

Council

CNL(10)26

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

Canada

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

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.

In 2009, there were a few management changes to the recreational fishery.

For the province of Nova Scotia, the number of carcass tags for the season retention of small salmon (grilse) was reduced from eight to four.

In Prince Edward Island, no retention of salmon of any size was allowed, all recreational fishing was catch and release only.

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.**

The provisional catch of salmon for 2009 was as follows:

Total catch in 2009 was 119 t consisting of 67 t of small salmon (<63 cm fork length) and 53 t of large salmon (>= 63 cm fork length). This equates to a catch by number of 38,656 small salmon and 11,316 large salmon.

Final catch values for 2008 were:

Total catch in 2008 was 158 t consisting of 100 t of small salmon (<63 cm fork length) and 58 t of large salmon (>= 63 cm fork length). This equates to a catch by number of 58,86 small salmon and 11,736 large salmon.

Estimates of unreported catch for 2009 – to be provided at a later date

The number of salmon which were caught and released in 2009 were estimated at 47,892 fish, a decrease from 2008 due to lower catches overall in 2009 compared to 2008. In 2009, 60% of the catch (retained plus released fish) in the recreational fishery was released.

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

One of the focuses of DFO's Habitat Management Program (HMP) is to foster local and community stewardship of fish habitat in recognition of the substantial benefit this can have in protecting, restoring and developing habitat for fish. Staff from DFO's HMP and from provincial departments of natural resources, fisheries and/or the environment, often work with local community organizations to implement projects designed to conserve, protect and improve fish habitat. Many of these government departments assist community organizations with the design and conduct of fish habitat surveys to determine potential risks to the resource and to identify opportunities for restoration or development. They also provide technical support to carry out fish habitat restoration and development work, conduct compliance and effectiveness monitoring studies and assist in the review of funding proposals to carry out such work.

Canada's *Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation* is one source of funding which can be accessed by community groups to carry out habitat-related stewardship work.

Some other sources of funding for habitat-related work include the *Environmental Damages Fund*, *New Brunswick Wildlife Trust Fund*, *the Gulf of Maine Council for the Marine Environment-National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Habitat Restoration Partnership*, *Nova Scotia's Adopt-a-Stream Program*, *Environment Canada's Eco-Action Program*, and the *SARA Habitat Stewardship Program and Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk*. These agencies and others contribute \$2.5 million annually to habitat improvement in the watersheds of the Bay of Fundy and Eastern Scotian Shelf.

Watercourse connectivity is a primary issue being addressed in the Maritime Provinces. Fish passage is disturbed when barriers such as dams, causeways and dilapidated or incorrectly installed culverts limit the movement of fish in rivers and estuaries. Partial or complete barriers affect the productive capacity of aquatic habitat by interrupting or curtailing fish access. Dams are being removed, causeway construction is discouraged, crossings are being inspected and guidelines/Best Management Practices are being reviewed. Many restoration techniques are being used to restore river thalweg, riparian buffer edges, and unrestricted tidal flows at estuaries.

The Miramichi River is one example of the effort to protect and restore salmon habitat in the Maritime Provinces. The Miramichi is the most important Atlantic salmon river in North America, is also inhabited by 5 other species of diadromous fish. Access to spawning grounds, food supplies, and thermal refuges is fundamental for fish to complete their life cycle. During the past few years, more than a 1000 square kilometres of watershed have been reopened to migration. A total of 3 major dams and more than a dozen perched culverts have been removed or modified in order to facilitate or re-establish fish passage.

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)
Habitat Protection and Restoration		
Action: The ASCF will report annually on its accomplishments concerning salmon restoration and conservation.		Ongoing
Action: Continue the Nova Scotia Salmon Association Adopt-A-Stream program habitat restoration projects.		Ongoing
Action: Continue to enforce provisions of the Fisheries Act and seek important monetary penalties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DFO Habitat Management has focused substantial effort on reducing impacts of development projects on salmon habitat, in particular for 	Ongoing

<p>for destruction of fish or fish habitat, including provisions for habitat restoration by a guilty party.</p>	<p>large hydroelectric facilities and for road construction. Application of relocation and redesign (mainly for road construction), mitigation measures (providing adequate in stream flows at hydro projects) and fish habitat compensation projects (building of rearing and spawning habitat, or improving fish passage) provide protection and development of salmon habitat. Ongoing monitoring programs will help assess effectiveness of these initiatives and adjust future projects to better protect salmon habitat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ongoing implementation of the HMP's strengthening of habitat compliance management activities in 2009 led to an increase in the level of monitoring of works and undertakings near fish habitat by Habitat Management personnel to maintain compliance with measures to protection Atlantic salmon habitat 	
<p>Action: Canada will report annually on the number and extent (area of habitat affected) of habitat remediation activities undertaken annually. Many of these would be corrective measures to remediate dated and deficient historical structures.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research and planning was undertaken in 2009 to address injuries being sustained by Atlantic salmon ascending Torrent River past Clifty Falls, Newfoundland and Labrador. • DFO collaborated with Newfoundland Power on developing technical solutions for the restoration of passage for Atlantic salmon on Rattling Brook (to be implemented in the future years). • There were several initiatives to restore, improve or create habitat for Atlantic salmon as part of formal fish habitat compensation for impacts to fish habitat authorized under the Fisheries Act. For example, at Lomond River and Harpoon Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador. • Miramichi River is one example of efforts to protect and restore salmon habitat in the Maritime Provinces. The Miramichi is the most important Atlantic salmon river in North America, is also inhabited by 5 other species of diadromous fish. Access to spawning grounds, food supplies, and thermal refuges is fundamental for fish to complete their life cycle. During the past few years, more than a 1000 square kilometres of watershed have been reopened to 	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>migration. A total of 3 major dams and more than a dozen perched culverts have been removed or modified in order to facilitate or re-establish fish passage.</p>	
<p>Action: Provide a summary of Fisheries Act habitat protection activities which relate to salmon habitat on an annual basis.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the compliance promotion, compliance monitoring and compensation initiatives referenced above, DFO Habitat Management monitored habitat compensation works to support salmon, as required through Fisheries Act authorizations. For example, at Granite Canal, Newfoundland and Labrador. • DFO Habitat Management also supported the activities of various stewardship groups in the promotion of awareness of measures to protect the habitat of Atlantic salmon. 	<p>Ongoing</p>

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

No specific suggestions for revising the Implementation Plan.