

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2020 – EU – Denmark</i></p>	<p>CNL(21)39</p>
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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.**

Party:	European Union
Jurisdiction / Region:	Denmark

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan
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).
No changes envisaged
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
No significant news

2: Stock status and catches.				
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.				
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 organised cormorant regulation along most salmon rivers throughout the winter				
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
	10.33			10.33
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2019 (tonnes)	10.8			10.8
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2020 (tonnes)	2.5			2.5
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2020	4575 salmon were C&R and 2146 were retained, so 57% released. If the special case of Gudenå is excluded, the ratio is 30/70 between retained and released.			

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). <i>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.</i>		
Action F1:	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	

	<i>evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	
	Current status of action:	Not started
	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.*

Action H1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Removal of barriers. For the salmon, especially two remaining Hydropower stations constitute a major migration obstacle, but also several small barriers are found in tributaries.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Access to more spawning and rearing habitat, less smolt-loss for downstream migration. More returning salmon.
	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):	The barrier removal is a national strategy in all rivers, related to the requirements in the WFD. Every year barriers are removed, but the scale of removals and the authority responsible varies so much that it is not possible to give an overview with a timeline. In the salmon rivers we still have a prioritized list of dams that should be removed, including two old hydropower stations, but the list gets shorter every year. In 2020, the removal of a significant barrier, blocking salmon access to 35 km spawning area in the Varde River system was removed. Two fish-farm-barriers were removed from the Kongeå-river system, giving access to +10 km of spawning area. Numerous obstacles in smaller spawning streams were also removed. The two most important barriers (in Storå and in Skjern å systems) are still in place.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H2:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Predator regulation. Increasingly harsh management measures to regulate cormorant population. More egg oiling, shooting and lethal regulation. Shooting of seals in salmon rivers.

	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	Keeping cormorant predation of salmon smolts at or below the current level of app 50%. Preventing seals from entering salmon rivers and kill upstream migrants before they spawn.
	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>	Permissions to regulate (kill) seals in rivers are granted when seals are regularly encountered in rivers. The number of killed animals is rather low, but the effect is judged to be good and the proportion of salmon with seal bites is decreasing or stable. Many rivers are being patrolled by cormorant regulators during the protected season (winter) and some effect in terms of fewer birds are reported, but no documentation is available. More than 400 permissions (cormorant regulation in rivers) Around 50 restauration projects are carried out every year in the salmon rivers, including extended buffer zones, addition of spawning substrate, mitigation at culverts, re-opening of piped stream segments, sediment trapping (sand) to reduce harmful sediment transport.were handed out in 2020
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H3:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	River restoration
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	More and better habitat available for salmon spawning and rearing – giving more wild smolts and then more returning adults.
	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>	Fewer than usual restoration projects were carried out in 2020 in the salmon rivers, due to COVID 19. However, there were several projects including extended buffer zones, addition of spawning substrate, mitigation at culverts, re-opening of piped stream segments, sediment trapping (sand) to reduce sediment transport.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H4:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	Sediment management, sediment traps and securing of buffer zones along streams and rivers to trap sediment before reaching the streams.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	Improved habitat quality and quantity, securing good spawning habitat.
	Progress on action to date	In relation to restoration projects, sediment traps are installed and maintained upstream spawning and rearing areas for salmon.

	<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:	Ongoing
	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 seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.*

Action A1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Avoid establishment of marine salmon farms.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	N/A
	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>	No new facilities have been installed, despite political support. Many applications to start new fish farms were rejected by the environmental boards. Two existing marine rainbow trout farms are under criminal investigation for breaking environmental rules and the verdict is expected any day now. Evidence was provided for a substantial overproduction and subsequently a severe nutrient load to the coastal environment.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action A2:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g.</i>	

	<i>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.
	None
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.
	None
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
	None
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.
	None
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
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.