

	<p><b>Council</b></p> <p><i>Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)</i></p>	<p>CNL(21)17</p>
---	---	------------------

**Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)**

*By Video Conference*

*19 – 22, 26 & 28 April 2021*

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

- 1.1 The Chair, Cathal Gallagher (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Review Group. He noted that the main task before the Review Group was to evaluate the 2021 Annual Progress Reports (APRs) under the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024) Implementation Plans (IPs). He reminded participants that APRs detail the measures to be taken by Parties / jurisdictions to implement NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. He noted that this was the first review of the APRs under the third reporting cycle, as the 2020 review was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The Review Group’s evaluation is intended to ensure that Parties / jurisdictions have provided a clear account of progress in implementing the actions detailed in their IPs.
- 1.2 All documents relevant to the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024) can be found on the NASCO website: [Third Reporting Cycle \(2019 – 2024\)](#).
- 1.3 A list of the members of the Review Group is contained in Annex 1.

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

- 2.1 The Review Group adopted its Agenda, IP(21)04 (Annex 2).

**3. Review and Agree Working Methods**

- 3.1 The Review Group noted that while no Terms of Reference had been provided by the Council, the Group’s assessments would rely upon instructions for evaluation given in the ‘Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress’, [CNL\(18\)49](#). These Guidelines state that:

*‘The Annual Progress Reports are the primary medium through which NASCO is able to assess progress towards the achievement of its Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and report on its activities through the provision of:*

- *any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the Implementation Plan;*
- *actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year;*
- *significant changes to the status of stocks, and a report on catches; and*

- *actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.*
- 3.2 Prior to the meeting, a template was developed by the Secretariat (CNL40.2178, Annex 3) which was used to record the evaluations.
- 3.3 The Review Group agreed to follow similar working methods to those used during previous reviews. These are that the Chair / Secretary assigned an initial reviewer for each Annual Progress Report (APR). The main tasks of the initial reviewer were to:
- develop the initial assessment of the assigned APR in advance of the meeting, including an assessment of satisfactory progress against each of the actions in the IP and the reporting on: new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management; stock status and new factors affecting salmon abundance; catch statistics; and the additional information required under the Convention;
  - lead discussion of the assigned APR at the meeting; and
  - when needed, and in consultation with the Review Group at the meeting, develop clear guidance for the Party / jurisdiction on how to improve descriptions of actions such that progress can be more clearly measured.
- 3.4 In June 2020, the Council agreed that the Chair and Secretary should work together to put in place alternative plans to review the APRs in 2021, should travel restrictions still be in place. At its November 2020 meeting to review the IPs, given that it seemed highly unlikely they would meet in person in April 2021 for the APR reviews, the Review Group ‘considered that it is inappropriate to consider progress on ‘unsatisfactory’ actions’ [CNL\(21\)07](#). Council was informed of this proposal on 22 January 2021. Therefore, during the APR Review Group Meeting, only ‘satisfactory’ actions were reviewed.
- 3.5 The Review Group agreed to follow the ‘ground rules’ established during the reviews of the IPs for the third reporting cycle:
- the Review Group will draw on information in the IPs but limit its assessments to the information presented in the APRs;
  - because not all Parties / jurisdictions are represented on the Review Group, it has been agreed that a member of the Group from a NASCO Party / jurisdiction whose APR is being reviewed will not be present during the review of that APR; and
  - the initial reviewers can remain anonymous in the report. In the event that one or more members of the Review Group do not agree with a particular aspect or aspects of the review, then the report may indicate that there are dissenting views.

3.6 When all evaluations were complete, a consistency check was undertaken of all the assessments.

#### **4. Evaluation of the 2021 Annual Progress Reports and Development of Feedback to the Parties / jurisdictions**

##### *Covid-19*

4.1 The Review Group recognised that the Covid-19 pandemic affected Parties’ / jurisdictions’ ability to make progress with actions during the reporting year. However, the Review Group agreed that it was unable to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on individual actions. Therefore, some actions have been evaluated as showing unsatisfactory progress, even though their progress may have been impacted by the

pandemic.

Despite the pandemic, the Review Group is keen to acknowledge that good progress was achieved in many cases.

*Overview of the Annual Progress Report Evaluations*

- 4.2 In 2021, the Review Group welcomed the submission of 19 of the 21 expected APRs either by, or just after the deadline.
- 4.3 It acknowledged that the feedback it would provide related only to the actions considered as ‘satisfactory’ during the review of the IPs in November 2020 ([published](#) on NASCO’s website). In the theme areas of ‘Management of salmon fisheries’ and ‘Protection and restoration of Atlantic salmon habitat’ the majority of actions were ‘satisfactory’ in the IPs. The Review Group noted, in general, that the actions that remain ‘unsatisfactory’ in the various IPs fall under NASCO’s third theme area ‘Management of aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics’, particularly in the attainment of the international NASCO / ISFA goals for sea lice and containment.

*2020 Annual Progress Report Evaluations*

- 4.4 The 2021 APR template was issued on 16 January 2021. The Secretariat had completed the ‘Description of Actions’ and ‘Expected Outcomes’ fields in the APR template for each Party / jurisdiction using the text from the most recent versions of the IP. Parties / jurisdictions were asked to complete and return their APRs to the Secretariat by 26 March 2021 if possible and no later than 1 April 2021.
- 4.5 19 of the 21 expected APRs were submitted either by, or just after the deadline.

<b>Party / jurisdiction</b>	<b>Document No.</b>
Canada	<a href="#">CNL(21)45</a>
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands	Not provided
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	<a href="#">CNL(21)32</a>
EU – Denmark	<a href="#">CNL(21)39</a>
EU – Finland	<a href="#">CNL(21)34</a>
EU – France*	<a href="#">CNL(21)37</a>
EU – Germany	<a href="#">CNL(21)36</a>
EU – Ireland	<a href="#">CNL(21)38</a>
EU – Portugal	<a href="#">CNL(21)35</a>
EU – Spain (Asturias)	<a href="#">CNL(21)44</a>
EU – Spain (Cantabria)	<a href="#">CNL(21)40</a>
EU – Spain (Galicia)	<a href="#">CNL(21)42</a>
EU – Spain (Gipuzkoa)	Catch data only provided
EU – Spain (Navarra)	<a href="#">CNL(21)43</a>
EU – Sweden	<a href="#">CNL(21)33</a>
Norway	<a href="#">CNL(21)28</a>

Russian Federation	<a href="#">CNL(21)26</a>
UK – England and Wales	<a href="#">CNL(21)29</a>
UK – Northern Ireland	<a href="#">CNL(21)31</a>
UK – Scotland	<a href="#">CNL(21)30</a>
United States	<a href="#">CNL(21)27</a>

\*The APR from EU – France was submitted on time but the validated version was not received by the Secretariat until 21 April and was, therefore, unable to be made public until then.

4.6 The Review Group’s full evaluations of the 2021 APRs are contained in Annex 4. All of the evaluations were agreed unanimously by the Review Group. The Review Group used the following format in presenting its evaluations:

- the following text was presented at the start of the feedback document to emphasise the importance of the IP / APR process to NASCO:

*‘NASCO considers that the provision of Implementation Plans, together with annual reporting of progress on actions contained within them, is one of the most valuable mechanisms that it has developed. It is a vitally important mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Parties to NASCO have committed to the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon.’*

- additionally, the following text was presented to acknowledge the impact that Covid-19 may have had, and to note the Review Group’s approach to it:

*‘The Review Group recognised that the Covid-19 pandemic affected Parties’ / jurisdictions’ ability to make progress with actions during the reporting year. However, the Review Group agreed that it was unable to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on individual actions. Therefore, some actions have been evaluated as showing unsatisfactory progress, even though their progress may have been impacted by the pandemic.’*

- a table providing links to the relevant documents for that Party / jurisdiction;
- a paragraph summarising the overall assessment of the APR in terms of whether it provided a clear account of progress for the satisfactory actions in the IP;
- a paragraph, if relevant, highlighting interesting developments or challenges related to implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines;
- paragraphs noting whether actions taken in relation to management of fisheries, habitat protection and restoration, and aquaculture and related activities were considered to be satisfactory during the November 2020 review of the IPs, and whether clear progress has been made on these satisfactory actions; and
- a table providing details of the Review Group’s evaluation of progress on each action, highlighting any shortcomings and adding comments or recommendations where it was considered to be helpful to inform future reporting.

4.7 In the third reporting cycle, for the reporting of progress, the column ‘Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress’ replaces the text used during the second reporting cycle, i.e. ‘Clear Progress / No Clear Progress’.

4.8 The Review Group adopted the same standard text for use in the tables as in 2019:

Action No.	Description	Status of Action	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

- The ‘status of action’ categories are:
  - NS = Not Started;
  - OG = Ongoing – clear progress;
  - OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress;
  - OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress;
  - CD = Completed – clear progress;
  - CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress;
- progress on each action was evaluated and categorised according to the list above;
- where progress was deemed to be ongoing but the Review Group considered that improvements could be made to future reporting, these improvements were suggested in the comments / recommendations column in the table;
- for actions where progress was not able to be determined, standard descriptors, giving an explanation of the shortcomings, were used, with further explanations (in italics) as to why these descriptors were used in each case. The agreed standard descriptors were:
  - action not yet started;
  - lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress;
  - reliance on references to websites or publications;
  - reporting timeframe not clearly specified;
  - no progress has been made in the reporting year;
  - progress report is unclear.

4.9 With regard to the content of the APRs, the Review Group noted that shortcomings included:

- several of the APRs had provided information on activities in years prior to the reporting year. The Review Group reminds Parties / jurisdictions that reporting should be confined to activities conducted in the relevant reporting year;
- there is a need to focus on demonstrating progress towards achievement of the actions’ outcomes, specifically referencing the ‘Expected outcome’ set out in the IP. In several instances, the ‘Approach for monitoring’ and ‘Planned timescale’ laid out in the IP were not followed, such that progress on reporting in relation to the targets / metrics stated in those sections of the IP was difficult to determine. Those sections of the IP, together with the ‘Expected outcome’, are what informs the basis for the Review Group’s evaluation and feedback to Parties / jurisdictions;

- reports on progress should be brief, while providing enough information to demonstrate clear progress; this is not the case in many instances;
  - in some cases the overall action was stated to be ‘complete’ by the Party / jurisdiction. However, it was unclear whether this meant that the overall action was complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle or whether it was an ongoing action that would be reported on annually, in which case it should have been marked as ‘ongoing’;
  - in some cases, jurisdictions changed various components of the action that had been agreed in the IP reviewed in November 2020 and reported against the changed action. The Review Group requests that Parties / jurisdictions do not make changes to actions in the APR template provided to them; and
  - when an action has not yet started, the Review Group would like to be informed when the action would start.
- 4.10 The Review Group wishes to commend Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland, EU – Germany and UK – Northern Ireland as positive models for clear and concise reporting on progress.
- 4.11 The Review Group noted that several Parties / jurisdictions reported some interesting and useful developments and challenges in addressing NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines, including:
- **Canada:** in 2020, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) launched a second call for proposals under the \$50 million Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP). The contribution component of this program is designed to promote collaboration between DFO and Indigenous groups to support conservation and protection, monitoring and planning activities related to fish and fish habitat across Canada, including for Atlantic salmon;
  - **DFG – Greenland:** the Review Group notes the preparation of a draft management plan for the salmon fishery in Greenland; and the Review Group welcomes the development of an online salmon catch reporting portal ([www.sullissivik.gl](http://www.sullissivik.gl)), and the drafting of an executive order for the protection of the ecosystem surrounding the Kapisillit River and its preparation for public consultation for this geographically isolated native salmon stock of high conservation value;
  - **EU – Denmark:** research has demonstrated cormorant predation as having a significant effect on juvenile salmonids. This has resulted in increased cormorant regulation along most salmon rivers in winter;
  - **EU – Finland:** in Finland, the status of salmon stocks in 2020 is worse than in recent years. It is noted that there is a 30% reduction in the Tana fishing rule;
  - **EU – France:** as part of the IYS, several excellent films have been produced to promote what the French Agency for Biodiversity is doing to protect salmon;
  - **EU – Germany:** in some areas, the Rhine had increased numbers of returning salmon in 2020, however, several areas still have very low returning salmon, and 2020 was another extremely dry and warmer than average year;
  - **EU – Ireland:** the Review Group welcomes the Geo-database of potential barriers to fish passage and two stage barrier assessment process;
  - **EU – Spain (Asturias):** in helping to conserve Atlantic salmon stocks in Spain

(Asturias)' rivers, ongoing fishing restrictions on where fishing can take place and when continue to restrict exploitation to less than a quarter of the salmon populations that return to the rivers to spawn;

- **EU – Spain (Cantabria):** there were two fish pass installations (River Miera, Puente Agüero; River Nansa, Palombera) and two dams were removed (River Asón Ruminada, río Miera-Bimbo);
- **EU – Spain (Galicia):** regulations for fishing were introduced in 2020 and extended in 2021, limiting the salmon season to two months (May and June) instead of three and banning fishing for all species from 1 July in salmon reaches. The aim of these regulations is to reduce fishing effort and to protect salmon preventing bycatch. The Review Group acknowledges the early completion of the work in relation to fish passage in the third reporting cycle;
- **EU – Spain (Navarra):** since the development of the IP, several barriers have been removed and as a result, there seems to be an improvement on the colonisation rate of the basin by migrating spawners, as they seem to reach further, faster and in greater number to the upper areas of the Bidasoa River basin, where they were seldom seen in the past; and A Salmon Working Group in Spain, re-established in 2019, is expected to enable the exchange of information between all competent authorities and the establishment of synergies that may lead to further improvements in species management in Spain;
- **Norway:** despite the decline in the amounts of salmon returning to Norway, the number of salmon spawning in rivers has increased due to reduced fisheries in the sea and rivers. Escaped farmed salmon, salmon lice and infections related to salmon farming are the greatest anthropogenic threats to Norwegian wild salmon;
- **Russian Federation:** the Federal Law on Recreational Fishery came in force from January 2020. The Review Group noted with concern information provided in the APR from the Russian Federation that the mortality rate of salmon broodstock in the Kola River, the Uмба River and the Keret River was 100% due to Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis (UDN) disease;
- **UK – England and Wales:** regulations requiring mandatory catch-and-release were approved and introduced on all salmon net and rod fisheries in Wales in January 2020;
- **UK – Northern Ireland:** there was considerable improvement in ISW salmon returns in 2020 for several large rivers in Northern Ireland. The River Bann experienced its best escapement since 1997 and heavier runs of fish were also observed in some Foyle area rivers;
- **UK – Scotland:** a notable new initiative in Scotland is the ongoing development of a high-level Wild Salmon Strategy which was included in the Scottish Government Programme for Government 2019 / 2020. The Review Group welcomes the development of management tools to prioritise the location of riparian woodland to mitigate high temperatures under climate change, that have been produced to assist local fisheries managers to prioritise riparian tree planting and seek associated grant funding; and
- **USA:** the Review Group considers that the work relating to climate change in Action H3, describing key habitat attributes for Atlantic salmon and the identification of cold-water refuges, may be of interest to other jurisdictions.

## **5. Recommendations on any Changes to the Reporting Process**

5.1 The Review Group requested some minor APR template changes by the Secretariat for subsequent years to promote more effective reporting by Parties / jurisdictions, as follows:

- in ‘Description of action’, reiterate that each Party / jurisdiction should report in relation to the reporting year only. Parties / jurisdictions should, however, also report on the progress towards the achievement of the goals in the IP if a reporting period for any part of the actions has ended in the reporting year; and
- put the text in the ‘Approach for monitoring...’ in the APR template to remind Parties / jurisdictions of how they had indicated they would monitor / report progress against each action.

5.2 At this point in the reporting cycle the Review Group has no recommendations to Council regarding the APR component of the fourth reporting cycle. However, discussions have begun in relation to potential recommendations.

## **6. Recommendations on Future Theme-based Special Sessions**

6.1 In light of their evaluations, the Review Group suggested that the following topics be considered as topics for future Theme-based Special Sessions:

- how wild salmon management and conservation should be adapted to mitigate for the impact of climate change;
- best practice in improving fish passage for salmon (upstream and downstream);
- sharing stock assessment approaches to inform management; and
- evaluating the impacts of predation on wild Atlantic salmon.

## **7. Arrangements for Presenting the Group’s Report to the Council**

7.1 The Review Group agreed that the Chair would present its report to the Council during the Special Session at the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting (2021). The Group agreed that this report should summarise briefly the Group’s working methods and provide an overview of the evaluations in terms of completeness and timeliness of reporting and progress two years into the third reporting cycle. The circulation of the evaluations ahead of the Annual Meeting would facilitate discussion at the meeting involving all Parties and NGOs.

## **8. Report of the Meeting**

8.1 The Review Group agreed a report of its meeting.

## **9. Other Business**

9.1 There was no other business.

## **10. Close of the Meeting**

10.1 The Chair thanked the members of the Review Group for their hard work during and prior to the meeting. He closed the meeting.



***Members of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report  
Review Group***

Cathal Gallagher	Inland Fisheries Ireland (Review Group Chair)
Paddy Gargan	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Katrine Kærgaard	Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Greenland
Dan Kircheis	NOAA Federal, USA
Paul Knight	Salmon and Trout Conservation UK
Michael Millane	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Steve Sutton	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada
Lawrence Talks	Environment Agency, UK

**IP(21)04**

***Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group  
for the Review of Annual Progress Reports***

***By Video Conference***

***19 – 22, 26, 28 & 30 April 2021***

***Agenda***

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Review and Agree Working Methods
4. Evaluation of the 2021 Annual Progress Reports and Development of Feedback to the Parties / jurisdictions
5. Recommendations on any Changes to the Reporting Process
6. Recommendations on Future Theme-based Special Sessions
7. Arrangements for Presenting the Group's Report to the Council
8. Report of the Meeting
9. Other Business
10. Close of the Meeting

### *Annual Progress Report Evaluation Table 2021*

Please populate this template for the APR, with reference to the associated IP.

<b>Party:</b>	
<b>Jurisdiction / Region:</b>	

**1. Should anything be noted in '1: Changes to the Implementation Plan'?**

--

**2. Should anything be noted in '2: Stock status and catches'?**

--

**3.1 Any overall comments on actions related to Management of Salmon Fisheries?**

--

Please complete the table for each 'satisfactory' action

Key for 'Status of Action'

- NS = Not Started;
- OG = Ongoing – clear progress;
- OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress;
- OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress;
- CD = Completed – clear progress;
- CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<i>Management of Salmon Fisheries</i>					
F1					
F2					

**3.2 Any overall comments on actions related to Habitat Protection and Restoration?**

--

Please complete the table for each 'satisfactory' action

Action No.	Description	Status of Action	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<i>Habitat Protection and Restoration</i>					

H1					
H2					

**3.3 Any overall comments on actions related to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics?**

*Please complete the table for each 'satisfactory' action*

Action No.	Description	Status of Action	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory / Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<i>Aquaculture and Related Activities</i>					
A1					
A2					

**4. Should anything be noted in 'Additional information required under the Convention?'**

**5. Please provide text summarising your overall assessment of the APR in terms of whether it provided a clear account of progress and noting any shortcomings?**

**6. Please provide highlighting interesting developments or challenges related to implementation of NASCO's agreements and guidelines?**

*Thank you very much indeed.*

*IP(21)03**Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports from the Review Group to Parties / jurisdictions*

NASCO considers that the provision of Implementation Plans, together with annual reporting of progress on actions contained within them, is one of the most valuable mechanisms that it has developed. It is a vitally important mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Parties to NASCO have committed to the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon.

The Review Group recognised that the Covid-19 pandemic affected Parties' / jurisdictions' ability to make progress with actions during the reporting year. However, the Review Group agreed that it was unable to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on individual actions. Therefore, some actions have been evaluated as showing unsatisfactory progress, even though their progress may have been impacted by the pandemic.

Full information and documents are available: [Third Reporting Cycle - NASCO](#).

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
Canada	<a href="#">IP(19)17rev2</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09_Canada</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)44rev</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)45</a>

**Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report**

*There are 13 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which seven were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, five actions showed clear progress, while for two, progress was unable to be determined.*

In 2020, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) launched a second call for proposals under the \$50 million Indigenous Habitat Participation Program (IHPP). The contribution component of this program is designed to promote collaboration between DFO and Indigenous groups to support conservation and protection, monitoring and planning activities related to fish and fish habitat across Canada, including for Atlantic salmon.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. It agreed that three showed clear progress (Actions F1, F2 and F4), but the Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action F3.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which two were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. Both Actions (H1 and H2) showed clear progress.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one was deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for this Action (A2-B).

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Improve understanding of factors affecting survival at sea, to inform management	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Action against illegal fishing	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group notes a slight increase in 2020 DFO enforcement hours and detections. However, the Review Group notes that some regional targets may not have been met.
F3	Warm water protocols for adaptive management of recreational fisheries	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. <i>The Review Group was unable to evaluate progress against all of the expected outcomes.</i>	The Review Group notes that there has been no increase in the number of warm water protocols. Progress against outcomes is not demonstrated (reduction in the number of salmon that died).
F4	Monitoring and management of Labrador mixed-stock fisheries	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to receiving the outcome of the first nation consultations and the output of the scientific evaluation driving the adaptive management plan.
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Management of threats related to industrial land-use activities	OG	Satisfactory		The request for brevity of response has not been adhered to. It would help the Review

					Group if this is taken into account in next year's Annual Progress Report.
H2	Management of Acid Rain	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group requests that a succinct report is provided for each of the seven aspects of the action, to enable efficient evaluation of progress.
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A2-B	Technological advancement and research to support containment of farmed fish	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear.	The Review Group would have expected some reporting on the outputs of the research, if available, and also an indication of the areas the proposed new research programmes are directed at.

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
Denmark (Faroe Islands & Greenland) – Greenland	<a href="#">CNL(19)81</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)40</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)32</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are four actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, all four showed clear progress. Overall, the Annual Progress Report from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) - Greenland remains a positive model for clear and concise reporting on progress.*

The Review Group notes the preparation of a draft management plan for the salmon fishery in Greenland. The Review Group welcomes the development of an online salmon catch reporting portal ([www.sullissivik.gl](http://www.sullissivik.gl)), and the drafting of an executive order for the protection of the ecosystem surrounding the Kapisillit River and its preparation for public consultation for this geographically isolated native salmon stock of high conservation value.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that all (Actions F1, F2 and F3) showed clear progress.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the one satisfactory action (Action H1) from the Implementation Plan and agreed that it showed clear progress.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** not applicable. There are no actions in this section of the Implementation Plan.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Evaluation of the reporting system implemented in 2018	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Enhance awareness and implementation of the new license system	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	Continue the heightened level of monitoring and control of the salmon fishery	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	The completion and adoption of a protection plan for the Kapisillit River stock and the entire river area.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomes progress for this geographically isolated native salmon stock of high conservation value.

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2021	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union – Denmark	<a href="#">IP(19)09rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)38</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)39</a>

#### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*None of the actions in the Implementation Plan were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. Therefore, no actions were reviewed in the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review.*



Research has demonstrated cormorant predation as having a significant effect on juvenile salmonids. This has resulted in increased cormorant regulation along most salmon rivers in winter.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** there were no satisfactory actions identified from this section of the Implementation Plan during its review in November 2020.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** there were no satisfactory actions identified from this section of the Implementation Plan during its review in November 2020.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** there were no satisfactory actions identified from this section of the Implementation Plan during its review in November 2020.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union – Finland	<a href="#">IP(19)12rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)34</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)34</a>

#### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are five actions in the Implementation Plan, of which four were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, two actions showed clear progress, while the Review Group was unable to determine progress for one action. Another action was reported as complete, but the Review Group could determine no clear progress.*

In Finland, the status of salmon stocks in 2020 is worse than in recent years. It is noted that there is a 30% reduction in the Tana fishing rule.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one was deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that this action (F2) showed clear progress.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the one satisfactory action (Action H1) from the Implementation Plan and agreed that it was complete but that no clear progress could be determined.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action A1 showed clear progress. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action A2.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
------------	-------------	-------------------	--	----------------------------	----------------------------

<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F2	Spawning targets for the Näätamöjoki river system	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group notes that data collection is well advanced and spawning targets are under development.
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Avoidance of small migration barriers and erosion	CD-NP	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. <i>Reference is made to a project which was conducted before this Implementation Plan (2017-2019). No clear reference is made to work conducted during the life of this Implementation Plan.</i>	The Review Group seeks clarity on when the four culverts were restored.
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A1	Preventing spread of <i>G. salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		
A2	Monitoring of farmed salmon in catches	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. <i>The Review Group was unclear how improved and up-to date information is being provided – it appears the same as before.</i>	

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union – France	<a href="#">IP(19)16rev2</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09 EU – France</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)35</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)37</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are ten actions in the Implementation Plan, of which nine were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, seven actions showed clear progress, while two actions had not yet started.*

As part of the International Year of the Salmon, several excellent films have been produced to promote what the French Agency for Biodiversity is doing to protect salmon.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which two were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that both (Actions F1 and F2), showed progress subject to the comments in the Table below.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three (Actions H1, H2 and H4), showed clear progress. Action H3 had not yet started.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and two (Actions A2 and A3), showed clear progress. Action A1 had not yet started.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Diadromous Good Ecological Status indicators	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group notes that the 'Approach for monitoring' cited in the Annual Progress Report is different to that in the submitted Implementation Plan. The Review Group looks forward to an update of the

					Implementation Plan and identification of the potential benefits for the conservation of salmon.
F2	Conservation limits for fished French rivers	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group requests information on the number of rivers, the number of CLs or management targets established and timelines towards the goal of CLs for all rivers by 2024, as described in the 'Approach for monitoring'.
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Improve upstream and downstream movement by reducing the impacts of obstacles on the main watercourses populated by salmon (removing, levelling or modifying obstacles).	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group recognises the progress made in developing the stream obstacles repository tool. The Review Group requests a summary of the indicator data in future Annual Progress Reports, such as that provided in the excel spreadsheet.
H2	Identify strategic salmon spawning and nursery habitats and match these with appropriate regulatory instruments for their protection.	OG	Satisfactory		
H3	Improving the function of 'weakened' habitat	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group expected to see the relevant areas in France identified (as set out in 'planned timescales')
H4	Co-ordinate salmon action plans with existing planning and management documents.	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A1	Assessment of stocking practices	NS		Action not yet started	In light of the start of this action being delayed until 2022, the Review Group

					suggests that consideration be given to updating the ‘Planned timescales’ section of this action in a revision of the Implementation Plan.
A2	Implementing reporting specifically on sea lice	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would like to understand the nature and details of the reporting system on sea lice together with information set out in the approach to monitoring, to enable assessment of whether sea lice levels on farmed salmon are increasing / decreasing.
A3	Monitoring escapes from commercial marine salmon farms	OG	Satisfactory		

\*The ‘status of action’ categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union – Germany	<a href="#">IP(19)11rev2</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)36</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)36</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report’s review, six actions showed clear progress, while for one action, progress was unable to be determined. Overall, the Annual Progress Report from EU – Germany is a positive model for clear and concise reporting on progress.*

In some areas, the Rhine had increased numbers of returning salmon in 2020, however, several areas still have very low returning salmon, and 2020 was another extremely dry and warmer than average year.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action F1 showed clear progress, whilst progress was unable to be determined for Action F2.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions (H1, H2, H3 and H4) from the Implementation Plan and agreed that all showed clear progress.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** the Review Group reviewed the one satisfactory action from the Implementation Plan and agreed that it showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Self-sustaining salmon stock in the Agger river system	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	A fishing ban zone in the Nahe river	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group seeks to understand whether any progress has been made and the cause of the delay.
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Preserve and restore the ecological passability at about 250 barrages in German federal waterways	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomes the amount of work undertaken and planned for future years and is looking forward to following the progress of this work.
H2	Restoring of up- and downstream river connectivity.	OG	Satisfactory		
H3	Establish river connectivity for fish in the Elbe catchment.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to receiving an update on the implementation status of this action in next year's Annual Progress Report.
H4	Regulation of avian predation.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group notes this interesting project and would welcome reporting against each milestone contained in the Implementation Plan (Planned timescale).
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					

A1	Undertake a co-ordinated genetic monitoring in the entire Rhine Catchment area.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would welcome reporting against each milestone in the Implementation Plan (Planned timescale).
----	---	----	--------------	--	---

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union – Ireland	<a href="#">IP(19)15rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)28</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)38</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are 10 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which seven were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, five actions showed clear progress and one had been successfully completed. No report was provided for one action.*

The Review Group welcomes the Geo-database of potential barriers to fish passage and the two-stage barrier assessment process.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that two showed clear progress (Actions F1 and F2) and one had been successfully completed (Action F3).

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three showed clear progress (Actions H1, H2 and H3). No report was provided for the Action H4.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** the three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan were deemed to be unsatisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Protection against illegal fishing	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomes the clear and measurable report and appreciates having a baseline to refer to.

F2	Carcass tagging and logbook scheme	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group finds it helpful to have preceding years' data to show trends. The Review Group would welcome information on the number and proportion of non-compliant anglers taken to court on an annual basis.
F3	IYS promotion	CD	Satisfactory		
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Ireland's River Basin Management Plan	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary in next year's Annual Progress Report, concentrating on achievement of the objectives.
H2	Hydromorphological threats	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary in next year's Annual Progress Report.
H3	Impact of climate change on Irish Fisheries	OG	Satisfactory		
H4	Invasive species		Unsatisfactory	No report provided	The Review Group notes that this is a satisfactory action in the Implementation Plan and looks forward to a report in next year's Annual Progress Report.

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union – Portugal	<a href="#">IP(19)06rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)43</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)35</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which four were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, one action showed clear progress, while for three, progress was unable to be determined.*



**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which three were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that one action (Action F4) showed clear progress, while it was unable to determine progress for Actions F1 and F3.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one, Action H2, was deemed satisfactory during the review of the IP in November 2020. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for this Action.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** there were no satisfactory actions identified from this section of the Implementation Plan during its review in November 2020.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Establishment of a Commission for the Monitoring of Diadromous Species Fisheries with a working group exclusively dedicated to the Atlantic salmon.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. <i>It is not clear if there are legal issues with this action.</i>	
F3	Operational Plan for the Monitoring and Management of Anadromous Fish in Portugal	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear.	The Review Group looks forward to the update on project outputs (Expected outcome) in the next Annual Progress Report.
F4	Permanent International Commission	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H2	Red Book of freshwater and diadromous fishes and development of an information system about these species.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear.	The Review Group looks forward to the results of the data collected from 200 sampling sites distributed throughout

					Portugal in 2019 ('Approach for monitoring' from the Implementation Plan).
--	--	--	--	--	--

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union – Spain (Asturias)	<a href="#">IP(19)rev2</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)29</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)44</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are six actions in the Implementation Plan, of which five were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, two actions showed clear progress, while for three, progress was unable to be determined. The Review Group found it challenging to determine progress in delivering the actions set out in the Implementation Plan, as a number of actions and expected outcomes included in the Annual Progress Report were different to those agreed by the Review Group during the Implementation Plan review in November 2020. The Review Group requests that EU – Spain (Asturias) does not alter actions agreed from the most recent Implementation Plan review, within the Annual Progress Report template provided.*

In helping to conserve Atlantic salmon stocks in Spain (Asturias)'s rivers, ongoing fishing restrictions on where fishing can take place and when, continue to restrict exploitation to less than a quarter of the salmon populations that return to the rivers to spawn.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan reviewed in November 2020 and agreed that one showed clear progress (Action F3), while it was unable to determine progress for Actions F1 and F2.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action H1 showed clear progress whilst it was unable to determine progress for Action H2.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** the single action from the Implementation Plan was not deemed to be satisfactory by the Review Group in its November 2020 review.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
------------	-------------	-------------------	--	----------------------------	----------------------------

<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Increase vigilance to reduce possible illegal fishing	CD-NP	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	<p>The Review Group identified that the ‘expected outcome’ for this action has been changed from that agreed in November 2020. The Review Group was therefore unable to evaluate progress.</p> <p>The Review Group requests that EU-Spain (Asturias) does not alter agreed actions.</p> <p>The Review Group questions whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2020. If just for 2020 and it will continue, it should be marked as ‘ongoing’.</p>
F2	Regulate river catches avoiding overfishing.	CD-NP	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	<p>The Review Group acknowledges that some progress has been made in relation to actions and would recommend that consideration is given to the comments below, in relation to the next Annual Progress Report.</p> <p>The Review Group identified that the ‘Expected outcome’ for this action has been changed from that agreed in November 2020. The Review Group was therefore unable to evaluate progress.</p> <p>The Review Group requests that EU-Spain (Asturias) does not alter agreed actions.</p> <p>The Review Group questions whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2020. If just for 2020 and it will continue, it should be marked as ‘ongoing’.</p>

F3	Perform annual censuses (counts) broodstock salmon to estimate their number against fishing. This data allows to calculate a conservation limit.	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group questions whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2020. If just for 2020 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Program of cleaning and annual maintenance of the scales in mini-stations and obstacles to the ski lift of the salmon	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group questions whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2020. If just for 2020 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
H2	Increase knowledge about the problem of predation, which is difficult to solve. Controls of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> are performed.	CD-NP	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group notes efforts in controlling cormorants in 2019. However, it would welcome details on increasing knowledge of predation impact on salmon.

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union – Spain (Cantabria)	<a href="#">IP(19)22rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09 EU – Spain (Cantabria)</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)30</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)40</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*All 10 actions in the Implementation Plan were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, the Review Group noted that five actions had not yet started and for one, no progress had been made in the reporting year. One action showed clear progress, while for three, progress was unable to be determined. A common theme in the Annual Progress Report is that where progress was identified, it was often unclear as to the specific metric that was being used to evaluate that progress. This made evaluating progress very difficult.*

There were two fish pass installations (River Miera, Puente Agüero; River Nansa, Palombera) and two dams were removed (River Asón Ruminada, río Miera-Bimbo).

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the five satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. Three had not yet started (Actions F2, F4 and F5), and the Review Group agreed that it was unable to determine progress for the other two actions (Actions F1 and F3).

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. One has not yet started (Action H3) and no progress was made in the reporting year for Action H2. The Review Group agreed that one action showed clear progress (Action H1), whilst it was unable to determine progress for Action H4.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** the Review Group reviewed the one satisfactory action from the Implementation Plan. It had not yet started.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Reducing over-exploitation of MSW in rivers through restrictions on landing large fish.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. <i>The Review Group recognises the positive element of setting a TAC, but it is unclear what the 20% is in reference to, and how setting a TAC of 100 relates to a reduction in the over-exploitation of MSW fish. Is the TAC of 100 less</i>	The Review Group would welcome a clear description of demonstrated progress towards increased MSW survival and increased egg deposition.

				<i>than it has been before?</i>	
F2	Joint promotion, with stakeholders, of catch and release in rod fisheries.	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group asks when this action will start.
F3	Establishing Conservation Limits and management targets from all salmon stocks.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. <i>The Review Group acknowledges the setting of the TAC (management target) but it was unclear how setting a catch limit contributes to providing data on the current stock status, or the development of Conservation Limits.</i>	The Review Group expected reporting in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. Monitor the current status of stocks relative to the reference points established. Parr surveys, catch statistics & exploitation in rivers).
F4	Establishing in-river exploitation levels, through tagging / returns & catch and effort statistics.	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group asks when this action will start.
F5	Running monitoring in index river (smolt & spawner census, tagging of smolt, electrofishing).	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group asks when this action will start.
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Improve fish passage by removing dams, installing fishways, removing culverts	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomes the information provided and suggests in future reporting that consideration is given to the provision of data in line with the monitoring

	and upgrading road-stream crossings.				outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. Enumerate the number of habitat area units and / or stream kilometres made accessible).
H2	Undertaking further research on impacts of hydropower (including cumulative effects) and taking account of best scientific advice to maintain etc.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	
H3	Provision of appropriate river flows by implementing sustainable abstraction programmes.	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group asks when this action will start.
H4	Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use, through implementing the SACs Management Plans.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. <i>Although it states a 40% measure of progress, it is unclear what progress has been made and what the 40% is in reference to.</i>	The Review Group would like to see a description of the improvements to water bodies and land management practices that contributed to the 40% stated measure of progress (similar to the reporting under Action H1). The Review Group considers that inclusion of targets would support the evaluation of this action.
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A1	Regulate salmonid stocking in Cantabrian rivers by implementing and enforcing existing and proposed new stocking programme. The scheme will include limiting stock levels and preserving the genetic integrity of stocked fish. Out of catchment	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group asks when this action will start.

	introductions of fish will be forbidden.				
--	--	--	--	--	--

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union – Spain (Galicia)	<a href="#">IP(19)19rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09_EU – Spain (Galicia)</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)31</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)42</a>

Full information and documents are available: [Third Reporting Cycle - NASCO](#).

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are three actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, all are described as complete. Action F3 was not reviewed because it was not included in the Implementation Plan reviewed in November 2020.*

Regulations for fishing were introduced in 2020 and extended in 2021, limiting the salmon season to two months (May and June) instead of three and banning fishing for all species from 1 July in salmon reaches. The aim of these regulations is to reduce fishing effort and to protect salmon by preventing by-catch. The Review Group acknowledges the early completion of the work in relation to fish passage in the third reporting cycle.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the one satisfactory action (Action F4) from the Implementation Plan and agreed that it showed clear progress. Action F3 was not reviewed, because it was not included in the Implementation Plan reviewed in November 2020.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions in the Implementation Plan and agreed that both have been successfully completed.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** not applicable.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					



F4	Stocking Miño's tributaries in Portugal and Spain presently not used by salmon with parr of local origin (river Tea).	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group questions whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2020. If it is complete just for 2020 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Design and testing of new passage facilities for some tributaries of the Miño river.	CD	Satisfactory		
H2	Permeabilization or demolition of barriers in the Miño system	CD	Satisfactory		

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
European Union - Spain (Navarra)	<a href="#">IP(19)14rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)32</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)43</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are nine actions in the Implementation Plan, of which eight were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, six actions showed clear progress. Two actions had not yet started. The Review Group considered the answer presented in H2 as an example of clear and concise reporting.*

Since the development of the Implementation Plan, several barriers have been removed and as a result, there seems to be an improvement on the colonisation rate of the basin by migrating spawners, as they seem to reach further, faster and in greater number to the upper areas of the Bidasoa River basin, where they were seldom seen in the past. A Salmon Working Group in Spain, re-established in 2019, is expected to enable the exchange of information between all competent authorities and the establishment of synergies that may lead to further improvements in species management in Spain.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that all Actions (F1, F2, F3 and F4) showed clear progress.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action H2 showed clear progress. Actions H1 and H3 had yet to start.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one was deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that this action (Action A1) showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Data analysis for the establishment of the necessary reference limits	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would expect, in 2022, to see reference limits for every indicator of conservation status, resulting in the completion of this action.
F2	Annual monitoring of the species, based on collection of various biometric and biological data	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group is impressed by the actions completed to date. The Review Group questions whether the overall action is complete or will be reported on annually, as stated in the action (in which case it should be marked as 'ongoing').
F3	Establishment of the annual total authorized catch (TAC) and the multi-sea-winter protection measures.	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group questions whether the overall action is complete or will be reported on annually, as stated in the action (in which case it should be marked as 'ongoing').  The Review Group seeks clarification on the % MSW TAC that triggered the closure of the angling season.
F4	Socio-economic study of the angling activity in Bidasoa River	OG	Satisfactory		

<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group asks when this action will start.
H2	Evaluation of the permeability of 7 obstacles or fish-ways carried out. Preparation and implementation of 12 new projects to improve longitudinal connectivity.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomes the clear outline of progress achieved thus far.
H3	Study about the smolt mortality during the migration to the sea in the hydropower turbines of the Bidasoa River basin	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group asks when this action will start.
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A1	Continue supplemental stocking until Favourable Conservation Status is achieved	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomes the clear and measurable report of progress.  The Review Group questions whether the overall action is complete or will be reported on annually, as stated in the action (in which case it should be marked as 'ongoing').

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Implementation Plan as of November 2020</b>	<b>IP Review November 2020</b>	<b>2020 APR</b>	<b>2021 APR</b>
<b>European Union – Sweden</b>	<a href="#">CNL(19)82</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)33</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)33</a>

## Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*All of the actions in the Implementation Plan, were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, 11 actions showed clear progress, while for four progress was unable to be determined. For one action, no progress had been made in the reporting year and one action had not yet started. The Review Group requests that EU – Sweden does not alter actions agreed from the most recent Implementation Plan review, within the Annual Progress Report template provided.*

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the eight satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that six showed clear progress (F2, F3, F5, F6, F7 and F8) while for Action F1, no progress had been made in the reporting year. Action F4 had not yet started.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the six satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three showed clear progress (H2, H5 and H6), while for three actions it was unable to determine progress (H1, H3 and H4).

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** the Review Group reviewed two actions that were split from one satisfactory action from the Implementation Plan, and agreed that both showed clear progress (Actions A2 and A3). Actions A1 and A4 were different to those agreed by the Review Group during the Implementation Plan review in November 2020 and therefore not reviewed.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	New fishing rules	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group notes that new fishing rules were due to be implemented in 2020 (Approach for monitoring in the Implementation Plan).
F2	Fin-clipping smolts	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group questions whether the overall action is complete or will be reported on annually, as stated in the action (in which case it should be marked as 'ongoing').
F3	Coastal MSF	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Riverine MSF	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group asks when this action will start.

F5	Genetic diversity	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group questions whether the overall action is complete or will be reported on annually, as stated in the action (in which case it should be marked as 'ongoing').
F6	Stock status	OG	Satisfactory		
F7	Exploitation in rivers	OG	Satisfactory		
F8	Improve catch statistics	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Liming	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear.	The Review Group would have expected to see a list of all rivers limed in 2020 (Approach for monitoring in the Implementation Plan).
H2	Habitat survey	OG	Satisfactory		
H3	Habitat restoration	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	It was unclear to the Review Group what progress was made in 2020.
H4	Habitat restoration	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	It was unclear to the Review Group what progress was made in 2020.
H5	Connectivity	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group asks whether this action is now complete.
H6	Water regulation	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A2	Alien Species, <i>Oncorhynchus species</i>	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group notes that this action has been split from Action A3 in the Implementation Plan reviewed in November 2020 but considers it still to be a satisfactory action.
A3	Alien species, <i>Salmo salar</i>	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group notes that this action has been split from action A3 in the Implementation Plan reviewed in November 2020 but considers it still to be a satisfactory action.

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress;

CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
Norway	<a href="#">IP(19)18rev2</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09_Norway</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)39</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)28</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are 22 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 19 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report’s review, 17 actions showed clear progress, while for two, progress was unable to be determined.*

Despite the decline in the amounts of salmon returning to Norway, the number of salmon spawning in rivers has increased due to reduced fisheries in the sea and rivers. Escaped farmed salmon, salmon lice and infections related to salmon farming are the greatest anthropogenic threats to Norwegian wild salmon.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the five satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that four showed clear progress (Actions F1, F3, F4, F5), but it was unable to determine progress for Action F2a.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which two were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that both (Actions H1 and H2) showed clear progress.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** there are 13 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which 12 were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that 11 of these (Actions A1-1, A1-2, A1-3 A1-4, A1-6, A3-1, A3-2, A3-3, A3-4, A4-1 and A4-2) showed clear progress, whilst it was unable to determine progress for Action A1-5.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Development, testing and evaluation of an expanded sea survival surveillance program	OG	Satisfactory		

F2	a) Increased effort to reveal and sanction illegal fisheries. (b) Revision of salmon and inland fisheries act to introduce stricter reactions to violation of legislation	CD-NP	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress in part a)	The Review Group would wish to be informed of the number of illegal salmon fisheries that were sanctioned.  The Review Group acknowledges the progress made in the revision of the Inland Fisheries Act.
F3	Revision of regulatory measures	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Development of an electronic system to make reporting of catches in the sea by recreational anglers possible	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group expected reporting in line with the monitoring approach outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. number of users and reported catches by anglers in the sea and reduction in unreported catches).
F5	Second generation Spawning Targets	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Long-term liming of 23 acidified rivers	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Mitigation measures for improved salmon habitat in regulated rivers	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A1-1	Genetic interaction and escaped farmed fish are a threat to wild salmon. Increased effort is necessary to reduce the effects and find ways to avoid the influence from farmed salmon	OG	Satisfactory		
A1-2	Further improvement of precautionary measures	OG	Satisfactory		

A1-3	Establish more experience with farming sterile fish in commercial fish farms	OG	Satisfactory		
A1-4	Further developing and improving the National monitoring program of escaped salmon in the rivers	OG	Satisfactory		
A1-5	Removal of escaped fish in rivers	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	The Review Group was unable to determine the extent to which the progress described will contribute to reduced hybridisation between wild and farmed fish.
A1-6	Monitoring project on genetical integrity in wild Atlantic Salmon populations	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledges that this is a monitoring project but notes that results of monitoring do not show clear reduction in hybridisation (Expected outcome).
A3-1	Eradication of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in the Driva (4 rivers) and Drammen (3 river) region.	OG	Satisfactory		
A3-2	Surveillance of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		
A3-3	Contingency plan for <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group notes that the current status of the action has not been identified.
A3-4	Information campaign	OG	Satisfactory		
A4-1	Threat posed by Pink Salmon	OG	Satisfactory		
A4-2	Catch register for Pink salmon	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would expect data on the numbers of pink salmon reported captured from 2021.

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
Russian Federation	<a href="#">IP(19)05rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)26</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)26</a>



## Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, of which six were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review three actions showed clear progress, while for one, progress was unable to be determined. No progress was made in the reporting year for two actions.*

The Federal Law on Recreational Fishery came in force from January 2020. In 2020, adult Atlantic salmon in the Kola and the Tuloma rivers continued to show signs of Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis (UDN) disease. Diseased salmon were also found in other rivers draining both into the Barents and in the White seas. The Review Group noted with concern that the mortality rate of salmon broodstock in the Kola River, the Uмба River and the Keret River was 100% due to UDN disease.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that one showed clear progress (Action F3), while it was unable to determine progress for Action F1. No progress was made in the reporting year for Action F2.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one was deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that this action (H1) showed clear progress.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that one (Action A2) showed clear progress, whilst for Action A1, no progress was made in the reporting year.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Estimate unreported catches	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group acknowledges measures being undertaken to increase protection. However, it was unable to relate how the measures taken would result in a quantifiable reduction in unreported catches in problem areas.
F2	Develop CLs for salmon stocks	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	

F3	Monitor interceptory coastal salmon fishery	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Continue developing inventories of salmon rivers	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A1	Develop a policy on sea lice and containment consistent with NASCO's BMP guidance	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group wishes to see reporting on the development of a policy consistent with the international goals.
A2	Minimise the risk of further spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> etc.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledges the work being undertaken to prevent the spread of <i>G. salaris</i> and looks forward to the plan in line with the Road Map's 11 recommendations (Expected outcome).

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
United Kingdom – England & Wales	<a href="#">IP(19)13rev2</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09 UK – England and Wales</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)37</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)29</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are 16 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 15 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, 12 actions showed clear progress, while for three progress was unable to be determined. The Review Group found this Annual Progress Report challenging to review due to the number of sub actions and the amount of detail included. The Review Group would welcome a more succinct reporting based on the targets in the 'Approach for monitoring' section in the Implementation Plan.*

Regulations requiring mandatory catch-and-release were approved and introduced on all salmon net and rod fisheries in Wales in January 2020.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the six satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that five (Actions F1, F2, F3, F4 and F5) showed clear progress, whilst it was unable to determine progress for Action F6.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** the Review Group reviewed the six satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that four (Actions H1, H3, H5 and H6) showed clear progress, whilst it was unable to determine progress for two (Actions H2 and H4).

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which three were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that all (Actions A1, A2 and A3) showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Assessments of salmon stocks	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Improved stock assessment methodology	OG	Satisfactory		The basis for a strong methodology has been made and the Review Group looks forward to following further progress.
F3	New restrictions on net and rod fisheries	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against activities completed in the reporting year.
F4	Mixed-stock fisheries	OG	Satisfactory		
F5	Promote Catch & Release	OG	Satisfactory		
F6	Ensure that unregulated (illegal) fishing and by-catch in other fisheries does not threaten conservation of stocks (F6)	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group recommends that the report is confined to commenting on the 'Expected outcome' (Reduced illegal fishing and by-catch of migratory salmonids in estuaries and nearshore areas) with particular reference to reporting as outlined in the 'Approach for monitoring' in the Implementation Plan.
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Increase salmon's climate change resilience	OG	Satisfactory		For part a), the Review Group requests that reporting is done on the stated targets in the

					‘Approach for monitoring’ in the Implementation Plan.
H2	Improve the survival of salmon in estuaries and inshore waters	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against the targets /metrics stated in the ‘Approach for monitoring’ in the Implementation Plan.
H3	Improve fish passage and salmon habitat through implementing River Basin Management Plans	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to an update on the proposed fish passage legislation. The Review Group appreciates the reporting against the stated targets.
H4	Sustainable abstraction	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against the targets /metrics stated in the ‘Approach for monitoring’ in the Implementation Plan.
H5	Improving healthy smolt production by improving water quality	OG	Satisfactory		For part b), the Review Group requests that reporting is done on the stated targets in the ‘Approach for monitoring’ in the Implementation Plan.
H6	Addressing the threat of Predation	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A1	Controlling salmon stocking	OG	Satisfactory		For part b), the Review Group requests that reporting is done on the stated target in the ‘Approach for monitoring’ in the Implementation Plan.
A2	Prevent the introduction and spread of non-native fish, invertebrate species, parasites and diseases, excluding <i>G. salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		
A3	Prevent the introduction and spread of the non-native parasite <i>G. salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
United Kingdom – Northern Ireland	<a href="#">IP(19)08rev2</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)41</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)31</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are 17 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 15 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, seven actions showed clear progress, while for two, progress was unable to be determined. No progress was made in the reporting year for four actions and for one action, limited progress had been made in the reporting year. One action had been successfully completed. Overall, the Annual Progress Report from Northern Ireland remains a positive model for clear and concise reporting on progress.*

There was considerable improvement in 1SW salmon returns in 2020 for several large rivers in Northern Ireland. The River Bann experienced its best escapement since 1997 and heavier runs of fish were also observed in some Foyle area rivers.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the six satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that four showed clear progress (Actions F1, F3, F4 and F6), while it was unable to determine progress for Action F5. Action F2 is ongoing, with no progress made in the reporting year.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which four were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that one (Action H1) was successfully completed and one (Action H3) showed clear progress. Actions H2 and H4 are ongoing, with no progress made in the reporting year.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which five were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that two showed clear progress (Actions A2 and A4), whilst for one, it was unable to determine progress (Action A5). For Action A3 the Review Group agreed that limited progress had been made in the reporting year and for Action A6 no progress had been made in the reporting year.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
------------	-------------	-------------------	--	----------------------------	----------------------------

<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	The target is to manage the 18 primary rivers affected by both commercial and recreational fisheries to exceed their CLs	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledges the clear reporting provided but requests additional information in relation to the number of primary salmon rivers increasing their adult returns and exceeding their CLs (expected outcome) over time.
F2	Update Conservation limits and Management targets for 3 primary salmon rivers in Northern Ireland using refreshed habitat data	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	
F3	Maintain the Long Term Monitoring of Wild Salmon Stock on the R Bush - used as an Index River for NI	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	To assess mortality of wild salmon smolts moving from the freshwater to the marine environment	OG	Satisfactory		
F5	To improve recreational catch returns and statistics from the current baseline of 5 - 10% to 30%	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	
F6	To protect wild salmon stocks from illegal activity	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	To assess and provide fishery advice for 100% of River drainage maintenance schemes to protect salmon habitat and to incorporate mitigation /	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group questions whether the overall action is complete or will be reported on annually, as stated in the action (in which case it should be marked as 'ongoing').

	improvement measures where possible				
H2	Management and control of water quality in salmon producing rivers in NI - the target is to have 70% of rivers at good ecological status by 2021.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year.	The Review Group notes the very clear reporting on this action but has marked it as unsatisfactory because it has not achieved the expected outcome.
H3	To identify and assess the impact of barriers on 18 primary salmon rivers in NI by 2024.	OG	Satisfactory		
H4	To update inventory of current and potential salmon habitat on 3 primary salmon rivers in NI.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A2	Monitor for Non NI escapee aquaculture salmon in a wild salmon stock in N. Ireland.	OG	Satisfactory		
A3	Monitoring sea lice levels in aquaculture salmon in N. Ireland	OG	Unsatisfactory	Limited progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group has marked this as unsatisfactory because 12 inspections were expected (planned timescales in the Implementation Plan) and only two were carried out.
A4	Monitoring levels of genetic introgression of aquaculture salmon into wild stocks in NI	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to the 2021 report on genetic introgression.
A5	To assess marine aquaculture sites annually	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group acknowledges that no escapes were reported from aquaculture facilities in 2020 but is unclear how a visual

					surface inspection can establish the potential for escapes.
A6	To establish long term monitoring through the establishment of a sea lice-mortality risk index in wild anadromous salmonids in an area with aquaculture production.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
United Kingdom – Scotland	<a href="#">IP(19)10rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09_UK – Scotland</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)42</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)30</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are 20 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 16 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, 11 actions showed clear progress, while for three progress was unable to be determined. For two actions, no progress was made in the reporting year.*

A notable new initiative in UK Scotland is the ongoing development of a high-level Wild Salmon Strategy which was included in the Scottish Government Programme for Government 2019 / 2020. The Review Group welcomes the development of management tools to prioritise the location of riparian woodland to mitigate high temperatures under climate change, that have been produced to assist local fisheries managers to prioritise riparian tree planting and seek associated grant funding.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three showed clear progress (all parts of Action F1), while Action F2 is ongoing, with no progress made in the reporting year.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** there are 12 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which 11 were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that seven of these actions showed clear progress (Actions H1 cont., H3, H6, H7, H8, H8 cont. and H8 cont.). However, no progress was made in the reporting year for Action H5, and the Review Group was unable to determine progress for Actions H1, H2 and H4.



**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one was deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that this Action (A1) showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Continued annual assessment of Scotland's stocks using an adult based assessment method based on rod catch information and additional ancillary data	OG	Satisfactory		
F1 cont	Development of a complementary juvenile assessment tool	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledges the good work being carried out and looks forward to the reporting on future work scheduled for 2021 and 2022.
F1 cont	Research study on C&R effect on fish	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Review of Scotland's inshore marine gill net legislation	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group is keen to see progress on this action in the next Annual Progress Report.
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Reductions in point source and diffuse pollution	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress. <i>It is acknowledged that once the GIS pressures mapping tool is activated,</i>	The Review Group looks forward to seeing data to support the improvement of water quality in salmon catchments, in future Annual Progress Reports.

				<i>the target is to show an increase in water quality metrics, by the end of the five-year NASCO plan period. However, no information was reported in the 2020 APR to assess whether there has been any reduction in point source or diffuse pollution to date.</i>	
H1 cont	Explore the benefit and feasibility of nutrient enrichment in upland oligotrophic parts of river systems.	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) have identified that the main pressures on flows and levels in Scotland	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress <i>It is acknowledged that once the GIS pressures mapping tool is activated, the target is to show a reduction in relevant metrics, by the end of the five-year NASCO plan period. However, progress on this</i>	The Review Group looks forward to seeing data to support a reduction in the river length affected by abstraction; flow regulation; upland/agriculture, land-use and drainage; and/or forestry drainage, in future Annual Progress Reports.

				<i>action has been deemed unsatisfactory as no information was reported to assess whether any progress has been made to date.</i>	
H3	Implement Scotland's Second Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP2).	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomes the production of a management tool to support mitigation of high temperatures (climate change).
H4	Prevention of morphological impacts and passive recovery of watercourses will be achieved through the controlled activity regulations (CAR) and associated 'General Binding Rules'	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress <i>It is acknowledged that once the GIS pressures mapping tool is activated, the target is to show a reduction in relevant metrics, by the end of the five-year NASCO plan period. However, progress on this action has been deemed unsatisfactory as no information was reported to assess whether any progress has been made to date</i>	The Review Group looks forward to seeing a reduction in the river length affected by sedimentation; loss of sediment transfer; lack of, or excessive, large woody debris; canalisation / dredging / boulder removal.

H5	The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and its supporting Forests and Water Guidelines	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	
H6	Scotland's River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	OG	Satisfactory		
H7	Continued implementation of monitoring / research strategy for potential marine renewable and salmonid interactions.	OG	Satisfactory		
H8	Research, review and experimentation to better understand and address, as appropriate, the impact of piscivorous birds on Atlantic salmon.	OG	Satisfactory		
H8 cont	Pilot study to identify the degree of interaction and potential scale of impact of dolphins on returning adult Atlantic salmon in the Moray Firth.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to reporting on the outcome of this action in the next Annual Progress Report.
<b>Aquaculture and Related Activities</b>					
A1	Marine Scotland has reviewed the policy permitting salmon introductions (stocking), and will also revisit options for a new licensing regime under that policy.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group requests further information on how the changes to policy have improved the conservation status of local wild Atlantic salmon populations (Expected outcome).

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Jurisdiction	Implementation Plan as of November 2020	IP Review November 2020	2020 APR	2021 APR
USA	<a href="#">IP(19)25rev</a>	<a href="#">IP(20)09_United States</a>	<a href="#">CNL(20)27</a>	<a href="#">CNL(21)27</a>

### Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

*There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 10 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2021 Annual Progress Report's review, nine actions showed clear progress, while for one, progress was unable to be determined.*

The Review Group considers that the work relating to climate change in Action H3, describing key habitat attributes for Atlantic salmon and the identification of cold-water refuges, may be of interest to other jurisdictions.

**Management of Salmon Fisheries:** The Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions in the Implementation Plan and agreed that all (Actions F1, F2, F3 and F4) showed clear progress.

**Habitat Protection and Restoration:** The Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions in the Implementation Plan and agreed that all (Actions H1, H2 and H3) showed clear progress.

**Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics:** There are four actions in this section of the Implementation Plan, of which three were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that two of these actions showed clear progress (Actions A2 and A3) but was unable to determined progress for Action A4.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
<b>Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>					
F1	Interception of U.S.-origin salmon in West Greenland, St. Pierre et Miquelon, and Canada (Labrador)	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledges progress against this action and expects clear reporting on expected outcomes a) and c), in future.
F2	Reduce bycatch of Atlantic salmon	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group notes the clear progress made in the new regulations to address inconsistencies in the angling size limits to

					avoid accidental harvest of salmon and in the outreach campaign (species identification). It looks forward to reports on progress in future years on e.g. area closures, gear restrictions, bag limit reductions, etc.
F3	Reduce poaching of Atlantic salmon	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomes the clear and succinct account of enforcement activity to protect Atlantic salmon and would welcome seeing comparative data next year.
F4	Reducing mortality of salmon in commercial fisheries	OG	Satisfactory		
<b>Habitat Protection and Restoration</b>					
H1	Improve fish passage at small dams and road-stream crossings	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomes the clear quantitative reporting on progress made in improving fish passage.
H2	Improve fish passage at hydroelectric dams	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledges progress against this action and would welcome reporting on reduced mortality in future.
H3	Develop and implement a freshwater protection, restoration, and enhancement strategy	OG	Satisfactory		
<b><i>Aquaculture and Related Activities</i></b>					
A2	Containment of aquaculture-origin salmon	OG	Satisfactory		
A3	Implement broodstock management protocols at conservation hatcheries	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledges the good work being carried out and looks forward to the demonstration of the maintenance of genetic diversity in future.
A4	Reduce stocking of non-native salmonids	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group notes that it is not clear whether the stocking that occurred in 2020 represents a reduction. The Review Group

					notes that the current status of this action has not been identified.
--	--	--	--	--	---

\*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.