



Agenda item 7.1
For information

Council

CNL(18)21

***Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2017***

***Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Faroe Islands***

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Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2017

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 29 March 2018**.

Party:	Denmark
Jurisdiction/Region:	Faroe Islands

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 revisions to the Implementation Plan are planned.
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
No major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management but consistent with the scientific advice no salmon fishery was conducted in the waters around the Faroe Islands in 2017 (see action F1).

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.
The 2016 ICES Advisory Committee Report, CNL(16)9, indicates that PFAs of both maturing 1SW and non-maturing 1SW salmon for Northern NEAC show a general decline over the time period (since 1983), with the decline being more marked in the maturing 1SW stock. Both stock complexes have, however, been at full reproductive capacity prior to the commencement of distant-water fisheries (i.e.

meeting the SER with at least 95% probability) throughout the time-series. PFA of maturing 1SW and of non-maturing 1SW salmon for Southern NEAC demonstrate broadly similar declining trends over the time period (since 1971). Both stock complexes were at full reproductive capacity prior to the commencement of distant-water fisheries throughout the early part of the time-series. However, in around half of the years since the mid-1990s, the non-maturing 1SW stock has been at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity before any fisheries took place. The maturing 1SW stock, on the other hand, was first assessed as being at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity in 2009, and has been at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity or suffering reduced reproductive capacity in around half of the years since then.

There are no new factors in Faroese waters which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks.

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 2017 (tonnes)	0	0	0	0
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2016 (tonnes)	0	0	0	0
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2017 (tonnes)	0	0	0	0
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2017.	0			

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)	The Faroe Islands will continue to manage any salmon fishery through international cooperation and on the basis of the advice from ICES regarding the stocks contributing to the Faroese salmon fishery in a precautionary manner and with a view to sustainability.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	
	Progress on Action to Date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g.	A new multi-annual decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 was adopted at the Thirty-Second (2015) Annual Meeting of NASCO's North-East Atlantic Commission, NEA(15)10. Under this decision Faroese management decisions will be

	<i>website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	made with due consideration to the advice of ICES concerning the biological situation and the status of the stocks contributing to the salmon fishery. The 2016 ICES advice (CNL(16)9) states that in the absence of any fisheries in the fishing seasons 2016/2017 to 2018/2019, there is a less than 95% probability of meeting the conservation limits (CLs) for the two age groups (potential 1-sea-winter (1SW) and multi-sea-winter (MSW) spawners) of the Southern NEAC stock complex. Therefore, in the absence of specific management objectives, ICES advises that there are no mixed-stock fisheries options on the NEAC complexes at the Faroes in the fishing seasons 2016/2017 to 2018/2019. Consistent with the 2016 advice from ICES, no salmon fishery was conducted by the Faroe Islands in 2017 in order to contribute to the conservation and rebuilding of the Atlantic salmon stocks.
	Current Status of Action	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Achieved for 2017

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

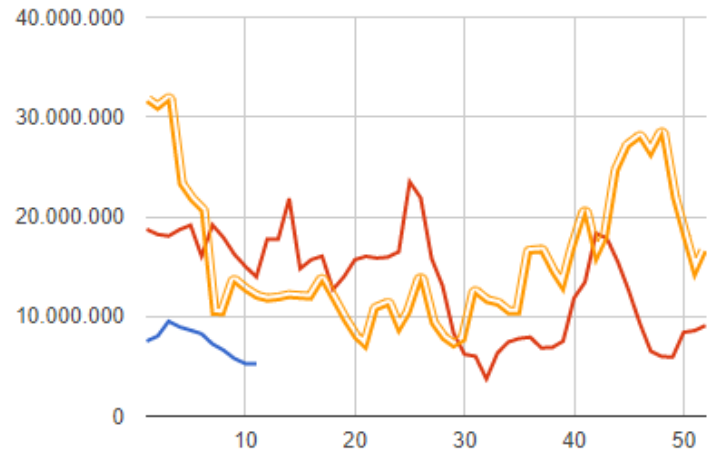
Note: The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.

Action H1:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	
	Current Status of Action	
	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 <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Continue to apply NASCO's 'Williamsburg Resolution' and 'Guidance on Best Management Practices to Address Impacts of Sea Lice and Escaped Farmed Salmon on Wild Salmon Stocks' in
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		order to minimise the risk of impacts from salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Continuing progress in reducing sea lice and escapees
	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.)	<p>There has been a positive development in the number of salmon lice in Faroese aquaculture farms, especially since medio 2017, likely caused by a combination of legislative measures and efforts by industry in collaboration with the scientific community including preventive measures as well as non-therapeutic treatments.</p> <p>Weekly no. of mature female salmon lice, <i>Lepeophtheirus salmonis</i>, in Faroese salmon farms in 2016-18</p>  <p>Blue: 2018 Red: 2017 Yellow: 2016</p> <p>The apparent success has come at a price. The so far available and effective non-therapeutic treatments generally challenge fish welfare, health and survival. In one case, along with stormy weather, mechanical treatment may have been a contributing factor to a case of Infectious Salmon Anemia, ISA. Other stress related symptoms as well as increasing mortality now challenge Faroese aquaculture to remain “Best in Class”, as benchmarked by Norwegian Kontali Analyse. Moreover, infestation of sea lice, <i>Caligus elongatus</i> during summer and fall of 2017 was unprecedentedly severe and persistent.</p> <p>Voluntary coordinated lice treatments were jointly undertaken by the Faroese aquaculture industry in 2013/14 leading to a preliminary decline in the number of sea lice. This was followed by increased immunity and a surge in the number of sea lice and more frequent breaches of the legislative threshold of 2 sexually mature female lice pr. fish. Thus, new approaches were needed, both legislative measures and management options.</p>

Counts of sea lice and annual breaches 2011-2018

Year	Breaches*	No. of inspections
2011	16	183
2012	32	357
2013	23	555
2014	45	469
2015	63	470
2016	67	570
2017	73	560
2018**	5	99

* instances above threshold

** until March 14th

A new sea lice regulation no. 75/2016 entered into force medio 2016:

- obliging farms to implement effective lice control plans,
- lowering threshold from 2-1½ mature female lice/fish,
- permitting treatment on a cage by cage basis,
- demanding fortnightly lice counts (by independent party),
- demanding specification of specie, life stage and size,
- demanding stamping out (slaughter of all animals) to be terminated within 2 months, in case of 3 consecutive breaches of threshold,
- making evaluation and counting anew immediately after each treatment mandatory,
- making scrutiny of the cause of ineffective treatment by an internal or external veterinary consultant mandatory, and
- making reporting to the CVO of ineffective treatment, suspicion of immunity/resistance or other inconsistency with anticipated results mandatory.
- introducing a carrot & stick, “traffic light” type regime; farms with many breaches and/or therapeutic treatments must decrease the number of smolts put to sea, while farms with less infestation/treatments may, ceteris paribus, remain at equilibrium or increase the number put to sea,

Upheld features of the former lice regulation:

The results of mandatory lice counts shall be available no later than the next day and provide reliable information as a basis for veterinary decision-making within the companies and by the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO).

The CVO may order additional or more frequent counting and counting of other species of lice as well as coordinated following of nearby fjords, if considered necessary to impede lice infestations.

Exceptions or postponement may be allowed by the CVO:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if the breach is diminutive and other effective action is likely to lower the infestation; - if coordinated treatment with other farms is imminent; or - in case of imminent slaughter. <p>In the case of ineffective treatment, other agents/treatments are to be used. In the event that these also prove ineffective, the CVO can order other action to be taken, including imminent slaughter or destruction.</p> <p>Since tightening the legislation, imminent slaughter has been demanded in several cases and a number of applications to increase the number of smolts or to maintain the same number have been denied.</p> <p>Further R&D is on-going and under consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - methods for mapping the spatial distribution of sea lice in its pelagic state (Nauplii and Copepodites) and for <i>in situ</i> estimation of naupli production at farm sites, - mapping of lice distribution using hydrodynamic models. Aquaculture companies also develop and test new approaches. - Stocking of lumpfish, <i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i> L. to combat lice. - Several biological control measures are under way or being considered. <p>Containment</p> <p>Related to NASCO’s sphere of concern are occasional events of escapes of farmed salmon. Reporting of escapes to the CVO is mandatory, and farmers are obliged to have a contingency plan in case of escape incidents and to attempt to recapture escapees. As of present, escape incidents are not penalized, which is believed to more likely yield correct figures than if penalized.</p> <p>Escape incidents mostly occur as a consequence of stormy weather or during handling of nets in relation to delousing and transport to slaughter etc.</p> <p>Since mortalities are also reported on a daily basis, both to alert the Veterinary Authorities of possible disease problems and for the companies to manage feeding optimally, escapees can also be indirectly verified through calculation of loss of fish at slaughter. Relatively reliable estimates of escapees are therefore available with some delay or can subsequently be calculated. Farms also report suspected cases due to observed holes in the nets, and subsequently report the calculated number of missing fish at slaughter. From 2011, the following incidents with escape incidents or holes in nets have been reported:</p>
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		<p>2011: 2 incidents, number unknown, average size 1.9 kg. Occurred during delousing treatments and when moving fish into a new net pen.</p> <p>2012: 4 incidents, thereof 2,741 escapees in two incidents, no numbers reported for the 2 other incidents. Average weight 4.8 kg. Occurred when moving fish to slaughter, sorting of fish into two net pens and during storms.</p> <p>2013: 4 incidents, estimated at 25,000 fish averaging 2.8 kg. Occurred during winter storms and when moving fish into a new net pen.</p> <p>2014: 2 incidents estimated at 40,000 averaging 4.8kg. Occurred during storms and when moving fish into a net pen prior to slaughter.</p> <p>2015: 5 suspected incidents reported (net holes), no fish found missing by slaughter.</p> <p>2016: 1 suspicion, no escapees seen or found missing.</p> <p>2017: 3 suspicions, thereof 1 escape incident with 109,515 escapees, average size 1.8 kg, occurred during storm, suspicion of large drifting item having ripped the net open.</p>
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Ongoing

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.

4.2 Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures.

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

4.4 Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not Party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention.

4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.