

Agenda item 6.1
For Decision

CNL(09)16

Summary of Annual Reports on Implementation Plans

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Background

1. The Council's Guidelines for the Preparation of Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress, NSTF(06)10, indicate that reports to the Council should be provided in two formats: written annual reports and focus area reports (FARs) presented at Special Sessions and subject to review. A compilation of the fisheries management and habitat FARs is contained in CNL(09)13 (on CD) and the reports of the Fisheries Management and Habitat *Ad Hoc* Review Groups are included in documents CNL(09)11 and CNL(09)12, respectively. The primary purpose of the annual reports is to provide a summary of all the actions that have been taken under Implementation Plans in the previous year including details of any actions in accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention. The information sought is as follows:
 - details of any significant changes to the management outlined in the introduction to the Implementation Plan;
 - a description of any significant changes in the status of stocks and information on catches;
 - a description of any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks;
 - an account of all actions taken under the Implementation Plan;
 - details of any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan.
2. Clearly, the combination of annual reports and FARs places a considerable burden on the Parties and jurisdictions and last year the Council asked that a simple reporting format be developed. This reporting format was agreed through correspondence with Heads of Delegations and was used for the first time in 2009. In order to avoid duplication it was agreed that no information needed to be provided in the annual return on the focus area topic under consideration unless a jurisdiction wished to supplement its FAR or had not submitted a FAR. The FAR topic for 2009 is habitat protection, restoration and enhancement.
3. To date, annual returns have been received from the following Parties and jurisdictions Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) - Greenland, EU - Finland, EU - Ireland, EU - Spain, EU - Sweden, EU - UK(England and Wales), EU - UK(Northern Ireland), EU - UK(Scotland), Iceland, Norway, Russian Federation and USA. These returns are presented separately in individual Council papers.

Changes to management outlined in the Introduction to Implementation Plans

4. The following changes have been notified:

Greenland: It is no longer permitted to sell salmon to hotels, restaurants, institutions, etc any more. Only sale on the open air markets is allowed.

EU - Ireland: The Standing Scientific Committee's advice on the number of stocks where there is an identifiable surplus over the conservation limit and consequently an opportunity for a harvest is presented. In summary, there are 57 stocks where a harvest can proceed in 2009. In addition, there are 13 MSW or spring stocks where a harvest of spring salmon is possible.

EU - UK(England and Wales): The Strategy for the Management of Salmon in England and Wales entitled "Better Sea Trout and Salmon fisheries: our strategy for 2008 – 2021" has been updated. Management planning for salmon is increasingly becoming aligned with the Water Framework Directive.

EU - UK(Northern Ireland): The River Faughan and tributaries in the Foyle catchment were designated as a Special Site of Scientific Interest and a candidate Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive in 2008. Legislation will take effect on 1 June 2009 to transfer the functions of the Fisheries Conservancy Board to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure. The Northern Ireland Environment Agency has replaced the Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of the Environment.

EU – UK(Scotland): The Strategic Framework for Scottish Freshwater Fisheries was published on 4 July 2008. It places emphasis on holistic management aligning it with European Conservation Directives and the Water Framework Directive. It identifies a list of actions under eight main themes aimed at sustainably managed freshwater fish and fishery resources that provide significant economic and social benefits. Actions for salmon are also included in new River Basin Management Plans.

Iceland: The Competent Management Authority has changed from the Food and Veterinary Authority to the Salmonid Management Division of the Directorate of Fisheries.

USA: There are a number of changes in the US that will result in changes to the Implementation Plan although some will only be finalised in 2009. The Implementation Plan will be changed to indicate that a catch and release fishery occurred in the Penobscot River in Spring 2008. The Services have proposed that the three largest river systems in Maine, including the Penobscot, be included in the Gulf of Maine (GOM) Distinct Population Segment (DPS) listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Designation of Critical Habitat under the ESA will also result in changes to the Implementation Plan. A Recovery Framework for the GOM DPS is also being developed to establish clear and common goals and direction among the various management agencies in Maine.

Changes in Stock Status and Catch Statistics

5. The catch statistics and information on unreported catches and on catch and release are presented in Annex 1 using the format previously agreed by the Council.

EU - Ireland: Information in tabular form has been provided which shows estimated returns in 2009, the conservation limit and the stated surplus in rivers where a harvest is possible. For rivers below their conservation limits the % attainment of the CL is shown (catch and release fishery is permitted if 65% of the CL is achieved). Information is also provided for small rivers (<10 fish) and impounded rivers. Finally, a figure showing changes in salmon counts between 2007 and 2008 is shown for a number of rivers.

EU - UK(England and Wales): The annual review of stock status for 2008 shows:

- 13 rivers (20%) were classified as ‘not at risk’ – i.e. had a high probability (> 95%) of meeting the management objective;
- 24 rivers (38%) were classified as ‘probably not at risk’ – i.e. had a probability of 50% to 95% of meeting the management objective;
- 15 rivers (23%) were classified as ‘probably at risk’ – i.e. had a probability of 5% to 50% of meeting the management objective;
- 12 rivers (19%) were classified as ‘at risk’ – i.e. had a very low probability (<5%) of meeting the management objective.

The ‘at risk’ category does not mean stocks are in danger of becoming extinct, but rather that they are falling well short of management objectives.

In 2000, the UK Government set a target of 27 principal salmon rivers in England meeting their Conservation Limits in 2008. The 2008 results show that this has been achieved; 27 rivers in England were at or above their CL. At the same time, a target to “reduce the estimated illegal and unreported catch from 35 to not more than 25 tonnes by 2008” has also been achieved. New targets are now under consideration.

EU - UK(Scotland): Taken over the time series as a whole, the total annual rod catch shows no clear long term trend suggesting stable overall numbers both entering fresh water and escaping to spawn. The increases in the 2004 to 2007 rod catches compared to previous 5-year averages may be taken as evidence of a recent increase in the numbers of fish entering fresh water and, given the record levels of catch and release reported, escaping to spawn. However, the status of stocks on smaller geographical scales (e.g. among or within catchments) may differ both from each other and also from the overall assessments presented above and the long term decline in the total rod catch of spring salmon suggests that the populations associated with this stock component may be particularly weak.

New factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks

6. The following new factors have been reported:

EU - Sweden: A major review of the Implementation Plan started in 2008 and will most likely be completed in 2009. More comprehensive data are being collected in order to estimate the potential production of individual rivers.

EU-UK (England and Wales): The closure of the Irish drift net fishery in 2007 should mean that up to 5,000 more grilse returned to English and Welsh home-waters, representing about a 4% increase overall. However, this increase is too small to detect above the normal annual variation. Rivers in the south and west of England and Wales are expected to have benefited the most.

EU-UK (Northern Ireland): No new factors identified. Survival indices remain within recent temporal trends. Escapement data indicated generally increased adult returns on monitored catchments in 2008 suggesting that recent fishery and habitat management measures are conserving stocks. Comparison of 2008 rod CPUE with the previous 5 year average indicated an increase in 13 of 15 catchments.

EU-UK (Scotland): The closure of 2 major Scottish coastal fisheries in 2007 should mean that up to 2,000 more grilse and salmon will be enabled to return to their natal rivers. This represents an increase of less than 2% which is too small to detect within normal annual variation. Scottish rivers in the North and North-West are likely to be the main beneficiaries of this.

Iceland: Salmon catches resulting from enhancement of rivers with salmon smolts has increased and accounts for 35% of the total catch in 2008.

Norway: Reference is made to a number of concerns about diseases and parasites of salmon including Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS), Pancreas Disease (PD) and Heart and Skeletal Muscle Inflammation (HSMI). There are also concerns about sea lice levels, particularly given evidence of resistance to delousing chemicals. There is also a concern that sea lice may be a carrier and vector of several fish diseases including new pathogens such as microsporidium. Mass mortalities of wild juvenile salmon have occurred in some rivers due to Proliferate Kidney Disease (PKD) which may be associated with increased water temperatures. Heavy infections of red vent syndrome were observed in wild salmon broodstock. Global warming and increasing water temperatures will require increased awareness with regard to fish diseases. Concerns are also raised about exotic diseases becoming established in farmed cod which could pose a threat to salmon.

USA: The 2008 spring fishery authorised by the Maine Department of Marine Resources poses a biological risk to the population in the Penobscot River given that no US rivers are meeting their conservation limits. The Penobscot is suffering reduced reproductive capacity. Once the ESA listing decision is finalised and the associated ESA protections are in place, the Penobscot fishery would only be able to be permitted if it could be demonstrated to be for the benefit of the species.

Management Actions taken under the Implementation Plans

7. As there is a considerable amount of information on the management actions taken it is reported in the returns for each jurisdiction and is not summarised here.

Revisions to Implementation Plans

8. EU-UK (England and Wales): Work on the Environment Agency's Salmon Lifecycle Model is being deferred indefinitely because of priority being given to application of the Water Framework Directive.

EU-UK (Northern Ireland): The programme for the development of further conservation and management targets and catchment management plans 2008 – 2013 will be flexible. A review of the approach was concluded in 2008 and is reported in the Habitat FAR.

EU-UK (Scotland): The need for changes to the Implementation Plan will be based on an evaluation of the impact of the implementation of the priorities for action contained in the Strategic Framework for Scottish Freshwater Fisheries.

Norway: Proposed revisions regarding sea lice include new legislation designed to delay development of resistance in sea lice to chemical treatments and development of a monitoring programme to detect resistant sea lice. Work is ongoing to update some sections of the Implementation Plan.

USA: The likely revisions to the management regime described in paragraph 4 above will likely result in changes being made to the management actions throughout the Plan as necessary and appropriate. Revisions will also be made to reflect the development and implementation of the new salmon recovery framework. Revisions will also likely be made to the section on homewater recreational fisheries and associated management actions during 2009.

Conclusions

9. This is the first year that the annual returns have been submitted using the new format. Feedback from the Parties on this new format would be welcome, in particular whether it is an appropriate basis for the return in 2010.

Secretary
Edinburgh
27 May 2009

Table 1: Official Catch Statistics

	Provisional 2008 Catch (Tonnes)	Provisional 2008 Catch according to Sea Age						Confirmed 2007 Catch (Tonnes)
		1 SW		MSW		Total		
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
Canada	148	52,362	90	11,737	57	64,099	148	112
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)	26							25
Faroe Islands	0							0
Greenland	26							25
European Union	444	-	-	-	-	-	-	453
Iceland	193	-	-	-	-	-	-	127
Norway	807	89,228	170.2	103,151	636.3	192,379	806.5	767
Russian Federation	73	-	-	-	-	-	-	63
USA	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0

Note: The breakdown of the Canadian catch by sea-age is into 'small' and 'large' salmon. Catch data for the Faroe Islands and the EU Member States that have not made an annual return are from the ICES ACOM report.

Table 2: Catches of Atlantic Salmon by the Parties to the NASCO Convention

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	European Union	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
1960	1636	60	2641		100	1576	1100	40	1
1961	1583	127	2276		127	1456	790	27	1
1962	1719	244	3894		125	1838	710	45	1
1963	1861	466	3842		145	1697	480	23	1
1964	2069	1539	4242		135	2040	590	36	1
1965	2116	861	3693		133	1900	590	40	1
1966	2369	1338	3549		110	1823	570	36	1
1967	2863	1600	4492		146	2058	883	25	1
1968	2111	1167	3623		162	1752	827	150	1
1969	2202	2350	4407		133	2083	360	76	1
1970	2323	2354	4069		195	1861	448	52	1
1971	1992	2511	3745		204	1847	417	35	1
1972	1759	2146	4261	32	250	1986	462	38	1
1973	2434	2402	4604	50	156	2126	772	73	3
1974	2539	1945	4432	76	265	1973	709	57	1
1975	2485	2086	4500	76	166	1754	811	56	2
1976	2506	1479	2931	66	225	1530	542	45	1
1977	2545	1652	3025	59	130	1488	497	10	2
1978	1545	1159	3102	37	291	1050	476	10	4
1979	1287	1694	2572	26	225	1831	455	12	3
1980	2680	2052	2640	34	249	1830	664	17	6
1981	2437	2602	2557	44	163	1656	463	26	6
1982	1798	2350	2533	83	147	1348	364	25	6
1983	1424	1433	3532	79	198	1550	507	28	1
1984	1112	997	2308	75	159	1623	593	40	2
1985	1133	1430	3002	49	217	1561	659	45	2
1986	1559	1490	3524	38	330	1597	608	53	2
1987	1784	1539	2593	49	250	1385	559	47	1

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	European Union	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
1988	1311	1136	2833	34	412	1076	419	40	1
1989	1139	701	2450	52	277	905	359	29	2
1990	912	542	1645	59	426	930	316	33	2
1991	711	533	1139	69	505	877	215	38	1
1992	520	260	1506	77	636	867	166	49	1
1993	373	35	1483	70	656	923	140	56	1
1994	355	18	1919	48	448	996	141	44	0
1995	259	86	1852	-	439	839	130	-	0
1996	290	92	1474	-	358	787	131	-	0
1997	229	59	1179	-	154	630	111	-	0
1998	157	17	1183	-	164	740	130	-	0
1999	152	19	1016	-	147	811	102	-	0
2000	153	29	1336	-	85	1176	124	-	0
2001	148	42	1407	-	88	1267	114	-	0
2002	148	9	1245	-	97	1019	118	-	0
2003	141	9	1012	-	110	1071	107	-	0
2004	161	15	978	-	130	784	82	-	0
2005	139	14	884	-	149	888	82	-	0
2006	132	23	703	-	114	931	91	-	0
2007	112	25	453	-	127	767	63	-	0
2008	148	26	444	-	193	807	73	-	0

1. The European Union catch from 1995 includes the catches by Finland and Sweden.
2. The catch for Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) includes the catch for Greenland when it was a member of the European Union and the catches up to 1983 by Denmark.
3. Figures from 1986 are the official catch returns to NASCO. Figures to 1986 are based on data contained in the ICES Working Group Reports. For 2007 and 2008 the catch data for Faroe Islands and the EU Member States that did not make a return to NASCO are from the ACOM report.

Catch and release

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Canada	62,106	58,961	54,425	51,442	57,005	45,886	49,279	42,820	58,000
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Union	27,346	33,504	32,984	34,968	55,064	60,145	62,812	82,977	81,301
Iceland	2,918	3,607	5,576	5,357	7,294	9,150	8,261	6,175	15,400
Norway	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,512
Russian Federation	12,624	16,410	25,248	33,862	24,679	23,592	33,380	44,341	41,881
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	424	-	61
Total	104,994	112,482	118,233	125,629	144,042	138,773	154,156	176,313	202,155

Notes: No data available for the Faroe Islands or the EU Member States that did not make a return.
 Reporting procedures for caught and released salmon will be introduced in EU - Sweden in 2009.
 Reporting procedures for caught and released salmon were introduced in Norway in 2008 but the numbers are uncertain.
 The catch and release figure for EU - UK(Northern Ireland) is for the FCB area only.

Unreported catches

Year	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Canada	133	124	81	84	118	101	101	56	-	21
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	10-15	10	10	11	10	11	11	11	12	10
European Union	215	240	169	165	125	116	114	95	72	54
Iceland	2	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	17
Norway	320-540	440-760	500-860	410-690	320-600	252-420	285- 475	299- 499	247 - 411	260 - 432
Russian Federation	237-255	249-309	200-252	166-206	99-152	110	70-103	70-103	25 - 77	-
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	917-1,160	1,065-1,445	962-1,374	838-1,158	674-1,007	593-761	584-807	534-767	360 - 576	362 - 534

Note: No data available for the Faroe Islands or the EU Member States that did not make a return. The figure for Canada is based on unreported catches of 17 tonnes for Quebec and 3.2 tonnes for Gulf/Maritimes Region. In addition, 257 salmon were observed from illegal activities in Newfoundland and Labrador.