Agenda item 6.3
For information

Council

CNL(17)23

Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2016

Russian Federation

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Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2016

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 **no later than 24 March 2017**.

Party:	**Russian Federation**
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).*
None
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
None

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.
In 2015 during salmon spawning run a mass mortality of spawners was observed in the Kola river, Murmansk region caused by disease, diagnosed as ulcerative dermal necrosis (UDN) (See APR for 2015). In 2016, continuous spawners mortality caused by this disease was observed in the Kola river again and in the Tuloma River which outlet is located 10 km from the Kola River mouth. Both rivers drain into the inner part of the Kola Bay with brackish water.

In total 219 salmon died in the cage used for holding broodstock nearby the counting fence in the Kola river. The total number of salmon died in the river is unknown however reports from anglers indicated the lower number of sick salmon in the Kola river in comparison with 2015. In 2016 the Murmansk Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish did not make any decision to close or restrict salmon recreational fisheries in the Kola river and in the tributaries of the Tuloma river system for the 2016 season.

The total count of adult salmon in the Lower Tuloma fish ladder in 2016 was 6 678 salmon which was above the Conservation Limit set for this river system (3 380). Of them 400 salmon showed symptoms of sickness similar to the Kola diseased fish. There were some reports of dead salmon found by anglers in the Tuloma river tributaries later in the season. The total number of salmon died in the river system is unknown.

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 2016 (tonnes)	32.3	0.0	23.5	55.8
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2015 (tonnes)	46.3	0.0	33.9	80.2
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2016 (tonnes)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2016.	10793 salmon were caught and released in 2016 which was 70% of the total recreational 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*)	Determine problem areas. Estimate the level of unreported catches. Take further measures to reduce unreported catches.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Reduced level of unreported catches in problem areas.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	In the Republic of Karelia the best-guess estimate of illegal catches in 2016 was 3.0 tonnes, at the same level as in 2015. The estimate was based on local knowledge of fisheries. The level of unreported catches was estimated for some areas and presented in the Annual Progress Report for the Calendar Year

		2014. No other estimates of unreported catches were available for 2016. The Murmansk Regional Commission on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish closed salmon recreational fisheries in some remote fishing sites of the Varzuga River and banned catch-and-take fisheries in some areas in spring period for 2016 season. Recreational and commercial fishing sites were protected by fish guards hired by the fishing sites managers. Protection patrols were carried out using different methods on lakes and rivers by fish inspectors of the Regional Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries. Protection patrols in coastal areas of Barents and White seas were carried out using different methods by fish inspectors of the Border Guard Department of the Russian Federal Security Service.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action F2:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	Develop genetic baseline for Atlantic salmon populations. Characterise the exploited stocks in mixed-stock fisheries. Develop recommendations for management measures for coastal salmon fisheries.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Comprehensive genetic database of Atlantic salmon baseline for management purposes. Stock specific migration model of various salmon stocks migrating along Norwegian and Russian northern coastal areas. Recommendations for management measures for the coastal salmon fishery to minimize mixed-stock fishing.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	The genetic baseline developed in the Kolarctic Salmon project 2011-2013 has allowed for precise identification of wild salmon caught at sea to individual rivers/regions, providing opportunities for more adaptive and informed management of coastal salmon fisheries. The development of the genetic baseline allows for further studies on the marine distribution, migration routes and exploitation of wild

		salmon. The genetic baseline for Atlantic salmon populations has been developed. The findings of the Kolarctic Salmon Project were used for developing recommendations for the Murmansk Regional Commission on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish in 2015-2016. The quota allocations for coastal salmon fisheries in the White Sea were made on the basis of data on salmon stock contributions to the fisheries. In 2016 the Murmansk Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish set "free migration" periods for coastal fisheries in the White sea. In the Russian Federation Atlantic salmon fisheries have been banned by the Fishing Regulations for the Northern Fisheries basin (Order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 414, 30.10.2014) in all areas of the Barents Sea, in the White Sea Throat (a 90 km-wide strait separates Kola Peninsula from Mezen Coast, and connects the White Sea in the south-west with the Barents Sea in the north-east), in the Kandalaksha Gulf of the White Sea and along the Karelian coast of the White Sea to protect salmon migrating to native rivers for spawning. Any fisheries in estuaries for 0.5 km in both sides from river's outlets have been banned. Other seasonal restrictions have been set for coastal fisheries.
	Current Status of Action	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	The Action achieved its objective. Comprehensive genetic database of Atlantic salmon baseline for management purposes was established. Stock specific migration model of various salmon stocks migrating along Norwegian and Russian northern coastal areas was developed. Recommendations for management measures for the coastal salmon fishery to minimize mixed-stock fishing have been developed.
Action F3:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	Develop conservation limits for salmon stocks.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Data on the current status of salmon stocks. Conservation limits for all salmon stocks.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g.*	Conservation limits have been set for salmon stocks in the Murmansk region. Estimates of adult returns to rivers were derived by direct counting at barrier fences and fish ladder (3 stocks) and by mark-recapture

	website links) will not be evaluated.)	method in recreational fisheries (5 stocks). In the Arkhangelsk region and in the Nenets Autonomous Region conservation limits have been set for exploited salmon stocks. In the Republic of Karelia no conservation limits have been established. In 2016 conservation limits for a number of salmon stocks in the Murmansk region were revised.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action F4:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	Develop stricter rules to manage the fisheries conducted by indigenous small nations of the North.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Clearer legislation to manage the fisheries conducted by indigenous small nations of the North.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	The new coastal fishery by Sami communes of the Murmansk region began in 2010 in the White Sea, where it had never been recorded in the past. The fishery continued in the coastal areas of the White Sea in 2011 and 2012. In 2010-2012 the quotas for this fishery were established by the Territorial Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries on the basis of applications from Sami communes which didn't take into account the status of salmon stocks due to unclear legislation. In 2013 new amendments to the procedure rules of the Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish came into force by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 170, 08.04.2013. The amendments allow the Regional Commissions to establish quotas for indigenous people fisheries on the basis of scientific advice only taking into account the status of salmon stocks. New Fishing Regulations for the Northern Fisheries basin came into force in 2014 by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 414, 30.10.2014. There is a clearer legislation to manage the fisheries conducted by indigenous small nations of the North in the new Fishing Regulations. In 2016 salmon quotas were set for Sami communes of the Murmansk region by the Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish. The fisheries took place at fishing sites in coastal waters of the White Sea along the Murmansk region coast and the total catch was 0.3 t.

	Current Status of Action	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	The Action achieved its objective. The legislation to manage the fisheries conducted by indigenous small nations of the North came into force by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 170, 08.04.2013.

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*)	Develop inventories of salmon rivers. Estimate salmon habitat and productive capacity.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Inventories of salmon rivers to provide baseline data on salmon habitat and productive capacity for management in relation to estuarine and freshwater habitat.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	The carrying capacity of some Barents Sea rivers of the Murmansk region was revised in 2016 on the basis of new data from spawning and nursery grounds mapping. The reassessment of the carrying capacity of the White Sea rivers of the Murmansk and Archanglesk regions is underway. The study to estimate salmon habitat and productive capacity in the Republic of Karelia has been planned.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H2:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	Develop and implement detailed habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Detailed habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	The inventory of the Barents Sea rivers has been established and the work on developing the inventory of salmon rivers of the White sea basin of Murmansk and Archangelsk regions is under way. It's planned to compile the work for salmon rivers of the White sea basin of Murmansk region in 2017. General recommendations on habitat restoration were prepared for a number of salmon rivers in the Murmansk region in 2015 and then updated in 2016. No detailed plans have been developed for specific rivers.
	Current Status of Action	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.*		
Action A1:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	Develop and bring in to force the Federal Law "On aquaculture" and related by-laws.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	The Federal Law "On aquaculture" and related by-laws.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	The Federal Law "On aquaculture" No. 148-FZ, 02.07.2013 came into force in 1st January 2014. New amendment to the Federal Law "On aquaculture" came into force in 2016 by the Article 8 of the Federal Law No. 349-FZ, 03.0.2016 regarding anadromous fishes. No by-law regarding management of sea lice in aquaculture has been developed under the Federal Law on aquaculture. However in accordance with the current rules on veterinary control a regional veterinary authority inspects salmon farms quarterly to check salmon for diseases and parasites. Veterinary inspectors check fish for the level of sea lice infestation as well. In case of high level of infestation they recommend approved methods.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action A2:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	Minimise the risk of further spread of *Gyrodactylus salaris.*
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Measures to prevent the introduction or further spread of parasite.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	Parasite *Gyrodactylus Salaris* was found in the Keret River (Karelia, the White Sea basin) in 1992, where it caused considerable damage to salmon stocks. Parasite was introduced into the river through aquaculture activities. There's a risk of further spread of parasite in rivers of the Republic of Karelia and a risk of its introduction to the Murmansk region trough recreational fisheries and trough freshwater aquaculture activities. Veterinary control is applied for aquaculture. New veterinary measures for aquaculture activities in Murmansk region have been under development. Some recreational fisheries companies in Murmansk region started voluntary programmes to prevent the

		spread of *G. salaris* on fishing equipment, tackle, etc. by use of approved disinfection methods. It should be noted that salmon angling is allowed on designated fishing sites only. The regional Barents-Belomorskiy Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation has developed basic recommendations for users of salmon fishing sites.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action A3:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	Control introductions and transfers.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Control movements into a Commission area of reproductively viable non-indigenous anadromous salmonids or their gametes.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	The requirements and rules relating to introduction of aquatic species came into force by the Order of the Federal Agency for Fisheries No. 433, 06.05.2010 in accordance with the Federal Law "On fisheries and conservation of aquatic biological resources" No. 166-FZ, 20.12.2004. The Order requires a comprehensive scientific substantiation for any introduction of aquatic species to take place. No movements into the Commission area of reproductively viable non-indigenous anadromous salmonids or their gametes was planned in 2016.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	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.

New amendments to the Federal Law "On aquaculture" No. 148-FZ, 02.07.2013 came into force in 2016 by the Article 8 of the Federal Law No. 349-FZ, 03.0.2016.

Regarding anadromous fishes the amendment set ownership for ranched fish: <Fish farms that carry out ranching in relation to anadromous fish species acquire ownership of caught ranched fish in accordance with the civil legislation, the contract for the use of an aquaculture site of the state or municipal ownership and the release certificate in accordance with Article 12 of the Federal Law "On aquaculture">.

New amendments to the Federal Law "On fisheries and conservation of aquatic biological resources" No. 166-FZ, 20.12.2004 came into force in 2016 by the Article 1 of the Federal Law No. 349-FZ, 03.0.2016.

Among a number of amendments the amendment regarding anadromous fish clarified the purposes and areas where a fishing site can be designated <The fishing site is allocated for fishing in order to ensure the maintenance of the traditional way of life and the traditional economic activities of the indigenous peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation, as well as for organizing recreational and sport fishing. For commercial fishing, a fishing site is allocated in the inland waters of the Russian Federation, with the exception of inland sea waters of the Russian Federation. For catching of anadromous fish species provided for in Article 29.1 of the Federal Law "On fisheries and conservation of aquatic biological resources" No. 166-FZ, 20.12.2004, a fishing site is allocated in the inland waters of the Russian Federation and in the territorial sea of the Russian Federation>.
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.
4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
No new information.
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 actions taken.
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 actions taken.