

*IP(22)12\_UK – Scotland*

*November 2022 Evaluation of the Revised Implementation Plan under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024) from the Review Group to UK – Scotland*

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. Parties’ / jurisdictions’ Implementation Plans set out their planned actions and these are reviewed by an expert Review Group. Reporting is carried out annually on these Plans (see <https://nasco.int/conservation/implementation-plans-and-reporting/>).

The Council agreed, in June 2021, that Parties / jurisdictions may, on a voluntary basis, submit a revised Implementation Plan for review.

The Review Group thanks UK – Scotland for revising and submitting its Implementation Plan following previous evaluations from the Review Group. It also appreciates the accompanying information identifying what had been changed and why. The Review Group re-assessed the changes from the previous Implementation Plan.

In line with the ‘Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress’, [CNL\(18\)49](#), (the IP Guidelines) and the ‘Enhanced Guidance for the Review of Implementation Plans’, [CNL\(20\)55](#), the infographic below shows the overview of the Review Group’s evaluation, in November 2022, of UK – Scotland’s Implementation Plan. Sections / areas considered to be ‘satisfactory’ are shown in green and those which are ‘partly satisfactory’ are shown in orange, together with the percentage of satisfactory responses.

	Questions on Salmon Management				Threats / Challenges to Wild Salmon			SMART Actions			Mandatory Actions
	Introduction / Background	Management of Salmon Fisheries	Habitat Protection & Restoration	Aquaculture, Introductions & Transfers & Transgenics	Management of Salmon Fisheries	Habitat Protection & Restoration	Aquaculture, Introductions & Transfers & Transgenics	Management of Salmon Fisheries	Habitat Protection & Restoration	Aquaculture, Introductions & Transfers & Transgenics	
UK – Scotland				56						80	33

The Review Group considered that UK – Scotland’s revised Implementation Plan still requires some further work to achieve a satisfactory rating across each section / area of the Plan.

**Positive Feedback from the Review Group:** the same positive feedback as in 2021 applies given that changes were not made to the responses highlighted herein. In 2021, the Review Group considered that the response to question 1.2. was a welcome addition to UK – Scotland’s salmon management and a good description of the methods used to develop reference points in UK – Scotland. Additionally, the response to question 3.3(a) was one of the best examples of an answer to this question across the various Plans.

**Questions on Salmon Management:** in 2021, the Review Group considered that the responses to the questions asked in three of the four sections were satisfactory. However, clear improvement was required in several responses to the questions on salmon management in the ‘Aquaculture, Introductions & Transfers & Transgenics’ section to enable all of the sections to be considered as satisfactory. The Review Group has provided detailed feedback to each response that was considered to be unsatisfactory. Following revision of some answers in that section in 2022, this is still the case, although some improvement has been noted.

**Threats / Challenges to Wild Salmon:** in 2021, the Review Group considered that the identified threats and challenges to the management of wild Atlantic salmon identified under each theme all related clearly to NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. This remains the case in 2022 as there were no revisions to this section.

**SMART Actions:** in 2021, all of the ‘Management of Salmon Fisheries’ actions within the Plan were considered to be both SMART and satisfactory, i.e. the Review Group considered that those actions move UK – Scotland clearly towards the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Seven of the eleven ‘Habitat Protection and Restoration’ actions were considered to be both SMART and satisfactory; the other four were considered to be satisfactory but not SMART. In 2022, four of the five actions on ‘Aquaculture, Introductions & Transfers & Transgenics’ were revised. The Review Group agreed that four actions were now considered to be both SMART and satisfactory; the fifth, action ‘A2 & A3(ii)’ was considered to be SMART yet unsatisfactory.

**Mandatory Actions:** this section was considered to remain unsatisfactory overall because the actions required on sea lice and containment, given the marine aquaculture present in UK – Scotland, were considered by the Review Group to be actions that monitor, rather than manage the impact of salmon farming on wild salmon. For the Review Group to be able to consider the mandatory actions on both sea lice and containment to be in line with, or moving towards the achievement of, NASCO’s Best Management Practice, SLG(09)5, they should relate to the management of these issues. To be considered as satisfactory, mandatory actions on effective sea lice management and the management of containment are required. Additionally, monitoring alone for the impacts of salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon, where it is not clear how the outcome of the action will move UK – Scotland clearly towards the achievement of NASCO’s goals, is not satisfactory.

In the following Evaluation Form, the Review Group has provided guidance on its recommendations for improvements.

## ***Evaluation in 2022 of Revised Implementation Plans***

*Under NASCO's third reporting cycle the Review Group is asked to evaluate the Implementation Plans submitted by Parties / jurisdictions in three key areas of assessment, by:*

- 1. identifying whether the answers by each Party / jurisdiction to the questions posed in the Implementation Plan template are satisfactory;*
- 2. identifying clearly that the threats and challenges to the management of wild Atlantic salmon identified under each theme are related to NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines; and*
- 3. assessing the description of each action to ensure that it adheres to the 'SMART' descriptors such that progress over time can be assessed objectively.*

*This is described in detail in the 'Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress', [CNL\(18\)49](#).*

- 1. Answers to each question in the Implementation Plan template, [CNL\(18\)50](#), are to be assessed as:*
  - 1. Satisfactory answers / information;*
  - 2. Unsatisfactory (including unclear or incomplete answers / information or clear omissions or inadequacies).*
- 2. NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines as they apply to the third cycle of reporting are listed throughout the Implementation Plan template, CNL(18)50.*
- 3. The Review Group will be required to assess the description of each action using the 'SMART' criteria laid out in the new Guidelines document, CNL(18)49, thereby assessing the quality of each of the actions, not just how clearly the actions are stated.*

*Additionally, in 2020, the Council has provided enhanced guidance to the Review Group in their 'Enhanced Guidance for the Review of Implementation Plans' ([CNL\(20\)55](#)) whereby each section / area of the Implementation Plan will be scored as satisfactory or unsatisfactory; the actions will also be assessed on their ability to move the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.*

*Through this process it will be possible to determine whether the Implementation Plan provides a fair and equitable basis for assessing the progress that the Party / jurisdiction will make in implementing NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.*

*Where a section / area is deemed by the Review Group to be unsatisfactory, the Implementation Plan will be returned to the Party / jurisdiction. The Review Group will provide a clear explanation of its decision to the Party / jurisdiction and, where feasible and appropriate, offer specific suggestions / recommendations for how it could be improved. The tables below, for each of the three main areas to be assessed, provide a template for evaluation in each case.*

***In 2021, Council made decisions which mean that 1) only the revised parts of any resubmitted IP need to be reviewed 2) aspects of the IP that are moving the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the achievement of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines should be identified, and 3) significant improvements should be identified, to be communicated on the NASCO website and social media.***

**Party: United Kingdom                      Jurisdiction/Region: Scotland**

**Assessment area 1. Are the questions posed in the Implementation Plan template answered satisfactorily?**

#	Question in IP Template	Assessment (1 or 2)	Draft feedback on any improvements required (for answers assessed as 2)	Comments relating to previous review round review: changed as requested by IP RG?
<b>1. Introduction</b>				
1.1	What are the objectives for the management of wild salmon?	1		
1.2	What reference points (e.g. conservation limits, management targets or other measures of abundance) are used to assess the status of stocks?	1		
1.3	What is the current status of stocks under the new classification system outlined in CNL(16)11?	1		
1.4	How is stock diversity (e.g. genetics, age composition, run-timing, etc.) taken into account in the management of salmon stocks?	1		
1.5	To provide a baseline for future comparison, what is the current and potential quantity of salmon habitat?	1		
1.6	What is the current extent of freshwater and marine salmonid aquaculture? <i>Append one or more maps showing the location of aquaculture facilities and aquaculture free zones in rivers and the sea.</i>	1		
1.7	Please describe the process used to consult NGOs and other stakeholders and industries in the development of this Implementation Plan.	1		
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 1. Introduction</b>			<b>Satisfactory</b>	

<b>2. Management of Salmon Fisheries:</b> <i>In this section please review the management approach to each of the fisheries in your jurisdiction (i.e. commercial, recreational and other fisheries) in line with the relevant NASCO Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. For Parties / jurisdictions that prosecute mixed-stock fisheries, there should be at least one action related to their management.</i>				
2.1	What are the objectives for the management of the fisheries for wild salmon?	1		
2.2	What is the decision-making process for the management of salmon fisheries, including predetermined decisions taken under different stock conditions (e.g. the stock level at which regulations are triggered)?	1		Yes
2.3	(a) Are fisheries permitted to operate on salmon stocks that are below their reference point (e.g. Conservation Limits)? If so, (b) how many such fisheries are there and (c) what approach is taken to managing them that still promotes stock rebuilding?	1		

2.4	(a) Are there any mixed-stock salmon fisheries? If so, (b) how are these defined, (c) what was the mean catch in these fisheries in the last five years and (d) how are they managed to ensure that all the contributing stocks are meeting their conservation objectives?	1		Yes
2.5	How are socio-economic factors taken into account in making decisions on management of salmon fisheries?	1		Yes
2.6	What is the current level of unreported catch and what measures are being taken to reduce this?	1		
2.7	Has an assessment under the Six Tenets for Effective Management of an Atlantic Salmon Fishery been conducted? If so, (a) has the assessment been made available to the Secretariat and (b) what actions are planned to improve the monitoring and control of the fishery? (c) If the six tenets have not been applied, what is the timescale for doing so?	1		
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 2. Management of Salmon Fisheries</b>			<b>Satisfactory</b>	

<b>3. Protection and Restoration of Salmon Habitat:</b> <i>In this section please review the management approach to the protection and restoration of habitat in your jurisdiction in line with the relevant NASCO Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.</i>				
3.1	How are risks to productive capacity identified and options for restoring degraded or lost salmon habitat prioritised, taking into account the principle of ‘no net loss’ and the need for inventories to provide baseline data?	1		
3.2	How are socio-economic factors taken into account in making decisions on salmon habitat management?	1		Yes
3.3	What management measures are planned to protect wild Atlantic salmon and its habitats from (a) climate change and (b) invasive aquatic species?	1		
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 3. Protection and Restoration of Salmon Habitat</b>			<b>Satisfactory</b>	

<b>4. Management of Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics</b>
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Council has requested that for Parties / jurisdictions with salmon farms, there should be a greater focus on actions to minimise impacts of salmon farming on wild salmonid stocks. Each Party / jurisdiction with salmon farming should therefore include at least one action relating to sea lice management and at least one action relating to containment, providing quantitative data in Annual Progress Reports to demonstrate progress towards the international goals agreed by NASCO and the International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA):

- 100% of farms to have effective sea lice management such that there is no increase in sea lice loads or lice-induced mortality of wild salmonids attributable to the farms;
- 100% farmed fish to be retained in all production facilities.

*In this section please provide information on all types of aquaculture, introductions and transfers, and transgenics (including freshwater hatcheries, smolt-rearing etc.*

4.1	(a) Is the current policy concerning the protection of wild salmonids consistent with the international goals on sea lice and containment agreed by NASCO and ISFA? (b) If the current policy is not consistent with these international goals, when will current policy be adapted to ensure consistency with the international goals and what management measures are planned to ensure achievement of these goals and in what timescale?	2	<p>(a) The Review Group considered that the current policy is not fully consistent with the NASCO / ISFA goals for 100% of farms to have effective sea lice management, such that there is no increase in sea lice loads or lice-induced mortality of wild salmonids attributable to the farms, and for 100% of farmed fish to be retained in all production units, see SLG(09) 5.</p> <p>(b) The Review Group considered that the policy developments outlined will not ensure consistency with the NASCO / ISFA goals for 100% of farms to have effective sea lice management, such that there is no increase in sea lice loads or lice-induced mortality of wild salmonids attributable to the farms, and for 100% of farmed fish to be retained in all production units, see SLG(09)5.</p> <p>The Review Group noted that it is unclear how the proposed risk assessment framework, which is focused on new or expanding fish farms, will protect wild salmon from the impacts of sea lice. The Review Group was unclear which proposed actions will be taken on existing farms and the timelines for this. The Review Group also noted that it is unclear how the</p>	No
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			technical standards will address existing issues related to 100% containment and noted that no timelines are provided.	
4.2	(a) What quantifiable progress can be demonstrated towards the achievement of the international goals for 100% of farms to have effective sea lice management such that there is no increase in sea lice loads, or lice-induced mortality of wild salmonids attributable to sea lice? (b) How is this progress monitored, including monitoring of wild fish? (c) If progress cannot be demonstrated, what additional measures are proposed and in what timescale?	a)1 b)2 c)2	(b) When progress can be demonstrated, it should include a description of the monitoring of wild fish. The Review Group could not determine from this revised answer how progress will be monitored.  The Review Group was unclear how the monitoring measures outlined can demonstrate progress towards the NASCO goal of 100% of farms to have effective sea lice management. The Review Group noted the answer provided by Scotland in 4.2(a). The Review Group noted the requirement to establish monitoring of impacts on wild populations through planning permission for new or expanding farms. It was not clear to the Review Group how this is being implemented on both existing and new / expanding fish farms.  c) The Review Group noted that the measures outlined concern new and expanding fish farms only. In addition, the monitoring for effectiveness provides no indication of how impacts to wild fish will be evaluated.	No
4.3	(a) What quantifiable progress can be demonstrated towards the achievement of the international goals for achieving 100% containment in all (i) freshwater and (ii) marine aquaculture production facilities? (b) How is this progress monitored, including monitoring of wild fish (genetic introgression) and proportion of escaped farmed salmon in the spawning populations? (c) If progress cannot be demonstrated, what additional measures (e.g. use of sterile salmon in fish farming) are proposed and in what timescale?	(a) 2 (b) 1 (c) 2	(a)(i) and (ii) The Review Group welcomed that quantitative information was provided to evaluate progress on containment. However, overall the data indicate that such progress has not yet been demonstrated clearly. The Review Group looks forward to further such reporting in future APRs during this IP cycle.	No

			<p>(b) The Review Group welcomed the 2021 report and recommended that this is used as a baseline for future monitoring as part of the national introgression programme for Scotland (Action A2 expected outcomes).</p> <p>(c) The Review Group welcomed the information provided in relation to proposed revised technical standards and that consideration is being given to financial penalties. However, the Review Group found it difficult to evaluate as no timelines were provided.</p>	
4.4	What adaptive management and / or scientific research is underway that could facilitate better achievement of NASCO's international goals for sea lice and containment such that the environmental impact on wild salmonids can be minimised?	1		Yes
4.5	What is the approach for determining the location of aquaculture facilities in (a) freshwater and (b) marine environments to minimise the risks to wild salmonid stocks?	1		Yes
4.6	What progress has been made to implement NASCO's guidance on introductions, transfers and stocking?	1		
4.7	Is there (a) a requirement to evaluate thoroughly risks and benefits before undertaking any stocking programme and (b) a presumption against stocking for purely socio-political / economic reasons?	1	The Review Group welcomed the clarification of the applicability of EU law in the context of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU as outlined in response to question 3.2.	Yes
4.8	What is the policy / strategy on use of transgenic salmon?	1		
4.9	<i>For Members of the North-East Atlantic Commission only:</i> What measures are in place, or are planned, to implement the eleven recommendations contained in the 'Road Map' to enhance information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> and eradicate it if introduced, including the development and testing of contingency plans?	1	<p>The Review Group welcomed that "Scotland continues to apply the recommendations of the 'Road Map' to support the ToR of the <i>G. salaris</i> working group where these are relevant and resources allow."</p> <p>The Review Group recommended that consideration be given specifically to the</p>	



			development of a plan in line with all 11 recommendations contained in the 'Road Map' and reporting on progress to address these at the annual NASCO North-East Atlantic Commission meetings.	
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 4. Management of Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics</b>			<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	

**Assessment area 2. Are the threats and challenges to the management of wild Atlantic salmon identified under each theme related clearly to NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines?**

<b>2.8 Threats identified to wild salmon and challenges for management associated with their exploitation in fisheries, including bycatch of salmon in fisheries targeting other species</b>	<b>Assessment (yes / no)</b>	<b>Draft feedback on any improvements required</b>	<b>Comments relating to previous review round: changed as requested by IP RG?</b>
Threat / challenge F1	Yes		
Threat / challenge F2	Yes		
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 2.8: threats / challenges associated with exploitation in fisheries, including bycatch of salmon in fisheries targeting other species</b>			<b>Satisfactory</b>

Copy and paste lines to add in other challenges in the relevant Implementation Plan

<b>3.4 Threats identified to wild salmon and challenges for management in relation to estuarine and freshwater habitat.</b>	<b>Assessment (yes / no)</b>	<b>Draft feedback on any improvements required</b>	<b>Comments relating to previous review round: changed as requested by IP RG?</b>
Threat / challenge H1	Yes		
Threat / challenge H2	Yes		
Threat / challenge H3	Yes		
Threat / challenge H4	Yes		
Threat / challenge H5	Yes		
Threat / challenge H6	Yes		
Threat / challenge H7	Yes		

Threat / challenge H8	Yes		
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 3.4: threats / challenges in relation to estuarine and freshwater habitat</b>			<b>Satisfactory</b>

Copy and paste lines to add in other challenges in the relevant Implementation Plan

<b>4.10 Threats identified to wild salmon and challenges for management in relation to aquaculture, introductions and transfers, and transgenics.</b>	<b>Assessment (yes / no)</b>	<b>Draft feedback on any improvements required</b>	<b>Comments relating to previous review round: changed as requested by IP RG?</b>
Threat / challenge A1	Yes		
Threat / challenge A2	Yes		
Threat / challenge A3	Yes		
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 4.10: threats / challenges in relation to aquaculture, introductions and transfers, and transgenics</b>			<b>Satisfactory</b>

Copy and paste lines to add in other challenges in the relevant Implementation Plan

**Assessment area 3. Does each action adhere to the ‘SMART’ descriptors laid out in the new Guidelines document, CNL(18)49?**

As a reminder, the ‘SMART’ approach includes reporting on both quantitative and qualitative information. Quantitative information is expected wherever possible and should be presented to demonstrate progress made over the period of the plan towards NASCO’s goals. This should be clear and concise. Where a deviation must be made from a quantitative metric, the reason for the deviation should be explained.

<b>2.9 What SMART actions are planned during the period covered by this Implementation Plan (2019 – 2024) to address each of the threats and challenges identified in section 2.8 to implement NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and demonstrate progress towards achievement of its goals and objectives for the management of salmon fisheries?</b>								
<b>#</b>	<b>Action in IP Template</b>	<b>Is the action clearly related to stated threat / challenge?</b>	<b>Is it ‘SMART’? (yes / no)</b>	<b>If ‘no’, which descriptor needs to be reflected more clearly in the action?</b>	<b>If the proposed monitoring is qualitative (as allowed in the Guidelines), is the reason and proposed non-quantitative alternative for monitoring progress acceptable?</b>	<b>Does the action move the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the achievement of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines?</b>	<b>Given the previous question, is the action considered satisfactory or unsatisfactory overall?</b>	<b>Comments relating to previous review round: changed as requested by IP RG?</b>
<b>F1-1</b>	Continued <b>annual assessment of Scotland’s stocks using an adult based assessment method</b> based on rod catch information and additional ancillary data.	Yes	Yes			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(09)43, sections 2.4 & 2.5.	Satisfactory	
<b>F1-2</b>	Development of a complementary juvenile assessment tool	Yes	Yes			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(09)43, sections 2.4 & 2.5.	Satisfactory	
<b>F1-3</b>	Research study on C&R effect on fish	Yes	Yes			Yes.	Satisfactory	

						The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(09)43, sections 2.4 & 2.5.		
<b>F2</b>	Review of Scotland's inshore marine gill net legislation.	Yes	Yes However the Review Group considered that this action lends itself to qualitative reporting and recommend the introduction of some milestones.			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(09)43, sections 2.3 & 2.8.	Satisfactory	
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 2.9: SMART actions to implement NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and demonstrate progress towards achievement of its goals and objectives for the management of salmon fisheries</b>							<b>Satisfactory</b>	

Copy and paste lines to add in other actions in the relevant Implementation Plan

<b>3.5 What SMART actions are planned during the period covered by this Implementation Plan (2019 – 2024) to address each of the threats and challenges identified in section 3.4 to implement NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and demonstrate progress towards achievement of its goals and objectives for the Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Atlantic Salmon Habitat?</b>								
#	Action in IP Template	Is the action clearly related to stated threat / challenge?	Is it 'SMART'? (yes / no)	If 'no', which descriptor needs to be reflected more clearly in the action?	If the proposed monitoring is qualitative (as allowed in the Guidelines), is the reason and proposed non-quantitative	Does the action move the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the achievement of NASCO's Resolutions,	Given the previous question, is the action considered satisfactory or unsatisfactory overall?	Comments relating to previous review round: changed as requested by IP RG?

					alternative for monitoring progress acceptable?	Agreements and Guidelines?		
<b>H1</b>	Reductions in point source and diffuse pollution	Yes	No	Specific – the description of the action should still be more concise in relation to wild salmon conservation.		Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(10)51, section 3.5.	Satisfactory	
<b>H1-2:</b>	Explore the benefit and feasibility of nutrient enrichment in upland oligotrophic parts of river systems.	Yes. However, clarity is required about how it relates directly to the water quality in oligotrophic river systems.	No	Measurable – there is no specific baseline or target described, the action needs this detail to make it SMART, and the Review Group recommends the introduction of milestones.	Yes	Yes. The Review Group sought further information on how this relates to CNL(10)51.	Satisfactory	
<b>H2</b>	River Basin Management Plans (RBMP) have identified that the main pressures on flows and levels in Scotland	Yes	Yes. The Review Group sought clarification on the applicability of the EU WFD in the context of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(10)51, section 3.5.	Satisfactory	
<b>H3</b>	Implement Scotland's Second Climate Change Adaptation	Yes	No	Timely – can milestones be added within the period of the IP?		Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to	Satisfactory	

	Programme (SCCAP2).					CNL(10)51, section 3.2.		
<b>H4</b>	Prevention of morphological impacts and passive recovery of watercourses will be achieved through the controlled activity regulations (CAR) and associated “General Binding Rules”	Yes	Yes. However, the Review Group sought clarification on the present applicability of the EU WFD in the context of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU. Additionally, the expected outcome should be more clearly related to wild salmon conservation.			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(10)51, section 3.5.	Satisfactory	
<b>H5</b>	The UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and its supporting Forests and Water Guidelines	Yes	No. The expected outcome should be more clearly related to wild salmon conservation.	Specific, Measurable and Timely need to be reflected more clearly. The Review Group expects to see these SMART descriptors adequately addressed. The Review Group refers to comments in the round 1 review.		Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(10)51, section 3.5.	Satisfactory	
<b>H6</b>	Scotland’s River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	Yes	Yes. However, the Review Group seeks clarification on			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to	Satisfactory	

			the present applicability of the EU WFD in the context of the withdrawal of the UK from the EU.			CNL(10)51, section 3.5.		
<b>H7</b>	Carry out detailed assessments required for the regulation of existing marine renewable developments, new developments and proposed new developments	Yes	Yes			Yes. The Review Group expected quantifiable progress towards the expected outcomes to be demonstrated in the APRs. The Review Group considered that this action is in line with the general guidance in CNL(10)51, specifically sections 2c and 3.5.	Satisfactory	
<b>H8-1</b>	Research, review and experimentation to better understand and address, as appropriate, the impact of piscivorous birds on Atlantic salmon.	Yes	Yes			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(10)51, section 3.8.	Satisfactory	
<b>H8-2</b>	Pilot study to identify the degree of interaction and potential scale of impact of dolphins on returning adult Atlantic salmon in the Moray Firth.	Yes	Yes			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(10)51, section 3.8.	Satisfactory	

<b>H8-3</b>	The Seals and Salmon Interactions (SSI) work to identify the impact of seal predation on wild Atlantic salmon.	Yes	Yes			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(10)51, section 3.8.	Satisfactory	
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 3.5: SMART actions to implement NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and demonstrate progress towards achievement of its goals and objectives for the Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Atlantic Salmon Habitat</b>							<b>Satisfactory</b>	

Copy and paste lines to add in other actions in the relevant Implementation Plan

<b>4.11 What SMART actions are planned during the period covered by this Implementation Plan (2019 – 2024) to address each of the threats and challenges identified in section 4.10 to implement NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and demonstrate progress towards achievement of its goals and objectives for aquaculture, introductions and transfers, and transgenics?</b>								
#	Action in IP Template	Is the action clearly related to stated threat / challenge?	Is it ‘SMART’? (yes / no)	If ‘no’, which descriptor needs to be reflected more clearly in the action?	If the proposed monitoring is qualitative (as allowed in the Guidelines), is the reason and proposed non-quantitative alternative for monitoring progress acceptable?	Does the action move the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the achievement of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines?	Given the previous question, is the action considered satisfactory or unsatisfactory overall?	Comments relating to previous review round: changed as requested by IP RG?
<b>A1</b>	Marine Scotland has reviewed the policy permitting salmon introductions (stocking), and will also revisit options for a new licensing regime under that policy.	Yes	Yes. However, the Review Group considered that this action lends itself to qualitative reporting.			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to CNL(06)48.	Satisfactory	



<b>A2</b>	Marine Scotland has initiated a national introgression project in July 2018 that seeks to quantify levels of introgression of genetic material from farm escapees into wild Scottish Atlantic salmon populations.	Yes	Yes			Yes. The Review Group considered that the baseline that has been established is in line with the 'Factors Facilitating Implementation' within SLG(09)5.	Satisfactory	
<b>A3 (i)</b>	Post-smolt, west coast sweep netting and a continued work programme at the Shieldaig site to provide data to investigate potential links between sea lice, farms and sea trout	Yes	Yes			Yes. The Review Group considered that the baseline that has been established is in line with the 'Factors Facilitating Implementation' within SLG(09)5.	Satisfactory	Yes
<b>A2 &amp; A3 (ii)</b>	A new Salmon Interactions Workstream will provide advice on existing and potential future arrangements to mitigate the 12 high level pressures on wild salmon. As an initial task, a new, independently	Yes	Yes			No. The Review Group acknowledged the revised text, but it remains unclear how the expected outcome of the action will move UK – Scotland clearly towards the achievement of NASCO's goals.	Unsatisfactory	No

	chaired Working Group was established in October 2018, to examine and provide advice on the interactions between wild and farmed Atlantic salmon.							
<b>A3 (iii)</b>	Develop and implement field studies and migration models to better understand migration behaviours and potential interactions between salmonids and aquaculture developments	Yes	Yes			Yes. The Review Group considered that this relates to the Williamsburg Resolution, CNL(06)48. The Review Group requested clarity on the timeline for delivery of the new spatially adaptive sea lice risk assessment framework.	Satisfactory	
<b>Overall score by Review Group for 4.11: SMART actions to implement NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and demonstrate progress towards achievement of its goals and objectives for aquaculture, introductions and transfers, and transgenics</b>							<b>Unsatisfactory</b>	

Copy and paste lines to add in other actions in the relevant Implementation Plan

<b>Mandatory action check</b>	<b>Is such a mandatory action required for this Party / jurisdiction?</b>	<b>Is such an action contained in the Implementation Plan?</b>
For Parties / jurisdictions that prosecute mixed-stock fisheries, there should be at least one action related to their management.	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Each Party / jurisdiction with salmon farming should include at least one action relating to sea lice management.	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No. The action relates only to monitoring</b>
Each Party / jurisdiction with salmon farming should include at least one action relating to containment.	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No The action relates only to monitoring</b>
<b>Overall score by Review Group</b>		<b>Unsatisfactory</b>

## **Positive Feedback**

<b>Are there any aspects of the IP, in particular, that move the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the achievement of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines? (please state below)</b>
<p>The Review Group considered that the following actions, in particular, move UK – Scotland clearly towards the achievement of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Management of Salmon Fisheries: F1-1, F1-2, F1-3 and F2;</li> <li>• Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Atlantic Salmon Habitat: H1, H1-2, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6, H7, H8-1, H8-2 and H8-3; and</li> <li>• Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: A1, A2, A3(i) and A3(iii).</li> </ul>

<b>Are there any significant improvements by the Party / jurisdiction that could be communicated on the NASCO website and social media? (please state below)</b>
<p>The first national assessment of genetic introgression of escaped farmed salmon in Scotland has been released. This documents the adverse impact that escaped farmed fish is having on the native wild salmon population.</p>