

***Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2020***

The Annual Progress Reports allow NASCO to evaluate progress on actions taken by Parties / jurisdictions to implement its internationally agreed Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and consequently, the achievement of their objectives and actions taken in accordance with the Convention. The following information should be provided through the Annual Progress Reports:

- 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.

*In completing this Annual Progress Report please refer to the **Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress**, [CNL\(18\)49](#).*

These reports will be reviewed by the Council. Please complete this form and return it to the Secretariat **no later than 1 April 2021**.

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

<b>1: Changes to the Implementation Plan</b>
<b>1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan (Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 November).</b>
No proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>
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.

<b>2: Stock status and catches.</b>
<b>2.1 Provide a description of any new factors that may affect the abundance of salmon stocks significantly and, if there has been any significant change in stock status since the development of the Implementation Plan, provide a brief (200 word max) summary of these changes.</b>
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 Uмба River (Murmansk region) and the Keret River (Republic of Karelia) was 100% due to UDN disease.

**2.2 Provide the following information on catches: (nominal catch equals reported quantity of salmon caught and retained in tonnes ‘round fresh weight’ (i.e. weight of whole, ungutted, unfrozen fish) or ‘round fresh weight equivalent’).**

(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2020 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	32.4	0.0	16.4	48.8
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2019 (tonnes)	35.3	0.0	21.7	57.0
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2020 (tonnes)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2020	9508 salmon caught and released; 65% of the total recreational rod catch.			

**3: Implementation Plan Actions.**

**3.1 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to the Management of Salmon Fisheries (section 2.9 of the Implementation Plan).**

*Note: the reports under ‘Progress on action to date’ should provide a **brief overview** of each action. For all actions, provide **clear and concise** quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.*

Action	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Determine problem areas. Estimate the level of unreported catches. Take further measures to reduce unreported catches.
<b>F1:</b>	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Reduced level of unreported catches in problem areas.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	<p>No estimates of unreported catches is available for 2020.</p> <p>The Murmansk Regional Commission on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish closed salmon recreational catch-and-take fisheries in some fishing sites of the Varzuga and Kola rivers and established “no fishing” periods for coastal, in-river commercial and recreational fisheries for 2020 season.</p> <p>Recreational and commercial fishing sites were protected by fish guards hired by the fishing sites managers.</p> <p>Protection patrols were carried out using different methods on lakes and rivers by fish inspectors of the Regional Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries.</p>

		Protection patrols in coastal areas of Barents and White seas were carried out using different methods by fish inspectors of the Border Guard Department of the Russian Federal Security Service.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Continue developing the conservation limits for salmon stocks.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Data on the status of salmon stocks. Conservation limits for all salmon stocks.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	Conservation limits have been set for all salmon stocks in the Murmansk region. In the Arkhangelsk region and in the Nenets autonomous district CLs have been set for exploited salmon stocks. In the Republic of Karelia no CLs have been developed. No coastal and in-river commercial and recreational salmon fisheries are allowed in Karelia due to the poor status of individual river stocks in the region.  No CLs for Atlantic salmon stocks were revised or established in 2020.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Continue monitoring salmon stocks in the Murmansk region. Assess the effectiveness of new management measures introduced for interceptory coastal salmon fisheries in the Barents Sea.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Data on status of salmon stocks in the Murmansk region and assessment of the effectiveness of management measures introduced for coastal interceptory salmon fisheries in the Barents Sea.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	Atlantic salmon returns in 2020 were assessed. The level of attainment of spawning requirements was determined. The estimates of salmon juveniles densities were derived. Recommendations on catch limits for 2021 salmon fisheries were developed for the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation and for the Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish.  The 2020 meeting of the Working Group on Atlantic salmon in Finnmark County and the Murmansk Region was postponed from August due to COVID-19 and rescheduled for August 2021.  In 2020 the Kolarctic ENI CBC project CoASal "Conserving our Atlantic salmon as a sustainable resource for people in the North; fisheries and

		conservation in the context of growing threats and a changing environment (KO4178)” was started. The project aims to document and examine the new sea salmon fishery regulations, study the effects of growing threats Atlantic salmon populations face today with climate change, growing cage culture industry and emerging diseases.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If ‘Completed’, has the action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F4:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	
	Current status of action:	Choose an item.
	If ‘Completed’, has the action achieved its objective?	

### 3.2 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (section 3.5 of the Implementation Plan).

*Note: the reports under ‘Progress on action to date’ should provide a **brief overview** of each action. For all actions, provide **clear and concise** quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.*

<b>Action H1:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Continue developing the inventories of salmon rivers. Estimate salmon habitat and productive capacity of salmon rivers. Fieldwork and analysis of available data on current quantity of salmon habitat to provide a baseline for future comparison will be conducted in Archangelsk region and in the Republic of Karelia.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Inventories of salmon rivers to provide baseline data on salmon habitat and productive capacity for management in relation to estuarine and freshwater habitat.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g.	Work on further developing the inventories of salmon rivers of Murmansk region was performed in 2020. Salmon juveniles densities were studied in small rivers of Kola Bay (Barents sea basin) and Kandalaksha Gulf (White sea basin).

	<i>website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	Fieldwork was conducted in Archangelsk region on small river of Kanin Peninsula (Barents sea basin).  No fieldwork and analysis of available data on current quantity of salmon habitat was done in the Republic of Karelia in 2020.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Development of habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Detailed habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	Recommendations on habitat restoration were updated for a number of salmon rivers in Murmansk and Arkhangelsk regions, for Republic of Komi.  No detailed habitat protection and restoration plans have been developed for specific rivers.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H3:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	
	Current status of action:	Choose an item.
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	

### 3.3 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics (section 4.11 of the Implementation Plan).

*Note: the reports under 'Progress on action to date' should provide a **brief overview** of each action. For all actions, provide **clear and concise** quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those*

<i>seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.</i>		
<b>Action A1:</b>	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	Developing a policy consistent with the international goals on sea lice and containment agreed by NASCO and ISFA concerning the protection of wild salmonids.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	Achievement of the international goals for 100% of farms to have effective sea lice management and achieving 100% containment.
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	<p>Experts of the Murmansk Animal Health Center monitored fish infestation with <i>Lepeophtheirus salmonis</i> in marine cages during quarterly epizootic and ichthyopathological surveys of the mariculture farms in the Murmansk region. Russian veterinary legislation lacks the regulations implying the procedure for diagnostic and treatment- preventive activities in case of fish infestation with these copepods in the mariculture farms. There are also no regulations setting the critical intensity of this parasite’s invasion for fish of different ages when farming in marine cages. Thus, veterinary experts collected information on fish infestation by calculating <i>Lepeophtheirus salmonis</i> invasion intensity during routine parasitological studies in the marine cage farms of the Murmansk region. In 2020 in marine cage farms of the Murmansk region (PJSC “Russian Aquaculture”, “Russian Salmon”), the intensity of sea lice infestation in fish of different ages ranged from 1 to 5.</p> <p>In addition, the fish farms independently monitored the intensity of parasite. To control the invasion of sea lice, the PJSC "Russian Aquaculture" has adopted the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for monitoring the intensity of invasion. As a part of the SOP, company's personnel are trained to gain skills in identifying different life stages and species of sea lice (<i>Lepeophtheirus salmonis</i> and <i>Caligus elongatus</i>).</p> <p>When the water temperature is 5°C and higher, in every fish farming complex monitoring for the invasion intensity is performed every 7 days, alternately for each half of the cages. When the water temperature is low, monitoring is not performed as fish is at high risk for the development of winter ulcers. For counting, 20 fish specimens are taken from every cage, and then they are sedated by an anesthetic solution and thoroughly examined. The obtained data on the species and life stages of sea lice are listed in the table and later used to assess the dynamics of the invasion intensity in every fish farming complex, as well as for the company. Control over the correct Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) performance is carried out by the company’s biological service.</p>
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
If ‘Completed’, has the		

	action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A2:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Minimise the risk of further spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> . Implement the eleven recommendations contained in the ‘Road Map’ to enhance information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> .
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Further measures to prevent the introduction or further spread of parasite due to aquaculture and recreational fisheries. The development of a plan in line with the 11 recommendations contained in the Road Map.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	<p>Experts of the Murmansk Animal Health Center took actions to prevent the spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in the Murmansk region during surveys of the freshwater aquaculture farms and through outreach activities. Stocking material for the needs of freshwater aquaculture was transferred in compliance with the requirements of Russian veterinary legislation, as well as with mandatory parasitological survey of fish for the transfer, and taking into account the epizootic status of the water body.</p> <p>In addition, preventive measures for fish farming at the freshwater aquaculture facilities were in line with the veterinary and sanitary plans involving obligatory quarterly parasitological surveys, anti-parasitic treatments of fish (if required), disinfection of gear, equipment and floating crafts, etc. and also in line with the “Instruction on actions to prevent fish gyrodactylosis”, adopted by the Veterinary Department (Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Russian Federation) on 08.06.1998.</p> <p>The Anti-Epizootic Commission of the Murmansk region restricted live fish transfers from the region of Leningrad and from Republic of Karelia into Murmansk region. The Commission made recommendations to ban the development of new aquaculture sites in watercourses where Atlantic salmon occurs. No new aquaculture sites were established in such freshwater areas in 2020.</p> <p>Outreach activities included posting information on the websites of the Murmansk Veterinary Committee and Animal Health Center of the Murmansk Region. Recreational fisheries companies in the Murmansk region implement voluntary programmes to prevent the spread of parasite on fishing equipment, tackle, etc. by use of approved disinfection methods. The regional Severomorskiy Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries has developed recommendations for users of salmon fishing sites and for anglers.</p> <p><i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> was not found in water bodies of the Arkhangelsk region and the Nenets autonomous district.</p>
	Current status of action:	Ongoing

	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	
	Current status of action:	Choose an item.
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	

#### **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.

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.

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.

No new commitments.

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

No new actions.

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.

No new actions.

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

No actions taken.

#### **North American Commission Members only:**

4.6 Details of any new measures to minimise bycatches of salmon originating in the rivers of



the other member.
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.