

Council

CNL(09)27

***Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans***

EU – UK (Northern Ireland)

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

UK – NI

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 regime? outlined in the introduction to the Implementation Plan.

Much time and effort has been devoted during 2008 to prepare for the transfer of the functions of the Fisheries Conservancy Board (NI) to the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure (NI). Legislation has been made and shall commence (take effect) on 1 June 2009. Organisational structures and financial provision, as well as all of the issues around the transfer of staff assets and functions, have been substantively addressed.

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) replaced the Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of the Environment (NI) on 1 July 2008. The role of the NIEA is reflected in the NI FAR on Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Salmon Habitat submitted in February 2009.

The River Faughan and tributaries in the Foyle catchment were designated as A Special Site of Scientific Interest (ASSI) and a candidate Special Area of Conservation under the EU Habitats Directive in 2008 (See Habitat FAR)

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) Provisional salmon catch for UK (N. Ireland) 2008 (22.4t)
(b) Confirmed catch of salmon for UK (N. Ireland) 2007 (29.7t)
(c) Unreported catch for UK (N. Ireland) 2008 (0t)
(d) Number of salmon caught and released in UK (N.Ireland) 648 ¹

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

No new factors identified in 2008. Survival indices remain within recent temporal trends. That escapement data indicated generally increased adult returns on monitored catchments in 2008 suggests 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.

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		
<i>FCB area</i>		
Review of impact of initial FCB area voluntary commercial netting buyout	Reported to ICES Working Group in April 2008	Yes
Reopening of voluntary buyout scheme for remaining 6 commercial nets-men in	Scheme reopened in 2008 following NASCO meeting	No uptake to date from commercial sector.

¹ FCB area only

FCB area		
Consultation with angling and commercial fishing representatives	Meetings took place at Ministerial level during 2008 to discuss the development of further fisheries management measures	Ongoing
Ban sale of rod caught salmon	Legislative amendments progressed in 2008	Ongoing
Inform stock composition of alleged mixed stock fisheries	Samples from commercial fisheries held. Samples obtained from FCB area river stocks.	Ongoing
<i>Loughs Agency area</i>		
Catchment status reports	Completed autumn 2008	Yes
Ban on sale of rod caught salmon	Regulation introduced in 2008	Yes
Comprehensive independent review of fish counter programme	Due to be finalized autumn 2009	
Review of impact of closure of interceptory mixed stock fisheries and genetic structure of extant fishery	Reported to ICES Working Group in April 2008	Yes
Measures to minimize the impact of Aquaculture and other related factors		
Salmon farm inspections	Routine bio-security inspections (fish health and containment surveillance)	Ongoing
Stocking control	Regulate by permit system	Ongoing
Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)		

Strategic approach to improving the marine environment	The NI Executive gave support in July 2008 to the broad policy aims of the draft UK Marine Bill including the Marine Policy statement. The Salmon and Inland Fisheries elements of the draft UK Marine Bill do not extend to Northern Ireland. However, DCAL will consider the provisions (in conjunction with DARD) to decide whether they should be introduced in Northern Ireland via NI legislation, either as part of a NI Marine Bill or by means of another legislative vehicle.	Ongoing
Contribution to SALSEA programme	a) increased smolt tagging b) genetic samples from river stocks c) Loughs Agency staff participation in Marine Institute (Ireland) cruises	a) Ongoing b) Complete c) Ongoing
Supportive Breeding Programmes (in context of SRP's)	Programmes on following rivers: Shimna; Glenarm; Sixmile; Glenariff; Macosquin; Clady	Ongoing

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

The programme for the development of further conservation and management targets and Catchment Management Plans 2008 – 2013 (see IP 4.1.2) will be flexible. A review on the approach was conducted in 2008 and is reported in the NI FAR on Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Salmon Habitat submitted in February 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.