

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2020 – EU – Spain (Navarra)</i></p>	<p>CNL(21)43</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:	Spain (Navarra)

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan
1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan (<i>Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 November</i>).
<p>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.</p>
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
<p>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</p>

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 (no 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. This 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".

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.

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.

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
	0.212			0.212
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2019 (tonnes)	0.156			0.156
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2020 (tonnes)				
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2020	Catch and release angling is not practiced by the Bidasoa River anglers. However, 4 salmon (7.5% of the total angling catch) were caught and brought alive to the fish farm of the Government of Navarra to be used as breeders in the restocking scheme			

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 F1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Data analysis for the establishment of the necessary reference limits.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Reference limits for every indicator of conservation status.
	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):	This action was foreseen to be implemented in 2019, but due to administrative problems the contracting of this work was delayed, and was contracted in 2020 to Carlos García de Leániz (Swansea University). Although the study has been done, some corrections need to be revised by the contractor, so the final document is not ready yet. It is expected that the final product will be finished before the end of March 2020. Meanwhile, the Conservation

		Limits tentatively designed in 2013 following NASCO's precautionary approach and included in the NASCO Implementation Plan-Navarra and Bidasoa Salmon Management Plan are implemented in all salmon management decisions.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action F2:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Annual monitoring of the species, based on: (1) Collection of biometric and biological data of every salmon captured on recreational fishing. (2) Collection of biometric and biological data of every spawner salmon passing the salmon trap. (3) Electrofishing surveys on juvenile production areas. (4) Monitoring of redds and spawners. (5) Collection of biometric and biological data of every salmon passing the salmon trap. (6) Setup of a smolts control system. (7) To collect biometric and biological data of smolts captured. (8) Annual estimation of the conservation status of the salmon stock. (9) Monitoring of the sanitary status. (10) Preparation of protocols for the above actions.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Data for stock trend analysis and evaluation.
	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):	1) Biometric data (LF and weight), scale samples for age determination and biological samples for sex determination, collected for 53 salmon caught in the 2020 angling season. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. 2) Biometric data (LF and weight), scale samples for age determination and biological samples for sex determination (until august), collected for 285 spawning salmon passing the Salmonid Monitoring Station (fish trap) in 2020. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. 3) There have been 31 electrofishing surveys on juvenile production areas. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. 4) During the 2020 redd monitoring campaign, 5 redds and 1 spawner were observed in spawning areas downstream of the monitoring station and four more redds upstream. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. 5) Biometric data (LF and weight), scale samples for age determination and biological samples for sex determination (until august), collected for 285 spawning

		<p>salmon passing the Salmonid Monitoring Station (fish trap) in 2020. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>6) Use of the rotary screw trap to control de smolts production in the basin was discarded in 2017 due to the many problems that have been encountered in its set up and use. During 2019 a new system, based on the counting of the smolts trapped in the most downstream hydroelectric channel, was implemented. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>7) For the first year, 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. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>8) The conservation status of the salmon stock in the Bidasoa River has been estimated. Following the indicators proposed in the Salmon Management Plan for the period 2019-2024, the salmon stock in Bidasoa River is Unfavourable. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>9) All spawners transferred to the fish farm have been treated preventively with antibiotics. On the fish farm there is a protocol for sanitary status monitoring and prophylactic treatments. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. All salmon passing the fish trap were monitored for sea lice and Red Vent Syndrome. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>10) All the foreseen protocols to carry out the above actions have been prepared. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p>
	Current status of action:	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	Yes, the action objective has been achieved
Action F3:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Establishment of the annual total authorized catch (TAC) and the multi-sea-winter protection measures.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Annual estimate of the total authorized catch
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress.	The total authorized catch (TAC) for the 2020 season was set at 53 salmon caught and the multi-sea-winter (MSW) protection measure was established at 25 MSW salmon. When 80% of the MSW TAC were caught (12 MSW salmon), the angling season was closed for a week. The expected outcome has been achieved.

	<i>Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	
	Current status of action:	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	Yes, the action has achieved its objective. This year, the annual catches reached the TAC, so the season was closed the 9th of July instead the 31st of July as it was foreseen in this year's regulation. Before that, the MSW protection measure entered into action when the 12th MSW salmon was caught and angling was banned for a week between 26th May and 2nd of June (both included).
Action F4:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Socio-economic study of the angling activity in Bidasoa River
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	An study dedicated to the socio-economic drivers behind the angling activity in Bidasoa River
	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):	This action was foreseen to be implemented in 2023, but some progress has been done since 2018, gathering socioeconomic data about the angling activity. Until 2018, anglers only needed an angling license to legally catch salmon in Navarra. This license allowed fishing any authorized fish species and anywhere in the region where angling was allowed, so this system did not allow discriminating information regarding salmon fishing in particular. However, in 2018 a new permit system was introduced to specifically fish for salmon in Bidasoa River. When anglers apply for the permit, provide data that allow the analysis of the angling activity in Bidasoa River (origin of anglers, gender, number of days, etc.). A preliminary analysis has been carried out with the data of the first three seasons (2018-2020) that give some information also about the angling effort, dates, etc. but the study will be continued during coming years to adequately allow the assessment of the activity and its trends. At the moment, the action is in progress, as the information will be gathered on a yearly basis.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	The action is achieving its objective as now the socio-economic drivers behind the angling activity in Bidasoa River are better understood.

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):	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	An updated GIS database and maps. This information will be used to report the impact assessment of any construction that could affect the important salmonid mesohabitats identified
	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):	Not yet started. This action is foreseen to be implemented in 2020.
	Current status of action:	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H2:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	(1) Evaluation of the permeability of 7 obstacles or fish-ways carried out. (2) Preparation and implementation of 12 new projects to improve longitudinal connectivity.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Significant improvement of the river habitat accessible for 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):	Although the timescale of this action is 2019-2024, some progress has been made so far: 1) The evaluation of the permeability of one obstacle ("Colector de Legasa" coded as BI-23 in the Obstacles Data Base) has been carried out. Therefore, 14% of the action (one out of seven) has been implemented so far. 2) Three new projects to improve longitudinal connectivity were implemented, as two dams of the Oronoz Hydropower station ("Presa de la Central de Oronoz" code BI-10, located in main Bidasoa River and "Presa del túnel de la Central de Oronoz" coded BI-AR-05 and located in Artesiaga stream, a tributary of Bidasoa River) and the dam of "Molino de Elgorriaga" (code BI-EZ-10, in Ezkurra River, one of the main tributaries of the Bidasoa River) were demolished in 2019. Therefore, 25% of the action (three out of twelve) has been implemented so far.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	The radiotracking monitoring programme carried out in since 2018 is proving that salmon are getting further and faster than ever in the basin and already a significant improvement of the habitat accessible and used by the

		species is being observed, but more information will be gathered in coming years
Action H3:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Study about the smolt mortality during the migration to the sea in the hydropower turbines of the Bidasoa River basin.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Study that would provide data about the smolt mortality in hydropower turbines during the migration to the 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):	Not yet started. This action is foreseen to be implemented in 2021.
	Current status of action:	Not started
	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):	Supplemental stocking of the Bidasoa River with salmon yearlings: (1) Selection and transfer of wild spawners from the fish trap to the hatchery. (2) Artificial spawning and fry growth in captivity. (3) Differential tagging of fry according to stocking moment. (4) Supplemental stocking in the Bidasoa River and tributaries, following the annual stocking plan.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increase of the emigrating smolt population and 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):	1) 20 females and 31 males were selected in the Salmonid Monitoring Station in 2019 and transferred to the hatchery for the 2020 fry production. Therefore, the expected outcome has been achieved. 2) 196,133 eggs were obtained and they produced 110,357 fry. The expected outcome has been achieved. 3) All juvenile salmon fish stocked into Bidasoa River are marked. Fry stocked in June-July are adipose clipped (ADC) while parr stocked in autumn are marked with CWT+ADC. Differential DCWTsq marking according to

		the origin (different females, MSWxMSW, MSWx1SW and 1SWx1SW crossing, etc.) is carried out. The expected outcome has been achieved. 4) In 2020, 93,248 salmon fry and 17,109 autumn parr were stocked in the Bidasoa River and its tributaries. The expected outcome has been achieved.
	Current status of action:	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	The number of emigrating smolts has been estimated for the first year. This will be the baseline for comparison in following years, therefore the achievement of the action objective cannot be yet assessed. The number of returning salmon seems to be stable.
Action A2:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Update of the knowledge on the genetic characterization of the salmon population.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Study of the genetic characterization of the salmon population.
	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 genetic characterization of the salmon population has been carried out.
	Current status of action:	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	Yes, the action has 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.
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.
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.
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.

Not applicable (Navarra has not sea)
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.
Not applicable
4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
Not applicable
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.