Agenda Item 6.1
For Information

Council

CNL(09)24

Annual Report on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans

USA

Annual Report on actions taken under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2008

The Guidelines for the preparation of 'Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress', NSTF(06)10 (copy attached) indicate that the primary purpose of the annual reports is to provide a summary of all the actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year. In addition, details of any significant changes to the status of stocks, new factors affecting stocks, any changes to the management regime in place, and any changes to the Implementation Plan should be included in the report. Details of actions taken in accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention are also needed by the Council. **Please provide the following information to the Secretariat by 22 April 2009**

Section 1: Details of any significant changes to the management outlined in the introduction to the Implementation Plan.

There are a number of changes in the U.S. that affect the management of salmon and activities that affect salmon. Some of these changes are not final, however, so they do not warrant changes to the U.S. IP at this time. They are briefly described below and will result in change to the IP when they are finalized in 2009.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (collectively referred to as the Services) have undertaken a review of additional populations in larger river systems in Maine to determine their relationship to those populations already listed under the Endangered Species Act and to determine whether they also warrant protection. On September 3, 2008, the Services jointly proposed that the Gulf of Maine (GOM) distinct population segment (DPS) of Atlantic salmon be listed as an endangered species under the ESA. This proposal essentially adds the 3 largest river systems in Maine to the GOM DPS as it was previously defined and listed in 2000. The Penobscot River is perhaps the most notable of the large rivers proposed for listing given that it has had higher returns in recent years than all of the other rivers in the DPS combined. Public comments were solicited on this proposal and the proposal was peer reviewed. The Services are in the process of making any necessary changes to the listing rule in preparation for finalization. A final rule is expected to publish by the end of April. Any changes to the listing status of the GOM DPS will change the management regime outlined in the Implementation Plan.

The ESA also requires that the Services designate Critical Habitat for all species listed as endangered or threatened. NMFS proposed to designate critical habitat which includes describing the habitat features essential to the conservation of the species, identifying those activities that likely affect the identified habitat features, and conducting an economic analysis. Critical habitat designation will also change the management regime outlined in the Implementation Plan.

The Services in cooperation with the Maine Department of Marine Resources and Penobscot Indian Nation are developing a recovery framework for the GOM DPS of Atlantic salmon. The intent of the framework is to establish clear and common goals and direction among the state, federal, and tribal agencies charged with salmon management in Maine. Operating from a common set of goals and agreed upon direction will allow the Services, State, and Penobscot Nation to track overall progress towards Atlantic salmon recovery. Finalization and implementation of a new Atlantic salmon recovery framework is not yet complete, however, necessary changes will be made to the IP to more accurately reflect the existing management structure.

Lastly, the Maine Department of Marine Resources implemented a catch and release recreational fishery on the Penobscot River, Maine in the spring of 2008. This fishery was not authorized at the time the IP was written, thus it was not included in the management regime description. Changes will be made to the IP to reflect that this fishery occurred in the spring of 2008. This fishery was discussed further in the US Fisheries Focus Area Report.

Section 2: A description of any significant changes in the status of stocks and information on catches. The Council has asked that the following information on catches be provided:

- **(a) the provisional catch of salmon in tonnes for 2008;**
- **(b) the confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2007;**
- **(c) an estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2008;**
- **(d) the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2008.**

(a-c) Provisional, Confirmed, and Unreported Catch

There have been no significant changes to the status of stocks as described in the US Implementation Plan. Vessel and dealer landings as well as the observer data base were queried to confirm any landing of Atlantic salmon for 2008. According to the vessel landings data, the provisional catch of salmon for 2008 was zero and the confirmed catch of Atlantic salmon for 2007 was zero. Unreported catch for 2008 was also zero. However, the dealer database shows that during 2008, 44 and 70 pounds of Atlantic salmon were landed during the months of January and April respectively. While this small amount is effectively considered 0 metric tonnes for NASCO reporting purposes, it is interesting to note. The gear type is unknown and the origin of the dealer reports is New York. No Atlantic salmon was reported by observers on commercial fishing vessels since 2005.

(d) Catch and Release Fisheries

Except for a one-month spring recreational catch and release fishery on the Penobscot River, Maine in 2008, commercial and recreational fisheries for sea-run Atlantic salmon are closed in USA waters (including coastal waters). A total of 177 licenses were

sold, with about one third of the anglers complying with reporting requirements. The Penobscot fishery had an estimated 790 angler trips of effort. The 61 Atlantic salmon captured and released exceeded the quota of 50 salmon set for the fishery. Anglers had the opportunity to fish over at least 600 Atlantic salmon based on the catch of salmon at the Veazie trap. A fishery in the main stem of the Merrimack River and small reach of the Pemigewasset River was supported by the release of 2,372 broodstock in 2008.

There is also a limited recreational fishery for post-spawned domestic broodstock in the Shetucket and Naugatuck rivers in the state of Connecticut. These former salmon rivers are not targeted for restoration. Each river receives about 600 fish each autumn. Catch-and-release is practiced voluntarily, but there are no data regarding how many salmon are caught, released, or kept annually.

Section 3: A description of any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks.

The 2008 spring fishery authorized by the MDMR poses a biological risk to the population in the Penobscot given that no US rivers are meeting their conservation limits. The Penobscot is suffering reduced reproductive capacity. Once the ESA listing decision is finalized and the associated ESA protections are in effect, the Penobscot fishery would only be able to be permitted if it could be demonstrated to be for the benefit of the species.

Section 4: An account of all actions taken under the Implementation Plan with regard to the management of salmon fisheries; measures to minimise impacts of aquaculture and related factors; other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including the marine environment).

Management Action	Reporting Update	Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed)
Fisheries Management		
4.1.1.1 Participate in the annual meeting of the WGC to negotiate a quota based on the scientific advice from NASCO (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011).	The US participated in the WGC and negotiations to continue the 2006 multi-annual management measure for the 2008 fishing season.	**Yes**
4.1.1.2 Reach a multi-annual regulatory measure for the West Greenland Fishery (2007	Continuation of the 2006 multi-annual regulatory measure through 2008 depended on the outcome of the FWI. Application of the FWI in	**Yes**

and 2009)	2008 confirmed no significant change to the previous management advice and accordingly the multi-annual management measure was continued for the 2008 fishing season.	
4.1.1.3 Participate in annual sampling of the fishery off West Greenland (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011).	The US helped negotiate a new sampling agreement and continued to serve as the coordinator for the sampling program.	**Yes**
4.1.1.4 Facilitate a continent of origin analysis on salmon sampled off West Greenland to determine composition of the mixed stock affected by the fishery (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011).	The biological samples collected as part of the joint sampling program have been analyzed for continent of origin in order to determine the composition of the mixed stock complex.	**Yes**
4.1.1.5 Collaborate with Canada and France to implement sampling of the salmon fishery off St. Pierre et Miquelon and to conduct continent of origin analysis on the sampled fish (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011).	There was minimal progress on the development of a comprehensive sampling program for SPM. The US continues to collaborate with the Secretariat and Canada on the potential development of the sampling program.	**Ongoing**
4.1.1.6 Request a report on the Trust Fund established under the Conservation Agreement in Greenland (2007)	The US maintains an interest in the results of the Trust Fund established under the Conservation Agreement between KNAPK and NASF. The US received an updated report on the Trust Fund Agreement during 2007.	**Completed**
4.1.2.1 Work with the Maine Department of Marine Resources Bureau of Searun Fisheries and Habitat (MDMR BSRFH) to monitor the Penobscot fishery in order to ensure that the assumptions of the risk assessment are met and that the fishery does not have a significant impact on Atlantic salmon in the Penobscot River (2007)	In 2005 the MDMR led an ad hoc work group that produced a probabilistic estimate of the number of salmon killed as a result of hook and release fishing on the Penobscot River from 1996 to 1999 and produced simulations used to consider options for a limited catch and release fishery. The ad hoc work group reviewed a number of simulations and concluded that a spring and/or summer recreational fishery would result in catch and release mortality risks that had the potential to reduce the spawning population in the Penobscot and thus pose an unacceptable biological risk to the spawning population. Despite this recommendation, the MDMR approved a spring fishery for 2008. A total of 177 licenses were sold, with about one third of the anglers complying with reporting requirements. The fishery had an estimated 790 angler trips of effort. The 61 Atlantic salmon captured and released exceeded the quota of 50 salmon set for the fishery. Anglers had the opportunity to fish over at least 600 Atlantic salmon	**Completed**

	based on the catch of salmon at the Veazie trap.(see additional detail in 2008 US Fisheries FAR)	
4.1.3.1 Review commercial fisheries log books and observer database for any records of Atlantic salmon (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011).	The US reviews dealer and vessel landings as well as observer reports annually for any records of Atlantic salmon. As described in *Section 2* of this report, two dealers reported landings of Atlantic salmon. There were no reports of Atlantic salmon in either the vessel landings data or observer reports.	**Yes**
4.1.3.2 Review of activities conducted and authorized by Maine IFW to determine potential of incidental take of Atlantic salmon and evaluate the effect of any potential take on recovery (2007 and 2008).	US federal and state agencies review activities conducted by Maine IFW to determine the potential for take. During 2008 the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) reported all documented incidental take of Atlantic salmon that occurred during the completion of the NRCS-funded MDIFW brook trout population assessment study. The USFWS issued a biological opinion evaluating the potential adverse effects of the study on salmon and measures that Maine IFW must implement to minimize take. Federal and State agencies also work together to implement enforcement measures to prevent poaching. There is no evidence that Atlantic salmon are being illegally targeted and sold for local consumption. There have been reports of potential poaching in the rivers in Maine, however, it is infrequent and in some cases it could not be confirmed by law enforcement and therefore never prosecuted. When such reports are made, law enforcement personnel increase their presence on the river.	**Yes**
4.1.3.3 Work with Maine IFW to identify changes in regulations and practices that could avoid or minimize the take of endangered Atlantic salmon (2007 and 2008)	In an attempt to address bycatch issues in recreational fisheries in Maine, federal and state salmon management agencies meet with inland fishery biologists to review any changes in inland fishery regulations and stocking plans within the GOM DPS. In the past, the MDMR BSRFH has been able to work with Maine IFW to promulgate regulations to provide protection for salmon from recreational fisheries in targeted locations where captures have been reported. For example, in 2007, in response to a Maine District Game Warden concern of incidental capture of adult sea-	**Yes**

	run Atlantic salmon in the Penobscot River in the towns of Medway and Mattawamkeag, new regulations were implemented in 2008. The new regulations for this area include a 25" length maximum on landlocked salmon, which should provide protection to multi-sea winter salmon, as well as a closure of all fishing 150' below the Medway Dam on the West Branch Penobscot River. Adult salmon (new sea run and kelts) tend to hold in the tailrace below the Medway Dam during spring and summer.	
4.1.3.4 Work with all state agencies to monitor incidental recreational catches and ensure that hooked salmon are released in an appropriate manner (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011)	Reports of incidental catch usually come from State and Federal agency law enforcement or field biologists, concerned citizens, anglers, or groups (salmon clubs, watershed councils, and coalitions). More recently, monitoring of angling and conservation web-site chat rooms have proven to be a useful means of documenting illegal adult salmon capture and identify areas where salmon seem to be more susceptible to incidental catch. (for additional detail see 2008 US Fisheries FAR)	**Yes**
Measures to minimize the impact of Aquaculture and other related factors		
4.3.1 Conduct annual audits of containment management systems (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011)	Audits of containment management systems are conducted annually by MER Assessment Corporation.	**Yes**
4.3.2 Review results of genetic analysis to ensure compliance with permit condition that all smolts must be of North American origin (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011).	The USFWS annually certifies that all broodstock being used to produce juveniles for stocking in Maine waters are of North American origin. Genetic and disease screening is also conducted by the USFWS at their Northeast Fishery Center and Fish Health Lab.	**Yes**
4.3.3 Review marking plans to ensure compliance with permit conditions (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011).	The marking plan for 2008 identified different genetic groups being distributed throughout the five active marine sites in Maine currently managed by Cooke Aquaculture. A review of the annual marking plan submitted by Cooke Aquaculture was conducted by the Services and was approved prior to spring stocking.	**Yes**
4.3.4 Prepare and implement mitigation plan in response to large losses from Canadian marine cages in the summer and fall of 2005 (2007).	The US worked on a river by river basis to remove suspected aquaculture escapees as they appeared in the GOM DPS. In accordance with fish health protocols, samples for viral assay were taken from all escapees captured in the Dennys River (8 farmed origin	**Completed**

	escapees), and aquaculture origin fish captured in other rivers (i.e., 83 farmed origin escapes from the Magaguadavic and St. Croix rivers) in the fall of 2005. These samples were screened for fish health and were found to be free of pathogens (viral and bacterial). A pedigree line was established for the Dennys River broodstock to compensate for potentially high contribution of aquaculture origin parr in the broodstock collection, and to ensure the long-term maintenance of genetic diversity in the Dennys River broodstock.	
4.3.5 Install and operate weirs and traps on selected rivers to intercept aquaculture escapees and conduct genetic and fish health assessments of any captured escapees (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011).	During 2008, 1 weir was in operation on the Dennys river and a total of 10 traps were operated on selected salmon rivers. No salmon of aquaculture origin were intercepted at these traps or the Dennys weir.	**Yes**
4.3.6 Establish communication procedure with Canada for rapid notification of any reported escapees (2007 and 2008).	There is general consistency between the approach in the US and that in Canada in developing codes of conduct/containment, making them mandatory, and requiring notification of escapes. There are some differences in emphasis with the US including more auditing and inventory tracking/control and the inclusion in Canada of recapture. However, both countries agreed that within country notification must be made mandatory for escapes/breaches of containment and such notification should trigger a call between the Province and the State of Maine and between DFO and NMFS. During 2008, Canada and the US jointly developed notification procedures when there is an escape event. The joint document outlining notification procedures is still undergoing revisions by both Parties and is going to be discussed further at the intercessional NAC meeting at the end of April 2009.	**Ongoing**
4.3.7 Annually review audit results, loss reports, data on permit compliance, and data on escapees detected in rivers to determine if limits have been exceeded and if consultation needs to be reinitiated (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011)	Audit results, loss reports, data on permit compliance, and data on escapees detected in rivers is reviewed annually by an Atlantic salmon ESA section 7 biologist to determine if limits have been exceeded and whether consultation needs to be reinitiated. Producers reported no escapes of aquaculture fish in 2008. There were no reports of escaped farmed salmon and none were documented in salmon rivers within the GOM DPS in 2008.	**Yes**
4.4.1 Review and update as necessary plans to manage broodstock to protect genetic integrity of restoration populations. (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011)	The Broodstock Management Plan was developed for conservation hatchery programs and implemented to facilitate recovery of the GOM DPS. It is updated as necessary on an annual basis.	**Yes**

4.4.2 Review and update as necessary stocking plans for each restoration river system to ensure compliance with the NASCO guidelines contained in the Williamsburg Resolution. (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011)	The US specifically has developed and is implementing stock rebuilding programs for many US rivers. Stocking programs for US rivers are consistent with Guidelines for Stocking Atlantic Salmon contained in Annex 4 of the Williamsburg Resolution and are also consistent with NASCO Guidelines on the Use of Stock Rebuilding Programs in the Context of the Precautionary Management of Salmon Stocks. Plans also describe stock decline, threats, and management actions to address these issues. These plans are updated and revised on an annual basis as necessary.	**Yes**
4.4.3 Develop white paper proposing approaches for stocking in the DPS in order to optimize riverine production of hatchery fish and information gained on techniques and stock suitability (2007 and 2008).	In 2006 the Maine Atlantic Salmon Technical Advisory Committee's Ad Hoc Stocking and Re-introduction Work Group completed a white paper proposing approaches for stocking within the GOM DPS. The official charge to the Ad Hoc group was to develop a white paper that addresses stocking in order to optimize riverine production of hatchery fish and information gained on techniques and stock suitability. The paper was completed and specifically provides an overview of a) a common glossary to technical terms, b) a synopsis of stocks available for stocking, c) clear hierarchically organized geographic management units, d) principles and protocols for assessing presence and absence of salmon, and e) a blueprint that balances risks and benefits of alternative strategies (including natural recolonization) and identifies best available stocks for potential reintroductions.	**Completed**
4.4.4 Conduct independent peer review of conservation hatchery program as a recovery tool for the GOM DPS (2007 and 2008).	In 2006 the MDMR, USFWS, and NMFS contracted Sustainable Ecosystems Institute (SEI) (http://www.sei.org/) to conduct an independent program review to determine if current hatchery operations, protocols, and practices are scientifically sound, have potential to further recovery, and are integrated with population assessment and evaluation programs. One of the main questions posed during this review was: Is there integrated adaptive management of Atlantic salmon in Maine? A team of six scientists was convened to review the Maine program. The report was provided to the Services and MDMR BSRFH in May 2007. In response to this review, the three agencies are developing a new governance structure for the Maine Atlantic salmon program. The new governance structure addresses needs highlighted by SEI such as (1) the hatchery program should be more fully integrated with the recovery program; (2) the agencies should develop a conceptual framework for recovery; and (3) this framework should guide all recovery efforts. Action Teams related to estuarine, marine, and freshwater survival and production, conservation hatcheries, managing genetic diversity, population	**Completed**

	assessment, and outreach are the key component of the new Atlantic salmon program. Action Teams are still in the process of identifying the highest priority research and management actions to recover the GOM DPS of Atlantic salmon. The finalization and implementation of a new Atlantic salmon recovery framework is not yet complete.	
Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		
4.5.1 Prepare literature review of species diversity and abundance in Atlantic salmon watersheds (2007).		**Completed**
4.5.2 Prepare review of linkages between Atlantic salmon and other species in order to better understand the relationships and prioritize actions for recovery (2007 and 2008).	Recovery of the GOM DPS of Atlantic salmon is dependent upon recovery of the ecosystems that salmon depend on for survival. Therefore, in order to truly recover salmon we must restore proper ecosystem function in Maine rivers. Historical assemblages of species present in salmon rivers and estuaries and the potential linkages to between these species and salmon were evaluated and published. The following four key linkages between Atlantic salmon and other diadromous fish communities were identified: 1) providing alternative prey for predators of salmon; 2) serving as prey for juvenile and adult salmon; 3) nutrient cycling; and 4) habitat conditioning. This paper (Saunders, R, Hachey, M.A. and C.W. Fay. 2006. Maine's Diadromous Fish Community: Past, Present, and Implications for Atlantic Salmon Recovery. Fisheries 31 (11): 537-547.) suggests that restoration of the native populations of diadromous fishes may be required for successful salmon recovery.	**Completed**
4.5.3 Implement the Penobscot River Restoration Project (PRRP; 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011)	Perhaps the most significant of recent fish passage agreements is the PRRP. The Penobscot River Restoration Trust was formed in 2004 as part of a multi-party settlement agreement with dam owner PPL (Pennsylvania Power and Light) and the FERC. The settlement, which was signed by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureaus of Fish and Wildlife and Indian Affairs, the National Park Service, the State of Maine, the Penobscot Indian Nation and several non-governmental organizations, details conditions for dam removal, fish passage, and operational changes at eight hydroelectric projects on the lower Penobscot. The Penobscot Trust has a 3-5 year option period during which time the dams must be purchased. The Penobscot Trust and partners reached significant milestones in late 2007 by raising the $25 million needed to purchase the Veazie, Great Works and Howland	**Ongoing**

	Dams. NOAA's budget for the 2008 fiscal year contained $10M to support the PRRP. The Penobscot Trust continues to work with partners to raise the subsequent funding to implement the removals, alterations, mitigation and economic development elements of the project (approximately $30 million). Permitting and regulatory requirements are also uncertain at this stage because they are contingent upon the ability of the parties to raise the full amount of funds necessary, FERC approval of the Trust's permit to surrender the dams, and completion of required environmental review.	
4.5.4 Prepare and implement restoration plan for the Penobscot River's diadromous fish populations in conjunction with PRRP (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011)	In anticipation of the restoration potential of the Penobscot River Restoration Project, MDMR BSRFH in conjunction with Maine IFW have completed a draft strategic management plan for diadromous fish in the Penobscot. This plan includes four strategic goals: (1) coordinating management activities, (2)providing safe and effective upstream and downstream passage for diadromous fishes,(3) maintaining or improving abiotic (physical) and biotic habitat for diadromous fishes using ecosystem-based management, and (4) rebuilding diadromous fish populations. NMFS has provided comments on drafts of this plan and in 2007 and 2008.	**Ongoing**
4.5.5 Implement rigorous, pre-approval monitoring of the PRRP to evaluate the effects of dam removal and concomitant changes in ecological function (e.g., predatory-prey dynamics) following implementation (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011)	In March 2008, the Penobscot Interagency Technical Committee (PNITC) was formed to develop operational management plans for diadromous fish within the basin. Members of the PNITC include managers and scientists from federal, state, and tribal agencies. The PNITC has been tasked with developing one set of restoration goals and priorities for the basin. To help facilitate this goal, NMFS has begun developing an ecologically-based GIS tool to help set goals and to help identify and prioritize various restoration efforts. The outputs of this tool will help to ensure that achievable goals are established, and that funding and restoration efforts are applied in the most appropriate manner. The PNITC, in conjunction with NMFS, are making strides towards defining the scope of restoration efforts and operational plans for diadromous species including Atlantic salmon.	**Ongoing**
4.5.6 Submit Status Review for Peer Review and determine if additional action under the ESA is warranted (2007 and 2008).	The Status Review underwent peer review in 2006 by the Center for Independent Experts (CIE). The Services considered the information presented in the 2006 Status Review, the comments from the peer reviewers, and the response of the BRT to the peer reviewers to	**Ongoing**

	determine if action under the ESA is warranted. On September 3, 2008, the Services proposed that the expanded GOM DPS of Atlantic salmon be listed as endangered under the ESA. The Services are in the process modifying the rule based upon peer review and public comments. A final listing rule should be complete by the end of April 2009. The proposed endangered listing of the expanded GOM DPS is significant because it includes three of the largest salmon rivers in Maine. One of which is the Penobscot, which historically was one of the most productive salmon rivers in Maine and still has the greatest number of returns.	
4.5.7 In watersheds in which comprehensive diadromous fish restoration has already begun, continue to provide fish passage for American shad, alewife, blueback herring, sea lamprey, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, American eel, and other diadromous species, as appropriate as well as other support activities such as habitat improvement and stock transplantation. (2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011)	There are number of ongoing efforts throughout New England to improve passage for American shad, alewife, blueback herring, sea lamprey, shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, American eel, and other diadromous species through the development of settlement agreements with hydroelectric companies, collaboration with other federal and state agencies, and coordination at the local community level as well. (see 2009 Habitat FAR for additional detail).	**Ongoing**
4.5.8 Complete analysis of experimental use of non-lethal harassment of comorants to determine effectiveness in increasing smolt outmigration success on the Narraguagus River (2008)	Cormorant harassment activities concluded in 2005 and analysis is being performed to determine what effect was observed as a result. Ultrasonic telemetry data collected during the harassment period is used to determine success of the project. Preliminary results suggest that emigrating smolts pass through the fresh water with a high rate of success. However, once fish enter the estuary, mortality increases, specifically during daylight hours. Detailed analysis and development of peer-reviewed manuscripts are ongoing.	**Ongoing**
4.5.9 Work with Canada and other partners to develop plan for SALSEA Greenland and SALSEA North America (2008).	Scientists in Canada and the US coordinated on the development of research plan that included a marine research survey that was conducted in August of 2008. The vessel used was a DFO Canada research vessel in cooperation with NOAA Fisheries Atlantic Salmon Research and Conservation Task. The US SALSEA NA contributions include: co-investigator for the survey; 3 staff for the 3 week cruise; funding for expanded in-river tagging efforts; funding and support for trawl survey equipment purchases and gear upgrades; facilitated and	**Ongoing**

	funded processing of all plankton samples; facilitated and funded processing for all genetic samples; and served as the lead investigator and provided funding for stomach content analysis. For SALSEA WG, the US serves as the primary coordinator and lead for this program. To date the US SALSEA WG contributions include: serve as principle investigator/ coordinator; provided all sampling equipment and cover all shipping/ transportation fees; provided funding for seasonal contract employee in Greenland to assist with project implementation; provided funding for purchase of fish; provided 2 staff for 2 week sampling trips; facilitated and funded the processing of all genetic samples; and served as lead investigator and funded stomach content analysis.	

Section 5: Details of any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan.

Revisions will be made to the introduction of the Implementation Plan that describes the management regime once the listing determination is finalized for the GOM DPS and associated critical habitat designation. This likely revision to the management regime will also likely result in changes being made to the management actions throughout the Plan as necessary and appropriate. Revisions will also be made to the IP 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.

Notes on completing the Annual Report on actions taken under Implementation Plans

Section 2:

The weight of catch should be in tonnes "round fresh weight" (i.e. weight of whole, ungutted, unfrozen fish) or round fresh weight equivalent. If available the numbers and weight of salmon caught according to sea-age may also be presented.

"Provisional" means the latest available data (which may be subject to revisions) for 2008. "Confirmed" includes any revision to the provisional figure previously given for 2007.

The estimate of unreported catch may be broken down into categories e.g. by gear type; location of the fisheries (coastal fisheries, in-river fisheries, etc.); and by-catch of salmon in fisheries for other species. It should indicate if the unreported catch arises from legal or illegal activities

Section 4:

The primary purpose of the information provided under item 4 is to provide an account of all the actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plans with regard to:

- Management of salmon fisheries
- *Habitat protection and restoration (see note below)*
- Aquaculture and related activities
- Other influences affecting salmon abundance and diversity.

Note: The 2009 focus area is habitat protection, restoration and enhancement. No information is required in this annual report, unless a jurisdiction wishes to supplement its FAR or has not submitted a FAR.

Please include as part of the annual report under item 4 the following information which is a requirement under the Convention:

- Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification;
- Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures;
- Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles;
- 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;
- Details of any new measures to minimise by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member [**North American Commission Members only**];
- Details of any alteration to fishing patterns that result in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party except with the consent of the latter [**North American Commission Members only**];
- Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.