

Council

CNL(10)35

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

EU – UK (Scotland)

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

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

Established on 1 April 2009, Marine Scotland brings together the functions and resources of the previous Scottish Government Marine Directorate, Fisheries Research Services and Scottish Fisheries Protection Agency including those directed at ensuring sustainably managed freshwater fish and fisheries resources. Further information is available in Marine Scotland's Vision: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/04/01085908/0> and Marine Scotland's Strategic Plan: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/04/16154510/0>.

2009 saw the start of implementing the Rivers and Fisheries Trust's management plans covering 95% of the fisheries in Scotland. This will be an ongoing process with any increase in stocks likely to be gradual rather than short-term. The management plans can be viewed at <http://www.rafts.org.uk> . (Implementation Plan (IP) Action 7)

It is anticipated that the UK Flood and Water Management Act 2010 will come into effect in 2010 at which point the Fisheries (Electricity) Committee referred to in paragraph 3.7 of Scotland's Implementation Plan will be wound up. (See also paragraph 4.16). (IP Action 9)

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; 119.9t (nominal catch)
- (b) the confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2008; 159.9t (nominal catch)
- (c) an estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2009; 15.99t
- (d) the provisional number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2009; 49557 (representing 67.5% of the rod catch).

Current Status of Salmon Stocks

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 increase in the 2005 to 2009 5-year rod catch average 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.

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

A Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) managed fund specifically for restoration projects including barrier removal was established during 2009 and continues through 2010. Local Fisheries Trusts and other fisheries managers can apply for grant support from the fund to assist with implementation of restoration projects in pursuit of Water Framework Directive objectives and local fisheries management plans. (IP Action 8)

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).

We report here for 2009 on ongoing actions identified in the Implementation Plan for Scotland or on significant developments since the 2009 report. For information on completed actions refer to earlier annual reports to NASCO.

Management Action	Reporting Update	Achieved Management Action (Yes, No, Ongoing, Completed)
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Fisheries Management		
<p>In the Esk and Annan Districts, Instruments were made in 2005 requiring mandatory catch and release in the rod fishery until 31 May. In addition, in the Esk District, Instruments were made to extend the annual close time until 30 April and to cap netting effort until 31 May. (IP Action 1)</p>	<p>Both instruments expired in 2010.</p> <p>No application was made by the Annan District Salmon Fishery Board for new conservation measures.</p> <p>The Esk District Salmon Fishery Board applied to Scottish Ministers for new conservation measures in June 2009 but withdrew the application on reaching a voluntary agreement with the principal net fisheries in the District.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Once meaningful CLs are established (above), these will be used to set management targets, which are designed to ensure sustainable fisheries and reviewed annually. (IP Action 4)</p>	<p>As reported for 2008 meaningful CLs have been established but have not yet been used to set management targets. Further work has been carried out to develop the CL model to allow for uncertainty using Monte Carlo simulation techniques. CL distributions for all 109 salmon fishery is required to estimate spawning escapement levels before an assessment of compliance of spawning stock with CL can be made.</p>	<p>Development ongoing, report planned for March 2011</p>
<p>Where it is recognised, relative to these management targets that intervention is required for the conservation of salmon, fishery managers may seek voluntary reductions in fishing mortality or if necessary apply to the Scottish Ministers for Salmon Conservation Regulations made under the Salmon</p>	<p>A number of voluntary measures are in place. District Salmon Fishery Boards are encouraged to apply voluntary restrictions as a first resort.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland)2003 Act. Scottish Ministers may change annual or weekly close times where necessary for conservation purposes. (IP Action 5)</p>		
<p>Until CLs are available management decisions have to use other measures of abundance. The outcome of detailed investigations by Marine Scotland Science (MSS) (formerly FRS) into the use of catch data supports the view that rod catch data are a proxy for freshwater abundance. (IP Action 6)</p>	<p>Marine Scotland Science continues to use rod catch information in the assessment of the status of stocks and to provide advice to assist managers. A catch-based assessment tool has been developed for local assessments in the UK (Scotland) Implementation Plan and Focus Area Report on Fisheries Management and made available to DSFBs as local managers to carry out routine assessment of their stocks and consider what, if any, revisions to current local fisheries management measures may be required. A number of DSFBs reported their assessment of 2009 catches in the second ASFB Annual Report.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Rivers and Fisheries Trusts Scotland (RAFTS) are currently developing fisheries management plans for each of the Trust areas throughout Scotland. (IP Action 7)</p>	<p>In 2009/10 in addition to developing further fisheries management plans (FMPs) to extend the coverage of FMPs to over 95% of the salmon catchments of Scotland, RAFTS members took forward implementation of the priorities identified in their plans including two landmark projects 1) an initiative to genetically type all the major salmon</p>	<p>Yes, Ongoing</p>

	populations and sub-populations in Scotland and 2) to develop a suite of bio-security prevention and control tools to manage invasive plants and animals (including G.salaris).	
TWG Restoration guidance notes, including assessment protocols, and proposed restoration pilot projects will be prepared. (IP Action 10)	Restoration Guidance was published on the TWG web site in summer 2009.	Yes, completed.
DSFBs to augment natural salmon production through use of hatcheries as appropriate. (IP Action 13)	ASFB carried out a survey of DSFBs in 2009 reported in UK (Scotland) Aquaculture etc. FAR. There is ongoing review of the RAFTS/ASFB stocking/fish movements guidance which is on the ASFB/RAFTS website.	Yes, Ongoing
The TWG Plenary Group to meet twice a year and review policy direction and risk register. (IP Action 14)	At a meeting in May 2009 of TWG stakeholders in plenary session it was agreed to convene a small group from aquaculture, wild fisheries and government as TWG Sponsors. The Group met twice in autumn 2009.	Ongoing
Scottish Government to hold a full public consultation on and to publish a renewed Strategic Framework for Scottish Aquaculture. (IP Action 16)	“A Fresh Start : the renewed Strategic Framework for Scottish Aquaculture” was published in May 2009.	Yes, completed
The Steering Group of the Scottish Freshwater Fisheries Forum will review the overall progress with the strategic framework within 18 months of its launch, and decide whether further indicators of progress are required.	The Steering Group of the Scottish Freshwater Fisheries Forum reviewed progress on the 2008 Strategic Framework for Scottish Freshwater Fisheries at its October 2009 meeting.	Completed

(IP Action 18)		
<p>Scottish Government to review the Gs Contingency Plan annually, publish updated Plan. (IP Action 19)</p>	<p>The contingency plan was reviewed and published April 2008. A desk top exercise was held to test field and policy reactions to a hypothetical first suspected outbreak in Scottish waters. Lessons learned from this exercise and changes arising from implementation of the Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009 will be incorporated in the planned review of the Contingency Plan in 2010.</p>	<p>Yes, Ongoing</p>
<p>Applications from fishery managers for licences to control piscivorous birds and mammals are dealt with on an ongoing basis. (IP Action 20)</p>	<p>Applications from fishery managers continue to be dealt with on an ongoing basis. A review of the seal management regime was taken forward in the Scottish Government's Marine Bill.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>The Moray Firth Seal Management Plan (IP Action 21)</p>	<p>The Moray Firth Seal Management Plan following its successful trial and review is now mainstreamed into the predator management process.</p>	<p>Yes, completed.</p>
<p>A number of schemes to eradicate or, where this is not possible, control crayfish, are in place throughout Scotland (IP Action 22)</p>	<p>The joint Scottish Natural Heritage (the Scottish Government's statutory advisor on Natural Heritage issues) and Rivers and Fisheries Trusts of Scotland (RAFTS) mapping programme covering all of Scotland continues. Eradication programmes have been run in a number of locations. A trial of methods for control of North American Signal Crayfish in a large water body was carried out in 2009.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

<p>The development of fisheries management plans by the Fisheries Trusts will include monitoring and evaluation procedures. (IP Action 24)</p>	<p>FMPs all have built in monitoring and evaluation procedures and are intended to be aligned with the Water Framework Directive 6 year planning cycle. The process is overseen by both a Joint Government/RAFTS Liaison Group and a Technical Working Group which can evaluate progress and identify weaknesses.</p>	<p>Completed.</p>
<p>Measures to minimize the impact of Aquaculture and other related factors</p>		
<p>Develop and agree remaining TWG Area Management Agreements (AMA) (IP Action 25)</p>	<p>1 new AMA has been signed.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>CR/2007/26 ‘Strategic sea lice treatments: implementation and impact within Scottish Tripartite Working Group Area Management Agreements’ (IP Action 26)</p>	<p>CR/2007/26 research by Strathclyde University has been completed and published on the TWG web site.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>CR/2007/22 ‘Research into the Costs and Benefits of Tripartite Working Group (TWG) Area Management Agreements (AMAs)</p>	<p>CR/2007/22 research by Homarus Consultants has been completed and published on the TWG web site.</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Habitat Protection and Restoration</p>		
<p>Development of new Forest and Water guidelines.</p>	<p>Forest and water guidelines are currently being developed on a UK basis and Scottish Fishery managers are part of the development group.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Aquaculture and related activities <i>(only required if a jurisdiction wishes to supplement its FAR or has not submitted a FAR)</i></p>		

<p>Strategic Framework for Scottish aquaculture published in May 2009 and is available on the Scottish Government website at; www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2009/05/14160104/4.</p>	<p>The UK (Scotland) Focus Area Report on Aquaculture and Related Activities contains full details of the implementation of the audit and inspection provisions of the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007, the working groups established under the aquaculture strategic framework including groups developing proposals for healthier fish and improved containment. Proposals for further development include proposals for new Disease and Parasite Management requirements including an improved sea lice management reporting strategy which will be presented to the Ministerial Working Group on Aquaculture meeting in June 2010.</p>	
<p>Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)</p>		
<p>Marine Scotland is engaged in the research into factors affecting salmon abundance and diversity.</p>	<p>The following research programmes are currently underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post-smolt mortality of Atlantic salmon • Analysis of post-smolt life history by scale reading • Coastal mortality and seal predation on salmonid fish • Fisheries-induced evolution • Size and condition of returning 	<p>Ongoing</p>

	grilse (1SW) and MSW salmon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishery management models for interacting, sustainable Scottish salmon sub-populations • Development of a general spatial model of within-river population structuring in Scottish Atlantic salmon 	
Other information required under the Convention		
Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification;	Aquatic Animal Health (Scotland) Regulations 2009	
Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures	Not applicable	

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

During 2009 a review of mixed stock salmon fisheries was undertaken by a stakeholder Working Group under the independent Chairmanship of David Crawley, a Board member of Scottish Natural Heritage and the UK Joint Nature Conservancy Council. The report was submitted to Scottish Ministers in March 2010 and published 21 April 2010 on the Scottish Government website at <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2010/03/31154416/0>

The Scottish Government will provide its initial response Autumn 2010.

Implementation of the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010 new licensing regime for the management of seals including the setting of levels of Permitted Biological Removal (PBRs) and area based management groups.