

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:

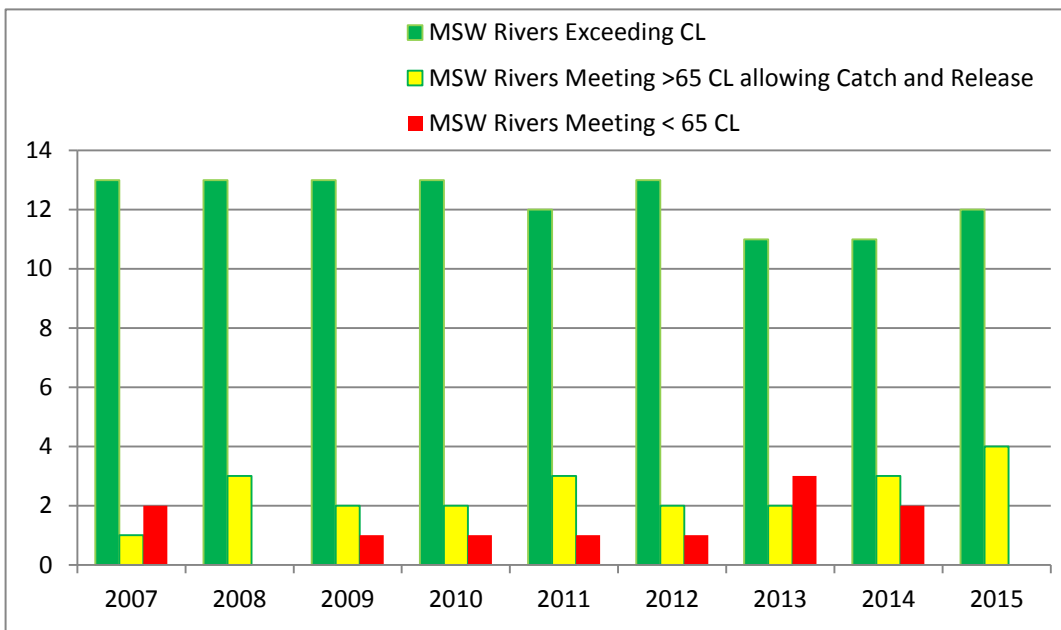
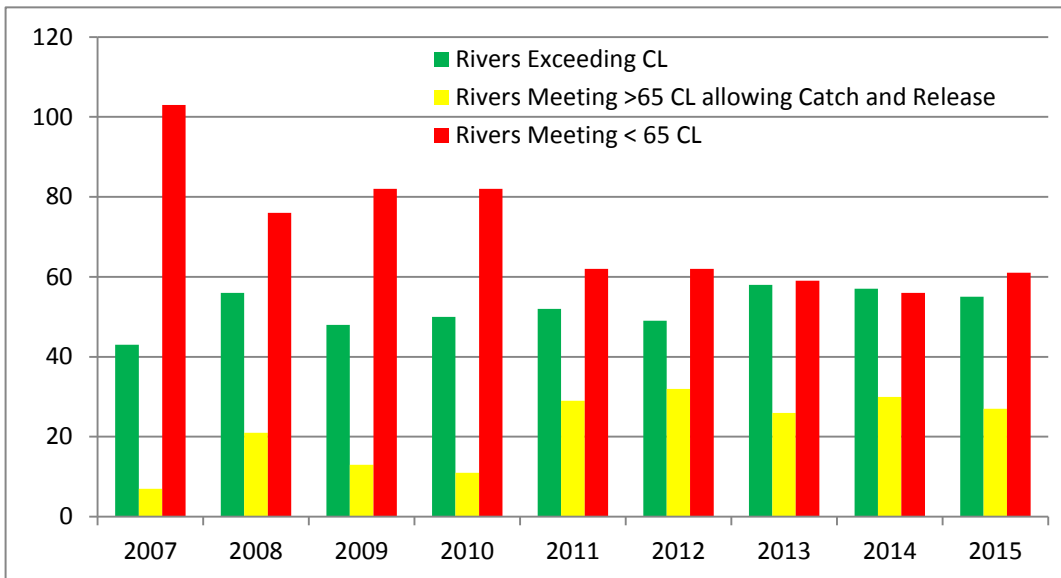
- any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the Implementation Plan;
- actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year;
- significant changes to the status of stocks, and a report on catches; and
- actions taken in accordance with the provisions 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 <i>(Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 December).</i>
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’).

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

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):	Protection against illegal fishing is a high priority in 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 (as submitted in the IP):	Buy-in by local communities in identifying active illegal practices.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	180,318 fishery staff man hours were spent on 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 offences in 2014. There were 82 prosecutions in 2014.
	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):	IFI is actively promoting the returns of accurate 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 (as submitted in the IP):	More awareness by stakeholders on the need for accurate statistics.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Return of logbooks by anglers was 69% in 2014 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 (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):	IFI is developing a National Fish Counter Strategy to maintain, operate and enhance the current counter resources and to evaluate where extra counters might be required. This will be enacted in 2015.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	A more robust and reliable counter assessment using the most up to date methods for validation of counts (video surveillance, tracking, tagging etc). New database for verification and data capture.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	IFI put a new national fish counter website and 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 (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):	Agricultural enrichment 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 status by 2015. As a consequence of the implementation of the WFD and the Nitrates Directive, the impact of agricultural enrichment on salmon rivers is expected to reduce considerably over the coming decades. A national monitoring programme is being undertaken to assess the ongoing health of surface water bodies.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Significant improvement in water quality due to improved agricultural practice
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	There is evidence of an overall improvement in water quality, however Ireland faces major challenges to 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 (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	

