Agenda Item 5.1
For Information

Council

CNL(15)30

Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2014

Norway

CNL(15)30

Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2014

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 2015**.

Party:	**Norway**
Jurisdiction/Region:	

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan
1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan (*Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 December).*
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
Following the development of a new monitoring program for escaped salmon, there is a new regulation regarding the aquaculture industry's responsibility for funding and organizing recapture of escaped salmon. This program will be funded by the salmon-farming industry by a mandatory fee per licence. The fund will be managed by a board consisting of members appointed from management authorities as well as the industry. The regulation entered into force in February 2015.

2: Stock status and catches.

2.1 Provide a description of any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks and, if there has been any significant change in stock status since the development of the Implementation Plan, provide a brief (200 word max) summary of these 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').*

	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2014 (tonnes)	277	-	213	490
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2013 (tonnes)	284	-	192	476
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2014 (tonnes)	53	-	157	210
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2014.	20229 caught and released (number of fish) 18,9% caught and released (% of total number of fish) 86539 caught (number of fish) 106768 total number of fish (caught + caught and released)			

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).

***Note:** The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.*

Action F1:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	Annual assessments of the management target achievement for the previous 4-5 year period are made by The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Atlantic Salmon Management (SACAS). In response to advice from the committee regulatory measures will be introduced normally every four or five years or if necessary annually or within season, as described in section 2.2. Special caution is exercised when regulating the fishery in areas with the risk of impacts from aquaculture. Fishing season, in sea and river fisheries will be used as a primary means to reach the management targets. Pre-agreed regulatory measures are implemented in rivers if there is a risk that spawning targets are not met.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	Increase in number of stocks reaching management targets.

	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	SACAS has delivered advices about regulatory measures for 2016-2018. The advices will be implemented in the regulation of the fisheries made applicable from 2016. Fishing regulation procedures are in progress, and according to time schedule the process will be finished within Dec. 2015
	Current Status of Action (e.g. '*Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action F2:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	Introduction of mandatory mid-season assessment of the fishery and salmon run and pre-agreed measures in more rivers. Legislation considering the introduction of similar requirements for sea-fisheries. Further develop the specific toolkit, consisting of a procedural memo and specially adapted spread sheets for each individual river.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	Increase in number of stocks reaching management targets.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	The number of rivers with mandatory mid-season assessment of the fishery and salmon run and pre-agreed measures are increasing. Legislation necessary to introduce continuous reporting of catches in the sea fisheries is in progress. Procedural memo is finished. Spreadsheets will be updated before the fishing season 2015.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. '*Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action F3:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	Introduction of "second" generation spawning targets.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	More precise spawning targets and better stock management.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	A method of transforming GIS-information for prediction of habitat characterization as a supplement to local characterization is developed. The number of rivers with reliable stock recruitment data has been increased. This information is combined with habitat information to understand the dynamics between numbers of spawners and carrying capacity in terms as smolt for each river.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. '*Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	Ongoing

	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action F4:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	Negotiate a new regulatory regime and establish a stock recovery plan for the river Tana in collaboration with Finland.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	A new agreement in 2017 followed by stock rebuilding up to spawning target achievement in the river Tana.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	The Tana/Teno River is a border river between Norway and Finland. It is a major river-system comprising more than 30 morphologically and genetically distinct spawning stocks, resulting in nearly 100 different combinations of smolt ages, sea ages and previous spawning times. Both net and rod fisheries continue in the river despite the stocks failing to meet their spawning targets. In 2009, NASCO's Fisheries Management Focus Area Review Group concluded that the management regime for the Tana/Teno was not consistent with NASCO Agreements and Guidelines. Bilateral negotiations between Norway and Finland on a new agreement for the River Tana/Teno commenced in 2012 with the objective of having a new agreement in place from 2015. The aim of the negotiations is to develop a new agreement that is more flexible, science- and target-based, and consistent with NASCO's Agreements and guidelines. At the request of Finland it was subsequently agreed to extend the negotiations with the goal of having a new agreement in place in 2016. However, in late 2014 it became clear that a new agreement could not enter into force before 2017 at the earliest. In Norway's opinion, and as noted by the Review Group, the present agreement for the Tana/Teno River (that entered into force in 1990) has led to a management regime that is clearly inconsistent with the requirements for sustainable salmon fisheries. Furthermore, the interests and fishing rights of the local population are under severe pressure due to the large number of tourist fishermen from the Finnish side. In light of this, the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment has indicated that Norway cannot accept the present management much longer and is now investigating whether or not the present bilateral agreement should be replaced with a national management regime for the Norwegian part of the river to apply from 2017. However, much has been

		achieved in the negotiations so far and Norway's primary goal remains to have a new bilateral agreement in place in 2017.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. '*Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	

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

Note: *The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.*

Action H1:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	Liming of 21 acidified salmon rivers and if feasible include five additional rivers in the long-term liming program.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	Restored salmon stocks and improved fishing possibilities.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	At present, 21 Norwegian salmon rivers are included in the national liming program. "New" salmon stocks have been re-established in rivers whose stocks were lost due to acid rain. Salmon catches in limed rivers have increased from about 10 tons in the 1980s to 45-50 tons today, and at present this makes up for 10-12 % of total salmon catches in Norwegian rivers. A new plan of action (2016-2020) for the national liming program will be completed in 2015.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. '*Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	*Ongoing*
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H2:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	All rules of operations for the largest and oldest hydropower plants are subject to revision within 2022. A major challenge is how the water needed for reintroduction of Atlantic salmon and other environmental improvements shall be weighed in relation to the goals for producing renewable energy (the RES Directive). Measures in National Salmon Rivers will be given high priority. Positive and negative effects will be evaluated. Both positive and negative impacts for the society will be assessed. New conditions will be set to improve the conditions for salmon when the positive impacts exceed the negative impacts. Other actions are habitat improvements, fish-ladders, adjustment in the manoeuvring regimes etc.

	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	In general, an increase in water discharge in dewatered areas, no ramping, less fluctuations in water levels, and more environmentally friendly allocation of water and habitat improvements in critical periods of the salmon life cycle will be evaluated in each specific river.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	National assessment has been carried out at policy level. This can also apply as a guide for how to prioritize flow mitigation measures in catchments/river segments with highest potential benefits thereof. In selected salmon rivers such as Åbjøra and River Mandal, increased flow requirements have been implemented. In Åbjøra this was a consequence of several years with unexpected high mortality of juvenile Atlantic salmon and brown trout after a licence was granted in 2001. In Mandal the rule of operation could be revised when Atlantic salmon had re-established a population. As salmon no breed naturally in the river the licence of Laudal hydropower plant has been changed accordingly. Revision of terms for a selection of HP licenses are in the final stage for several important salmon rivers (e.g. River Aura/Eira, River Årdal), Environmental objectives and prioritizing of habitat improvements including flow requirements is presently out on a public hearing as part of the implementation of EUs Water Framework Directive in Norway. The WFD river basin management plans will be finalized and approved by the Government by the end of 2015. Program of measures will then be in implemented in the coming planning cycles until 2033.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. '*Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H3:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	Removal or reconstruction of artificial migration obstacles such as pipes and culverts through roads.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	Effective fish passages increase available nursery habitats in upper reaches of salmon rivers - removal of migration obstacles increases available habitat in tributaries of larger salmon rivers and in smaller coastal streams.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	Measures to mitigate barriers caused by roads are planned in prioritized rivers by the road authorities as part of the implementation of EUs Water Framework Directive in Norway. The WFD river basin

		management plans will be finalized and approved by the Government by the end of 2015. Program of measures will be in operation within 2018.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. *'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H4:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	a) Increased focus on enforcing the current legislation against habitat deterioration, to avoid further negative impact on salmon nursery habitat. Special focus will be on National Salmon Rivers, in which there are particular restrictions against most types of habitat encroachment. An important part of this initiative is to bring updated information on the new regime to important stakeholders such as landowners and road constructors. b) Habitat restoration and biotope adjustments. A lot of weirs have been constructed throughout the country. In later years several of these have been reconstructed to improve the passage of migrating anadromous salmonids. In Northern Norway in particular several actions have taken place to improve the salmon habitat. Several rivers that were channelized in the 1990'ies have achieved improvements by opening of river reaches to be active during floods, placement of large stones to increase habitat heterogeneity, rebuilding of flood protection works, including jacks and other constructions to increase hydraulic heterogeneity.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	Increased productivity in nursery habitats for Atlantic salmon due to decreased habitat degradation and increased connectivity in salmon river systems.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*)	**a)** After the implementation of the National Atlantic Salmon Watercourses and Fjords scheme (NASW), fewer plans for development (e.g. hydropower plants, water abstraction, flood and erosion control) at the within-river level were accepted for NASW-rivers than for rivers not in the scheme. However, at the same time, there is a tendency for fewer plans overall being sanctioned in all types of rivers probably due to overall changes in management practices not related to the NASW scheme. In total, these changes lead to increased protection of Norwegian Atlantic salmon populations. **b)** When budgets are available and realistic projects are presented, habitat improvements are carried out. The number of projects conducted on an annual basis is, however, low due to low budgets.

	Current Status of Action (e.g. *'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	a) ongoing b) ongoing whithin annual budgets.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	

3.3 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics (Section 4.8 of the Implementation Plan). ***Note:*** *The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.*		
Action A1:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	A regional carrying capacity model for sea lice is now being developed.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	Based on farmed salmon biomass and other parameters in a region, the numbers of sea lice copepodites in the area can be estimated. Taking into account the dispersion patterns for selected times the copepodite transmission within the region can be determined. Adaptive management in response to monitoring results will then be possible.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	The Norwegian Veterinary Institute carries out national monitoring programme of sensitivity of drugs against sea lice. More severe actions from the NFSA against fish farms who are exceeding the sea lice limit in a more or less systematic manner; slaughtering and/or reduction of site maximum allowed biomass.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. *'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action A2:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	1. Further improvement of precautionary measures e.g. • Site based technical certificate for every fish farm in sea. • Stricter requirements concerning mesh size and number of fish held in one cage. • A public consultation on amendments of the The Norwegian Aquaculture Act to improve legal base for environmental measures has been undertaken. 2. Research on sterile farmed salmon to reduce genetic and ecological threats to wild salmon populations. 3. Additional long-term monitoring programs and studies of ecological processes and the environmental impacts of fish farming.

		4. Test of resistance board weirs etc. to monitor and remove escaped salmon from Norwegian rivers. 5. Search for better methods and technical solutions tracing the origin of farmed Atlantic salmon escapees. (This can be done by using DNA Parentage Assignment (industry-based project) or other suitable methods.)
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	1. Reduced genetic interaction between farmed and wild Atlantic salmon. 2. Reduced spawning activity of farmed salmon in rivers. 3. -4. Get better knowledge and measures to cope with escaped Atlantic salmon. 5. Methods for immediate identification of escaped Atlantic salmon and basis for action against leaking sites. Secure identification of the responsible polluter.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	1 The proportion of fish that have escaped as juveniles seems to be increasing. This is a result of a reduced occurrence of fish escaped in later life stages, and indicates that the site based technical certificate for individual fish-farms in sea have had an effect. We are still too early in the process to evaluate the effect of the stricter requirements concerning mesh size, which should reduce the proportions of fish escaped in the juvenile phase. 2 Several farms are now testing the use of sterile salmon on a commercial scale. In addition several of the new "green licences" will use sterile fish and the experience with the use of this fish will rapidly increase. 3 IMR have ongoing field-studies in Guddalselva, as well as lab-studies in Matre, and these will be reported/published as they have results 4 The resistance weir in River Etne is still going, and a full evaluation will be done after its third, and as far as it is planned, last year. 5 The development and testing of DNA and trace-elements for tracing the origin of escapees are still in process, and not ready for full scale implementation
	Current Status of Action (e.g. '*Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	1. Ongoing. The act has been amended in accordance with the proposal from the public consultation. New regulations are implemented, but will be continuously evaluated 2. Ongoing, but are about to be used in commercial sea-farming, following the some of the new "green licences" 3. Ongoing 4. Ongoing 5. Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	1. Still in the process of being optimized and it is difficult to evaluate the full effect yet. 4. Not completed, but it is has clearly demonstrated the effect of the trap to remove escapees, as well as given important documentation about migration patterns in wild

		as well as escaped salmon. A known number of above the trap also gives an opportunity to gain valuable information concerning other sampling and monitoring methods. 5. Not completed. There are some fish in the farms now with known DNA profiles, but good logistics are still needed to effectively collect samples for testing.
Action A3:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	Proposal for a new action plan for the control of *Gyrodactylus salaris* is being developed.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	To combat the parasite in two regions, Rauma region consisting of 5 infected rivers, and Skibotn region consisting of two infected rivers. In addition, there are plans to build a long-term fish barrier in the River Driva.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	A new action plan for the years 2014-2016 is approved and adopted. To combat the parasite in two regions, Rana region consisting of 1 infected river, and Skibotn region consisting of two infected rivers will be treated with CFT-Legumine. In River Rana a contingency plan was taken into action due to a new infection which was revealed in august 2014. The river was treated with CFT-Legumine oct 4. 2014. The last rotenone treatment in the Rana region will be completed in 2015. Rotenone treatments in the Skibotn region will be conducted in 2015 and 2016. In addition, a work to build a fish barrier in Driva is ongoing. The fish barrier is planned to be in operation by spring 2017.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. '*Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	"Ongoing"
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Rotenone treatment in Rauma region (5 rivers) was completed in 2014, and the first of two treatments of river Rana was conducted in 2014. The treatment in the Rauma region appears to be successful, and efforts to re-establish salmon stocks have started.
Action A4:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*):	It is prepared an action plan to reduce the impact of pink salmon in the rivers in the county of Finnmark, the northernmost county in Norway. The plan includes monitoring and removal of pink salmon in rivers. There is also a plan to reduce minnow impact on native fish populations in the river Namsen in the middle part of Norway. Currently, minnow are not spread to the Atlantic salmon distribution area. Monitoring is therefore the most important action so far.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*):	The aim is to reduce the breeding population of pink salmon to a minimum.
	Progress on Action to Date (*see note above*):	Measures are implemented to reduce the spawning stock of pink salmon in rivers in Finnmark county. A monitoring program will aim to follow any establishments of self-reproducing populations with pink salmon.

	Current Status of Action (e.g. '*Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'*):	Pink salmon: Ongoing Minnow: Not started
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its 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.
There have been no major changes in the regulations in 2014. However, extraordinary regulations were implemented in some regions during the fishing season, in response to lower Salmon run than expected.
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.