

**Interim Report of the Implementation Plan /
Annual Progress Report Review Group for the
Review of Implementation Plans under the
Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)
CNL(19)14**



Introduction and Background



- Entering the third cycle of reporting, the Council's intention was to further strengthen the reporting process by:
 - addressing shortcomings in previous IP / APR as in Annex 1 of the New IP Guidelines– CNL(18)49
 - progress toward attainment of NASCO's goals can objectively be assessed over time

Third cycle is a much more stringent process with:

- opportunities to demonstrate commitment to NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines; and
- resources are assigned to actions.



IP Guidelines Emphasize



Overview:

- clearly identify the threats and challenges under each theme area related to NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines;



List extracted from CLN (19)14 ~ interim report

- NASCO Guidelines for Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Atlantic Salmon Habitat*, [CNL\(10\)51](#)
- Williamsburg Resolution*, [CNL\(06\)48](#);
- Guidance on Best Management Practices to address impacts of sea lice and escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon stocks* [\(SLG\(09\)5\)](#)
- Guidelines for Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Decisions under the Precautionary Approach* [\(CNL\(04\)57\)](#); and
- Road Map' to enhance information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of G. salaris and eradicate it if introduced'*, [NEA\(18\)08](#)

List extracted from CLN (19)14 ~ interim report

- Guidelines for Management of Salmon Fisheries* [CNL\(09\)43](#)
- Report of the Working Group on Stock Classification*, [CNL\(16\)11](#);
- Minimum Standard for Catch Statistics*, [CNL\(93\)51](#)
- Revised matrix for the application of the six tenets for effective management of an Atlantic salmon fishery*, WGCST(16)16^[1];
- NASCO Plan of Action for the Application of the Precautionary - Approach to the Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat*, [CNL\(01\)51](#);

IP Guidelines Emphasize



Overview:

- include at least one action on sea lice management for those jurisdictions with salmon farms;
- include at least one action on containment of farmed salmon for those jurisdictions with salmon farms;
- including at least one action on mixed-stock fisheries for those jurisdictions that prosecute mixed-stock fisheries;
- among other things (see Section 2.1 CLN(18)49)



Review Group



Members:

Cathal Gallagher	Europe
Paddy Gargan	SSC
Rory Saunders	North America (Chair)
Lawrence Talks	Europe
Paul Knight	NGO
Steve Sutton	NGO
Vacant	Denmark(FI&G)

Coordinators:

Emma Hatfield
Sarah Robinson

Meeting: 26 – 28 February 2019, London



Review Group Progress



Date / deadline	Responsibility	Action required	Progress
11-Oct-18	Secretary	Initiates the third cycle of reporting through requests to submit new Implementation Plans	
01-Feb-19	Parties / jurisdictions	<u>Deadline</u> for submission of Implementation Plans to Secretary	10 Plans Received
07-Feb-19	Secretary	Distributes Implementation Plans to Review Group	
26 – 28 February 2019	Review Group	Meets and develops its evaluation of the Implementation Plans	19 from 21 Received
15-Mar-19	Secretary	Returns Implementation Plans requiring modification to Parties / jurisdictions with clear guidance on the Review Group's recommendations for improvements	

29th April – 20 from 21 IPs received



Working Methods



IP Evaluations

- Initial assessment by Secretariat to ensure mainly identify significant omissions
- The initial reviewers would:
 - develop the initial assessment of the assigned Implementation Plans lead discussion
 - when needed, develop clear guidance for the Party / jurisdiction on how to improve descriptions of actions (or other components of the Implementation Plan) in consultation with the Review Group at the meeting;
 - lead discussion of that guidance at the meeting; and
 - remain anonymous in the report



Working Methods



IP Evaluations

- **Consistent assessment** by the Review Group was facilitated using a **template** focusing on the three key areas set out in the IP Guidelines to ensure that:
 - answers by each Party / jurisdiction to the questions posed in the IP template are satisfactory;
 - the threats and challenges to the management of wild Atlantic salmon identified under each theme are related to NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines; and
 - each action adheres to the 'SMART' descriptors such that progress over time can be assessed objectively.



Working Methods



Ground Rules

- Jurisdiction whose Implementation Plan was being reviewed would not be present during the initial review of that Plan.
- Following the completion of all the initial evaluations, the Review Group would re-examine these to ensure consistency. List of standard replies and comments developed to support consistency



Working Methods



Assessing SMART Actions

- The Review Group posed the following questions in relation to each action:
- **Specific:** is the specific action the Party / jurisdiction will undertake to **remove or reduce a given threat to wild salmon** both clear and concise and related to the identified threats / challenges?
- **Measurable:** does the expected **outcome** and proposed **monitoring** programme provide a suitable platform via which **progress can be demonstrated clearly?**



Working Methods



Assessing SMART Actions

- Ambitious yet achievable: **will the action protect wild salmon?** Additionally, is it stated clearly that **funding** is in place, or is expected to be in place, to allow implementation of proposed actions / monitoring programmes during the specified period covered by the Implementation Plan?
- Relevant: **what threat or challenge identified in the Implementation Plan will be addressed** by this action and is it accounting for NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines?
- Timely: **under what timescale will progress be delivered** by this action and is it clear that the action will be completed within the third cycle of reporting?



Working Methods



Template focusing on three key areas...

- Key area 1: Are the questions answered satisfactorily?

Assessment area 1. Are the questions posed in the Implementation Plan template answered satisfactorily?

#	Question in IP Template	Initial Assessment (1 or 2)	Draft feedback on any improvements required (for answers assessed as 2)
1.	Introduction		
1.1	What are the objectives for the management of wild salmon?		
1.2	What reference points (e.g. conservation limits, management targets or other measures of abundance) are used to assess the status of stocks?		
1.3	What is the current status of stocks under the new classification system outlined in CNL(16)11?		
1.4	How is stock diversity (e.g. genetics, age composition, run-timing, etc.) taken into account in the management of salmon stocks?		
1.5	To provide a baseline for future comparison, what is the current and potential quantity of salmon habitat?		
1.6	What is the current extent of freshwater and marine salmonid aquaculture? <i>Append one or more maps showing the location of aquaculture facilities and aquaculture free zones in rivers and the sea.</i>		
1.7	Please describe the process used to consult NGOs and other stakeholders and industries in the development of this Implementation Plan.		



Working Methods



Template focusing on three key areas...

- Key area 2: Are the threats and challenges to the management of wild Atlantic salmon identified under each theme related clearly to NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines?

Assessment area 2. Are the threats and challenges to the management of wild Atlantic salmon identified under each theme related clearly to NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines?

2.8 Threats identified to wild salmon and challenges for management associated with their exploitation in fisheries, including bycatch of salmon in fisheries targeting other species	Initial Assessment (yes / no)	Draft feedback on any improvements required
Threat / challenge F1		
Threat / challenge F2		
Threat / challenge F3		
Threat / challenge F4		



Working Methods



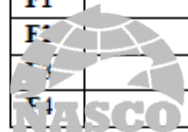
Template focusing on three key areas...

- Key area 3: Does each action adhere to the ‘SMART’ descriptors laid out in the new IP Guidelines document, CNL(18)49?
- Mandatory actions & clearly related threats and challenges?

Assessment area 3. Does each action adhere to the ‘SMART’ descriptors laid out in the new Guidelines document, CNL(18)49?

As a reminder, the ‘SMART’ approach includes reporting on both quantitative and qualitative information. Quantitative information is expected wherever possible and should be presented to demonstrate progress made over the period of the plan towards NASCO’s goals. This should be clear and concise. Where a deviation must be made from a quantitative metric, the reason for the deviation should be explained.

2.9 What SMART actions are planned during the period covered by this Implementation Plan (2019 – 2024) to address each of the threats and challenges identified in section 2.8 to implement NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and demonstrate progress towards achievement of its goals and objectives for the management of salmon fisheries?					
#	Action in IP Template	Is it ‘SMART’? (yes / no)	If ‘no’, which descriptor needs to be reflected more clearly in the action?	If the proposed monitoring is qualitative (as allowed in the Guidelines), is the reason and proposed non-quantitative alternative for monitoring progress acceptable?	If ‘no’, which aspect needs to be reflected more clearly in the action?
F1					
F2					
F3					



Evaluation of IPs



Timeliness of reporting

- High level of engagement with 19 of 21 IPs submitted in time for review by the meeting of the Review Group in February.

Non-reporting and late reporting

- EU – Spain (Bizkaia)
- United States
 - The U.S. had advised the Council of the delay in submitting its IP due to the partial shutdown of the U.S. government in late 2018 and early 2019.
 - IP received on 29 April & Reviewed by video conference on 13th May



Evaluation of IPs



- Many IPs required substantial guidance from the Review Group to be brought in line with the IP Guidelines, often:
 - IP Guidelines had not been followed, especially in relation to the provision of SMART actions.
 - Actions lacked clear descriptions and were combined with the expected outcome.
 - Actions were very long and difficult to interpret. In line with the IP Guidelines, the Review Group considered that SMART actions should be clear and concise.
- The Review Group developed a list of common challenges and solutions.



Evaluation of IPs



- The Review Group did not consider it appropriate to prescribe what it considered to be a clear action for each unclear action presented. Rather, the Review Group developed its guidance for each Party / jurisdiction to refer to each of the SMART descriptors that had not been addressed with the comment that these aspects should be addressed in the revised Implementation Plan in each case.
- A score of '1' (satisfactory) for an answer simply meant that a satisfactory answer had been provided and did not indicate that the Party / jurisdiction was necessarily meeting NASCO guidelines or agreements.
 - A response to a question may be satisfactory if an action had been included in the Implementation Plan to address any major shortcoming.

Development of feedback to the Parties/Jurisdictions



- The Review Group's initial assessments of the 20 IPs were sent to Parties / jurisdictions with clear guidance for improvement (30th April).
- One IP was considered to be acceptable:
 - Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland.
 - All 1's Satisfactory, all threats and challenges relevant, all actions SMART and relevant to threats, all mandatory actions present
- Many IPs required substantial guidance from the Review Group to be brought in line with the IP Guidelines.



Other Business



- Developing feedback to each of the Parties / jurisdictions was considerably more work than anticipated.
- The Review Group was unable to complete the first round of review of all of the Implementation Plans over the three days in London originally envisaged for the task.
- Review Group met 26-28 February 2019 and completed its initial evaluations of 9 of the 20 IPs.
- To complete the remaining work:
 - Inland Fisheries Ireland hosted four video conference calls on 15 March, 22 March, 5 April, and 13 May.

The Review Group met 9 April in London.



Other Business



- Following the meeting in February once it was clear how much longer it would take to provide the initial round of feedback, the Secretary wrote to the Heads of the NASCO Parties to:
 - explain that reporting back to the Parties / jurisdictions after the first round of review would be delayed; and
 - propose a revised schedule for the review of Implementation Plans under the third reporting cycle.



Consequences of the delay



- An initial round of feedback from the Review Group to the Parties / jurisdictions was envisioned in the IP Guidelines.

- Feedback and revision before annual meeting would have been possible

- Parties / jurisdictions were not expecting initial drafts and feedback to be public

- Schedule revisions are required – for decision by Heads of Delegations

Date / deadline	Responsibility	Action required
11 October 2018	Secretary	Initiates the third cycle of reporting through requests to submit new Implementation Plans
1 February 2019	Parties / jurisdictions	<u>Deadline</u> for submission of Implementation Plans to Secretary
7 February 2019	Secretary	Distributes Implementation Plans to Review Group
26 – 28 February 2019	Review Group	Meets and develops its evaluation of the Implementation Plans
15 March 2019	Secretary	Returns Implementation Plans requiring modification to Parties / jurisdictions with clear guidance on the Review Group's recommendations for improvements
1 May 2019	Parties / jurisdictions	<u>Deadline</u> for submission of revised Implementation Plans
May 2019	Review Group	Reviews revised Implementation Plans by correspondence
27 May 2019	Secretary	Emails Review Group's assessments of revised Implementation Plans to NASCO Heads of Delegation
June 2019	Review Group	Presents report to the Council in Special Session

Other Business



6 June 2019	Review Group	Presents report to the Council in Special Session
1 November 2019	Parties / jurisdictions	<u>Deadline</u> for submission of revised Implementation Plans to NASCO
16–21 November 2019	Review Group	Meets and develops its evaluation of the revised Implementation Plans
30 November 2019	Secretary	Uploads accepted Implementation Plans to NASCO website
31 December 2019	Parties / jurisdictions	<u>Deadline</u> for return of modified Implementation Plans to NASCO for inclusion in APR template
1 November 2020 / 2021 / 2022 / 2023	Parties / jurisdictions	<u>Deadline</u> for modified Implementation Plan in the event of circumstances changing significantly
30 November 2020 / 2021 / 2022 / 2023	Secretary	Either: Uploads accepted modified Implementation Plans to NASCO website Or: Returns modified Implementation Plans to Parties / jurisdictions with clear guidance on the Review Group's recommendations for improvements
31 December 2020 / 2021 / 2022 / 2023	Parties / jurisdictions	<u>Deadline</u> for return of modified Implementation Plans to NASCO for inclusion in APR template

Challenge 1: Guidelines were not followed. In particular, many of the actions were not ‘specific’ and ‘measurable.’

Solution 1: Recall that:

- IP Guidelines and IP Template are intended to assist jurisdictions in developing SMART actions.
- IP Guidelines and IP Templates are intended to mesh together.

Common Challenges and Solution



2.8 In light of challenges in attaining the goals set out in the NASCO Guidelines for the Management of Salmon Fisheries, identify the threats to wild salmon and challenges for management associated with their exploitation in fisheries.	
Threat / challenge F1	Relevant
Threat / challenge F2	
Threat / challenge F3	
Threat / challenge F4	

Copy and paste lines to add further challenges which should be labelled F5, F6, etc.

2.9 What measurable (SMART) actions are planned to make progress in the achievement of solutions to each of the above threats and challenges in the five-year period to 2024?		
Action F1:	Specific	
Description of action:		
Planned timescale (include milestones where appropriate:		Timely
Expected outcome:		
Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:		Measurable
Funding secured for both action and monitoring programme?	Ambitious yet achievable	

Choose an item.

Challenge 2: Responses to questions were unclear or incomplete.

Solution 2: The Review Group noted how the answer could be improved in the evaluation form. Further information should be provided to answer the question.

Challenge 3: Responses to questions lacked enough information for the Review Group to consider the response a full and complete answer; the information that was lacking was related to a management need or information gap.

Solution 3: Parties / jurisdictions may consider developing an action to address the issue.

Challenge 4: The actions were not relevant to progressing towards achieving NASCO goals. The main objective of the IPs – and NASCO - is to protect wild Atlantic salmon, but this was not always seen by the Review Group as the main action priority within the plans.

Solution 4: Each actions should be crafted to clearly demonstrate progress towards the achievement of NASCO's goals.

Challenge 5: Actions were not clearly linked to threats and challenges.

Solution 5: Parties / jurisdictions should explicitly link actions to threats and challenges, either by listing the actions in the same order as the threats / challenges or, where there are more actions than threats / challenges by stating specifically which threats / challenges the action is related to.

Common Challenges and Solution



Challenge 6: Actions were not succinct.

Solution 6: Implementation plans should be clear and concise. “Descriptions of Actions” should be succinct .

Challenge 7: Research programs may be described as actions to address threats and challenges that already have a well-known management solution.

Solution 7: Limit actions to specific and measurable activities that will reduce the impacts of the threats and challenges identified.



Hypothetical Action F1:

Implement management measures to reduce fishing mortality to sustainable levels in order to conserve stocks.

Suggested Action F1: *Quantitative*

Reduce fishing mortality in the Salar Region (including the Leaper River, Silver River, and Kelt River) from 10% of returning adult salmon to 5% of returning adult salmon by 2024 by reducing netting effort from 80 net/days to 40 net/days in the Salmo Estuary.

Further Examples



Hypothetical Action F1:

Implement management measures to reduce fishing mortality to sustainable levels in order to conserve stocks.

Suggested Action F1: *Qualitative*

Reduce fishing mortality in the Salar Region (including the Leaper River, Silver River, and Kelt River) from by 2024 by reducing netting effort from 80 net/days to 40 net/days in the Salmo Estuary. NOTE: This action does not lend itself to a strictly quantitative approach to monitoring as specific levels of mortality are currently unknown. Thus, the focus will be on ensuring the risks to productive capacity are minimized by reducing fishing effort. Progress will be reported accordingly.

Further Examples



Hypothetical Action A1:

Between 2019 and 2023, we will continue to regulate lice Emissions from salmon farms

Suggested Action A1:

Between 2019 and 2023, we will work with the industry to reduce sea lice loads on farmed fish such that the maximum level reduces from the present 1 gravid female louse per fish to 0.5 per fish. Lice counts will be undertaken by an independent agency and the results made public within 1 week of each inspection. By 2021, if a farm is found to be in breach of trigger levels on 3 consecutive inspections, it will be a statutory requirement for that farm to harvest all stock within 3 months of the 3rd inspection.

Hypothetical Action A2

Between 2019 and 2023, we will continue to collect data on the numbers of fish escaping from salmon farms

Suggested Action A2

Between 2019 – 23, we will work with the industry to strengthen engineering criteria for cage design such that, by 2023, reported escapes have decreased by 75% from the 2018 level. We will also work with the industry towards the production of sterile salmon on farms so that any escapes will not jeopardise gene pools in wild salmon populations.

Further Examples



Hypothetical Action H3

We will address barriers to migration and enhance salmon habitat.

Suggested Action H3

By 2020, we will identify all critical barriers to salmon migration. By 2024, we will aim to implement measures to improve fish passage at 30 of these critical barriers and enhance over 500km of degraded salmon habitat.

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Thank You



Thank
You

