

	Council <i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2021 EU – Denmark</i>	CNL(22)25
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Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2021

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 2022**.

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 significant changes
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
Two important migration barriers have been removed, granting salmon access to app. 60 km of spawning and rearing habitat.

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.
No important changes, angler catch and stock assessments were much in line with earlier years.

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 2021 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	10,40			10,40 tn
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2020 (tonnes)	10.24			10,24 tn
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2021 (tonnes)	2.5			2.5 tn
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2021	Catch and released 3368 fish, 62% of total 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):	
F1:	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.

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 2021, a main tributary to the Varde River (Holme Å) was set free, providing free access to 20 km spawning area. Likewise, a major weir at a fishfarm was removed in another Varde trib Grindsted Å, giving access to 6 km prime spawning and rearing area. In the Kongeå, two important weirs were removed, giving access to 15 km good habitat for salmon.
	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 (as submitted in the IP):	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 (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	Relative success in keeping seals out of the rivers, high efforts in trying to keep cormorants out. More than 500 permissions are given to cormorant regulation in rivers, but still the loss of smolts and juvenile salmon to cormorant predation is very high. Much activity in cooperation between Nordic Countries in cormorant management. A new Danish National MP for cormorants was drafted in 2021, but is still being discussed following negative response from all fish-interests. Recent study find a 4-fold increase in mortality of y-o-y (young of the year) salmon due to cormorant predation.

	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H3:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	River restoration
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	More and better habitat available for salmon spawning and rearing – giving more wild smolts and then more returning adults.
	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):	Around 50 restoration 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. In Brede Å, a major restoration of the channelized main stem was finalized in 2021, almost doubling the suitable salmon habitat in that river (current salmon run app. 1000 adults).
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H4:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Sediment management, sediment traps and securing of buffer zones along streams and rivers to trap sediment before reaching the streams.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Improved habitat quality and quantity, securing good spawning habitat.
	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):	In relation to restoration projects, sediment traps are installed and maintained upstream spawning and rearing areas for salmon. The Government has decided to buy up significant areas of low-lying farmland to stop draining and this will have major influence on sediment-problems.
	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 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 (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	No new facilities have been installed, despite some political support. Many applications to start new marine fish farms were rejected by the environmental boards. Two existing marine rainbow trout farms have received large fines for breaking environmental rules
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	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.
	NA
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.