Summary of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans

The Annual Progress Reports (APRs) summarised here are the second APRs to be submitted under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans (IPs) using the agreed template as contained in document CNL(18)51. The following information is requested:

- 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;
- any significant changes to the status of stocks, and a report on catches; and
- any actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The APRs submitted in 2021 will be reviewed by the IP / APR Review Group in April and its report will be made available on the NASCO website. In this paper, the Secretariat has presented the information provided in section 1 (changes to Implementation Plans and new initiatives / achievements relating to salmon conservation and management), section 2 (stock status and catches) and section 4 (additional information required under the Convention) of those APRs received. Section 3 of the APRs covers the progress made over the last year on each of the actions detailed in the IPs and these will have been evaluated in the Review Group's report. At the time of writing this report, no APRs have been received from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands or European Union – Spain (Gipuzkoa).

1. Changes to the Implementation Plans

1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan

Canada

No additional changes are proposed beyond those submitted in November 2020.

European Union

France: The plan was submitted in November 2021. No revisions have therefore been made since.

Germany: the response to question 4.3 (a)(i) will be revised in accordance with the recommendations of the NASCO IP Review Group and submitted to the Secretariat on time.

Portugal: the long-term objective is to improve the knowledge of the stock through information sharing between all involved in 'Salmon community', to restore and maintain protection of habitat and species control.

***Spain (Navarra)*:** the new Implementation Plan for the period 2019-2024 submitted to NASCO in 2019 and reviewed in 2020, has been reviewed again and submitted back to the Spanish Ministry, following the feedback received in the Evaluation of the Revised Implementation Plan under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024) from the Review Group to EU – Spain (Navarra) IP(20)09_EU – Spain (Navarra). In this review, answers to questions 2.5, 4.3 (a)(i), 4.8 and 4.9 have been improved and description and monitoring of action A2 has been modified to better fit the requirements of the Review Group.

Sweden: changes to the CNL(18)50 NASCO Implementation Plan for the period 2019 – 2024:

- in 3.3 we have made it more clear what management actions are planned in relation to climate change and alien species;
- in 4.11 we have restructured Action A1 and A2 (merged the *Gyrodactylus* actions to one action and divided the alien species actions to two actions) to better reflect the identified threats in 4.10.

United Kingdom

***England and Wales*:** the draft Implementation Plan for England and Wales is being revised according to the findings of the latest Review, but these revisions are deemed minor and therefore not described in further detail here.

Scotland: the UK – Scotland Implementation Plan is being reviewed in the light of the November 2020 assessment by the Review Group. A final version will be submitted to NASCO by November 2021.

United States of America

Our February 5, 2021, letter to the NASCO President identified a number of actions we are investigating related to monitoring sea lice on wild Atlantic salmon. Dependent on the outcome of investigations of feasibility and the availability of resources to implement such actions, we may submit a revised implementation plan aimed at addressing the deficiencies identified during the third round of reviews by the review group. We anticipate any such revisions will be limited to the actions described in our response letter (*Response from the United States to 21 December 2020 letter from President*) dated February 5, 2021.

1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight

Canada

Notwithstanding the COVID-19 public health measures in 2020, and their impacts on activities related to the fishing and management of wild Atlantic salmon, the Government of Canada continued to implement a series of management measures aimed at restoring and maintaining wild Atlantic salmon populations.

The management measures are guided by Canada's Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation: Implementation Plan 2019-2021. The Plan was developed in close collaboration with interested stakeholders, provincial governments, and Indigenous communities, and contains 18 action items which form a multi-pronged program of work that guides the collective efforts of all stakeholders for the conservation and sustainability of wild Atlantic salmon stocks.

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.

Moreover, in 2020, work continued on several ongoing projects to restore Atlantic salmon habitat and improve fish passage. These projects are funded through Canada's Coastal Restoration Fund, Habitat Stewardship Program and the Canada Nature Fund for Aquatic Species at Risk.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Greenland*:** it is obligatory to report any salmon catches, or attempts at catches, to the Greenland's Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK). In 2020, this task has become available through the online portal www.sullissivik.gl, and have thus been made easier for the fishermen to comply.

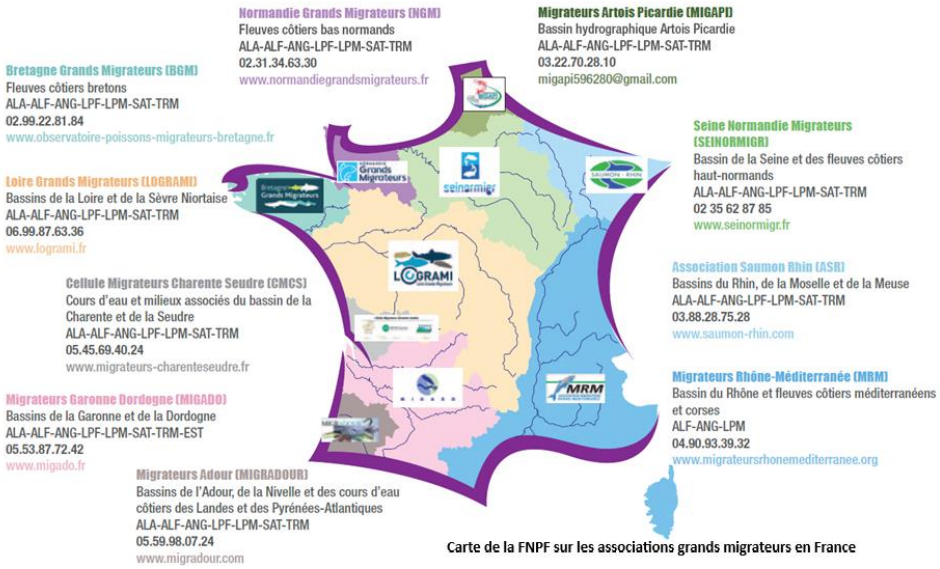
European Union

***Finland*:** reduction of the fishing mortality by 30%, as planned in the Tana-fishing rule.

France: as part of the IYS, several films have been shot in France. The aim is to promote the actions of the OFB for the protection of salmo salar. These films will be translated into English very soon, before the annual NASCO meeting.

https://ofb.gouv.fr/actualites/des-especes-preserver-qui-reviennent.

Other actions have been implemented regionally by the French "great migratory associations". The links to their websites are on the attached map.



Carte de la FNPF sur les associations grands migrateurs en France

The year 2021 will be devoted to writing new plagepomis for most of the basins river. All of them will take into account the actions identified in the IP.

***Germany*:** the 16th Conference of Rhine Ministers took place in Amsterdam in 2020. They mentioned that important progress has been made in restoring the ecological passability of the Rhine and its catchment area since 2013. In 2019, a new large Upper Rhine fish pass in Gerstheim 2019 was commissioned.

Moreover, the new forward-looking 'Rhine 2040' programme was adopted with ambitious goals. It is aiming among others at reaching ecological passability for migratory fish upstream and downstream in the Rhine main stream from the mouth to the Rhine Falls and within the programme waters of the master plan for migratory fish (ICPR Technical Report No. 247 (2018): Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine 2018).

To restore ecological passability, the fish pass at Rhinau will be operational in 2024. The fish pass near Marckolsheim will be operational in 2026. The fish pass for the complex area Vogelgrün will be operational as soon as possible to ensure compliance with the relevant EU legislation, so that migratory fish can reach the Old(-Rest-)Rhine and Basel again.

The restoration of fish passability in the High Rhine up to the Rhine Falls and in the Swiss programme waters (Aare, Reuss, Limmat) will be implemented.

The migratory fish programme of North Rhine-Westphalia which includes measures for the reintroduction of Atlantic Salmon was prolonged until 2027.

***Spain (Asturias)*:** there is a program to reserve large salmon in season fishing (MSW) for rearing and restocking. Some wild specimens in fishing season have been donated by fishermen for artificial spawning. This measure will continue to be promoted. In the Narcea River, 10% of the salmon caught has been donated for spawning.

***Spain (Galicia)*:** regulations for fishing in 2020 included some restrictions on the season duration not reported in last APR because of its limited scope. These restrictions have been extended almost everywhere in 2021, limiting the salmon season to 2 months (May-June) instead of three (to the end of July) and banning fishing for all species from the first of July in salmon reaches, where in some cases sea-trout season extended to the end of September in previous. The aim of these regulations is to reduce fishing effort (about 1/3) and to protect salmon preventing by-catching and unwanted injuries.

MIGRAMINHO interreg project will be concluded in 2021, with quite interesting results and a relevant recommendation on fishery regulations that are expected to be applied along the next years in Spain and Portugal.

***Spain (Navarra)*:**

1) A salmon radiotracking scheme started in 2018 and followed since then. This year, 28 adult salmon have been marked in the lower parts of the Bidasoa river basin when they entered from the sea and were tracked during the upstream migration and return to the sea of the surviving kelts. Although the analysis of the data gathered in 2020 is still ongoing, the results of the monitoring of the 24 salmon marked in 2019 are available and published in the webpage of the LIFE IREKIBAI project (https://www.irekibai.eu/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/D9_Radioseguimiento-de-salmon_Migracion-2019-20.pdf). It was possible to identify important aspects as the passability of the 10 fishways built in the main Bidasoa River for salmon migration; timing, water flow and temperature during the upstream and downstream migrations; the natural mortality during summer; the location of the most used pools for summer survival; degree of colonization of the basin; spawning areas; kelt's surviving rate, etc. As soon as the data of the 2020 monitoring are analysed, a report will be published in the webpage of the Government of Navarra where the annual salmon reports are uploaded (http://www.navarra.es/home_es/Temas/Medio+Ambiente/Pesca/Especies+pescables.htm), since the LIFE IREKIBAI project has come to end. All the information gathered through these monitoring schemes will be used by the Government of Navarra in the management of the species with the objective of improving its population size and conservation status.

2) Besides, in 2019 a new programme of voluntary donations was implemented with anglers and during this year, the programme continued. Under this programme, on a voluntary basis anglers can donate each captured alive salmon to the Department of Environment to be marked with a transmitter and released for its monitoring in the river or to be brought to the fish farm of the Government and used as breeder. Four salmon out of the 53 salmon caught in the 2020 angling season (7.5%), were donated (four 2SW females) and anglers in all cases decided to bring them to the fish farm. All of them survived until the spawning season, and produced around 33,000 eggs. At the moment the new born fries are growing in the fish farm and will be released in spring in the river under the restocking scheme that the Government of Navarra carries out in Bidasoa River yearly since the 90’s.

The main objective of this programme is to change the anglers' way of thinking towards a more sustainable angling practice that should lead in the future to the normalization of the 'catch and release' angling (not practiced by anglers in the Bidasoa River at the moment), while anglers are involved in the conservation tasks of the species that the Regional Government carries out in Bidasoa River. These results are considered as an important success as the media impact has been quite important in both years and the general public acceptance big, which would certainly encourage more anglers to join the initiative in the coming seasons.

3) For the first year, in 2020 the new system to control de smolts production in the basin was successfully tested. The system is based on the counting of the smolts trapped in the most downstream hydroelectric canal, through the use of a fish pump connected to a fish counter, that release the smolts trapped in the canal safely to the river. Number of smolts and biometric data were collected.

4) Finally, following two studies foreseen in the 'Bidasoa Salmon Management Plan for the period 2019-2024' and the 'Salmon Implementation Plan' have been carried out: 'Establishment of Conservation Limits for Atlantic Salmon in the Bidasoa River' (still not finished) and 'Study of genetic variability of Bidasoa salmon'.

***Sweden*:** local engagement in the river organizations has resulted in local fishing rules in order to complement national legislation and reach a higher protection of weak stocks. There is also a rapid increase in catch and release in sport fishing.

Russian Federation

The Federal Law on Recreational Fishery came in force from January 2020. The Law introduces regulations of recreational fisheries at fishing sites for valuable fish species such as Atlantic salmon and makes it possible to establish new fishing sites for managing fisheries. Russia focuses on recreational catch and release salmon fisheries in order to conserve Atlantic salmon and other valuable fish species.

United Kingdom

***England and Wales*:** following a lengthy period of consultation and challenge – including a Local Inquiry – regulations requiring mandatory catch and release (with associated method changes) were approved and introduced on all salmon net and rod fisheries in Wales in January 2020 to protect vulnerable stocks (see Action F3). A 'Plan of Action for Salmon and Sea Trout in Wales' was also launched by NRW in April 2020. The plan was compiled following discussions with stakeholders and Welsh Government and sets out measures and initiatives to address known pressures on salmon and sea trout stocks in order to halt and reverse declines (see: https://naturalresources.wales/about-us/strategies-and-plans/salmon-and-sea-trout-plan-of-action-2020/?lang=en).

***Scotland*:** the Scottish Government Programme for Government 2019/2020 included a commitment to develop a Wild Salmon Strategy. Progress was delayed due to restrictions and changed priorities arising from the Coronavirus pandemic. However, a new Wild Salmon Strategy Advisory Group was convened in late 2020 and has met twice to date (March 2021). The aim is to produce initially, a high-level strategy document, followed by a more detailed implementation plan.

An exercise is underway to capture and map perceptions of fisheries managers across Scotland of regional variations in relative magnitudes of different pressures on salmon. This assessment is drawing on outputs from the National Electrofishing Programme for

Scotland (NEPS) regarding local densities of juvenile salmon and will be subject a harmonisation process involving national scientists, regulators and academic input.

Salmon Conservation Regulations for 2021 were laid in the Scottish Parliament in December 2020 and come into force on 1 April 2021. First introduced in 2016, we believe this approach strikes the right balance between conservation of the species for future generations and those fishing for salmon today.

Scotland's Farmed Fish Health Framework aims to address new and developing challenges faced by the aquaculture sector with a particular focus on the maintenance of high standards of fish health and welfare. It brings together the fish farming sector, government, regulators and veterinary professionals to work collaboratively to address challenges.

The Scottish Government has made significant changes to its sea lice policy. New legislation, coming into force in March 2021, introduces mandatory sea lice reporting by aquaculture production businesses. This will help the Fish Health Inspectorate to monitor and enforce policy on sea lice management. It requires average weekly female sea lice numbers per fish to be reported to Scottish Government one week in arrears, in place of current arrangements which require reporting only where specific levels are met or exceeded. Data received will be published to promote transparency.

United States of America

Major accomplishments and highlights of 2020 include:

1. Three teams covering three geographic areas where wild stocks of Atlantic salmon remain in the U.S. were organized and charged with implementing the United States' 2019 Atlantic Salmon Recovery Plan and co-ordinating recovery efforts in these respective areas. These teams have produced reports describing the state of salmon and salmon habitat in their geographic areas and ongoing efforts to further recovery. The teams have also produced preliminary work plans detailing specific goals and actions that they intend to take over the next five years to further recovery efforts. Details of this effort are described under H3.
2. We issued regulatory requirements for two hydroelectric dams (Ellsworth and Weldon) and a draft regulatory requirement for a hydroelectric dam on the Kennebec River that will require the construction of new fishways and adherence to strict upstream and downstream fish passage performance standards.
3. We went through contingency planning in response to COVID-19 to ensure the continued safe operations of fishways necessary for passing Atlantic salmon and to ensure safe and effective hatchery practices necessary to prevent the extinction of the Gulf of Maine population.

2. Changes in Stock Status and Catch Statistics

The catch statistics and information on unreported catches and on catch and release are presented in Annex 1 using the information provided in the APRs and from ICES data where no APR has been received. The provisional catch for 2020 (843.6 t) is higher than the catch in 2019 (833 t). Incomplete information is available on the extent of catch and release fishing and unreported catches.

2.1 Provide a description of any new factors that may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks and, if there has been any significant change in stock status since the development of the Implementation Plan, provide a brief summary of these changes.

The following information was provided:

Canada

No new factors affecting salmon abundance have been identified. Status of Atlantic salmon in eastern Canada is as described in the Implementation Plan; stocks from the northern regions (Gulf, Quebec, Newfoundland, Labrador) are faring better than stocks in the Maritimes Region. Fisheries in the southern regions are either closed or, where permitted, recreational fishing is restricted to catch and release only.

European Union

***Denmark*:** new results from in-river predator exclusion experiments show significant effect of cormorant predation on juvenile salmonids (pre-smolt). This has led to more and better organized cormorant regulation along most salmon rivers throughout the winter.

Finland: despite the reduced exploitation rates since 2017, salmon stocks show worse status in 2020 than in recent years. Likely explanations for this development include increased natural mortality factors in different life stages of salmon. Investigations on such possible factors are underway.

***Germany*:** after two years with low numbers of returning salmon, in 2020 the number of returning adult salmon in the Rhine catchment has increased again. In total 489 salmon were registered in the Rhine catchment in 2020. However, whereas numbers in the Upper Rhine were high (new record at fish pass in Gambsheim with 160 salmon), only few salmon were registered in the tributaries of the Middle Rhine and Lower Rhine, like in 2018 and 2019. Experts suppose that this was again due to low discharges in the Rhine in the second half of 2020, the time period when Rhine salmon migrates towards their spawning grounds in the Middle and Lower Rhine. The number of registered adult salmon returning from the sea and observations of natural reproduction of salmon in the Rhine tributaries are documented and can be supplied if required.

In 2020, 1,831,225 salmon have been stocked in suitable tributaries by stocking measures in the whole catchment area of the Rhine.

Also in the Elbe catchment area, 2020 was another extremely dry and warmer-than-average year. Rainfall during the migration period of the salmon provided in the upper Elbe moderate discharges so that the number of returnees was slightly better than in the last two years. In the Middle and Lower Elbe, low numbers of returnees were reported due to extremely low water levels. High water temperatures have probably also led to oxygen deficiency in the lower Elbe in the Hamburg area and thus may have impeded the migration of salmon in the main stem of the Elbe.

***Ireland*:** the catch advice for the 2020 fishery was that 39 rivers had an advised harvestable surplus as they were exceeding their conservation limits (CL). A further 42 rivers could open for catch and release-only (C&R-only) fishing based on exceeding a minimum fry threshold (≥15 salmon fry/5 minute electro-fishing average) in catchment-wide electrofishing surveys or based on Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) management criteria that they met 50% or over of their CL but did not exceed their CL. 63 river systems were advised to be closed for fishing as they did not exceed the management criteria, minimum fry threshold or there was insufficient information for full stock assessment.

A separate assessment was made for 16 rivers with significant multi-sea-winter (MSW) salmon stocks. Of these, 10 had an advised harvestable surplus as they were exceeding their CL and six were advised to open for C&R-only fishing. In addition, four river systems used for hydropower were assessed as being below their CL as in preceding years.

The catch advice for the 2021 fishery which is based on stock status in the preceding five-year period including 2020 is that 48 rivers have a harvestable surplus, 32 rivers should be C&R-only fisheries and 64 rivers should be closed to fishing based on the same criteria outlined above.

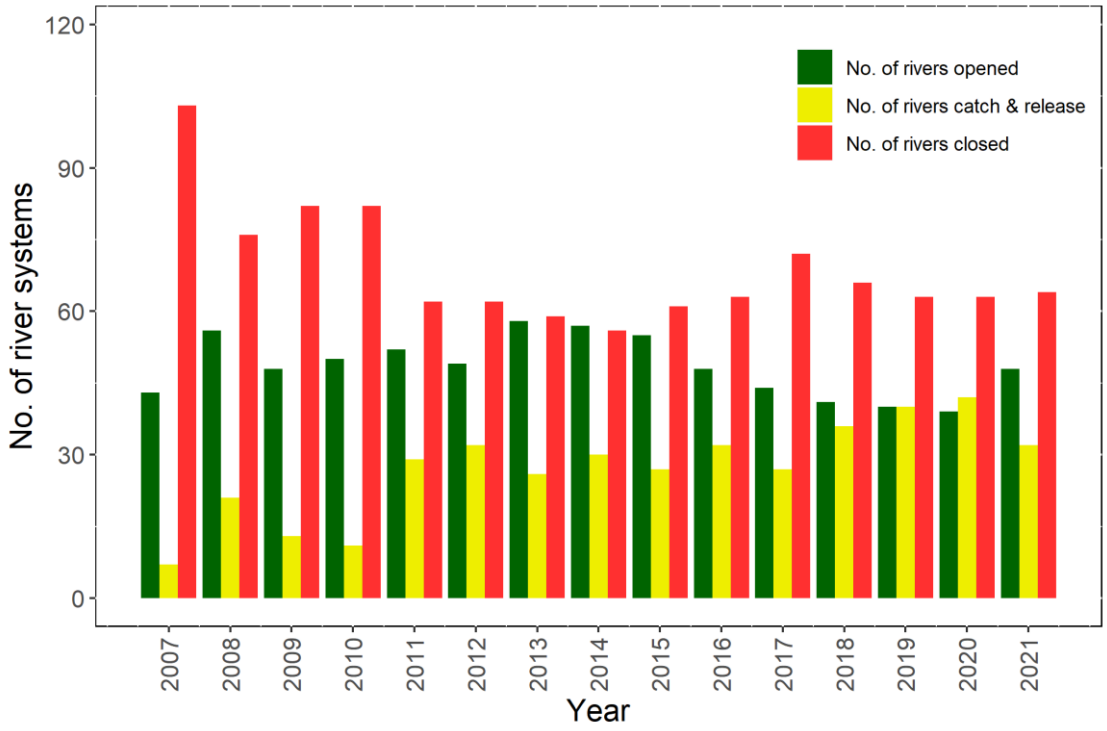


Figure 1. *Scientific stock assessments for catch advice in Irish salmon fisheries (2007 to 2021)*

Portugal: there are no changes, either perceived or expected, as the residual fishery continues to operate under the same conditions.

***Spain (Asturias)*:** no important changes. Catches have increased slightly. New 'fishing Cotos' have been created, which implies a regulation of maximum daily catches.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Catch number	**356**	**247**	**1045**	**1301**	**837**	**1210**	**1094**	**1138**	**498**	**601**	**834**	**858**

***Spain (Navarra)*:** there have not been new factors that may affect the abundance of salmon stocks since last year. 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 the migrating spawners, as they seem to reach further, faster and in greater numbers to the upper areas of the Bidasoa River basin, where they were seldom seen in the past. The size of the stock varies among years, but on average, it seems to remain around 400-420 spawners. In 2020, a minimum of 341 adult salmon entered the Bidasoa River, which is a bit less than expected but still under the natural population oscillations.

***Sweden*:** stock status remained unchanged compared to 2019 (6 out of 24 stocks was in good productive capacity). No catch was recorded from commercial fishing on the coast (sixth year in a row), i.e. mixed-stock fishing on the coast has ceased.

Catch and release in wild salmon rivers has increased from 9% in 2011 to 33% in 2020. Out of 24 rivers with salmon 11 rivers reported no harvest of salmon in 2020.

Norway

The number of salmon returning from the ocean to Norway each year is less than half of the level in the 1980s and has been relatively stable since the late 1990s (fig 1.).

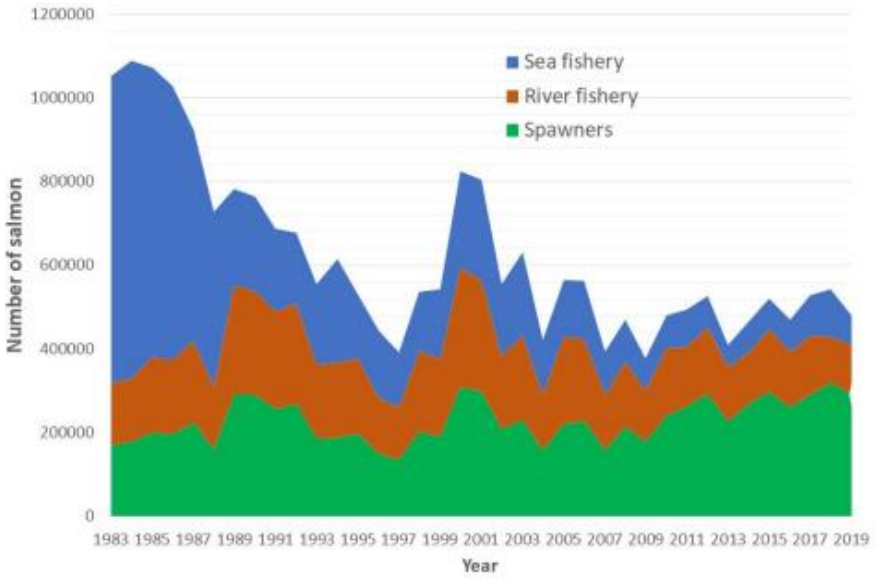


Figure 1. *Estimated number of wild salmon returning from the ocean towards Norwegian rivers each year, divided in number of fish caught in the sea fisheries, number of fish caught in the rivers during angling, and the number of fish left for spawning in the rivers during the period 1983- 2019.*

There are, however, significant regional differences in the development of the salmon stocks over the last 30 years. Despite the decline in the amounts of returning salmon, the number of salmon spawning in the rivers has increased (fig 2). The increased number of spawners despite reduced numbers returning from the ocean is due to reduced fisheries in the sea and rivers.

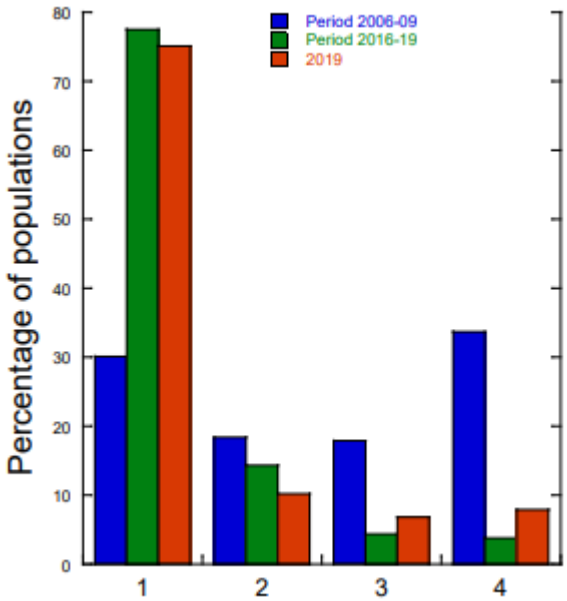


Figure 2. *Proportion (%) of the evaluated salmon rivers in category 1: the management target is attained, category 2: there is a risk that the management target is not attained, category 3: the management target is likely not attained, and category 4: the management target is far from being attained. Data are given for the periods 2006-2009 and 2016- 2019, as well as for 2019 only (SACAS).*

Escaped farmed salmon, salmon lice and infections related to salmon farming are the greatest anthropogenic threats to Norwegian wild salmon (fig 3). The present levels of mitigation measures are too low to stabilize and reduce these threats. Hydropower production, other habitat alterations and introduced pink salmon are also considered major threats to wild salmon. Hydropower production and other habitat alterations significantly reduce salmon populations, and there is significant potential for further mitigation measures. Pink salmon is a new threat, and there is need for national and international measures to reduce the risk of negative impacts on native salmonids, including Atlantic salmon.

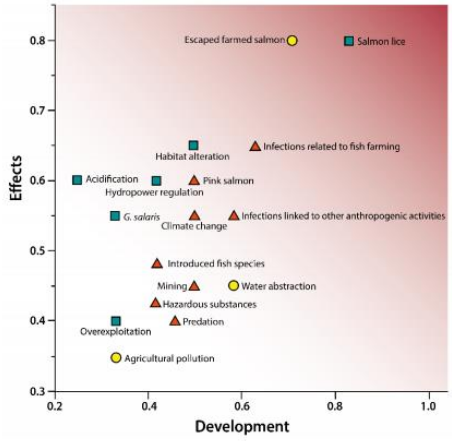


Figure 3. *Ranking of 17 impact factors considered in 2019, according to their effects on wild Atlantic salmon populations and the likelihood of a further negative development. The knowledge of each impact factor and the uncertainty of further development is indicated by the colour of the markers. Green squares=Extensive knowledge and small uncertainty, yellow circles=moderate knowledge and moderate uncertainty, and red triangles=poor knowledge and high uncertainty (SACAS).*

Russian Federation

In 2020 adult Atlantic salmon in the Kola and the Tuloma rivers continued to show signs of disease, diagnosed in 2015 as Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis (UDN). Sick salmon were also found in other rivers draining both in the Barents and in the White seas. The mortality rate of salmon broodstock in the Kola River, the Umba River (Murmansk region) and the Keret River (Republic of Karelia) was 100% due to UDN disease.

United Kingdom

England and Wales: 2020 was marked by the COVID-19 pandemic, which, through lockdowns, placed restrictions on rod fishing activity in England and Wales (E&W) during the early part of the season. Investigations have indicated that this did not adversely impact upon our ability to undertake salmon stock assessments. Field activities, enforcement and monitoring programmes undertaken by the Environment Agency, Natural Resources Wales and others were severely impacted by the pandemic, with no meaningful juvenile electrofishing surveys carried out by the former organizations. However, the network of fish counters and traps across E&W used to enumerate returns of adult salmon was, to a large extent, able to continue operating with limited disruption. Similarly, national systems to collect and report returns from net and rod fisheries were unaffected. Based on these sources of information, initial assessment indicates that salmon returns overall in 2020 were slightly better than in recent years. The majority of river stocks in E&W, however, remain in a depleted state when assessed against Conservation Limits (CLs) (e.g. see Action F1). 94% of principal salmon rivers in England and Wales are predicted to be At Risk or Probably At Risk in 5 years' time.

Northern Ireland: the return of 1SW salmon exhibited a marked improvement in 2020 on several large rivers in N. Ireland. For example, the River Bann experienced its best escapement since 1997 with 18,985 salmon detected at the counter site. Heavier runs of fish were also observed in some Foyle area rivers.

Scotland: the Covid-19 pandemic has undoubtedly had a negative impact on Scottish salmon fisheries during the 2020 season. Stay at home orders during this time along with the restrictions on national and international travel severely disrupted fisheries. Information collected by Marine Scotland on fishing effort clearly shows a decrease in effort during the spring / early summer compared to 2019. This decrease in effort has ultimately led to lower than expected catches and makes comparisons with previous years challenging.

United States of America

Provisionally, there were 1,715 adult returns to U.S. waters in 2020. This count includes 1,705 returns to the GOM DPS; 10 to the Central New England complex; and none to the Long Island Sound complex.

3. Implementation Plan Actions

Details of progress against the actions included in individual Implementation Plans is reported in the Annual Progress Reports for each jurisdiction and will be evaluated and summarised by the Review Group in its report (CNL(21)17).

4. Additional information required under the Convention

4.1 Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification

Canada

None, other than those noted in the responses in document CNL(21)45.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Greenland*:** a new Executive Order on fishery for salmon was adopted in 2020, including the new option to report online and a shorter period to report 0-catches as well as the exclusion of drift nets in the fishery. All other restrictions remain.

European Union

Portugal: adoption of the Edital n.º 836/2019, of the 11th July, allowing a fishery to take place in the 2019-2020 season, subject to change depending on results.

***Spain (Asturias)*:** there are no big changes. The annual regulation for salmon fishing includes a prohibition in certain periods of some fishing gear to reduce extraction.

***Spain (Galicia)*:** see 1.2.

***Spain (Navarra)*:** annually, a regional law (Orden Foral de Vedas) regulates salmon fishing: defines the Authorized Total Catch (TAC) in the season, the closing date (if the TAC has not been reached before), MSW protection measures, fishing calendar, minimum size, baits, hooks, etc. In 2020 it was OF 27E/2020.

As explained before, the radiotracking monitoring programme started in 2018 and the voluntary donations programme in 2019. Both continued in 2020 and it is expected they will also continue at least during 2021.

Norway

The Norwegian parliament adopted several amendments to act no. 47 of 1992 relative to salmonids and freshwater fish and related matters in 2020. Among the amendments were increasing the maximum penalty from two to five years of prison for serious infringements of the law and inclusion of a new section providing for administrative fine.

Russian Federation

The Federal Law on Recreational Fishery came in force from January 2020. The Law introduces regulations of recreational fisheries at fishing sites for valuable fish species such as Atlantic salmon and makes it possible to establish new fishing sites for managing fisheries. Russia focuses on recreational catch and release salmon fisheries in order to conserve Atlantic salmon and other valuable fish species.

The order of the Ministry of Agriculture of Russia of 06.08.2020 No. 457 'On approval of the Veterinary rules for the implementation of preventive, diagnostic, restrictive and other measures, the establishment and cancellation of quarantine and other restrictions aimed at preventing the spread and elimination of foci of Infectious salmon anemia (ISA)' came in force in 2020.

United Kingdom

***England and Wales*:** in Wales, new All Wales Fishing Byelaws came into force 1 January 2020 and Cross-Border (Wye and Dee) angling byelaws came into force on the 31 January 2020.

***Scotland*:**

- The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 2019;
- The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020;
- The Fish Farming Businesses (Reporting) (Scotland) Order 2020.

United States of America

Program: the two federal agencies in charge of Atlantic salmon adopted the Final Recovery Plan for the Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment. The plan establishes recovery actions, a recovery strategy, and objective, measurable goals and criteria that define recovery.

Program: renewal of NOAA-Fisheries' Species in the Spotlight initiative that identifies Atlantic salmon as a high priority species in the U.S. for focused conservation efforts.

Program: NOAA-Fisheries announced a 1 million dollar competitive grant program to fund habitat restoration projects for Atlantic salmon.

4.2 Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures

Canada

None, other than those noted in the responses above in document CNL(21)45.

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Greenland*:** in 2020, the work on a management plan for Atlantic salmon was initiated. A working group has been put together to work on a draft management plan and corresponding Executive Order for the 2021 salmon fishery.

The working group consist of the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority, Ministry of Environment and Research, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, KNAPK (Fishermen and Hunters Association), municipalities and local associations of recreational fishermen.

As according to normal procedure, the management plan will also go through a public consultation.

European Union

Finland: six tenets self-assessment according to WGCST(16)16 is attached to this APR.

Spain (Asturias)**:** new 'fishing Cotos' have been created, which implies a regulation of maximum daily catches.

Spain (Cantabria)**:** creation of a new catch and release section in the Ason river (1.2 km).

Spain (Navarra)**:** the 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 the country.

4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles

Spain (Asturias)**:** salmon fishing is prohibited beyond 12 nautical miles. Also in estuaries and coasts. It is only allowed in rivers with a rod.

4.4 Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not Party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention

European Union

Portugal**:** none allowed.

Spain (Asturias)**:** it would be important to monitor issues of marketing of salmon caught in the sea.

4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations

None reported.

North American Commission Members only

4.6 Details of any new measures to minimise by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member

Canada

None, other than those noted in the responses above in document CNL(21)45.

4.7 Details of any alteration to fishing patterns that result in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party except with the consent of the latter

No details reported.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
23 April 2021

Annex 1

Table 1. Official Catch Statistics[1]

	Provisional 2020 catch[1]				Confirmed 2019 catch[1]			
	In-River	**Estuarine**	**Coastal**	**Total**	**In-River**	**Estuarine**	**Coastal**	**Total**
Canada	53.1	43.9	6.9	**103.9**	54.2	39.8	5.7	**99.7**
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)								
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
Greenland	-	-	30.7	**30.7**	-	-	28.8	**28.8**
European Union	95.6	20.9	0.3	**116.9**	90.2	25.4	0.4	**116**
Norway	312	-	215	**527**	293	-	219	**513**
Russian Federation	32.4	0	16.4	**48.8**	35.3	0	21.7	**57**
UK	14.6	1.8	0	**16.4**	17.3	2.3	0	**19.6**
USA	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
TOTAL	507.7	66.6	269.3	**843.6**	490	67.5	275.6	**833**

[1] Where no return to NASCO has been made ICES data have been used.

Table 2. Catches of Atlantic Salmon by the Parties to the NASCO Convention[1]

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)[2]	European Union[34]	Finland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	UK[4]	USA
1960	1636	60	2641		1576	1100	40	-	1
1961	1583	127	2276		1456	790	27	-	1
1962	1719	244	3894		1838	710	45	-	1
1963	1861	466	3842		1697	480	23	-	1
1964	2069	1539	4242		2040	590	36	-	1
1965	2116	861	3693		1900	590	40	-	1
1966	2369	1338	3549		1823	570	36	-	1
1967	2863	1600	4492		2058	883	25	-	1
1968	2111	1167	3623		1752	827	150	-	1
1969	2202	2350	4407		2083	360	76	-	1
1970	2323	2354	4069		1861	448	52	-	1
1971	1992	2511	3745		1847	417	35	-	1
1972	1759	2146	4261	32	1986	462	38	-	1
1973	2434	2402	4604	50	2126	772	73	-	3
1974	2539	1945	4432	76	1973	709	57	-	1
1975	2485	2086	4500	76	1754	811	56	-	2
1976	2506	1479	2931	66	1530	542	45	-	1
1977	2545	1652	3025	59	1488	497	10	-	2
1978	1545	1159	3102	37	1050	476	10	-	4
1979	1287	1694	2572	26	1831	455	12	-	3
1980	2680	2052	2640	34	1830	664	17	-	6
1981	2437	2602	2557	44	1656	463	26	-	6
1982	1798	2350	2533	83	1348	364	25	-	6
1983	1424	1433	3532	79	1550	507	28	-	1
1984	1112	997	2308	75	1623	593	40	-	2
1985	1133	1430	3002	49	1561	659	45	-	2
1986[3]	1559	1490	3524	38	1597	608	53	-	2
1987	1784	1539	2593	49	1385	559	47	-	1
1988	1311	1136	2833	34	1076	419	40	-	1
1989	1139	701	2450	52	905	359	29	-	2
1990	912	542	1645	59	930	316	33	-	2
1991	711	533	1139	69	877	215	38	-	1
1992	520	260	1506	77	867	166	49	-	1
1993	373	35	1483	70	923	140	56	-	1
1994	355	18	1919	48	996	141	44	-	0

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)[2]	European Union[34]	Finland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	UK[4]	USA
1995	259	86	1852	-	839	130	-	-	0
1996	290	92	1474	-	787	131	-	-	0
1997	229	59	1179	-	630	111	-	-	0
1998	157	17	1183	-	740	130	-	-	0
1999	152	19	1016	-	811	102	-	-	0
2000	153	29	1336	-	1176	124	-	-	0
2001	148	42	1407	-	1267	114	-	-	0
2002	148	9	1245	-	1019	118	-	-	0
2003	141	9	1012	-	1071	107	-	-	0
2004	161	15	978	-	784	82	-	-	0
2005	139	14	884	-	888	82	-	-	0
2006	132	23	703	-	931	91	-	-	0
2007	112	25	453	-	767	63		-	0
2008	158	26	444	-	807	73	-	-	0
2009	126	26	327	-	595	71	-	-	0
2010	146	38	496	-	642	88	-	-	0
2011	179	28	510	-	696	89	-	-	0
2012	126	33	403	-	695	82	-	-	0
2013	137	47	382	-	476	78	-	-	0
2014	118	58	313	-	490	81	-	-	0
2015	140	58	289	-	585	80	-	-	0
2016	135	27	257	-	612	56	-	-	0
2017	110	28	223	-	667	47	-	-	0
2018	79	40	178	-	594	80	-	-	0
2019	100	29	116	-	513	57	-	20	0
2020	104	31	117	-	527	49	-	16	0

[1]Figures since 1986 are the official catch returns to NASCO. Where no return to NASCO has been made ICES data have been used.[2]The catch for Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) includes the catch for Greenland when it was a member of the European Union and the catches up to 1983 by Denmark. [3]The European Union catch from 1995 includes the catches by Finland and Sweden. [4]The European Union catch includes UK catch until 2018. From 2019 the UK catch is shown separately.

Table 3. Catch and release[1]

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Canada	49,279	42,820	58,000	47,892	58,300	77,641	50,811	59,207	39,534	64,159	69,950	49,513	50,184	60,636	59,627
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-	0
European Union[2]	62,812	82,977	81,301	71,133	115,065	99,086	97,499	74,445	53,985	68,986	74,504	73,155	61,648	69,409	18,483
Norway	0	0	5,512	6,696	15,041	14,303	18,611	15,912	20,229	25,433	25,206	25,876	22,024	20,675	28,753
Russian Federation[3]	33,380	44,341	41,881	-	14,585	-	4,743	3,732	8,479	7,028	10,793	10,110	10,799	12,762	9,508
United Kingdom[4]	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54,061	17,388
United States[5]	424	-	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes. Where no return to NASCO has been made ICES data have been used. [1]For catch and release figures for the years 2000 – 2005, please see Table 3 in document CNL(19)13. [2]Not all EU Member States provide complete information on catch and release. [3]Since 2009, there has been no obligation to report fish caught and released in the Russian Federation. [4]The European Union catch includes the UK figures until 2018. From 2019 the UK figure is shown separately; however, the figure is incomplete for 2020 as one region did not report. [5]In the U.S., no sea-run salmon are subject to recreational fishing but small recreational fisheries occur on domestic broodstock in the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers in Southern New England (and on the Merrimack until the close of the 2018 season); these rivers are outside the geographic range of endangered Atlantic salmon

Table 4. Unreported catches

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Canada	124	81	84	118	101	101	56	-	21	-	18	29	31	24	21	25	27	27	24	12	13
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	10	10	11	10	11	11	11	12	10	5	12.3	10	10	10	10	10	10	-	-	6	6
European Union	240	169	165	125	116	114	95	72	54	47	70	71	59	57	38	41	22	23	17	16	10
Norway	440-760	500-860	410-690	320-600	252-420	285-475	299-499	247-411	260-432	166-338	206-344	298	298	204	210	250	262	285	263	219	225
Russian Federation	249-309	200-252	166-206	99-152	110	70-103	70-103	25-77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
UK	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	0.4
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes. The information for Canada in 2010 is incomplete, as only 3 of 4 administrative regions reported. Not all EU Member States provide an estimate of unreported catch. The UK estimate is included in the EU estimate until 2018. From 2019 the UK estimate is shown separately; however, the figure is incomplete for 2020 as one region did not report. No estimate has been provided by the Russian Federation since 2008.