

Agenda Item 5.1 For Information

Council

CNL(15)36

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

EU – Ireland

CNL(15)36

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:	European Union
Jurisdiction/Region:	Ireland

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).

No changes

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

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.

Summary of status of stocks and catch advice and forecast for 2015 fishery season



There has been little change in the status of salmon stocks relative to attainment of CL described in the IP. The stock status and catch advice for the 2015 fishery is that 55 rivers have an advised harvestable surplus as they are exceeding their Conservation Limits. A further 27 rivers could open for catch and release only based on exceeding a minimum fry threshold (>17 salmon fry/5 min electro-fishing average) in catchment wide electrofishing surveys or based on IFI management criteria that they meet over 65% of their Conservation Limits. 61 rivers should be closed for fishing as they do not exceed the management target of meeting 65% of Conservation Limits, electrofishing thresholds have not been met or there is insufficient information for full stock assessment.

There are 16 rivers for which a separate assessment is made for MSW (Spring) salmon where there are significant fisheries. Of these, 12 have an advised harvestable surplus as they are exceeding their Conservation Limits. The remaining 4 rivers could open for catch and release only based on exceeding a minimum fry threshold in catchment wide electrofishing surveys or

based on IFI management criteria that they meet over 65% of their Conservation Limits.

In addition, there are four assessments on rivers used for hydro power which have been assessed as being below their conservation limits i.e. Upper Liffey (Dublin), Upper Lee (Cork), Upper Shannon (Limerick) and the River Erne.

In applying the scientific advice to management it should be noted that where rivers are only marginally above their CL they may be restricted to C&R so that the actual number of rivers open under regulation will be less than the number of rivers actually achieving CL.

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

(a) provisional nominal	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
catch (which may be	27t	26t		53t
subject to revision) for				
2014 (tonnes)				
(b) confirmed nominal	49t	38.3t		87t
catch of salmon for 2013				
(tonnes)				
(c) estimated unreported				5.3t
catch for 2014 (tonnes)				
(d) number and	5,400 (35% of to	otal rod catch)		
percentage of salmon				
caught and released in				
recreational fisheries in				
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).

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	Description of Action	Protection against illegal fishing is a high priority in
E1.		
F1:	(as submitted in the IP):	Ireland and the state invests a considerable amount of
		resources on these activities (Fishery Inspectors,
		Navy, Garda etc). More outreach to local
		communities is planned to bring the problems of
		poaching as a major impediment to stock recovery into
		focus.
	Expected Outcome	Buy-in by local communities in identifying active
	(as submitted in the IP):	illegal practices.
	Progress on Action to Date	180,318 fishery staff man hours were spent on
	(see note above):	protecting Ireland's Fishing Resource in 2014.
		Protection patrols were carried out using different
		methods on lakes, rivers, estuaries and at sea. This

		protection was largely related to salmon but fishery
		patrols were also targeted at other fish species
		In total 435 nets were seized measuring 20 721 metres
		and 253 Fixed Charge Notices were issued for fishery
		affanaos in 2014. There were 82 prospections in 2014
	Comment States of Astism	One sing
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	(e.g. 'Not started';	
	'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
	If 'Completed', has the	
	Action achieved its objective?	
Action	Description of Action	IFI is actively promoting the returns of accurate
F2:	(as submitted in the IP):	information from anglers through the national carcass
		tagging and logbook scheme. This scheme facilitates
		the identification of inaccurate information and allows
		some follow-up to redress the issue Move towards
		electronic Salmon licences
	Expected Outcome	More awareness by stakeholders on the need for
	(as submitted in the ID):	accurate statistics
	(as submitted in the IF).	Deturn of lock only by an clarg was (00/ in 2014
	Progress on Action to Date	Return of logbooks by anglers was 69% in 2014
	(see note above):	compared to 73.5% in 2013. All anglers who do not
		return logbooks are written to as a means of improving
		logbook returns and a proportion are taken to court
		annually and fined for non-return of logbooks. Return
		of commercial licences has been 100% in recent years.
		The electronic licence system is in now in place and
		can be accessed at www.salmonlicences.ie . In 2014,
		approximately 35% of anglers purchased licences on
		line.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	(e.g. 'Not started';	
	'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
	If 'Completed', has the	
	Action achieved its objective?	
Action	Description of Action	IFI is developing a National Fish Counter Strategy to
F3:	(as submitted in the IP).	maintain operate and enhance the current counter
		resources and to evaluate where extra counters might
		be required. This will be enacted in 2015
	Exported Outcome	A more rebust and reliable counter assessment using
	(as submitted in the ID):	the most up to date methods for validation of counts
	(as submitted in the IF).	(video sumpoillance treating tensing etc.) New
		(video surveinance, tracking, tagging etc). New
		database for verification and data capture.
	Progress on Action to Date	IFI put a new national fish counter website and
	(see note above):	database in place in 2013 for the input and validation
		of resistivity counter data. In 2014, phase 2 took place
		to facilitate VAKI counters. A national reporting
		mechanism for fish counter data and validation is now
		in place. In total, counts from 31 fish counters were
		used in 2013 – 2014 salmon assessment, an increase of
		2 counters on the $2012 - 2013$ assessment.

Current Status of Action	Ongoing
(e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
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. Description of Action Action Agricultural enrichment H1: (as submitted in the IP): Following the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the formation of River Basin District management structures, a collective approach to reducing all adverse impacts including agricultural enrichment and eutrophication on aquatic resources is now in place. Having characterised the risks posed to water-bodies nationally, Programmes of Measures are being developed to address habitat impacts / land use practices and to restore impaired water bodies to good status. The aim of the Water Framework Directive is to prevent any deterioration in the existing status of our waters, including the protection of good and high status where it exists, and to ensure that all waters are restored to at least good by 2015. As a consequence of the status implementation of the WFD and the Nitrates Directive, the impact of agricultural enrichment on salmon rivers is expected to reduce considerably over decades. the coming А national monitoring programme is being undertaken to assess the ongoing health of surface water bodies. **Expected Outcome** Significant improvement in water quality due to (as submitted in the IP): improved agricultural practice There is evidence of an overall improvement in water Progress on Action to Date quality, however Ireland faces major challenges to (see note above): achieve water quality targets set for 2015, 2021 and 2027 as required by the WFD. Approximately 71% of Irish river channels are unpolluted (good status or higher). The main success story has been the virtual elimination of seriously polluted (bad ecological status) river sites. Current Status of Action Ongoing (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'): If Completed, has the Action

achieved its objective?

Action	Description of Action	Forestry Related Impacts
H2:	(as submitted in the IP):	Many Irish forests that are now mature, or
		approaching maturity, were planted in landscapes that
		were unsuited to economically viable forest
		from forestry on water resources has led to the
		development of a Code of Practice for forestry (Forest
		Service 2000) Generally forest management is based
		on the Code of Practice, although a new Forestry Bill.
		which will replace the out of date Forestry Act 1946,
		has been drafted with the opportunity to ensure that
		forestry management is better able to protect sensitive
		habitats.
	Expected Outcome	Improved water quality and protection of habitats.
	(as submitted in the IP):	The Forest Service's IEODIS CIS based management
	(see note above).	system for forestry grants is being used to ensure that
	(see note above).	planting felling and road building operations in
		forests are approved only following detailed
		environmental consultation with a range of public
		bodies and the general public. There was general
		compliance with the forestry codes of practice
		nationally. Many companies are also participating in
		additional independent forest certification schemes $(a \in ESC, b \in DEEC)$. More astates are being managed
		(e.g. FSC & FEFC). Many estates are being managed with biodiversity as the primary objective e.g. when
		conjfer trees are felled, there is now a greater
		percentage of broadleaved trees being planted in their
		place.
		The Forestry Act was passed into law in October 2014
		(Number 31 of 2014). This confers responsibility on
		the Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine to
		promote and monitor the protection and enhancement
		of water quality in all aspects of forestry, including
		activities regulated under this Act are compatible with
		the requirements of the EU Water Framework
		Directive.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	(e.g. 'Not started';	
	'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action	Description of Action	Poor water quality from Inadequate Sewage
H3:	(as submitted in the IP):	Treatment and Industrial Discharges
		In Ireland, there has been considerable investment in
		towns and this process will continue with the
		Programme of Measures under the Water Framework

	Directive. The Department of the Environment have invested many millions of Euro nationally over the recent years in new treatment facilities, and many of the smaller town and village schemes have been upgraded in this process. It is therefore anticipated that the impact on productive capacity of salmon rivers from inadequate sewage treatment will decrease considerably over the coming years with the requirements of the WFD being achieved. Significant upgrading of wastewater treatment plants has occurred in recent years to assist local authorities in complying with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. The EPA regulates major industrial activities through the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IIPC) regulations while the local authorities license small-scale industrial discharges to waters under the Water Pollution Acts. The Work of the EPA in enforcing the regulations and the implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive are likely to ensure that industrial discharges are adequately regulated to prevent impact on rivers nationally.
Expected Outcome	Improved waste water treatment targeting upgrading
Progress on Action to Date (<i>see note above</i>):	Irish Water has been formed as an independent State- owned subsidiary within the Bord Gáis Éireann group. Irish Water has taken over the water investment programmes of the 34 county and city councils, with the key aim of delivering water and sewerage schemes, and water conservation works aimed at finding additional water supply capacity.
	The Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 provides for the introduction of a registration and inspection system for domestic wastewater treatment systems, including septic tanks and similar systems. Owners of domestic waste water treatment systems are required to register their systems in accordance with these regulations to ensure protection of water quality. The EPA have developed a National Inspection Plan. All areas of the country are liable to inspection but priority is given to areas where water quality is most at risk from pollution from on-site waste water treatment systems. The aim of the Plan is to protect water and human health by using a two-strand approach of education and awareness strategies linked with a risk- based inspection process. 987 inspections were undertaken in the first year, initially almost 50% failed, however ,79% of these are now compliant.

	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	(e.g. 'Not started';	
	<i>Ongoing'; Completed'):</i>	
	achieved its objective?	
Action H4:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Salmon Farms in Estuaries Both existing and proposed salmon farms in estuaries may pose a threat to wild salmon populations and a number of publications have raised concerns regarding
		lice induced mortalities of salmon. In Ireland protocols are in place with regard to permitted sea lice thresholds on salmon farms and measures can be taken for farms in breach of protocols. In recent years, this led to stringent action by the Irish authorities in enforcing treatment trigger levels including removing farmed salmon from an area. The challenge for management is to develop strategies including effective lice treatments to ensure low lice levels on farmed salmon in spring prior to and during wild salmon migration. In fact the thresholds are treatment triggers and when they are reached a treatment must be carried out to reduce lice infestation levels. This is clearly set out in protocols.
		Annual fallowing of sites, use of single generation sites, avoidance of partial lice treatments and harvesting carried out remote from grower sites are planned to reduce the potential impact of sea lice infestation. Availability of new sea lice treatments are also being pursued to increase effectiveness of sea lice control.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Improved compliance with sea lice protocols and lower sea lice levels in spring
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	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.		
ŀ	Action	Description of Action	Escapes of farmed fish
A	A1:	(as submitted in the IP):	The industry comply with the codes of practice
		× ,	regarding husbandry and good engineering practices.

		In the event of an escape, the farm operator will make an emergency application to the Department of Agriculture for a special licence under Section 14 of the Fisheries Act 1959 to deploy nets to recapture the escaped fish. Inland Fisheries Ireland may take such action as it considers necessary to recapture stock which has escaped from a facility operated under a licence. Under 77(2), the Minister (DCENR), may authorise a licensee or other person or body to take such action as is specified in the authorisation to recapture stock which has escaped from a facility.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Prevention of escapes generally. In the event of escapes, prompt recapture of a significant proportion of the stock.
	Progress on Action to Date (<i>see note above</i>):	A recent pan-European review (Jackson <i>et al.</i> , 2015) of farm escape events shows that where mandatory reporting and sound regulation and licensing of aquaculture structures are implemented the incidence of escapes is lower. Reductions in the levels of escapes were recorded in Norway following on the introduction of equipment standards for example. The same study showed that the level of escapes in Ireland is low in comparison to the other countries assessed.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ' <i>Not started</i> '; ' <i>Ongoing</i> '; ' <i>Completed</i> '):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action A2:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Sea lice Infestation During the spring period Sea lice protocols are in place which set out ovigerous lice thresholds (0.3-0.5 ovigerous lice per fish March –May and 2.0 ovigerous lice per fish outside this period). When the threshold is breached a notice to treat is issued to the salmon farm to bring lice levels under control. In 2008, a new pest Management Strategy was developed that introduced detailed fallowing
		requirements and a new approach to monitoring to deal with situations where target lice levels were not being achieved. This approach will identify 'breakout' site options for sites with persistent sea lice problems.
		While some farms do exceed these thresholds annually, in spring 2012, non-compliance with lice thresholds at two salmon farms resulted in the Minister giving an order to harvest fish early, prior to

		wild smolt migration.
	Expected Outcome	Reduced sea lice levels on farmed salmon.
	(as submitted in the IP):	
	Progress on Action to Date	
	(see note above):	
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	(e.g. 'Not started';	
	'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
	If Completed, has the Action	
	achieved its objective?	
Action	Description of Action	Transfer and increases in incidence of diseases
A3:	(as submitted in the IP):	Early harvesting of farmed salmon where gill damage
		has been recorded is effective in preventing further
		outbreaks. See section 4.7 (in Implementation Plan) –
		improved treatments and investment in R&D will
		result in greater control of gill related disorders in
		2013.
	Expected Outcome	Reduced incidence of disease outbreaks in aquaculture
	(as submitted in the IP):	facilities.
	Progress on Action to Date	Gill related mortalities have occurred in farmed
	(see note above):	salmon over the past number of years. Some of these
		have been triggered by environmental insults caused
		by phytoplankton and zooplankton blooms and more
		recently by infections caused by <i>Neoparamoeba</i>
		<i>perurans</i> , the causative agent of Amoebic Gill Disease
		(AGD). Early warning systems and risk management
		measures are in place to deal with blooms and a
		proactive regime of early diagnosis and treatment is in
		prace in relation to AGD. Although Neoparamoeda
		Ireland in 2014, early and repeated treatments using
		freshwater baths ensured AGD related mortality was
		kept at a very low level
		Pancreas Disease (PD) was diagnosed on a number of
		sites in 2014 despite a considerable investment by
		industry in vaccination programmes. Disease
		mitigation measures are in place on all sites in
		compliance with the Fish Health Code of Practice and
		the Farmed Salmonid Health Handbook, in an effort to
		keep PD related losses to a minimum.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	(e.g. 'Not started';	
	'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
	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.

No new legislation has been adopted. Fisheries by-laws have been updated for the 2014 and 2015 seasons.

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 new commitments since last reported.

4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.

No new actions.

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 new actions.

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 new actions.