

Council

CNL(10)20

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

EU – UK (England and Wales)

Annual Report on actions taken under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2009

EU – UK(England and Wales)

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 2 April 2010**

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

There have been no significant changes to the management described in the Implementation Plan for England and Wales (as updated in 2009), but the introduction of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 will have implications for the way that certain aspects of the Plan are implemented. These are described in the relevant sections below.
A ban on sale of rod caught salmon together with a carcass tagging scheme for net caught fish was also introduced in 2009 (see also Section 3 below)

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 2009;**
- (b) the confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2008;**
- (c) an estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2009;**
- (d) the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2009.**

Information on catches:

- (a) provisional catch of salmon in tonnes for 2009 = 50.7 tonnes (fish caught and retained only)
- (b) confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2008 = 63.7 tonnes (nominal catch, retained only)
- (c) estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2009 = 11.6 tonnes [6.2 tonnes under-reporting and 5.4 tonnes due to illegal catches]
- (d) provisional estimate of the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2009 = 8,828 (38.8 tonnes), and representing 58% of the provisional declared rod catch (by number).

Status of stocks:

The annual review of stock status for 2009 shows:

- 7 rivers (11%) were classified as ‘not at risk’ – i.e. had a high probability (> 95%) of meeting the management objective;
- 18 rivers (28%) were classified as ‘probably not at risk’ – i.e. had a probability of 50% to 95% of meeting the management objective;
- 17 rivers (27%) were classified as ‘probably at risk’ – i.e. had a probability of 5% to 50% of meeting the management objective;
- 22 rivers (34%) 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 that stocks are in danger of becoming extinct, but rather that they are falling well short of the management objective – i.e. of meeting or exceeding the conservation limit in four years out of five, on average.]

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

Legislation: A ban on the sale of rod caught salmon and sea trout together with a carcass tagging scheme for fish legally caught by net was introduced in England and Wales in January 2009. This should improve reporting rates and reduce both illegal fishing and excessive individual rod catches.

Extreme flood event: The River Derwent in Cumbria suffered a 1 in 1000 flood event in November 2009. The salmon rod catch for this river is routinely in the top 5 (out of around 80 rivers) for England and Wales. Damage to the riverine habitat was extensive and may have implications for salmon stock status in the Derwent in the future.

Condition of 1SW and 2SW salmon : Trapping data from the River Dee, N. Wales (1991-2009) indicate a general decline in the condition of 1SW and 2SW salmon over the last 10 years; for 1SW fish this decline appears to have halted in the latter part of the period but for 2SW fish it shows little sign of slowing. While annual variations in the size of returning salmon are factored-in to procedures for estimating egg deposition and compliance with Conservation Limits on all rivers, decline in condition - which may have implications for survival of fish as well as fecundity - remains a concern. Similar changes in condition have been reported in Scottish salmon stocks (Todd *et al.*) and collaborative investigations to examine the extent and causes of these changes across the North Atlantic (and promoted through the ICES Study Group SGBICEPS) are ongoing.

Section 4: An account of all actions taken under the Implementation Plan with regard to the management of salmon fisheries; habitat protection and restoration; aquaculture and related activities (not required in 2010); and other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including the marine environment).

Management Action	Reporting Update	Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed)
Fisheries Management		
ACTION 1: By 2009, establish the programme for developing new salmon	In 2008, the Environment Agency published a new national Sea Trout and Salmon Fisheries Strategy which provides the basis for a	Action completed; further work ongoing

management plans.	revised approach to management plans. Actions to improve salmon stocks are now delivered through the 11 River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs) for England and Wales agreed through the European Water Framework Directive planning process. Sea Trout and Salmon Catchment summaries giving the details to support the RBMPs are being developed, building on the existing Salmon Action Plans but also extending to include other catchments where salmon are recovering from historic degradation.	
ACTION 2(i): Continue the development of procedures for using reference points in the assessment and management of salmon stocks.	The Environment Agency and Cefas continue to keep the procedures for setting and using Conservation Limits and Management Targets under review. Both the analytical methods and presentation of results have been updated in the Cefas/EA Annual Assessments of Salmon Stocks and Fisheries; the latest report is available on the intranet at www.cefass.co.uk and www.environment-agency.gov.uk .	Ongoing
ACTION 2(ii): By 2009, apply the Salmon Lifecycle Model (SLM) to a number of salmon rivers in order to evaluate its performance; identify improvements/areas for further model development; and clarify the role of SLM alongside current CL setting and compliance procedures in the management of salmon stocks. UPDATE TO ACTION IN 2009: Action on hold:	Work on the Environment Agency's Salmon Lifecycle Model is on hold following the death of the main developer, and the Implementation Plan was updated in 2009 to reflect this. However, new research has been initiated (Defra contract SF0257: Salmonid life-cycle models) to develop models to support the interpretation of salmonid research and provide management advice. Options for continuing the development of the Environment Agency's Salmon Lifecycle Model are under discussion.	Delayed but ongoing

<p>ACTION 2:(iii): By 2009, evaluate use of a model to predict rod exploitation rates and to improve current CL compliance procedures.</p>	<p>Work has been undertaken to reflect real exploitation rates, where these are available, in stock assessments, and to review the balance between use of default (generic) and river-specific data. New compliance procedures are now incorporated into the decision structure which is applied on an annual basis to guide decisions on the level of fishing controls required.</p>	<p>Action completed; further work ongoing</p>
<p>ACTION 3: By 2012 evaluate and determine the measures for the east coast mixed stock salmon fisheries consistent with England and Wales policy.</p>	<p>A mid-term review of the North East coast Net Limitation Order was completed in 2008 and concluded that, whilst most local river stocks are exceeding their CLs and trends are positive, the phasing out provision applying to the remaining 16 drift nets should be maintained and there may be merit in introducing further controls. Proposals are being developed for consultation.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>ACTION 4: Undertake annual reviews of the status of stocks in each principal salmon river and determine the need for immediate changes to regulatory measures through the application of the Decision Structure.</p>	<p>The annual reviews for 2009 were completed and the results are shown in Section 2 of this report. These data are published annually in the Cefas/Environment Agency Annual Assessment of Salmon Stocks and Fisheries in England and Wales (see Action 2(i)). [Regulations are also reviewed as part of a 5-10 year rolling review programme.]</p>	<p>Completed for 2009</p>
<p>ACTION 5: Review Net Limitation Orders (NLOs) for net fisheries prior to their expiry or as required by annual stock status assessments, and determine the requirements for, and implement, new controls. This process will include undertaking stakeholder consultation and applying the Decision Structure.</p>	<p>The following actions were taken in 2009/10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – River Lune: a review was undertaken and the NLO and byelaw package was renewed unchanged for 10 years, with the exception of the removal of the 1 seine net from the list of permitted nets. – Severn estuary: a review of the Severn estuary fishery was undertaken and two new NLOs were confirmed to 2011. These cap the number of lave and draft nets licenses available to the number of licensees in 2008. – River Wye: a review of 2002 Wye rod byelaws was undertaken and these were renewed to 2018. – River Dee: the Dee draft and trammel net fishery has been bought 	<p>Completed for 2009</p>

	<p>out (no fishing in 2009). The current 0 NLO for both fisheries expires in 2015.</p> <p>The new Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 (see Section 1 above) allows the Environment Agency to make emergency interim byelaws to respond urgently to unforeseen events for example severely reduced river flows or collapses in migratory fish stocks. It also allows the Environment Agency to make NLOs for wider environmental purposes such as to stop or reduce unacceptable impacts of salmon fishing on other elements of biodiversity. The Act provides a power to apply conditions to licences for historic salmon and sea trout fisheries (privileged fixed engines) and clarifies that byelaws can be made to regulate these fishing methods.</p> <p>A further measure in the 2009 Act is to extend offences introduced in the 1986 Salmon Act relating to suspicious handling of salmon so that, as well as applying to salmon illegally taken, they now also apply to salmon that are illegally sold so improving the enforceability of the 2009 byelaws banning the sale of rod caught salmon. (see Section 3 above)</p>	
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<p>ACTION 6: Review the following byelaws for salmon fisheries prior to their expiry in 2008, and determine the requirements for subsequent controls through the application of the Decision Structure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northeast Region byelaws – annual close season for salmon & trout; • National byelaws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – annual close season for salmon & trout fishing other than with rod & line; – early season catch and release in specified fisheries and by rod & line; – early season method restriction for salmon with rod and line. 	<p>Consultations on options for measures required to protect early-running MSW salmon after 2008 (to replace the National byelaws introduced in 1999) were completed. The National measures were reintroduced for a further 10 year period, retaining the closure of most salmon net fisheries until 1st June and the requirement for catch and release in rod fisheries until 16th June.</p> <p>All the Regional byelaws that were tied to the National byelaw were re-examined at the same time as the above review; new byelaws were introduced for the Southwest Region.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>ACTION 7: By positive engagement with other relevant jurisdictions, directly and through the EU and NASCO, seek to ensure that exploitation of any English or Welsh salmon stock in home-water fisheries outside England and Wales does not exceed 1%.</p>	<p>Following the closure of the Irish coastal drift net fishery in 2007, there is no fishery that is known currently to be exploiting more than 1% of any stock in England and Wales outside UK home-waters.</p>	<p>Completed for 2009</p>