

## WGCIS(18)08

### **Update on Improvements to Monitoring and Control Measures in the light of the Findings of the Six Tenets Self-assessments from the United Kingdom (England and Wales).**

#### **Update for UK**

There are a number of developments to report in relation to changes implemented since the initial response to the Six Tenets in 2017, as follows\;

**Tenet 2: Effectively limiting catch and / or harvest** - are measures in place to effectively limit catch and/or harvest e.g. harvest restrictions (including quotas), effort restrictions (including gear restrictions, ceiling on the number of licences, seasonal closures) or a combination of both?

- in response to declining stock status, proposals for extensive further controls on exploitation have been developed in both England and Wales in 2017. These include proposals for closure of many net fisheries (or for requirements to release salmon where a fishery is authorised to continue to operate for sea trout) and for requirements to achieve very high levels of catch-and-release in rod fisheries (including mandatory catch-and-release on rivers with the lowest stock status in England and for all rivers in Wales). These proposals have been and, in some cases, continue to be subject to public consultation and new measures will be implemented through appropriate legislative provisions. Final proposals (post -consultation) will be subject to approval by the regulatory bodies and government, but the aim is to introduce the majority of the measures in 2018, with other restrictions following in 2019;
- additional catch limits have been proposed to regulate catches in certain net and rod fisheries in NW England;
- an emergency Byelaw, restricting exploitation, was introduced on the River Camel in SW England to safeguard stocks in light of concerns about sustained low levels of juvenile abundance.

**Tenet 3: Accurate, effective and timely reporting** - is a mandatory system in place to ensure accurate, effective and timely reporting by all participants in the fishery? Are assessments conducted to confirm the accuracy of catch returns? Are these data used to effectively limit catch and/or harvest?

- in response to a recent decrease in levels of reporting by anglers (believed to be linked to a new on-line reporting system), additional reminders have been issued in 2017 (both as letters and emails) to improve reporting rates for the rod fishery. Further improvements have also been made to the on-line reporting site to clarify data entry procedures. Provisional indications suggest an improved level of catch reporting in 2017.

**Tenet 4: Effective communication of management rules** - are measures in place to effectively communicate with all participants in the fishery in a timely fashion? Does the communication process explain clearly to participants in the fishery the policies underpinning

the management rules e.g. licence obligations, sanctions, any in-season management adjustments and fishery closure information?

- fishery assessments are published annually, and proposed management measures are subject to consultation with stakeholder groups. There has been widespread dialogue and formal public consultation in relation to all the proposed new fishery restrictions in England and Wales.

#### **Tenet 6: Scientific fishery sampling**

- over the last 12 months, the Environment Agency in England have secured £450k of additional funding to upgrade and improve the resilience of the salmon counter network. Improvements have included upgrading data storage, cameras, computers and counter infrastructure. Data produced by the counter network is integrated into the annual assessment of stock status and used to inform management decisions.

There are no updates to report for the other two categories covered by the Six Tenets, i.e. Tenet 1: Known pool of participants and Tenet 5: Control and enforcement.

#### **Homewater catches / stock status in 2017 for the United Kingdom (England and Wales)**

##### **Update**

Assessments of stock status have not yet been completed and rod catch data are still being collected and collated. Therefore, the following provides very preliminary observations only:

- provisional net catches of salmon in 2017 were over 50% below the catch in 2016 and among the lowest in the time series;
- rod catch data are not yet available, but provisional indications suggest the catch may be slightly higher than that in 2016 (but remaining among the lowest reported over the time series);
- there has been an increase in the proportion of older multi-sea-winter salmon returning to rivers in E&W in recent years (this is the age cohort of fish that are also taken at Greenland) and this appears to have been maintained in 2017. This has mainly been driven by a decrease in the abundance of returning one-sea-winter salmon. However, there has been an apparent small increase in the abundance of multi-sea-winter fish.