



Agenda Item 5.1  
For Information

**Council**

**CNL(15)38**

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

*Canada*



**CNL(15)38**

***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**.

<b>Party:</b>	<b>Canada</b>
<b>Jurisdiction/Region:</b>	<b>North American Commission</b>

<b>1: Changes to the Implementation Plan</b>
<b>1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan</b> <i>(Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 December).</i>
No changes are proposed for 2015.
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>
<p>In December 2014 Canada announced the creation of a Ministerial Advisory Committee on Atlantic Salmon to make recommendations on addressing low returns of Atlantic salmon on the East coast of Canada. The committee includes key stakeholders and will meet on at least four occasions between February 2015 and June 2015. Opportunities will be provided to parties or individuals for written submissions to the advisory committee. The committee will focus discussions on conservation and enforcement measures, predation and strategies to address international, unsustainable fishing and areas for advancing science.</p> <p>Through the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program, \$2.1 million was contributed to 68 projects in Atlantic Canada in 2014 that identified Atlantic Salmon as a target species. Projects focused on restoring, rebuilding and rehabilitating recreational fisheries habitat. Projects were funded in Québec (5 projects at \$542,000), New Brunswick (29 projects at \$735,000), Prince Edward Island (10 projects at \$228,000), Nova Scotia (19 projects at \$533,000) and Newfoundland and Labrador (5 projects at \$112,000).</p>

## Regulatory measures:

Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations: purpose of the proposed regulations is to manage the threat of aquatic invasive species (AIS) to Canada's freshwater and marine ecosystems with consequences to multiple economic sectors in Canada. Consultation with stakeholders on this regulatory initiative took place between November 2012 and April 2013 via online consultations. The proposed Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations were published in the *Canada Gazette, Part I*, on December 6, 2014. The associated public consultation period concluded on January 5, 2015. The final Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations are expected to be published in *Canada Gazette, Part II*, in 2015. (<http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/acts-lois/rules-reglements/rule-reglement01-eng.htm>).

Proposed Aquaculture Activities Regulations to clarify conditions under which aquaculture operators may operate (see section 3 for details).

To address continuing declines in Atlantic salmon returns in southern Canada a number of management measures were implemented primarily in the recreational fishery (see section 3 for details). Further conservation measures have been taken in 2015 reducing the recreational fishery retention quota to zero in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and putting in place additional gear restrictions. These changes will be reported on in the 2015 NASCO annual progress report.

## 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.**

Returns of small salmon (< 63 cm fork length) and large salmon (>= 63 cm fork length) to eastern Canada in 2014 were near record (since 1971) low levels in the Maritime provinces (New Brunswick (NB), Nova Scotia (NS), Prince Edward Island (PEI) and among the lowest of record for small salmon and near record low for large salmon for the Province of Quebec (PQ). Near record high values for large salmon were estimated for Labrador and returns to Newfoundland were among the highest values of record. Only 30% of assessed rivers met or exceeded their conservation limits (CL) in 2014. Many rivers in the southern portion of Canada that were closed to all salmon fisheries met less than 50% of their CLs. The continued low abundance of salmon stocks in eastern Canada, despite significant fishery reductions and generally sustained freshwater production, strengthens the conclusions that factors acting on survival in the first and second years at sea are constraining abundance of Atlantic salmon.

<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 2014 (tonnes)	59.0 tonnes	40.0 tonnes	6.5 tonnes	105.6 tonnes
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2013 (tonnes)	80.3 tonnes	47.4 tonnes	9.8 tonnes	137.4 tonnes
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2014 (tonnes)	5.8 tonnes	3.2 tonnes	0 tonnes	21.0 tonnes (including 12.0 tonnes location not specified)
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2014.	23,036 small salmon (< 63 cm fork length), 47.2% for small 16,498 large salmon (>= 63 cm fork length), 92.5% for large 39,534 small and large salmon combined, 59.3% for combined.			

### 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 (as submitted in the IP):	
<b>F1:</b>		<p>Fisheries management measures introduced to compensate for low marine survival include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced daily and season bag limits;</li> <li>• Mandatory catch and release fishing, especially of large salmon;</li> <li>• Salmon fishing closures in areas where the CSRs are not being met; and,</li> <li>• Restrictions on commercial pelagic fisheries to stop or minimize salmon by-catch, including moving these fisheries in time and space and modifying the fishing gear to avoid migrating salmon.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Canada’s fisheries managers have asked for a science-led review of reference points for Atlantic salmon which conforms to the Precautionary Approach (PA) for all areas of eastern Canada.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Fisheries management measures are designed to maintain or improve numbers of salmon returning to Canadian rivers.</p> <p>A consistent approach to Atlantic salmon reference points which conform to the PA will improve management of Atlantic salmon fisheries and overall conservation of the species.</p>

	<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>Canada's Policy for the Conservation of Wild Atlantic Salmon, adopted in 2009, continues to guide the Department in maintaining and restoring healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats.</p> <p>As part of its move towards implementing the Precautionary Approach in the management of Atlantic salmon, the Department undertook, in February 2014, a Scientific Peer Review of limit reference points and approaches for establishing the other reference points (e.g. upper stock reference, maximum removal rate). The final science advisory report is expected to be published in the coming months (summer 2015). The development of the Precautionary Approach, including harvest decision rules, will take place regionally over the next year coordinated by the Fisheries and Ecosystems Management Branch with the participation of principal stakeholders.</p> <p>A number of management changes occurred through 2014. These will significantly reduce the number of Atlantic salmon which can be retained in the recreational fisheries in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. These changes will bring the potential level of harvest and retention to sustainable levels given the decreasing returns experienced in southern provinces.</p> <p>Management Actions:</p> <p><b>New Brunswick</b></p> <p>Management changes in NB include a reduction of tags for retention of small salmon (&lt; 63 cm fork length) from eight to four in the Atlantic salmon recreational fishery, a reduction of the daily retention quota for small salmon in Salmon Fishing Area (SFA) 15 from two to one, and expanded catch and release measures for all size groups of salmon for the whole season on the Northwest Miramichi River system.</p> <p>Details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduction of the seasonal retention quota of small salmon from 8 to 4 by reduction of tags issued with each licence in the recreational fishery in NB;</li> <li>• Reduction of the daily retention limit from 2 to 1 small salmon in the recreational fishery in all rivers</li> </ul>
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of SFA 15. The measure does not apply to boundary waters next to the Province of Quebec.;

- Expansion of the catch and release measures in the entire Northwest Miramichi River system for the entire salmon recreational fishery season in 2014;

The two resident First Nations on the Miramichi River agreed to reduce harvesting pressure on large salmon and focus their Food, Social, Ceremonial needs on small salmon.

With these measures the daily retention limit for Atlantic salmon will be harmonized in New Brunswick. All New Brunswick rivers where Atlantic salmon can be retained have currently a daily retention limit of one small salmon, with the exceptions of rivers in the Bay of Chaleur. With this measure, the daily retention quota for Atlantic salmon will now be the same across the province. However, portions of the Restigouche and Patapedia Rivers, located next to the Province of Québec, will remain with a daily retention limit of two small salmon. Harmonization of Atlantic salmon management measures in those waters are part of ongoing discussions with Province of Québec.

#### **Nova Scotia:**

The yearly fishing quota for small salmon that can be retained will be reduced from four to two in the Atlantic salmon recreational fishery.

These changes are in line with the Department's move towards implementing the Precautionary Approach in the management of Atlantic salmon. Departmental officials are also currently in the process of reviewing and revising, if appropriate, the biological reference points used to advise management decision for Atlantic salmon.

<http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries/2014-Salmon-Angling-NS>

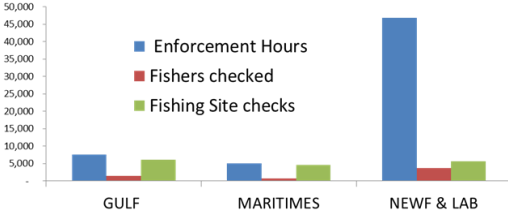
<http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries/2015-Salmon-Angling-Gulf-Region>

		<p><b>Quebec</b></p> <p>Following on low returns of large salmon estimated during in season assessments to many rivers of in Quebec in 2014, a regulatory measure for mandatory catch and release of large salmon in all recreational fisheries in Quebec, with the exception of the Ungava Bay area, was initiated on August 1, 2014 for the remainder of the fishing season in 2014.</p> <p><b>Newfoundland and Labrador</b></p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador is in the second year of a multi-year management approach for the recreational salmon fishery. The latest science advice is that there should be no increase in harvest/allocations on Newfoundland and Labrador salmon populations in 2015, except for areas which have in-season special management plans and where conservation requirements are being met. No changes to management measures are being considered at this time.</p> <p>Changes to these recreational fisheries have been communicated through a Notice to Recreational Anglers.</p> <p>Endangered Species Designatable Units: A Recovery Action plan for Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon has been drafted and is in the approval stages prior to posting on the Species at Risk Registry.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Completed with the exception of the Recovery Action Plan which is Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Canadian fisheries scientists and managers are already dealing with aquatic invasive species (AIS) using whatever tools are currently available. In some cases, these tools may not be adequate, and it is becoming more difficult to find resources to address all AIS issues. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is working with provincial and territorial partners to develop a national framework and regulations to manage the threat of AIS. The regulations will complement existing authorities and bridge gaps to enable a broad range of AIS management activities. This initiative will

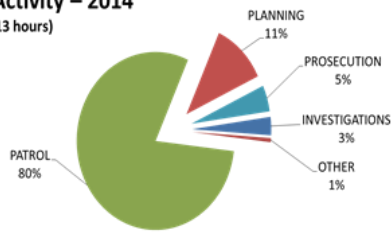


		<p>accommodate localized AIS issues, as well as provide a national framework for managing and controlling AIS in Canada. Biological risk assessments will identify those species that pose a risk based on probability of arrival, survival and establishment with ecological impacts. The proposed regulation will list AIS by geographical area, prohibit the live import, transport and possession of listed AIS, provide management authorities with a wide range of AIS control and eradication activities, including the use of deleterious substances, and enhance the ability to direct activities (including enforcement) to high risk areas. Along with these regulations, education and public awareness are considered key to achieving success.</p> <p>With respect to the increasing presence of rainbow trout in Quebec waters, at Canada’s request in 2012, NASCO added a question for ICES advice on the impact of this “exotic salmonids” expansion outside of its natural habitat through human intervention. This advice will guide actions, where necessary, to control this invasive species.</p> <p>In Nova Scotia, the provincial government enacted <i>Live Fish Possession Regulations</i> in 2012 to prohibit possession of live fish unless authorized, and has closed fishing for smallmouth bass where they are not found, to remove the incentive for illegal introductions.</p> <p>A containment and eradication plan is in place to control the spread of smallmouth bass from Miramichi Lake in the Miramichi River (NB) and to eventually eradicate them from the watershed. The plan includes the use of barriers to contain the smallmouth bass, physical removal by intensive fishing and electrofishing, and location and removal of nests.</p>
	<p>Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):</p>	<p>The national framework and regulations are being designed to support management activities aimed at preventing the introduction of AIS into Canada and to offer options for controlling the spread of AIS if they are introduced.</p>
	<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>The final Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations are expected to be in place in 2015.</p>
	<p>Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	NA
<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Reduction and elimination of acid rain-causing emissions are the ideal goals to mitigate losses of wild Atlantic salmon due to acidification. In the meanwhile, liming of watercourses is recognized as an acidification mitigation technique that provides benefits to salmon. In Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) has been very involved with liming projects e.g. in West River, Sheet Harbour. The ASF and others have operated an automated lime doser for approximately 6 years.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	The liming project in West River has had very positive results. Parr numbers have increased by more than 300% and new sections of the river are being recolonized. Liming can be fairly expensive and must be done repeatedly as long as the source of acidity remains.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	This Nova Scotia Salmon Association project is in its 10 <sup>th</sup> consecutive year. Over 950 K has been spent on the project to date with over 18,000 volunteer hours. The objective of increasing the pH (target pH of 5.5) and increasing production has been achieved. Biological monitoring occurred through 2014 and increased smolt production was seen on the main branch – from 3000 smolts to 10,000-12,000 smolts.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	The project will continue into 2015 and it will be expanded. A second doser is being purchased and two adult counting fences are being established.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes.
<b>Action F4:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Education of the public about the importance of Atlantic salmon conservation is considered very important, as those with a stake in the resource will assist in deterring poaching.</p> <p>Regular patrols by federal fishery officers and provincial conservation officers, as well as undercover work and tips from the public are all used to detect and catch poachers. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has worked with its lawyers in recent years to educate the court system and judges about the seriousness of salmon poaching and its effects on Atlantic salmon populations. As a result, heftier fines, forfeitures and prohibitions are now being imposed by the courts, which provide significant deterrence to illegal fishing.</p>

<p>Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):</p>	<p>Decreased incidence of poaching</p>																				
<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>C&amp;P is currently transitioning its operations to become an Intelligence-led enforcement program. With the creation of the National Fisheries Intelligence Service (NFIS) the department will be enhancing its ability to direct resource toward the greatest conservation concerns. NFIS will provide intelligence products to operational personnel, augmenting traditional operational knowledge, and thereby increase the focus of staff who are targeting areas of greatest risk to the resource.</p> <p>It is anticipated that these programs changes will result in enhanced enforcement outcomes and increased compliance.</p> <p>C&amp;P continues to work closely with user groups, creating partnerships with Provincial counterparts and First Nations on enhancing compliance and enforcement efforts in the salmon fishery.</p> <p>Enforcement 2014 – Atlantic Salmon</p>  <table border="1" data-bbox="718 1422 1380 1691"> <thead> <tr> <th>DFO Region</th> <th>Hours</th> <th>Fishers checked</th> <th>Fishing Site checks</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>GULF</td> <td>7,556</td> <td>1,430</td> <td>6,084</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MARITIMES</td> <td>5,028</td> <td>638</td> <td>4,626</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NEWF &amp; LAB</td> <td>46,835</td> <td>3,731</td> <td>5,652</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Grand Total</b></td> <td><b>59,419</b></td> <td><b>5,799</b></td> <td><b>16,362</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	DFO Region	Hours	Fishers checked	Fishing Site checks	GULF	7,556	1,430	6,084	MARITIMES	5,028	638	4,626	NEWF & LAB	46,835	3,731	5,652	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>59,419</b>	<b>5,799</b>	<b>16,362</b>
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**Enforcement Effort (DFO)  
by Activity – 2014**  
(59,413 hours)



**2014 Detected Violations**

Region	Total
GULF / GOLFE	31
MARITIMES	9
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR	195
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>235</b>

by Action Taken	Total
CHARGES LAID	133
CHARGES NOT APPROVED	3
CHARGES PENDING/UNDER REVIEW	24
NATIVE PROTOCOL	2
SEIZURE(S) - PERSONS UNKNOWN	38
TICKET ISSUED	4
WARNING ISSUED	31
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>235</b>

by Violation Type	Total
OTHER LEGISLATION	8
AREA / TIME	39
ASSAULT/ OBSTRUCT	4
GEAR - ILLEGAL/ USED ILLEGALLY	83
GEAR CONFLICT	1
HABITAT	1
ILLEGAL BUY/SELL/POSSESS	60
INSPECTION	1
REGISTRATION / LICENCE	32
SPECIES / SIZE LIMIT	6
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>235</b>

Current Status of Action  
(e.g. 'Not started';  
'Ongoing'; 'Completed');

Ongoing.

If 'Completed', has the  
Action achieved its objective?

NA

**Action  
F5:**

Description of Action  
(as submitted in the IP):

Current Integrated Fisheries Management Plans  
(IFMP) for Atlantic salmon and commercial pelagic

	<p>fisheries provide information on measures that are being taken to reduce salmon by-catch. As a general rule, Atlantic salmon that are caught incidentally in any fishery cannot be retained and must be returned to the water in a manner that causes the least harm to the salmon.</p> <p>In addition, Canada is moving towards a more rigorous catch monitoring and reporting regime that will encompass all catches, including by-catch and discards, as set out in Fisheries and Oceans Canada's <i>Policy on Managing By-catch</i>.</p>
Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Implementation of the policy, with ongoing monitoring of salmon by-catch and further improvements in management measures to avoid such by-catch, will enhance Atlantic salmon conservation.
Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>Implementation of the Policy continues. Measures already in place to support the Policy include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictions on the use of monofilament herring and mackerel gill nets when salmon are present.</li> <li>• Depth requirements for groundfish gill nets.</li> <li>• Mandatory reporting of bycatch in certain commercial fishing logbooks (gaspereau, shad, eels, smelt, etc.).</li> <li>• Areas closed to the use of gill nets.</li> <li>• Delayed season openings in many salmon producing rivers to prevent the bycatch of salmon under the guise of trout angling.</li> <li>• Complete angling closures to all species in areas where salmon are vulnerable and stocks are at such low levels that they can't support an open salmon angling season.</li> </ul>
Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	NA

**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.*

<p><b>Action H1:</b></p>	<p>Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):</p>	<p><b>Focussed Legal Protection</b></p> <p>The Fisheries Act was amended in 2012 to focus on providing for the sustainability and ongoing productivity of recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fisheries. This will require updated policy and decision-making frameworks.</p> <p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada's new Fisheries Protection Program (FPP) will administer provisions of the Fisheries Act related to managing effects on fish and fish habitat, i.e., the fisheries protection provisions. Fisheries Protection Program staff will focus on managing specific activity and development types. Staff have been organized into teams that will focus on, among other areas: linear development including transportation infrastructure; marine and coastal development including coastal land use such as agriculture and forestry; and mining. These teams will develop specialized expertise to effectively address threats to important fisheries listed in section 3.3: transportation infrastructure, agriculture, forestry, and mining. To address these threats to fisheries, teams will complete several types of actions: development of standards for protection (to be enshrined in policy and regulation); implementation of regulatory requirements including regulatory reviews of development projects and activities under the Fisheries Act and the Species at Risk Act (SARA); and identification and protection of important habitats.</p> <p>In addition, a recovery strategy has been developed for the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon populations, under the Species at Risk Act. This document is intended to provide a strategy for the planning and implementation of recovery for Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon. It defines the goal for recovery of the species and outlines objectives to achieve this goal. It identifies activities to be undertaken as well as areas where knowledge is lacking and further information is required. It also includes a description of the species and its needs, and identifies the threats to its survival and recovery.</p> <p>Activities planned for 2013-2018 to implement the recovery strategy include: progress towards</p>
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		<p>identification of critical habitat in the marine environment which is currently a knowledge gap, and protection of critical habitat identified for the population. As well, three federal funding programs provide ongoing support to conservation and enhancement activities for this population: the Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund (ASEF), Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP), and the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSAR) program.</p>
	<p>Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):</p>	<p>Enhanced protection of recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fisheries, improved information sharing between Fisheries Protection officials, and clear, focused risk based decision making processes.</p>
	<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>FPP's specialized review teams have been established and are conducting regulatory activities within their respective industry sectors, as required. Decision making processes have been enhanced.</p> <p>Overall there has been a positive contribution to the protection of species at risk, facilitating Aboriginal participation in SARA processes including the provision to support consideration of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in SARA processes.</p> <p>In 2014-15 the HSP allocated \$486,657. to 6 projects on or including Atlantic Salmon populations. Recipients contributed \$826,496.00 (both in cash and in kind) to these 6 projects resulting in a total investment of \$1,313,153.00.</p> <p>In the Prevention stream in 2014-15 HSP allocated \$39,775.00 to two projects. Recipients of this project allocated \$41,325.00 (in kind and cash) for a total investment of \$41,325.00</p> <p>AFSAR for 2014-15 in total 44 aquatic projects valued at \$1.5M.</p> <p>SAR Stream: \$1,289,834</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 28 New projects</li> <li>• 7 Previously approved multi-year projects</li> </ul> <p>Prevention Stream: \$261,103</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 New projects</li> </ul> <p>Total: 44 projects \$1,550,937</p> <p>The AFSAR Program contributed \$239,116 through 7 projects in Atlantic Canada (4 in Atlantic region and 3</p>

		in Quebec region) in 2014-15 that identified Atlantic Salmon as a target species.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	FPP teams – Completed  Others in progress.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes, this measure has been effective in achieving better regulatory consistency, and ensuring that the appropriate expertise is included in key regulatory decisions.
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p><u>Enforcement and Standards</u></p> <p>The Fisheries Act was revised in 2012 and now includes a number of provisions that will enable enhanced compliance and protection of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries. A number of provisions enable enhanced protection of these fisheries by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligning the Fisheries Act with the Environmental Enforcement Act (increased fines and penalties for offences);</li> <li>• Creating more easily enforceable conditions for Ministerial authorizations;</li> <li>• Modernizing inspector powers to assist them in ensuring compliance with section 35 (dealing with harm to fish and their habitat); and</li> <li>• Establishing a “duty to notify” provision to establish obligations on persons whose actions result in harm to fish habitat to report and to take corrective measures.</li> </ul> <p>These changes support the action of enforcing the fisheries protection provisions of the Fisheries Act, through activities aimed at both deterring activities that may harm fish and fish habitat, and at compelling compliance with the Act. Enforcement actions will help address the threats to fish and fish habitat listed in section 3.3 (H1).</p> <p>In addition, clear standards and guidelines for routine projects will be set in order to increase protection of commercial, recreation and Aboriginal fisheries.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Enhanced protection of recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fisheries from works, undertakings and activities that represent the greatest threats.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	FPP has identified four pilot guidelines projects. These projects will support the development of performance-based standards in key areas, and provide guidance, in the form of guidelines, on how to achieve the standards. The guidelines are being prepared for



		the following activities: Pipelines watercourse crossings, transportation watercourse crossings, large and medium water intakes, and marine and coastal infrastructure.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	NA
<b>Action H3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>The amended Fisheries Act provides Canada's Minister with the ability to develop regulations in order to enter into agreements with other federal departments, provinces and others for the effective management of fisheries resources, including wild Atlantic salmon habitat.</p> <p>Threat H2 related to the presence of multiple jurisdictions, will be addressed through current and future partnerships.</p> <p>Reporting will be done by various means, including regular reports to Parliament and under the Multi-Agency Wild Atlantic Salmon Habitat Reporting Working Group.</p> <p>As well, jurisdictions within Atlantic Canada continue to work through informal arrangements and under the Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy to increase coordination on all key areas of management for Atlantic salmon.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increased agreements, partnerships and collaboration among jurisdictions in Atlantic Canada.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Inter-jurisdictional discussions and collaborative activities are ongoing - no new agreements have been struck.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	NA

**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.*

<b>Action A1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Implementation and improvement of current sea lice management tools (legislation, regulation, policy, standards, monitoring and reporting on sea lice management) and the development of new tools, where required.</p> <p>A range of tools is possible, including the development of proposed <i>Aquaculture Activities Regulations</i> under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>; the Bay Area Management approach; Integrated Pest Management; complimentary Provincial policies and regulations; monitoring; and aquaculture public reporting, including the use of sea-lice performance indicators.</p> <p>The five-year renewal of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Sustainable Aquaculture Program (SAP) (from 2013 to 2018) was announced in Canada's 2013 Budget. The Aquaculture Sustainability Reporting Initiative was renewed as Aquaculture Public Reporting and is focused on providing timely, accurate, relevant and coherent information within the Department's regulatory framework under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, both on a periodic and ongoing basis, to the public, markets and investors about the regulatory management of the sector as well as its economic and environmental performance.</p> <p>The combined objective of these tools is to ensure that all participants in the management of farmed fish health in general, and sea lice management in particular, throughout the NASCO Commission area in Canada do so in a coordinated manner, using a risk and evidenced based approach, addresses impacts to fish populations that support commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries as well as the habitats that support them.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Improved implementation and coordination of sea lice management through new agreements, regulations and policies.</p> <p>Adoption of new standards, research, improved monitoring and dissemination of information on sea lice management.</p>
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has developed the proposed Aquaculture Activities Regulations (AAR) which are intended to clarify conditions under which aquaculture operators may treat their fish and deposit organic matter under the Fisheries Act. The Regulations would also set conditions for operational activities in order to minimize</p>

		<p>and mitigate serious harm to commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries and the fish that support them and the potential deleterious effects from the deposit of drugs or pesticides, thereby protecting fish and fish habitat and contributing to sector sustainability. In relation to sea lice management, the AAR would include several provisions, including notification and reporting on the use of authorized pest control products and drugs in aquaculture operations. This information, collected through industry reports provided in accordance with the AAR will be made public as part of Aquaculture Public Reporting under SAP. The proposed Regulations are designed to align with policies and regulatory regimes that already exist in provincial and other federal jurisdictions through codification of these measures, while providing further clarification with the addition of AAR-specific conditions. The proposed AAR was published in the Canada Gazette, Part I on August 23, 2014 for a 60 day public comment period. The final AAR is expected to be published in Canada Gazette, Part II in 2015. Other Aquaculture Regulatory Reform activities to improve sector sustainability under the Fisheries Act are ongoing.</p> <p>New Brunswick commenced revisions to the Integrated Pest Management Program for Sea Lice in New Brunswick with the intent to have a revised document completed in 2015. In addition, New Brunswick’s Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries and DFO continue to issue a Performance Measures Report each calendar year. The aquaculture industry continues to provide yearly sea lice management and treatment reports on their websites.</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador adopted a Bay Management Area plan in January 2014 for salmon aquaculture and implementation has begun. A Decision Support System (FishiTrends) was funded in the Province.</p> <p>Nova Scotia has completed a comprehensive, independent review of its aquaculture regulatory framework. The Province is in the process of drafting significant, new legislation to address fish health management (including sea lice management), environmental management, containment management, and licencing and leasing.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	NA

<b>Action A2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Implementation and improvement of current management tools (legislation, regulation, policy, standards and public dissemination of information on the management of farmed fish which have breached containment) and the development of new tools, where required.</p> <p>A range of tools is possible, including the development of legislative authority to enforce requirements; adoption of containment standards; and aquaculture public reporting, including the use of containment performance indicators.</p> <p>The combined objective of these tools is to ensure that all participants in the containment of farmed fish throughout the NASCO Commission area in Canada do so in a manner that minimizes impacts to fish populations that support commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries as well as the habitats that support them.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Improved implementation and coordination of farmed fish containment through new agreements, regulations and policies, adoption of new standards, research, improved monitoring and dissemination of information on farmed fish containment
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>New Brunswick has revised its Governance Framework for Containment and plans to make the necessary regulatory changes in 2016. A Pan-Atlantic approach to containment will be pursued, where possible.</p> <p>The Newfoundland and Labrador Code of Containment continues to be implemented as a condition of the aquaculture license. It was last updated in February 2014.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	NA
<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p><b>Renewal of Canada's National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms</b></p> <p>The objective of this action is to complete the review and update Canada's National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	A renewed Code accounting for changes in federal authority over the management of aquatic animal disease risks and potential refinements.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The renewed National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms was endorsed by the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers in September 2013 and will be implemented to coincide with the full implementation of the National Aquatic

		<p>Animal Health Program (NAAHP) (by DFO and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency).</p> <p>In 2013, science advice was provided, from the Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat, to inform the risk assessment and subsequent risk management decisions regarding requests for importation and use of European-origin Atlantic Salmon broodlines in salmon aquaculture in Newfoundland; (<a href="http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2013/2013_050-eng.html">http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/Publications/SAR-AS/2013/2013_050-eng.html</a>)</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing- National Code and NAAHP
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	NA
<b>Action A4:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p><b>Process to Assess Potential Commercial Production of Transgenics</b></p> <p>Canada plans to continue to rigorously implement and enforce our risk-based legislative and regulatory process for living organism products of biotechnology, including transgenic salmonids.</p> <p>Canada plans to continue to invest in contained, land-based laboratory research involving transgenic fish to generate scientific knowledge to inform risk assessment, risk management and regulatory approaches aimed at protecting the aquatic environment including wild salmon populations.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Government of Canada decision makers have access to scientific knowledge for the risk assessment and regulation of fish products of biotechnology (immediate outcome).</p> <p>Fish products of biotechnology do not harm the environment or wild salmon populations (long-term outcome).</p>
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>In 2013, Canada decided to permit the commercial production of transgenic Atlantic salmon (AquAdvantage® salmon), in contained facilities as prescribed in Section 3 of Significant New Activity Notice 16528, published in Vol. 147, No. 47 of the <i>Canada Gazette, Part I</i> on November 23, 2013 (see <a href="http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d106">http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d106</a>).</p> <p>On February 8, 2014, the decision to grant a waiver for information requirements under subsections 81(9) and</p>

		<p>106(9) of the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i> was published in Vol. 148, No. 6 of the <i>Canada Gazette: Part I</i>. The waiver was for data from a test conducted to determine the pathogenicity, toxicity or invasiveness of the organism, and was requested by AquaBounty Inc., for the AquAdvantage® salmon.</p> <p>The waiver was granted on the grounds that the living organism is to be used for a prescribed purpose, or manufactured at a location, where the person requesting the waiver is able to contain the substance, or living organism, so as to satisfactorily protect the environment and human health (see <a href="http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2014/2014-02-08/html/notice-avis-eng.php">http://gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2014/2014-02-08/html/notice-avis-eng.php</a>).</p> <p>In 2014, there were no known violations of the <i>New Substances Regulations (Organisms)</i> in respect of Atlantic salmon, and there were no known violations of the Significant New Activity Notice 16528.</p> <p>In 2014, there were no regulatory submissions under the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i> for a transgenic salmonid, or any other novel aquatic organism that is a fish product of biotechnology.</p>
	<p>Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):</p>	<p>Canada continues to invest in contained, land-based laboratory research involving transgenic fish, to generate scientific knowledge that informs risk assessment, risk management, and regulatory approaches aimed at protecting the aquatic environment, including wild Atlantic salmon (see <a href="http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/coe-cde/cabrr-crrba/index-eng.asp">http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/coe-cde/cabrr-crrba/index-eng.asp</a>).</p> <p>Canada continues to enforce mandatory control measures implemented under the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i>, and the <i>New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms)</i> as prescribed in the Significant new Activity Notice No. 16528, published in Vol. 147, No. 47 of the <i>Canada Gazette, Part I</i> on November 23, 2013 (see <a href="http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d106">http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d106</a>).</p> <p>Canada continues to inspect all facilities that rear transgenic Atlantic salmon in Canada, and enforce compliance under the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999</i>, and Significant New Activity Notice No. 16528.</p>
	<p>If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?</p>	<p>Canada continues to achieve our objective to protect the environment, including wild Atlantic salmon, from</p>

		potential risks associated with transgenic salmonids, through implementation and enforcement of a strong regulatory program.
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<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.
(See above for detail)
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.
(See above for detail)
4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
NA
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.
Canada met with France (in respect of Saint Pierre and Miquelon) in 2014 and discussed potential membership in NASCO. France is content to be an observer and participate at NASCO annual meetings as it has in the past.
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
<b>North American Commission Members only:</b>
4.6 Details of any new measures to minimise by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member.
None
4.7 Details of any alteration to fishing patterns that result in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party except with the consent of the latter.
None