

Council

CNL(12)25

*Annual Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans*

EU – France

**Annual Report on actions taken under Implementation Plans
for the Calendar Year 2011
EU-France**

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 6 April 2012**

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

There was no significant change to management measures in maritime neither in freshwater areas, compared to calendar year 2010.

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 2011;**
- (b) **the confirmed catch of salmon in tonnes for 2010;**
- (c) **an estimate of unreported catch in tonnes for 2011;**
- (d) **the number of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2011.**

Fresh-water rod and line catch (recreational fishery):

- (a) Estimated number of salmon caught in 2011: 1381
Estimated 2011 catch in tonnes: 3.97
- (b) Number of salmon caught in 2010: 1362
2010 catch in tonnes: 4.7
- (c) Estimated unreported catch in 2011: 270
- (d) Number of salmon caught and released in 2011: Anglers are not obliged to fill in a report card. Therefore only partial figures are available.

Catch in fresh-water nets (professional):

- (a) Estimated number of salmon caught in 2011 : 203
Estimated 2011 catch in tonnes: 0.58
- (b) Number of salmon caught in 2010: 67
2010 catch in tonnes: 0.276
- (c) Estimated unreported catch in 2011: Not available. Fishermen are not obliged to fill in a report card. Therefore only partial figures are available.

Maritime catch (in estuaries and coastal areas):

In 2010, 1075 salmons (4.3 tonnes) were caught by professional fishermen.

In 2011, the provisional catch was 6.15 tonnes (number of salmons or unreported catch not available).

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

The 2011 fresh-water catch was higher than in 2010, but below the decade average.

A study on the evolution of the migratory characteristics of French salmon populations since 1985 is currently being carried out by the French National Institute for Agricultural Research, using trap information and reported line catch in France. The preliminary results show that grilse and spring-run salmon have lost on average 2 – 3cm and 200 – 400g between 1985 and 2008. These changes are more significant for grilse than for 2SW salmon. It is also shown that during the same period, the migration peak for grilse is about 1 month later, around mid-June, while the MSW peak one week later, towards the end of March. The later the average return date is, the smaller the grilse and spring-run salmon tend to be. Additionally, a later return does not seem to offset poor marine growth conditions. This finding, which has also been observed in studies conducted on UK and Scandinavian rivers, is worrying. In fact, studies carried out in several European countries suggest that marine survival is positively correlated to growth. It is possible therefore, to assume that marine survival of salmon has declined. Furthermore, the number of eggs produced per female is dependent on her physical condition. These results, taken as a whole, suggest that egg deposition has decreased throughout the last two decades and this phenomenon could continue over the coming years.

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; 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. To establish the level of catch in estuaries and in coastal fisheries.	Maritime fishermen report their catch in their fishing log as a requirement under Council Regulation No. 1224/2009 establishing a Community Control System.	Completed
Action 2. To limit illegal practices which compromise the current spring-run salmon protection measures. To adopt, where necessary, additional or alternative measures.	Surveillance is carried out on rivers as a tool against poaching. This is undertaken by ONEMA specialist migratory units and sea administration. The lack of a wide-reaching monitoring plan leads to a tendency to lower the number of checks being made. With regard to fishing at sea, checks have been made in the places where salmon are sold in the Aquitaine region to ensure that the fish were caught by fishermen with CMEA licenses.	Completed
Action 3. To minimise illegal salmon catch in estuarine reserves and coastal areas (Mont-Saint Michel Bay and the Arques and Bresles river mouths)	In the Mont-Saint –Michel Bay: 2010: 10 missions – no infractions 2011 : 12 missions - 2 infractions (a cases of illegal fishing of 2 salmons + 3 salmons)	Completed
Action 4. To ban estuarine and coastal fishing for migratory salmonids on all rivers containing salmon.	This action cannot be considered	No
Action 5. To estimate and limit salmon by-catch in gear used in estuarine and freshwater fisheries in the Gironde and the Loire.	There has been no recent activity on this subject. A ‘relief’ system (where fishermen may need to remove their nets for a number of days each week) allows salmon catch to be limited in estuarine areas.	Ongoing

<p>Action 6. To better assess exploited stocks (level and sea-age composition) in order to adapt exploitation of the stocks accordingly.</p>	<p>A study is currently being carried out on rivers to revise the distribution of the TACs. This should lead to effective management from 2013.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Habitat Protection and Restoration</p>		
<p>Action 7. To allow or facilitate migration: downstream migration of smolts and access to spawning habitat for adult salmon.</p>	<p>As part of the water classification process and Ecological Continuity Restoration Plan, many studies and projects which aim to improve continuity are being carried out in all French basins.</p> <p>It is, however, taking a long time to put these plans into action, due to the need for compromise with the hydro-electric industry. Two hydroelectric dams are, however, to be removed from classified watercourses in order to allow the unrestricted movement of migratory fish. Dismantling the Vezins and Roche-qui-boit dams should begin in 2013. The Poutes dam on the Allier will be replaced with a 4 meter removable weir.</p> <p>http://www.rivernet.org/general/dams/decommissioning_fr_poutes/poutes_f.htm</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Action 8. To analyse flow, temperature and pollution conditions likely to disrupt upstream and downstream migration.</p>	<p>A study is being carried on the character of the relationship between hydrology and fish stocks. This will be of use with regard to summer-flow management.</p> <p>A record of temperature readings at nuclear power stations is kept.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Action 9. To assess and improve freshwater salmon habitat.</p>		
<p>9.1. To re-establish natural sedimentary transport through bank erosion in the Vieux-Rhin.</p>	<p>This project is currently under consideration. It is hoped that work will commence in 2012. The aim is to re-establish sedimentary transport (through controlled bank erosion and re-using deposits from the Rhine which were created during the construction of the power station).</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

9.2. Monitoring and reducing the impacts of agricultural run-off (monitoring the transportation of sediment and the relationship between rainfall, flow and sedimentary transport)	Other than a few local initiatives, very little has been done.	No
9.3. Testing under-gravel salmonid survival	Under-gravel survival studies have recently been carried out: http://www.migrateurs-loire.fr/?084-survie-sous-gravier-dans-l-alagnon http://migrateurs-loire.fr/IMG/pdf/resumeombredane.pdf	Yes
9.4. Hydraulic management and water sampling adapted to salmon (Garonne-Dordogne).	Significant progress has been made in connection with sluice management and base flow levels on the Dordogne and Garonne.	Yes
Actions in connection with Salmon Population Restoration Programmes		
Action 10. To continue and increase long-term biological monitoring and to improve the quality of said monitoring (monitoring migration, juveniles and spawning ground counts etc.)	In-depth biological monitoring is being carried out on the 4 French index rivers (the Bresle, the Oir, the Scorff and the Nivelle). However, their quality level has been little assessed in recent years.	Ongoing
Action 11. To complete the genetic characterisation of salmon stocks	No new information is available	Yes
Action 12. To describe the relationship between salmon populations in the Mont-Saint-Michel Bay rivers.	Now new information is available	No

<p>Action 13. To quantify the proportion of native and stocked salmon populations in rivers of endangered or uncertain status.</p>	<p>We have received no new information on this subject</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
Aquaculture and related activities		
<p>Action 14. Analyse the genetic and pathological risks associated with aquaculture (both in freshwater and at sea) and establish preventative or corrective measures favourable to wild salmon stocks and their restoration (Williamsburg Resolution)</p>	<p>No new information is available</p>	
<p>Action 15. To apply the Williamsburg Resolution to the artificial reproduction and raising in captivity of juvenile salmon (with no genetic or health impacts)</p>		
<p>Action 16. To apply the Williamsburg Resolution to the removal of adult salmon from, and stocking juvenile salmon in rivers</p>		
<p>Action 17. To include France in the area free from <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> and to adopt adequate protection measures.</p>		

Other influences affecting salmon abundance or diversity (including marine environment)

<p>Action 18. To establish conservation limits in all rivers populated by salmon where this has not already been done. To update the inventory of French salmon rivers.</p>	<p>Conservation limits have only been established on those rivers where fishing is managed using TACs (in Brittany and Basse-Normandie). They have not yet been established in any other basins. As it is already known which rivers have salmon stocks, the inventory has not been updated. The thesis which was planned to commence in 2012 could not be funded. Other options are being considered.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Action 19. To organise a biennial national technical conference on salmon and the management of the resource</p>	<p>A technical workshop on the National Migratory Fish Management Strategy was held in May 2011. http://www.seminaire-migrateur.oieau.fr/</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>Action 20. To disseminate NASCO's recommendations and resolutions throughout France.</p>	<p>NASCO's guidelines produced as leaflets are distributed to those responsible for salmon management.</p>	<p>Completed</p>

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

ONEMA, the Ministry for Over-Seas Territories and Departments and the Ministry responsible for maritime fisheries hope to revise the French plan in order to make it more operational. It is hoped that the process will be underway by the end of 2012.