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.
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.