NASCO	**Council** **Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)**	**CNL(22)16** **Agenda item: 5 c) (i)**

Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)

By Video Conference

11 – 14 April and 3 May 2022

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 The Chair, Cathal Gallagher (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Review Group. He noted that the main task before the Group was to evaluate the 2022 Annual Progress Reports (APRs) under the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024). He reminded participants that NASCO is committed to the Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines it develops, and that Implementation Plans (IPs) and APRs provide a succinct, transparent, fair and balanced approach for reporting on their implementation by the Parties / jurisdictions. The Review Group's evaluation of the APRs is intended to ensure that Parties / jurisdictions have provided a clear account of progress in implementing the actions detailed in their IPs.

1.2 All documents relevant to the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024) can be found on the NASCO website: Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024).

1.3 A list of the members of the Review Group is contained in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Review Group adopted its Agenda, IP(22)04 (Annex 2).

3. Review and Agree Working Methods

3.1 The Review Group noted that while no Terms of Reference had been provided by the Council, the Group's assessments would rely upon instructions for evaluation given in the 'Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress', CNL(18)49. These Guidelines state that:

> *'The Annual Progress Reports are the primary medium through which NASCO is able to assess progress towards the achievement of its Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and report on its activities through the provision of:*
>
> - *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*.'

3.2 Prior to the meeting, a template was developed by the Secretariat (Annex 3) which was used to record the evaluations.

3.3 The Review Group agreed to follow similar working methods to those used during previous reviews. These were that the Chair / Secretary assigned a lead reviewer for each APR. The main tasks of the lead reviewer were to:

- develop the initial evaluation of the assigned APR in advance of the meeting, on the template provided;
- lead discussion of the APR at the meeting; and
- check the feedback for the Party / jurisdiction on the APR, after the meeting.

3.4 The Review Group agreed to follow the 'ground rules':

- the Review Group will draw on information in the Implementation Plans but limit its evaluations to the information presented in the current and previous year's APRs;
- because not all Parties / jurisdictions are represented on the Review Group, it has been agreed that a member of the Group from a NASCO Party / jurisdiction whose APR is being reviewed will not be present during the review of that APR;
- the lead reviewers remain anonymous in the report. In the event that one or more members of the Review Group do not agree with a particular aspect or aspects of the review, then the report may indicate that there are dissenting views; and
- following the completion of all the initial evaluations, the Review Group will re-examine each evaluation to ensure consistency.

3.5 During discussion of the IPs and APRs at the Annual Meeting in June 2021, CNL(21)62, the Council agreed that:

> *'all actions should be reviewed by the Review Group during future APR reviews. If a virtual meeting was needed, the Council agreed that it would be up to the discretion of the Chair and Secretary to determine the best approach. Any decisions reached must be clearly communicated to the Parties.'*

3.6 In deciding whether meetings should go ahead on a face-to-face basis in 2021 / 2022 NASCO adopted a consistent approach: that there should only be a face-to-face meeting if all members of the Commission / Committee / Review Group were able to attend physically. This was deemed necessary to ensure that everyone had an equal opportunity to contribute. In early 2022, two members of the Review Group informed the Secretariat that they were unable to attend the meeting in person. The Chair and Secretary decided, therefore, that the APR meeting would be held virtually. Consequently, they also determined that only 'satisfactory' actions would be reviewed in 2022. This was communicated to the Parties on 28 February 2022.

4. Evaluation of the 2022 Annual Progress Reports and Development of Feedback to the Parties / jurisdictions

Covid-19

4.1 The Review Group recognised that the Covid-19 pandemic affected Parties' / jurisdictions' ability to make progress with actions during the reporting year. However, the Review Group agreed that it was unable to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on individual actions. Therefore, some actions have been evaluated as showing unsatisfactory progress, even though their progress may have been impacted by the

pandemic. However, despite the continuing impact of the pandemic, the Review Group acknowledged that good progress was achieved in many cases.

Overview of the Annual Progress Report Evaluations

4.2 In 2022, the Review Group welcomed the submission of 20 of the 21 expected APRs by the deadline.

4.3 It acknowledged that the feedback it would provide related only to the actions considered as 'satisfactory' during the review of the IPs in November 2021 (published on NASCO's website). Consequently, many actions under NASCO's third theme area 'Management of aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics', were not reviewed.

2022 Annual Progress Report Evaluations

4.4 The 2022 APR template was issued on 14 January 2022. The Secretariat had completed the 'Description of Actions' and 'Expected Outcomes' fields in the APR template for each Party / jurisdiction using the text from the most recent versions of the IP. Parties / jurisdictions were asked to complete and return their APRs to the Secretariat no later than 1 April 2022.

4.5 20 of the 21 expected APRs were submitted by the deadline.

Party / jurisdiction	**Document No.**
Canada	CNL(22)40
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands	Not provided
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	CNL(22)30
EU – Denmark	CNL(22)25
EU – Finland	CNL(22)23
EU – France*	CNL(22)34
EU – Germany	CNL(22)26
EU – Ireland	CNL(22)39
EU – Portugal	CNL(22)24
EU – Spain (Asturias)	CNL(22)35
EU – Spain (Cantabria)	CNL(22)36
EU – Spain (Galicia)	CNL(22)37
EU – Spain (Gipuzkoa)	CNL(22)41
EU – Spain (Navarra)	CNL(22)38
EU – Sweden	CNL(22)33
Norway	CNL(22)29
Russian Federation	CNL(22)22
UK – England and Wales	CNL(22)32
UK – Northern Ireland	CNL(22)33

UK – Scotland	CNL(22)31
United States	CNL(22)28

*The APR from EU – France was submitted on time but the corrected version was not received by the Secretariat until 19 April and was, therefore, unable to be made public until then.

4.6 One NGO member of the Review Group chose to absent themselves from the review of the Russian Federation's APR due to the conflict in Ukraine after concerns were shared. This followed an open discussion among the members of the Review Group.

4.7 The Review Group's full evaluations of the 2022 APRs are contained in Annex 4. All of the evaluations were agreed unanimously by the Review Group.

4.8 The following text was presented at the start of the feedback document to emphasise the importance of the IP / APR process to NASCO:

> '*NASCO considers that the provision of Implementation Plans, together with annual reporting of progress on actions contained within them, is one of the most valuable mechanisms that it has developed. It is a vitally important mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Parties to NASCO have committed to the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. The Review Group has referenced, where relevant, progress towards implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements or Guidelines in the evaluations below.*'

- additionally, the following text was presented to acknowledge the impact that Covid-19 may have had, and to note the Review Group's approach to it:

> '*The Review Group recognised that the Covid-19 pandemic affected Parties' / jurisdictions' ability to make progress with actions during the reporting year. However, the Review Group agreed that it was unable to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on individual actions. Therefore, some actions have been evaluated as showing unsatisfactory progress, even though their progress may have been impacted by the pandemic.'*

4.9 The Review Group used the following format in presenting its evaluations:

- a table providing links to the relevant documents for that Party / jurisdiction;
- a paragraph summarising the overall assessment of the APR in terms of whether it provided a clear account of progress for the satisfactory actions in the IP;
- a paragraph, if relevant, highlighting interesting developments or challenges related to implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines;
- paragraphs noting whether actions taken in relation to management of fisheries, habitat protection and restoration, and aquaculture and related activities were considered to be satisfactory during the November 2021 review of the IPs, and whether clear progress has been made on these satisfactory actions; and
- a table providing details of the Review Group's evaluation of progress on each action, highlighting any shortcomings and adding comments or recommendations where it was considered to be helpful to inform future reporting.

4.10 In the third reporting cycle, for the reporting of progress, the column 'Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress' replaces the text used during the second reporting cycle, i.e. 'Clear Progress / No Clear Progress'.

4.11 The Review Group adopted the same standard text for use in the tables as in 2019 to 2021:

Action No.	Description	Status of Action	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

- The 'status of action' categories are:
  - NS = Not Started;
  - OG = Ongoing – clear progress;
  - OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress;
  - OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress;
  - CD = Completed – clear progress;
  - CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress;
- progress on each action was evaluated and categorised according to the list above;
- where progress was deemed to be ongoing but the Review Group considered that improvements could be made to future reporting, these improvements were suggested in the comments / recommendations column in the table;
- for actions where progress was not able to be determined, standard descriptors, giving an explanation of the shortcomings, were used, with further explanations (in italics) as to why these descriptors were used in each case. The agreed standard descriptors were:
  - action not yet started;
  - lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress;
  - reliance on references to websites or publications;
  - reporting timeframe not clearly specified;
  - no progress has been made in the reporting year;
  - progress report is unclear.

4.12 With regard to the content of the APRs, the Review Group noted that shortcomings included:

- several of the APRs had, again, provided information on activities in years prior to the reporting year. The Review Group reminds Parties / jurisdictions that reporting should be confined to activities conducted in the relevant reporting year. However, quantitative information on trends is welcome;
- there is a need to focus on demonstrating progress towards achievement of the actions' outcomes, specifically referencing the 'Expected outcome' set out in the IP. In several instances, the 'Approach for monitoring' and 'Planned timescale' laid out in the IP were not followed, such that progress on reporting in relation to the targets / metrics stated in those sections of the IP was difficult to determine. Those sections of the IP, together with the 'Expected outcome', are what informs the basis for the Review Group's evaluation and feedback to Parties / jurisdictions;

- reports on progress should be brief, while providing enough information to demonstrate clear progress; this is not the case in many instances;
- in some cases the overall action was stated to be 'Completed' by the Party / jurisdiction. However, it was unclear whether this meant that the overall action was complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle or whether it was an ongoing action that would be reported on annually, in which case it should have been marked as 'Ongoing';
- when an action has not yet started, the Review Group would like to be informed when the action would start.

4.13 The Review Group wishes to commend EU – Germany as a positive model for clear and concise reporting on progress.

4.14 In the course of its reviews, the Review Group noted some exemplary examples of international fisheries management co-operation to support the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. The Group would like to draw attention to the habitat restoration carried out in the cross-border river Minho / Mina in Portugal / Spain and the closure of all fisheries in the Teno / Tana river system in Finland / Norway.

4.15 The Review Group noted that several Parties / jurisdictions reported some interesting and useful developments and challenges in addressing NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines, as follows:

- **Canada:** the Review Group welcomed the $11.8 million received by DFO in 2021, through Natural Resources Canada's Environmental Studies Research Fund, to study the migration of Atlantic salmon at sea. The Review Group recognised the successful removal of smallmouth bass, an aquatic invasive species, from Piper Lake (Nova Scotia), in line with CNL(10)51, section 2b. Additionally, the Review Group noted changes in codes of practice for farmed fish containment in line with SLG(09)5. The Review Group welcomed the province of New Brunswick's initiative to support land-based aquaculture facilities, which may help mitigate farmed and wild fish interactions;
- **DFG – Greenland:** the Review Group noted the implementation of the Management Plan and a new Executive Order in 2021 (CNL(09)43);
- **EU – Denmark:** the Review Group welcomed the removal of two important migration barriers, granting salmon access to approximately 60 km of spawning and rearing habitat. It considered this a notable achievement and in line with the Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51 section 2;
- **EU – Finland:** the Review Group noted the poor stock status of Atlantic salmon populations in the River Teno system and the efforts taken by Finland and Norway to close all fisheries to support stock recovery (CNL(09)43). Furthermore, this example of international collaboration is in line with NASCO's objective;
- **EU – France:** the Review Group welcomed the publication of a National Action Plan for migratory fish and looks forwards to its implementation (CNL(10)51). The Review Group acknowledged the public outreach activities funded as part of the International Year of the Salmon, detailed within the report, including several engaging videos;
- **EU – Germany:** the Review Group noted: the reporting of the first results from the project on genetic monitoring in the entire Rhine catchment area (CNL(04)55); a

decrease was registered in salmon and spawning activity in the Rhine (CNL(04)55); and in the Elbe catchment area, good progress was made on restoration of ecological connectivity (CNL(10)51 section 3.5e);

- **EU – Ireland:** the Review Group welcomed the establishment of a nationwide long-term environmental monitoring programme and the ambition to identify waterbodies at risk from climate change. The Review Group noted the use of sonar, underwater imagery and ArcGIS to survey non-native invasive curly-leaved waterweed (CNL(10)51)**;**
- **EU – Portugal**: the Review Group noted the Migra Miño-Minho Project, directed at the improvement of river habitat conditions and measures that improve the conservation status of the migratory fish populations present in it (CNL(10)51, section 3). It also noted the increase in available river habitat from 5.9 km to 43.8 km due to the removal of barriers to salmon passage on the Minho system. These are good examples of cross jurisdictional co-operation to support salmon conservation (CNL(10)51, section 3.5).
- **EU – Spain (Cantabria):** the Review Group commented that the removal of two dams in 2021 is a notable achievement and in line with the Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51;
- **EU – Spain (Galicia):** the Review Group noted that in 2021 NGEU funds have supported restoration of habitat measures, and actions were taken to remove barriers (CNL(10)51 section 2) and to close fisheries (CNL(09)43 section 2.7);
- **EU – Spain (Gipuzkoa):** the Review Group welcomed the first Annual Progress Report from Gipuzkoa.
- **EU – Spain (Navarra):** the Review Group welcomed the establishment of reference points, which will support an understanding of conservation status, and represents a significant step forward for future evidence-based management decisions (CNL(09)43 section 2.5);
- **EU – Sweden**: the Review Group welcomed that a national plan for the revision of the hydropower plant licenses is forthcoming, associated with new legislation requiring modern environmental conditions for hydropower plants. This process will provide environmental goals for eight salmon catchments with hydropower installations which is considered by EU – Sweden to be a significant boost in restoration of affected river habitats (CNL(10)51, section 2);
- **Norway:** the Review Group commended a major revision to regulatory measures in rivers and in mixed-stock fisheries in 2021, which has led to a significant reduction in harvest in both fisheries, reduced the risk of over-exploitation and promoted more sustainable fisheries based on stock status in line with CNL(09)43;
- **Russian Federation: t**he Review Group welcomed the Revised Fishing Regulations for the Northern Fisheries Basin that came into force in 2021. However, the Review Group was uncertain of the extent of the change to the regulations. The Review Group noted the significant increase in the reported catch of pink salmon which may reflect a concerning increase in the population;
- **UK – Scotland:** the Review Group welcomed Scotland's intention to submit a revised Implementation Plan in late 2022 in response to the adoption of the Wild Salmon Strategy and the feedback received on the current Implementation Plan

from the Review Group; and

- **USA:** the Review Group considered that the completion of three geographically specific work plans that identify priority actions needed to further the recovery of Atlantic salmon is an important step forward towards the implementation of the Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51, sections 3.2 and 3.10, together with the provision of $900,000 for freshwater habitat restoration in 2021. Additionally, in gaining wider support for measures to restore Atlantic salmon populations, the Review Group welcomed the creation of an animated video that highlights the threats Atlantic salmon face and actions that the public can take to protect and restore Atlantic salmon and their ecosystems.

5. Recommendations on any Changes to the Reporting Process

5.1 The Review Group again requested some minor APR template changes for subsequent years to promote more effective reporting by Parties / jurisdictions, as follows:

- in 'Description of action', reiterate that each Party / jurisdiction should report in relation to the reporting year only or most relevant recent year, and ideally quantitative trends that demonstrate progress towards the action's objective;
- if sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear;
- put the text in the 'Approach for monitoring…' in the APR template to remind Parties / jurisdictions of how they had indicated they would monitor / report progress against each action; and
- add a definition of 'Completed' to the 'Current status of action' box;

These requests will be made during the APR Special Session for agreement by the Council.

5.2 Halfway through the third reporting cycle, the Review Group discussed some potential recommendations to / considerations for Council regarding the fourth reporting cycle. These included:

- multi-part actions are difficult to review / comment on and often result in the Review Group being unable to determine progress. Simple, significant, single, actions that can easily be reviewed and reported on are requested in future Implementation Plans;
- a recommendation that actions be limited to those that are substantially relevant to wild salmon conservation and management; and
- for actions that will extend beyond the lifetime of the IP, milestones for the current reporting period should be included in the action, to enable assessment of progress.

6. Arrangements for Presenting the Group's Report to the Council

6.1 The Review Group agreed that the Chair would present its report to the Council during the Special Session at the Annual Meeting in June 2022. The Group agreed that this report should summarise briefly the Group's working methods and provide an overview of the evaluations in terms of completeness and timeliness of reporting and progress three years into the third reporting cycle. The circulation of the evaluations ahead of the Annual Meeting would facilitate discussion involving all Parties and NGOs.

7. Report of the Meeting

7.1 The Review Group agreed a report of its meeting.

8. Other Business

8.1 There was no other business.

9. Close of the Meeting

9.1 The Chair thanked the members of the Review Group for their hard work during and prior to the meeting and the Secretariat for its support. He closed the meeting.

Annex 1

Members of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group

Cathal Gallagher	Inland Fisheries Ireland (Review Group Chair)
Sissel Fredsgaard	Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Greenland
Livia Goodbrand	Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Dan Kircheis	NOAA Federal, USA
Paul Knight	Salmon and Trout Conservation UK
Michael Millane	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Steve Sutton	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada
Lawrence Talks	Environment Agency, UK

Annex 2

IP(22)04

Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports

By Video Conference

11 – 15 April 2022

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Review and Agree Working Methods
4. Evaluation of the 2022 Annual Progress Reports and Development of Feedback to the Parties / jurisdictions
5. Recommendations on any Changes to the Reporting Process
6. Arrangements for Presenting the Group's Report to the Council
7. Report of the Meeting
8. Other Business
9. Close of the Meeting

Annex 3
CNL40.2188

Annual Progress Report Evaluation Table 2022

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
					CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	

1. Should anything be noted from Section 1 of the APR 'Changes to the Implementation Plan'?

2. Should anything be noted from Section 2 of the APR 'Stock status and catches'?

3. Actions on Management of Salmon Fisheries in section 2.9 in the IP *(see Annex below for standard text)*

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

- **Do you have any overall comments on actions related to Management of Salmon Fisheries?**

4. Evaluation of Actions on Habitat Protection and Restoration in section 3.5 of the IP *(see Annex below for standard text)*

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

- **Do you have any overall comments on actions related to Habitat Protection and Restoration?**

5. Evaluation of Actions on Aquaculture and Related Activities in section 4.11 of the IP *(see Annex below for standard text)*

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

- **Do you have any overall comments on actions related to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics?**

6. Do you have any overall comments on the actions in general?

7. Please highlight interesting developments or challenges related to the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines from anywhere in the APR?

Thank you very much indeed.

Standard Text

***Status of the action:** evaluate the status of the action using one of the following categories:

- NS = Not Started;
- OG = Ongoing – clear progress;
- OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress;
- OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress;
- CD = Completed – clear progress;
- CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Explanation of the shortcomings: if progress can be determined, leave blank. If progress cannot be determined, please use standard descriptors, giving an explanation of the shortcomings. Further explanations can be provided (in italics) as to why these descriptors were used. The standard descriptors are:

- action not yet started;
- lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress;
- reliance on references to websites or publications;
- reporting timeframe not clearly specified;
- no progress has been made in the reporting year;
- progress report is unclear.

Comments / Recommendations: examples of text used in 2021:

- The Review Group notes that the current status of this action has not been identified;
- The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary in next year's Annual Progress Report;
- The Review Group looks forward to the update on project outputs (Expected outcome) in the next Annual Progress Report;
- The Review Group asks when this action will start;
- The Review Group questions whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2020. If just for 2020 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing';
- The Review Group expected reporting in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. XXXX);
- The Review Group welcomes the clear and measurable report of progress.

Annex 4

IP(22)03

Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports from the Review Group to Parties / jurisdictions

NASCO considers that the provision of Implementation Plans, together with annual reporting of progress on actions contained within them, is one of the most valuable mechanisms that it has developed. It is a vitally important mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Parties to NASCO have committed to the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. The Review Group has referenced, where relevant, progress towards implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements or Guidelines in the evaluations below.

The Review Group recognised that the Covid-19 pandemic affected Parties' / jurisdictions' ability to make progress with actions during the reporting year. However, the Review Group agreed that it was unable to evaluate the impact of Covid-19 on individual actions. Therefore, some actions have been evaluated as showing unsatisfactory progress, even though their progress may have been impacted by the pandemic.

Full information and documents are available: Third Reporting Cycle – NASCO.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
Canada	IP(19)17rev3	IP(21)12_Canada	CNL(20)44rev	CNL(21)45rev	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)40

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 10 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which eight were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, six actions showed clear progress, while for two, progress was unable to be determined.

The Review Group welcomed the $11.8 million received by DFO in 2021, through Natural Resources Canada's Environmental Studies Research Fund, to study the migration of Atlantic salmon at sea. The Review Group recognised the successful removal of smallmouth bass, an aquatic invasive species, from Piper Lake (Nova Scotia), in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51, section 2b. Additionally, the Review Group noted changes in codes of practice for farmed fish containment in line with NASCO's Best Management Practice to Address Impacts of

Sea Lice and Escaped Farmed Salmon, SLG(09)5. The Review Group welcomed the province of New Brunswick's initiative to support land-based aquaculture facilities, which may help mitigate farmed and wild fish interactions.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. It agreed that two showed clear progress (Actions F1 and F2), but the Review Group was unable to determine progress for Actions F3 and F4.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. All were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. All showed clear progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one was deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that Action A3 was satisfactory and showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Improve understanding of factors affecting survival of salmon at sea, to inform management.	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Action against illegal fishing.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that the target for patrol hours in the Maritimes and NL Regions was not met but was exceeded in the Gulf region. Overall, the patrol target was not met but there was a demonstrated overall annual increase.
F3	Warm water protocols for adaptive management of recreational fisheries.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. *The Review Group was unable to*	The Review Group was unable to establish progress towards expected outcomes given the information provided. The Review Group noted no increase in the number of rivers having

				evaluate progress against all of the expected outcomes.	warm water protocols and that all rivers in NL have warm water protocols. The Review Group would appreciate information on how many rivers are lacking warm water protocols in each region.
F4	Monitoring and management of Labrador mixed-stock fishery.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. *The Review Group was unable to evaluate progress against the expected outcome.*	The Review Group recognised the significant sampling of the fishery but would request reporting in future years on the declining trend in captured fish of non-Labrador origin based on improvement of associated management actions.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Management of threats related to industrial land-use activities.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcome the shorter response, as requested in 2021.
H2	Management of Acid Rain.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group reiterated its request that a succinct report is provided for each of the seven aspects of the action, to enable efficient evaluation of progress.
H3	Management of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).	OG	Satisfactory		
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A3	Research with respect to wild and farmed fish health and emerging diseases.	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	CNL(19)81	IP(20)09_Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	CNL(20)40	CNL(21)32	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)30

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are four actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, the Review Group agreed that three actions showed clear progress and, for one action, no progress was made.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Actions F1 and F2 showed clear progress. For Action F3 the Review Group agreed that no progress had been made.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the one satisfactory action (Action H1) from the Implementation Plan and agreed that it showed clear progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: not applicable. There are no actions in this section of the Implementation Plan.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Evaluation of the reporting system implemented in 2018.	OG	Satisfactory		

F2	Enhance awareness and implementation of the new license system.	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	Continue the heightened level of monitoring and control of the salmon fishery.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory		The Review Group would welcome reporting against the expected outcome. The Review Group noted that some of the work may have been delayed due to the impacts of Covid-19.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	The completion and adoption of a protection plan for the Kapisillit River stock and the entire river area.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group sought clarification that the Executive Order on salmon will be maintained until the establishment of the Kapisillit – Austmannadalen national park. The Review Group anticipates an update to DFG – Greenland's Implementation Plan.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Denmark	IP(19)09rev2	IP(21)12_EU-Denmark	CNL(20)38	CNL(21)39	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)25

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

None of the actions in the Implementation Plan were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. Therefore, no actions were reviewed in the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review. Although the Review Group did not review the unsatisfactory actions, it recognised the work EU-Denmark has taken in respect of the actions.

The Review Group welcomed the removal of two important migration barriers, granting salmon access to approximately 60 km of spawning and rearing habitat. It considered this a notable achievement and in line with the NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51 section 2.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there were no satisfactory actions identified from this section of the Implementation Plan during its review in November 2021.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there were no satisfactory actions identified from this section of the Implementation Plan during its review in November 2021.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there were no satisfactory actions identified from this section of the Implementation Plan during its review in November 2021.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Finland	CNL(21)68	IP(21)12_EU-Finland	CNL(20)34	CNL(21)34	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)23

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are five actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, four actions showed clear progress, and one was completed.

The Review Group noted the poor stock status of Atlantic salmon populations in the River Teno system and the efforts taken by Finland and Norway to close all fisheries to support stock recovery in line with NASCO Guidelines for the Management of Salmon Fisheries, CNL(09)43. Furthermore, this example of international collaboration is in line with NASCO's objective.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that both showed clear progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group agreed that the action was completed.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that both showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Enable recovery of the weak salmon stocks to a sustainable level in the River Tana.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that monitoring of conservation status has led to cessation of exploitation of stocks for 2021.
F2	Defining spawning targets for the Näätämöjoki river system.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that the definition of first-generation spawning targets for the Näätämöjoki system has been completed and will be reported in 2022.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Avoidance of small migration barriers and erosion during road construction.	CD			The Review Group noted that assessing culvert restoration needs was completed in 2020 and one road culvert was restored.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Preventing spread of *G salaris.*	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledged progress made on this action but requested information in relation to protection of the Näätämöjoki river from *G. salaris*.
A2	Monitoring of farmed salmon in catches of wild salmon.	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-France	IP(19)16rev2	IP(20)09_EU–France	CNL(20)35	CNL(21)37	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)34

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are ten actions in the Implementation Plan, of which nine were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, four actions showed clear progress, while two actions had not yet started. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for three actions. The Review Group noted that progress has been made to identify the issues and actions to restore salmon populations and looks forward to receiving updates on actions being delivered.

The Review Group welcomed the publication of a National Action Plan for migratory fish, in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51, and looks forwards to its implementation. The Review Group acknowledged the public outreach activities funded as part of the International Year of the Salmon, detailed within the report, including several engaging videos.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which two were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that both (Actions F1 and F2), showed clear progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action H4 had been successfully completed and Action H2 showed clear progress. Action H3 had not yet started and for Action H1, the Review Group was unable to determine progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and for two (Actions A2 and A3) the Review Group was unable to determine progress. Action A1 had not yet started.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Diadromous Good Ecological Status indicators.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed progress on better understanding the risk of salmon bycatch.

F2	Conservation limits for fished French rivers.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that progress is being made in establishing Conservation Limits.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Improve upstream and downstream movement by reducing the impacts of obstacles on the main watercourses populated by salmon (removing, levelling or modifying obstacles).	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress. *Indicators in the 'Approach to monitoring' are not reported on in this APR.*	The Review Group supported the mapping of obstacles to fish passage. However, it is beyond the scope of the Review Group to review a separate Excel spreadsheet and as such would ask that in future metrics on improving fish passage are included in the main report.
H2	Identify strategic salmon spawning and nursery habitats and match these with appropriate regulatory instruments for their protection.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the mapping of protection measures and salmonid spawning grounds. However, the Review Group noted that the indicators in the 'Approach to monitoring' are not reported on in this APR.
H3	Improving the function of 'weakened' habitat.	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group still expects to see the relevant areas in France identified (as set out in the 'Planned timescales' section of the Implementation Plan).
H4	Co-ordinate salmon action plans with existing planning and management documents.	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the development of a National Action Plan for migratory fish.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					

A1	Assessment of stocking practices.	NS		Action not yet started	In light of the start of this action being delayed until 2022, the Review Group again suggested that consideration be given to updating the 'Planned timescales' section of this action in a revision of the Implementation Plan.
A2	Implementing reporting specifically on sea lice.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group would still like to understand the nature and details of the monitoring and reporting system on sea lice together with information set out in the approach to monitoring, to enable assessment of whether sea lice levels on farmed salmon are increasing / decreasing.
A3	Monitoring escapes from commercial marine salmon farms.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group would like to understand the nature and details of the monitoring and reporting system on escaped farmed salmon together with information set out in the approach to monitoring, to enable assessment of whether escape incidents are increasing / decreasing.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Germany	CNL(21)69	IP(21)12_EU-Germany	CNL(20)36	CNL(21)36	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)26

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, six actions showed clear progress. One action had not yet started. Overall, the Annual Progress Report from EU-Germany is a positive model for clear and concise reporting on progress.

The Review Group noted:

- the reporting of the first results from the project on genetic monitoring in the entire Rhine catchment area, in line with NASCO's Guidelines on Stock Rebuilding, CNL(04)55;
- a decrease was registered in salmon and spawning activity in the Rhine; and
- in the Elbe catchment area, good progress was made on restoration of ecological connectivity, in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51, section 3.5e.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action F1 showed clear progress, whilst Action F2 had not yet started.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions (H1, H2, H3 and H4) from the Implementation Plan and agreed that all showed clear progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: the Review Group reviewed the one satisfactory action from the Implementation Plan and agreed that it showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Build up a self-sustaining salmon stock in the Agger river system.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the clear and measurable report of progress.
F2	Requirement to designate a fishing ban zone in the Nahe river.	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group welcomed the explanation of the delay on the fishing ban zone project. The Review Group also noted that progress was made on

					fishery control, however, the reporting was unmeasurable.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Preserve and restore the ecological passability at about 250 barrages in German federal waterways.	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Restoration of up- and downstream river connectivity in the German Rhine catchment area.	OG	Satisfactory		
H3	Establish river connectivity for fish in the Elbe catchment.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would expect to see the information in the Annex incorporated into the body of the report to enable it to be reviewed.
H4	Regulation of avian predation.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would welcome reporting against each milestone (planned timescales) to make the report clearer.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Undertake a co-ordinated genetic monitoring in the entire Rhine Catchment area.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the quantitative reporting on genetic monitoring. The Review Group would further welcome concise quantitative reporting on sampling and genetic richness.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Ireland	IP(19)15rev2	IP(21)12_EU-Ireland	CNL(20)28	CNL(21)38	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)39

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which nine were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, seven actions showed clear progress and one had been successfully completed. For one action the Review Group was unable to determine progress.

The Review Group welcomed the establishment of a nationwide long-term environmental monitoring programme and the ambition to identify waterbodies at risk from climate change. The Review Group noted the use of sonar, underwater imagery and ArcGIS to survey non-native invasive curly-leaved waterweed, in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51, section 3.2.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three showed clear progress (Actions F1, F2 and F4) and one had been successfully completed (Action F3). The Review Group welcomed the provision of informative and succinct information on actions to further the sustainable management of salmon fisheries noting, in particular, the clear metrics on enforcement, catch returns, and the management of mixed-stock fisheries.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three showed clear progress (Actions H2, H3 and H3). The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action H1.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: of the three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan two were deemed to be unsatisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that the one satisfactory action (A3) showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					

F1	Protection against illegal fishing by Fishery Inspectors, Navy, Garda etc.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the continued provision of informative and succinct enforcement metrics.
F2	Active promotion of the returns of accurate catch information from anglers and commercial fishers through the national carcass tagging and logbook scheme.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group found it helpful to have preceding years' data to show trends, in addition to the reporting for 2021.
F3	IYS promotion through IFI's education and outreach programme.	CD	Satisfactory		
F4	Permit the operation of mixed-stock commercial fisheries only in estuaries where the stocks of contributing rivers simultaneously exceed the conservation limit (CL) set.	OG	Satisfactory		
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Actions that will be taken to address identified pressures as set out in Ireland's River Basin Management Plan.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear.	The Review Group again found it difficult to track progress on improving water quality and would ask that metrics provided should cross-reference the expected outcomes succinctly. The Review Group recognised that improving water quality is challenging, and noted the actions undertaken. However, whilst

					some water bodies are improving more are going in the wrong direction.
H2	Addressing hydromorphological threats.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the ongoing work to address barriers and improve habitat. The Review Group welcomed the shorter response, as requested in 2021.
H3	Evidence-based assessment programme to determine the impact of climate change on the Irish fisheries.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the establishment of a nationwide long-term environmental monitoring programme and the ambition to identify waterbodies at risk from climate change.
H4	Prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the use of sonar, underwater imagery and ArcGIS to survey non-native invasive curly-leaved waterweed. The Review Group would welcome an update on progress to control invasive alien species.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A3	Maintenance of disease-free status for major diseases of salmonids listed in Regulation 2016/429 and for which Ireland is declared disease free under national Measures (BKD and *G. salaris*).	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that EU-Ireland has maintained disease free status. The Review Group would, however, welcome metrics to quantify the reduction of incidents of disease outbreaks in aquaculture facilities.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Portugal	IP(19)06rev2	IP(21)12_EU-Portugal	CNL(20)43	CNL(21)35	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)24

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which four were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, two actions showed clear progress, while for one, progress was unable to be determined and for another there was no progress.

The Review Group noted the Migra Miño-Minho Project, directed at the improvement of river habitat conditions and measures that improve the conservation status of the migratory fish populations present in it, in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51, section 3. The Review Group also noted the increase in available river habitat from 5.9 km to 43.8 km due to the removal of barriers to salmon passage on the Minho system. These are good examples of cross jurisdictional co-operation to support salmon conservation, in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51, section 3.5.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which four were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that two actions (Action F4 and F6) showed clear progress. It was unable to determine progress for Action F3, and for Action F4 there was no progress demonstrated.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there were no satisfactory actions identified from this section of the Implementation Plan during its review in November 2021.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there were no satisfactory actions identified from this section of the Implementation Plan during its review in November 2021.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					

F1	Establishment of a Commission for the Monitoring of Diadromous Species Fisheries with a working group exclusively dedicated to the Atlantic salmon.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year.	The Review Group recommended that EU-Portugal considers the 'Approach for monitoring' section of their Implementation Plan in reporting on progress.
F3	Operational Plan for the Monitoring and Management of Anadromous Fish in Portugal – An@dromos.PT.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear.	The Review Group acknowledged that EU-Portugal has provided information on monitoring but has not provided information on management.
F4	Permanent International Commission for collaborative management of the international section of the Minho River.	OG	Satisfactory		
F6	Revision of the Portuguese Red Book of freshwater and diadromous fishes.	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Spain (Asturias)	IP(19)20rev3	IP(21)12_EU-Spain (Asturias)	CNL(20)29	CNL(21)44	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)35

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, six actions showed clear progress, while for one, progress was unable to be determined.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan reviewed in November 2021 and agreed that all showed clear progress (Actions F1, F2, F3 and F4).

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action H1 showed clear progress whilst it was unable to determine progress for Action H2.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: the Review Group reviewed the one satisfactory action from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action H1 showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Increase vigilance to evaluate possible illegal fishing. Although it is estimated that undeclared catches are very low, efforts will continue to maintain this situation.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted a similar level of illegal fishing reported in 2021 to 2020 confirming that illegal fishing has not increased. The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
F2	Regulate river catches avoiding overfishing.	CD	Satisfactory		
F3	Perform annual censuses (counts) broodstock salmon to estimate their number against fishing. This data	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will

	allows to calculate a conservation limit.				continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
F4	Reinforce populations with repopulations of salmon fry.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Program of cleaning and annual maintenance of the scales in mini-stations and obstacles to the ski lift of the salmon.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
H2	Controls of *Phalacrocorax carbo* are performed. Increase knowledge about the problem of predation, which is difficult to solve.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Not possible to determine progress	The Review Group further reiterated that it would welcome details of actions taken and progress made in the year being reported. The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Continue restocking programmes.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that Action F4 refers to this action of restocking and that the target has been surpassed in 2021. The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the

					duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Spain (Cantabria)	IP(19)22rev2	IP(21)12_EU-Spain (Cantabria)	CNL(20)30	CNL(21)40	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)36

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

All 10 actions in the Implementation Plan were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, the Review Group noted that five actions had not yet started and for one, no progress had been made in the reporting year. One action showed clear progress, while for three, progress was unable to be determined. The Review Group recommended that more substantive reporting is required in future Annual Progress Reports to evaluate progress on some actions properly.

The Review Group commented that the removal of two dams in 2021 is a notable achievement and in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the five satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. Three had not yet started (Actions F2, F4 and F5), and the Review Group agreed that it was unable to determine progress for the other two actions (Actions F1 and F3).

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. One had not yet started (Action H3) and no progress was made in the reporting year for Action H2. The Review Group agreed that one action showed clear progress (Action H1), whilst it was unable to determine progress for Action H4.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: the Review Group reviewed the one satisfactory action from the Implementation Plan. It had not yet started.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Reducing over-exploitation of MSW in rivers through restrictions on landing large fish.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. *The Review Group recognised the positive element of setting a TAC, but it remained unclear what the 20% was in reference to, and how setting a TAC of 95 related to a reduction in the over-exploitation of MSW fish. Additionally, the Review Group noted that the response did not speak to the expected outcome of increased egg deposition and MSW survival*.	The Review Group noted that a similar answer was given in 2021, except the TAC was 95 salmon in the 2022 report compared to 100 salmon in the 2021 report. The Review Group reiterated that it would welcome a clear description of demonstrated progress towards increased MSW survival and increased egg deposition.

F2	Joint promotion, with stakeholders, of catch and release in rod fisheries.	NS		Action not yet started.	The Review Group requested information on when this is expected to start.
F3	Establishing Conservation Limits and management targets from all salmon stocks.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. *The Review Group acknowledged the setting of the TAC (management target) but it was unclear how setting a catch limit contributed to providing data on the current stock status, or the development of Conservation Limits*.	The Review Group reiterated that it expected to see reporting in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. Monitor the current status of stocks relative to the reference points established. Parr surveys, catch statistics & exploitation in rivers).
F4	Establishing in-river exploitation levels, through tagging / returns & catch and effort statistics.	NS		Action not yet started.	The Review Group requested information on when this is expected to start.
F5	Running monitoring in index river (smolt & spawner census, tagging of smolt, electrofishing).	NS		Action not yet started.	The Review Group requested information on when this is expected to start.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Improve fish passage by removing dams, installing	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the removal of two dams in 2021.

	fishways, removing culverts and upgrading road-stream crossings				As stated in 2021, the Review Group welcomed the information provided and suggested in future reporting that consideration is given to the provision of data in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. Enumerate the number of habitat area units and / or stream kilometres made accessible).
H2	Undertaking further research on impacts of hydropower (including cumulative effects) and taking account of best scientific advice to maintain and improve fish passage etc.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in this reporting year.	
H3	Provision of appropriate river flows by implementing sustainable abstraction programmes.	NS		Action not yet started.	The Review Group requested information on when this is expected to start.
H4	Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use, through implementing the SACs Management Plans.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. *Although it states a 40% measure of progress, it is unclear what progress has been made and what the 40% is in reference to*	The Review Group reiterated that it would like to see a description of the improvements to water bodies and land management practices that contributed to the 40% stated measure of progress (similar to the reporting under Action H1). The Review Group considered that inclusion of targets would support the evaluation of this action.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					

A1	Regulate salmonid stocking in Cantabrian rivers by implementing and enforcing existing and proposed new stocking programme etc.	NS		Action not yet started.	The Review Group requested information on when this is expected to start.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Spain (Galicia)	IP(19)19rev2	IP(21)12_EU-Spain (Galicia)	CNL(20)31	CNL(21)42	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)37

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are four actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, three actions were described as complete. One action showed clear progress.

The Review Group noted that in 2021 NGEU funds have supported restoration of habitat measures, and actions were taken to remove barriers (in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51, section 2) and to close fisheries (in line with NASCO's Guidelines for the Management of Salmon Fisheries, CNL(09)43 section 2.7).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action F3 and F4 showed clear progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions in the Implementation Plan and agreed that both had been completed.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: not applicable.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F3	Progressive limitation of "conflictive" sea-trout fisheries (14 rivers), closing the season together for both species.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the clear and measurable report of progress.
F4	Stocking Miño's tributaries in Portugal and Spain presently not used by salmon with parr of local origin (River Tea).	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that no further progress had been made to this action in the reporting year. It was unclear whether the release of parr was an action limited to a one-time action. The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If it is complete just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Design and testing of new passage facilities for some tributaries of the Miño river.	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group would welcome reporting of testing of the new facilities given the description of the action.
H2	Permeabilization or demolition of barriers in the Miño system.	CD	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Spain (Gipuzkoa)	IP(20)04rev	IP(21)12_EU-Spain (Gipuzkoa)	NA	NA	NA	CNL(22)38

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are six actions in the Implementation Plan, of which five were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, two actions showed clear progress. One action had not yet started and the Review Group was unable to determine progress for two actions. The Review Group recommended that more substantive reporting is required in future Annual Progress Reports to enable proper evaluation of progress on some actions.

The Review Group welcomed the first Annual Progress Report from Gipuzkoa.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that one showed clear progress (F1), while for action F3 it was unable to determine progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. Action H2 had not yet started, while for action H1 the Review Group was unable to determine progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: the Review Group reviewed the one action from the Implementation Plan in this section and agreed that it showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Annual scientific monitoring of the species and annual estimation of the conservation status of the salmon stock.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will

					continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'. The Review Group looked forward to seeing summary reporting on 'biometric and biological data' of fish sampled in the traps on the Urumea and Oria rivers in future APRs as stated in the IP.
F3	Increase the knowledge about the angling activity.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. *The Review Group noted the reliance in the APR on references to websites or publications.*	The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'. The Review Group expected reporting in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan. The Review Group required more information in future APR reports to assess whether satisfactory progress has been made under this action.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Evaluation of the permeability of fish passage and improving connectivity.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear for item (1). *The Review Group noted the reliance in the APR on references to websites or*	The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'. The Review Group expected reporting in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan. The Review Group requires more information in

				publications for item (1).	future APR reports to assess whether satisfactory progress has been made under this action.
H2	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps.	NS		Action not yet started	
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Supplemental [Restorative] stocking of Gipuzkoan rivers with salmon yearlings.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Spain (Navarra)	CNL(21)70	IP(21)12_EU-Spain (Navarra)	CNL(20)32	CNL(21)43	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)38

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are nine actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, six actions showed clear progress. Two actions had been successfully completed and one action had not yet started.

The Review Group welcomed the establishment of reference points, which will support an understanding of conservation status, and represents a significant step forward for future evidence-based management decisions, in line with NASCO's Guidelines for the Management of Salmon Fisheries, CNL(09)43 section 2.5. The Review Group commented that the removal of three barriers / dams in 2021 is a notable achievement and in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three Actions (F2, F3 and F4) showed clear progress and Action F1 was successfully completed.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that Action H2 showed clear progress. Actions H1 and H3 had yet to start.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that Action A1 showed clear progress and that Action A2 was successfully completed. The Review Group recognised that all juvenile salmon stocked are tagged and that this is a significant effort.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Data analysis for the establishment of the necessary reference limits.	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the clear and measurable report of progress.
F2	Annual monitoring of the species, based on collection of various biometric and biological data.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
F3	Establishment of the annual total authorized catch (TAC) and the multi-sea-winter protection measures.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
F4	Socio-economic study of the angling activity in Bidasoa River.	OG	Satisfactory		

Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps.	NS		Action not yet started	
H2	Evaluation of the permeability of 7 obstacles or fish-ways carried out. Preparation and implementation of 12 new projects to improve longitudinal connectivity.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the removal of three barriers / dams in 2021, as part of larger portfolio of projects to improve connectivity.
H3	Study about the smolt mortality during the migration to the sea in the hydropower turbines of the Bidasoa River basin.	NS		Action not yet started	
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Supplemental stocking of the Bidasoa River with salmon yearlings.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'. The Review Group looks forward to the report on the expected outcome in future years.
A2	Genetic characterization of the salmon population.	CD			Completed in 2020.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
EU-Sweden	IP(19)07rev2	IP(21)12_EU-Sweden	CNL(20)33	CNL(21)33	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)27

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 16 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 15 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, 12 actions showed clear progress. For two actions the Review Group was unable to determine progress and for one action there was no progress in the reporting year.

The Review Group welcomed that a national plan for the revision of the hydropower plant licenses is forthcoming, associated with new legislation requiring modern environmental conditions for hydropower plants. This process will provide environmental goals for eight salmon catchments with hydropower installations which is considered by EU-Sweden to be a significant boost in restoration of affected river habitats in line with NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the nine satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that seven showed clear progress (F2 – F8) while for Action F1, no progress had been made in the reporting year. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action F9.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three showed clear progress (H1, H2 and H4), while for Action H3 it was unable to determine progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: the Review Group reviewed two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that both showed clear progress (Actions A1 and A2).

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Implementing fishing rules that decrease exploitation of weak stocks.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year.	The Review Group again noted that new fishing rules were due to be implemented

					in 2021 (Approach for monitoring in the Implementation Plan).
F2	Fin-clipping smolts.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'. The Review Group looks forward to seeing the catch statistics referred to in 'Approach for monitoring' in the Implementation Plan.
F3	Avoiding mixed-stock fisheries on the coast.	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Avoiding mixed-stock fisheries in rivers with stocking of reared salmon in the main river stem and production of wild salmon in tributaries.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to more detailed reporting in next year's APR.
F5	Successively, improve knowledge of genetic diversity and status of all stocks in the main rivers, and larger tributaries.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group again questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
F6	Continued monitoring in the designated (index) river.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.

F7	Annually assess each river stock's reproductive capacity.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
F8	Monitor exploitation in two rivers.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
F9	Improve catch statistics in rivers and on the coast.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'. In addition, specific information is lacking to assess what progress has been made and no information was provided on the second part of this action, i.e. 'on the coast, through a survey estimate of salmon and brown trout catch in the recreational fishery.'
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Continued liming of acidified salmon rivers and tributaries.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will

					continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'. The Review Group looks forward to seeing quantitative data as outlined in the 'Expected outcome'.
H2	Impact of hydropower production on salmon migration and loss of salmon habitat.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'. The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary in next year's Annual Progress Report. In addition, although significant progress has been reported on most sub-actions, specific information is lacking to assess what progress has been made on some aspects of the actions, namely H2(2) and the implementation of H2(6). It is expected that this will be provided in future APR reports.
H3	Continued improvement of habitat in salmon rivers.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress. *Although some progress has been generally indicated, specific information is lacking to*	The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.

				adequately assess what actual progress has been made.	
H4	Improved ability to prevent introduction of alien species, detect and identify alien species and take measures against alien species.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Continued monitoring of *Gyrodactylus salaris*, and develop a road map and contingency plan to prevent spread of *Gyrodactylus salaris* to uninfected rivers.	OG	Satisfactory		
A2	Develop the national ability to genetically identify alien Atlantic salmon.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group questioned whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2021. If just for 2021 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing'.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
Norway	IP(19)18rev3	IP(21)12_Norway	CNL(20)39	CNL(21)28	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)29

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 22 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 19 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, 14 actions showed clear progress, while one was successfully completed. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for three actions and agreed that one action demonstrated no progress.

The Review Group commended a major revision to regulatory measures in rivers and in mixed-stock fisheries in 2021, which has led to a significant reduction in harvest in both fisheries, reduced the risk of over-exploitation and promoted more sustainable fisheries based on stock status, in line with NASCO's Guidelines for the Management of Salmon Fisheries, CNL(09)43.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the five satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three showed clear progress (Actions F1, F4 and F5) and that Action F3 had been successfully completed. The Review Group agreed that no progress was demonstrated for Action F2.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which two were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that Action H2 showed clear progress but was unable to determine progress for Action H1.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are 13 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which 12 were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that 10 of these (Actions A1-1, A1-3 A1-4, A1-6, A3-1, A3-2, A3-3, A3-4, A4-1 and A4-2) showed clear progress, whilst it was unable to determine progress for Actions A1-2 and A1-5.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					

F1	Development, testing and evaluation of an expanded sea survival surveillance program.	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	(a) Increased effort to reveal and sanction illegal fisheries. (b) Revision of salmon and inland fisheries act to introduce stricter reactions to violation of legislation.	CD-NP	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress in part a)	The Review Group reiterated its wish to be informed of the number of illegal salmon fisheries that were sanctioned. The Review Group noted that the expected outcome, 'reduction in illegal fisheries', is unable to be determined given the lack of quantitative data.
F3	Major revision of regulatory measures in rivers and in mixed-stock fisheries in the sea for the period 2021-2026.	CD	Satisfactory		
F4	Development of an electronic system to make reporting of catches in the sea by recreational anglers possible.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the increase in reporting but as outlined in the evaluation of the 2021 APR, expects reporting in line with the monitoring approach outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. number of users and reported catches by anglers in the sea).
F5	Introduction of second generation Spawning Targets.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that some of the work may have been delayed due to the impacts of Covid-19.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Long-term liming of 24 acidified rivers.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that this is the same update as was provided in the 2021 APR. Therefore, no progress is apparent in the reporting year.

H2	Mitigation measures for improved salmon habitat in regulated rivers.	OG	Satisfactory		
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1-1	Approximately 20 stocks in Hardangerfjord region will be conserved in the Hardangerfjord live Gene Bank.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would like to see more specific information on the progress of this action as regards the increased number of stocks collected since the previous year and the total number of stocks collected.
A1-2	Further improvement of precautionary measures in aquaculture facilities.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that this is essentially the same update as was provided in the 2021 APR. Therefore, no progress is apparent in the reporting year.
A1-3	Establish more experience with farming sterile fish in commercial fish farms.	OG	Satisfactory		
A1-4	Further developing and improving the National monitoring program of escaped salmon in the rivers.	OG	Satisfactory		In the 2023 APR, the Review Group expects confirmation that the 2020 report (mentioned in the 2021 APR) and the 2021 report (mentioned in the 2022 APR) has been published. Additionally, the Review Group looks forward to receiving a report in the 2023 APR that the tracking programme has been fully implemented.
A1-5	Continue the efforts of removal of escaped fish in rivers before spawning season through OURO.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	The Review Group was again unable to determine the extent to which the progress described will contribute to

					reduced hybridisation between wild and farmed fish.
A1-6	Monitoring project on genetical integrity in wild Atlantic Salmon populations.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group again acknowledged that this is a monitoring project but noted that results of monitoring do not show clear reduction in hybridisation (Expected outcome).
A3-1	Eradication of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Driva (4 rivers) and Drammen (3 river) region.	OG	Satisfactory		
A3-2	Surveillance of *Gyrodactylus salaris.*	OG	Satisfactory		
A3-3	Contingency plan for *Gyrodactylus salaris.*	OG	Satisfactory		
A3-4	Information campaign on *Gyrodactylus salaris.*	OG	Satisfactory		It would be helpful to the Review Group if the year in which this campaign takes place is noted, as it was in the 2021 APR.
A4-1	Threats posed by Pink Salmon.	OG	Satisfactory		
A4-2	Catch register for Pink salmon.	OG	Satisfactory		As previously stated, the Review Group would expect data on the numbers of pink salmon reported captured from 2021.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
Russian Federation	IP(19)05rev	IP(20)09_Russian Federation	CNL(20)26	CNL(21)26	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)22

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, of which six were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review three actions showed clear progress. For one action progress was unable to be determined, for another the progress report was unclear, and for a third action no progress was made in the reporting year.

The Review Group welcomed the Revised Fishing Regulations for the Northern Fisheries Basin that came into force in 2021. However, the Review Group was uncertain of the extent of the change to the regulations. The Review Group noted the significant increase in the reported catch of pink salmon which may reflect a concerning increase in the population.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that one showed clear progress (Action F3), while the progress report was unclear for Action F1. No progress was made in the reporting year for Action F2.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one was deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2020. The Review Group agreed that this action (H1) showed clear progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that one (Action A1) showed clear progress, whilst for Action A2, it was unable to determine progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Estimate unreported catches.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group acknowledged measures being undertaken to increase protection. However, it was still unable to relate how the measures taken would

					result in a quantifiable reduction in unreported catches in problem areas.
F2	Develop CLs for salmon stocks.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	
F3	Monitor salmon stocks in the Murmansk region. Monitor interceptory coastal salmon fishery in the Barents Sea.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to the Russian Federation's reporting on the effectiveness of management measures introduced. The Review Group noted that some of the work may have been delayed due to the impacts of Covid-19.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Continue developing inventories of salmon rivers.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledged some progress and would like to know how many rivers the Russian Federation intends to undertake an inventory for and how many have been completed to date.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Develop a policy on sea lice and containment consistent with NASCO's BMP guidance.	OG	Satisfactory		It appeared that progress had been made on monitoring and reporting of escapes. In future APRs, the Review Group expects to see progress towards developing a policy on sea lice consistent with NASCO's goals.
A2	Minimise the risk of further spread of *Gyrodactylus salaris*. Implement the 11 'Road Map' recommendations.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress	The Review Group suggested that consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year. The Review Group suggested that consideration be given to concise

					reporting on the further measures indicated in the 'Expected outcome'.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
UK-England and Wales	CNL(21)71	IP(21)12_UK – England and Wales	CNL(20)37	CNL(21)29	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)32

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 16 actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, 11 actions showed clear progress, while for five progress was unable to be determined. The Review Group found this Annual Progress Report challenging to review due to the number of sub actions and the amount of detail included. This impeded the Review Group's ability to determine progress. The Review Group requests more succinct reporting based on the targets in the 'Approach for monitoring' section in the Implementation Plan.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the six satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that five (Actions F1, F2, F3, F4 and F5) showed clear progress, whilst it was unable to determine progress for Action F6.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the six satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three (Actions H1, H2 and H3) showed clear progress, whilst it was unable to determine progress for three (Actions H4, H5 and H6).

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that three (Actions A1, A3 and A4) showed clear progress, whilst it was unable to determined progress for Action A2.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Annual assessments of salmon stocks and review of management measures.	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Improved stock assessment methodology.	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	New restrictions on net and rod fisheries.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group reiterated that it would welcome a more succinct summary reported against activities completed in the reporting year.
F4	Introduce measures to phase out / regulate any remaining MSFs to reduce fishing mortality to sustainable levels in order to conserve stocks.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group reiterated that it would welcome a more succinct summary reported against activities completed in the reporting year.
F5	Promote Catch & Release.	OG	Satisfactory		
F6	Ensure that unregulated (illegal) fishing and bycatch in other fisheries does not threaten conservation of stocks.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress.	The Review Group again recommended that the report is confined to commenting on the 'Expected outcome' (Reduced illegal fishing and by-catch of migratory salmonids in estuaries and nearshore areas), with particular reference to reporting as outlined in the 'Approach for monitoring' in the Implementation Plan. Reporting should include all areas covered by the Action, e.g. Wales.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Increase salmon's climate change resilience.	OG	Satisfactory		This is very long, making it very difficult to follow and understand. The Review

					Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against activities completed in the reporting year.
H2	Improve the survival of salmon in estuaries and inshore waters.	OG	Satisfactory		This is very long, making it very difficult to follow and understand. The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against the targets / metrics stated in the 'Approach for monitoring' section in the Implementation Plan.
H3	Improve fish passage and salmon habitat through implementing River Basin Management Plans.	OG	Satisfactory		This is very long, making it very difficult to follow and understand. The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against activities completed in the reporting year. The Review Group looks forward to seeing reporting against the expected outcomes and an update on the proposed fish passage legislation.
H4	Ensure sufficient flow for salmon through delivering measures to realise sustainable abstraction.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress.	This is very long, making it very difficult to follow and understand. The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against activities completed in the reporting year. It appears that progress has been made for some of the elements, and not so much for others. The Review Group concluded, therefore, that progress towards the expected outcomes was unclear.

H5	Improving healthy smolt production by improving water quality.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress.	This is very long, making it very difficult to follow and understand. The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against activities completed in the reporting year. It appears that progress has been made for some of the elements, and not so much for others. The Review Group concluded, therefore, that progress towards the expected outcomes was unclear.
H6	Addressing the threat of predation.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress.	This is very long, making it very difficult to follow and understand. The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against activities completed in the reporting year. It appears that progress has been made for some of the elements, and not so much for others. The Review Group concluded, therefore, that progress towards the expected outcomes was unclear.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Controlling salmon stocking.	OG	Satisfactory		For part b), the Review Group again requested that reporting is done on the stated target in the 'Approach for monitoring' in the Implementation Plan.
A2	Prevent the introduction and spread of non-native fish, invertebrate species,	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress.	This is very long, making it very difficult to follow and understand. The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary reported against activities

	parasites and diseases, excluding *G. salaris.*				completed in the reporting year. It appears that progress has been made for some of the elements, and not so much for others. The Review Group concluded, therefore, that progress towards the expected outcomes was unclear.
A3	Prevent the introduction and spread of the non-native parasite *G. salaris.*	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
UK-Northern Ireland	IP(19)08rev3	IP(21)12_UK–Northern Ireland	CNL(20)41	CNL(21)31	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)33

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 17 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 16 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, 11 actions showed clear progress, while for one, progress was unable to be determined. No progress was made in the reporting year for three actions and for one action, the progress report is unclear.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the six satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that all showed clear progress (Actions F1 – F6).

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are five satisfactory actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that four showed clear progress (Actions H1, H2, H3 and H5). No progress had been made on Action H4 in the reporting year.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which five were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that one showed clear

progress (Action A2), whilst for one, it was unable to determine progress (Action A5). For Action A3 the Review Group agreed that limited progress had been made in the reporting year and for Action A6 no progress had been made in the reporting year.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Manage NI's 18 primary rivers affected by both commercial and recreational fisheries to exceed their CLs.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledged the additional information provided but noted again the reporting requirement to provide information on the increased number of catchments exceeding CLs.
F2	Update Conservation limits and Management targets for 3 primary salmon rivers in Northern Ireland using refreshed habitat data.	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	Maintain the Long Term Monitoring of Wild Salmon Stock on the R Bush – used as an Index River for NI.	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Assess mortality of wild salmon smolts moving from the freshwater to the marine environment.	OG	Satisfactory		
F5	Improve recreational catch returns and statistics from the current baseline of 5 - 10% to 30%.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group appreciated this answer which is concise and measurable and indicates achievement of expected target for reporting catch returns.

F6	Protect wild salmon stocks from illegal activity.	OG	Satisfactory		
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Assess and provide fishery advice for 100% of River drainage maintenance schemes to protect salmon habitat and to incorporate mitigation / improvement measures where possible.	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Management and control of water quality in salmon producing rivers in NI - the target is to have 70% of rivers at good ecological status by 2021.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group suggested that some measure of progress relative to the goal of 70% good ecological status would be helpful.
H3	Identify and assess the impact of barriers on 18 primary salmon rivers in NI by 2024.	OG	Satisfactory		
H4	Update the inventory of current and potential salmon habitat on 3 primary salmon rivers in NI.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that some of the work may have been delayed due to the impacts of Covid-19.
H5	Enhance degraded habitat or improve salmon habitat on primary salmon rivers in NI with rivers below CL being prioritised.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the very clear quantitative reporting on this action.

Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A2	Monitor for Non NI escapee aquaculture salmon in a wild salmon stock in N. Ireland.	OG	Satisfactory		
A3	Monitoring sea lice levels in aquaculture salmon in N. Ireland.	OG	Unsatisfactory	Limited progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group marked this as unsatisfactory because 12 inspections were expected (planned timescales in the Implementation Plan) and only five were carried out.
A4	Monitor levels of genetic introgression of aquaculture salmon into wild stocks in NI.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that some of the work may have been delayed due to the impacts of Covid-19.
A5	Assess marine aquaculture sites annually.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group acknowledged that no escapes were reported from aquaculture facilities in 2021 but it remains unclear how a visual surface inspection can establish the potential for escapes.
A6	Establish long term monitoring through the establishment of a sea lice - mortality risk index in wild anadromous salmonids in an area with aquaculture production.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	

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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
UK-Scotland	IP(19)10rev2	IP(21)12_UK–Scotland	CNL(20)42rev	CNL(21)30rev	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)31

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 20 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 17 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, 12 actions showed clear progress, while for four progress was unable to be determined. For one action, no progress was made in the reporting year.

The Review Group welcomed Scotland's intention to submit a revised Implementation Plan in late 2022 in response to the adoption of the Wild Salmon Strategy and the feedback received on the current Implementation Plan from the Review Group.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan and agreed that three showed clear progress (all parts of Action F1), while Action F2 is ongoing, with no progress made in the reporting year.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are 11 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan which were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that seven of these actions showed clear progress (Actions H1, H1-2, H2, H6, H7, H8-1 and H8-2). However, the Review Group was unable to determine progress for Actions H3, H4, H5 and H8-3. As suggested in a number of the actions, the Review Group recommended that UK-Scotland reports on activities conducted in the relevant year to enable the Review Group to assess progress against actions outlined.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which two were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that Actions A1 and A2 showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1-1	Continued annual assessment of Scotland's	OG	Satisfactory		

	stocks using an adult based assessment method based on rod catch information and additional ancillary data.				
F1-2	Development of a complementary juvenile assessment tool.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledged the good work being carried out and looks forward to the reporting of this work scheduled for 2022. The Review Group looks forward to a report on the successful delivery of the juvenile assessment tool.
F1-3	Research study on catch and release effect on fish.	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Review of Scotland's inshore marine gill net legislation.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group is still keen to see progress on this action in the next Annual Progress Report.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Reductions in point source and diffuse pollution through River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) and associated Regulations.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group again looks forward to seeing data to support the improvement of water quality in salmon catchments, in future Annual Progress Reports and suggests consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year.
H1-2	Explore the benefit and feasibility of nutrient enrichment in upland oligotrophic parts of river systems.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group suggested consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year. The Review Group requested information on the start and intended finish date of this research.

H2	Assessment of the main pressures on river flows and levels in Scotland.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group again looks forward to seeing data to support a reduction in the river length affected by abstraction; flow regulation; upland / agriculture, land-use and drainage; and / or forestry drainage, in future Annual Progress Reports and suggests consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year.
H3	Implement Scotland's Second Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP2).	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory		The Review Group suggested consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year. The Review Group welcomed the reported initiatives to advance this action and the development of associated management tools in the previous Annual Progress Report. However, it is unclear what progress is being achieved in relation to the expected outcome and 'Approach for monitoring effectiveness and enforcement' as set out in the Implementation Plan.
H4	Prevention of morphological impacts and passive recovery of watercourses through the controlled activity regulations (CAR) and associated "General Binding Rules".	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress. *It is acknowledged that once the GIS pressures mapping tool is activated, the*	The Review Group suggested consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year. The Review Group again looks forward to seeing a reduction in the river length affected by sedimentation; loss of sediment transfer; lack of, or excessive, large woody debris; canalisation / dredging / boulder removal.

				target is to show a reduction in relevant metrics, by the end of the five-year NASCO plan period. However, progress on this action has been deemed unsatisfactory as no information was reported to assess whether any progress has been made to date.	
H5	Adherence to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and its supporting Forests and Water Guidelines.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress. *It is acknowledged that once the GIS pressures mapping tool is activated, the target is to show a reduction in relevant metrics, by the end of the five-year NASCO*	The Review Group suggested consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year.

				plan period. However, progress on this action has been deemed unsatisfactory as no information was reported to assess whether any progress has been made to date.	
H6	Address fish passage challenges identified in Scotland's River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs).	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group suggested consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year. The Review Group looks forward to UK-Scotland's reporting on the progress of the targets to remove or ease 244 impassable man-made barriers in next year's APR submission.
H7	Carry out detailed assessments required for the regulation of existing marine renewable developments, new developments and proposed new developments to assess the risk to salmon populations.	OG	Satisfactory		
H8 - 1	Research, review and experimentation to better understand and address, as	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that some of the work may have been delayed due to the impacts of Covid-19.

	appropriate, the impact of piscivorous birds on Atlantic salmon.				
H8-2	Pilot study to identify the degree of interaction and potential scale of impact of dolphins on returning adult Atlantic salmon in the Moray Firth.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group again looks forward to reporting on any progress or outcome of this action in the next Annual Progress Report. The Review Group suggested consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year.
H8-3	The Seals and Salmon Interactions (SSI) work to identify the impact of seal predation on wild Atlantic salmon.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear.	The Review Group noted that some of the work may have been delayed due to the impacts of Covid-19. The Review Group suggested consideration be given to reporting on activities conducted in the relevant year.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Marine Scotland to revisit options for a new licensing regime under the policy permitting salmon introductions (stocking).	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group expects information to be reported in next year's Annual Progress Report on how the revised policy and associated licensing regime will have improved 'the conservation status of local wild Atlantic salmon populations' which is noted as the expected outcome in the Implementation Plan.
A2	National introgression project to provide key data to support the minimisation of adverse genetic	OG	Satisfactory		

	interactions by identifying impacted areas.				

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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2021 APR Review	2022 APR
United States	IP(19)25rev2v	IP(21)12_United States	CNL(20)27	CNL(21)27	CNL(21)17 (Annex 4)	CNL(22)28

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 10 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2022 Annual Progress Report's review, nine actions showed clear progress, while for one, no progress was able to be determined.

The Review Group considered that the completion of three geographically specific work plans that identify priority actions needed to further the recovery of Atlantic salmon is an important step forward towards the implementation of NASCO's Habitat Guidelines, CNL(10)51, sections 3.2 and 3.10, together with the provision of $900,000 for freshwater habitat restoration in 2021. Additionally, in gaining wider support for measures to restore Atlantic salmon populations, the Review Group welcomed the creation of an animated video that highlights the threats Atlantic salmon face and actions that the public can take to protect and restore Atlantic salmon and their ecosystems.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: The Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions in the Implementation Plan and agreed that all (Actions F1, F2, F3 and F4) showed clear progress. The Review Group noted the continued commitment by the United States to eliminate take of highly endangered wild salmon in home waters and in fisheries prosecuted by other Parties.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: The Review Group reviewed the three satisfactory actions in the Implementation Plan and agreed that all (Actions H1, H2 and H3) showed clear progress. The Review Group welcomed the completion of action H3, three years early.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: There are four actions in this section of the Implementation Plan, of which three were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that two of these actions showed clear progress (Actions A3 and A4) but there was no progress for Action A2.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Reduce mortality of U.S.-origin salmon in mixed-stock fisheries by remaining active in the West Greenland Commission (WGC) and the North American Commission (NAC).	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledged the continued commitment from the USA to work cooperatively with West Greenland and Labrador to limit the mortality of U.S.-origin salmon. The Review Group noted, however, that progress on this action has been limited due to extended discussion around regulatory measures and non-adherence to quotas
F2	Reduce bycatch of Atlantic salmon in recreational fisheries for other species, such as brook trout, to the maximum extent possible.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the clear regulations that are in place specifically to protect Atlantic salmon, including prohibiting any take of endangered Atlantic salmon, size restrictions to limit the risk of incidental retention and area closures and gear restrictions.
F3	Reduce poaching of Atlantic salmon to the maximum extent possible.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the clear and succinct account of enforcement activity to protect Atlantic salmon. The Review Group would like to see the timeseries of documented enforcement hours and the number of violations over the lifetime of the action.
F4	Reduce mortality of Atlantic salmon by maintaining	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that, in 2021, there continued to be no directed

	closures for all directed fisheries and reducing its bycatch in fisheries for other species.				fisheries for sea-run Atlantic salmon and dealer purchases and landings databases recorded no salmon caught.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Improve fish passage by removing dams, installing fishways, removing culverts, decommissioning roads, and upgrading road-stream crossings.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the clear progress made in improving fish passage at 21 culverts and three dam projects in 2021 with 2,931 habitat units now accessible of the 5,000 target by 2024.
H2	Improve fish passage at hydroelectric dams through dam removal or construction of effective fishways and the implementation of adaptive management strategies to achieve passage efficiency and survival targets for dams that cannot be removed.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that no additional habitat units were made accessible in 2021 though it acknowledges that reviews to improve fish passage at hydroelectric dams are ongoing. The Review Group also noted the expected outcome to restore connectivity to 10,000 habitat units by 2024.
H3	Develop and implement a freshwater protection, restoration, and enhancement strategy by 2024 for each of the three salmon habitat recovery units (actions PBS6.4, MBS7.4 and DES5.4 in the current recovery plan).	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the completion of freshwater protection, restoration and enhancement strategies (five-year work plans) for the three geographic areas where wild salmon remain: Penobscot, Merrymeeting Bay and Downeast and the provision of $900,000 to fund works.

Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A2	Containment - minimize effects to wild salmon from genetic introgression from escaped aquaculture-origin salmon by ensuring that containment measures are maintained at 100% of all salmon farms each year.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	The Review Group noted that there were no reportable escapes from commercial farms in Maine in 2021 but that four farmed fish were captured on the Union River which originated from an Aquaculture facility within the US jurisdiction.
A3	Implement broodstock management protocols at conservation hatcheries on an annual basis.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the continued monitoring of genetic diversity within seven river-specific broodstock populations to ensure the goals of the conservation hatcheries are being met.
A4	Reduce stocking of non-native salmonids in the freshwater range of endangered salmon to ensure that predatory and competitive effects are minimized.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that there is no stocking of non-native salmonids occurred in rivers that support locally adapted Atlantic salmon.

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