	Council <i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2022 United States</i>	CNL(23)29
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Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2022

The Annual Progress Reports allow NASCO to evaluate progress on actions taken by Parties / jurisdictions to implement its internationally agreed Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and, consequently, the achievement of their objectives and actions taken in accordance with the Convention. The following information should be provided through the Annual Progress Reports:

- any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the Implementation Plan;
- actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year;
- significant changes to the status of stocks, and a report on catches; and
- actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

*In completing this Annual Progress Report please refer to the **Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress, CNL(18)49.***

These reports will be reviewed by the Council. Please complete this form and return it to the Secretariat **no later than 1 April 2023.**

Party:	United States
Jurisdiction / Region:	

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan
1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan (Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 November).
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
<p>Restoration: In 2022, the U.S. invested approximately 6.1 million dollars in support of connectivity projects that benefit Atlantic salmon and their ecosystems. Another 80,000 dollars was awarded for in-stream habitat restoration projects.</p> <p>Outreach: In 2022, an outreach campaign was carried out to increase public awareness and protection of endangered sea-run Atlantic salmon. Educational brochures and tackle box stickers were produced and distributed to recreational fishermen by Marine Patrol Officers and other law enforcement agencies in the state with the goal of reducing the accidental harvest of federally protected Atlantic salmon (See Action F2).</p>

2: Stock status and catches.				
2.1 Provide a description of any new factors that may affect the abundance of salmon stocks significantly and, if there has been any significant change in stock status since the development of the Implementation Plan, provide a brief (200 word max) summary of these changes.				
2.2 Provide the following information on catches: (nominal catch equals reported quantity of salmon caught and retained in tonnes ‘round fresh weight’ (i.e. weight of whole, ungutted, unfrozen fish) or ‘round fresh weight equivalent’).				
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2022 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	0	0	0	0
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2021 (tonnes)	0	0	0	0
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2022 (tonnes)	0* (see action F2 and F3)	0	0	0
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2022	There are no recreational fisheries for sea-run Atlantic salmon in the United States. There are, however, small fisheries for domestic broodstock in the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers in Southern New England; these rivers are outside the geographic range of endangered wild Atlantic salmon.			

3: Implementation Plan Actions.		
3.1 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to the Management of Salmon Fisheries (section 2.9 of the Implementation Plan). <i>Note: the reports under ‘Progress on action to date’ should provide a brief overview of each action. Please report in relation to the reporting year only or the most relevant recent year. For all actions, provide clear and concise quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.</i>		
Action F1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Reduce mortality of U.S.-origin salmon in mixed-stock fisheries by remaining active in the West Greenland Commission and the North American Commission
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	a) Maintenance of existing mortality attributable to the West Greenland fishery as measured by the quota currently set at 30mt through 2020 (note: specific outcomes beyond 2020 cannot be determined at this time as the existing regulatory measure applies only for 2018, 2019, and 2020) b) Agreement on a regulatory measure in 2021

		c) Maintenance of low levels (previously estimated at 30 to 40 U.S.-origin salmon per year) of interception of U.S.-origin salmon in the mixed-stock fishery in Labrador
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	a) Continue to facilitate the sampling program for the West Greenland fishery; review fishery data and reports from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to ensure the key provisions of the existing regulatory measure are effectively implemented. b) Annual review of reports and other scientific findings related to the mixed-stock fishery in Labrador.
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	<p>In 2022, the United States worked cooperatively with the Parties of the WGC to develop a multi-year regulatory measure for the West Greenland fishery (2022-2025). While it did not contain all of the provisions that the United States considers necessary to ensure appropriate management of the fishery and that the quota is not exceeded, the regulatory measure did maintain a number of important elements designed to improve the management of the fishery, including limiting harvests and monitoring and control measures. A new element was added that closes the fishery when the registered catch has reached no more than 49% of the overall TAC, and this element is encouraging. Effective implementation of these requirements should provide conservation benefits to contributing stocks, including critically endangered U.S.-origin salmon.</p> <p>In light of the continuing need for strong protection of U.S.-origin salmon, the United States will continue to work with WGC members as appropriate and will contribute to the evaluation of the outcomes of the 2022 fishery against the 2022 regulatory measure. The United States will work with members of the WGC to evaluate if additional provisions are needed in the future to ensure appropriate management, monitoring and control of the fishery that continues to persist against the scientific advice.</p> <p>The United States continues to facilitate the sampling program for the West Greenland fishery. The sampling program was conducted in 2022, and the data are being summarised and all results will be reported to the ICES WGNAS during their 2023 Annual Meeting.</p> <p>The United States remains an active participant in the NAC and continues to carefully review Canada's report on Labrador's mixed stock fishery (NAC(22)03). We continue to encourage Canada to evolve its sampling of the Labrador fishery to ensure improved characterization of the impact of the fishery on U.S.-origin salmon. We also continue to urge Canada to implement fishery management measures that eliminate the catch of U.S.-origin salmon in the Labrador fishery and, towards this end, additional management actions</p>

		have been taken in recent years. Continually increasing the efficacy of the sampling in Labrador, either through increased sampling, targeted sampling or a combination of both, would greatly assist in evaluating the effectiveness of these management actions.
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action F2:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Reduce bycatch of Atlantic salmon in recreational fisheries for other species, such as brook trout, to the maximum extent possible.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Closures of certain areas of rivers, gear restrictions, bag limit reductions, publication of species identification guides in fishing law books, prosecution of poachers when necessary, among others. Note: this action (and therefore expected outcome) does not lend itself to quantitative measures because specific estimates of bycatch are not available. Thus, developing quantitative targets is not possible. Reporting on progress under this action will, therefore, focus on qualitative aspects (using specific examples where possible) with the assumption that activities under this action will correlate with reductions in mortality of Atlantic salmon attributable to bycatch.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	This action does not lend itself to a strictly quantitative approach to monitoring as specific levels of bycatch are currently unknown. Thus, the focus will be on ensuring the risks to productive capacity are minimized (as opposed to developing quantitative estimates) by publication of new laws when necessary, description of law enforcement activities, and an aggressive outreach and education campaign ensuring that anglers can differentiate salmon parr from brook trout.
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year,</i>	In 2022, the Maine Department of Marine Resources undertook an outreach campaign targeted at increasing public awareness and protection of endangered sea-run Atlantic salmon. Educational brochures and tackle box stickers were produced and distributed to recreational anglers by Marine Patrol Officers and other law enforcement agencies in the state with the goal of reducing the accidental harvest of federally

<p><i>this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i></p>	<p>protected Atlantic salmon. The brochure includes information on how to identify Atlantic salmon, how to practice safe catch and release, and relevant contact information. The tackle box sticker features an Atlantic salmon and provides a web address where the public can learn more about Atlantic salmon and what DMR is doing to aid in its recovery.</p> <p>Maine DMR also purchased two handheld scanners that Maine Marine Patrol Officers are now using to check fish caught by recreational fishermen for PIT (passive integrated transponders) tags that are implanted in wild Atlantic salmon and broodstock released in Maine Rivers.</p> <p>In addition, the federal Endangered Species Act prohibitions on "take" of endangered Atlantic salmon remain in place, as well as the State of Maine maintains stringent regulations governing recreational fishing in areas where salmon live. These regulations explain that sea-run salmon are federally endangered and cannot be removed from the water, and prohibit anglers from retaining landlocked salmon and brown trout above 63 cm to ensure that adult sea-run salmon are not incidentally captured and retained. A minimum length limit of 15 cm on brook trout and brown trout and 35 cm for landlocked salmon ensures that Atlantic salmon parr are not incidentally retained during recreational fisheries.</p> <p>Area closures and gear restrictions continue to remain in place on many Atlantic salmon rivers where adult salmon are known to congregate, as well as routine surveillance of these areas by state and federal law enforcement agencies.</p> <p>In 2022, one adult Atlantic salmon was angled and killed on the Machias River. This fish was captured in an area that was thought to be inaccessible to salmon, so it was thought not to be an Atlantic salmon until further inspection by a game warden. This inspection revealed that the fish was of Machias River origin and therefore, considered endangered. In addition, an adult Atlantic salmon kelt was angled and released on the Connecticut River. Salmon in the Connecticut River are not federally protected by the Endangered Species Act.</p>
<p><i>Current status of action (Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action F3:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Reduce poaching of Atlantic salmon to the maximum extent possible.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Deterrence of illegal activity and prosecutions of poachers when necessary. Note: this action (and therefore expected outcome) does not lend itself to quantitative measures because specific estimates of mortality attributable to poaching are not available. Thus, developing quantitative targets is not possible. Reporting on progress under this action will therefore focus on qualitative aspects (using specific examples where possible) with the assumption that activities under this action will correlate with reductions in mortality of Atlantic salmon attributable to poaching.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	This action does not lend itself to a strictly quantitative approach to monitoring as specific levels of poaching are currently unknown (though thought to be very low). Thus, reporting will focus on ensuring the risks to productive capacity are minimised largely through descriptions of law enforcement activities (including deterrence).
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	In 2022, the Maine Marine Patrol documented 97 boat hours, 36 aircraft hours, and 271 shoreside hours dedicated specifically to salmon enforcement; this equates to 505 officer hours. Beyond the dedicated enforcement time listed above, the Marine Patrol and Maine Warden Service spend many thousands of hours on patrol where they are looking for anything related to protected species, including Atlantic Salmon. Over the course of the 2022 season the Marine Patrol and Maine Warden Service issued a combined 5 summonses for fishing in closed or restricted areas that are established to protect salmon. In addition, Federal law enforcement officers conducted four patrols dedicated to Atlantic salmon enforcement in 2022. From these patrols there were 7 contacts with recreational anglers. No violations or citations were given. Federal officers also conducted one investigation regarding a potential take of an Atlantic salmon by a recreational angler. The investigation was inconclusive because the species could not be positively identified from the video.
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is</i>	Ongoing

	<i>reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action F4:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Reduce mortality of Atlantic salmon by (1) maintaining closures for all directed fisheries for Atlantic salmon consistent with the existing Fishery Management Plan under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act and (2) reducing bycatch of Atlantic salmon in fisheries for other species to the maximum extent possible.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Zero mortality of Atlantic salmon attributable to (1) directed salmon fisheries and (2) bycatch of Atlantic salmon in other commercial fisheries.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Query vessel landings database, dealer purchases database, and the fisheries observer database to ensure that bycatch of Atlantic salmon in other commercial fisheries remains insignificant.
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	<p>In 2022, there continued to be no directed fisheries for sea-run Atlantic salmon in the United States consistent with the existing Fishery Management Plan issued under the Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act. There are, however, continued small fisheries for domestic broodstock in the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers in Southern New England; these rivers are outside the geographic range of endangered wild Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>We continue to monitor bycatch of Atlantic salmon in commercial fisheries. NOAA maintains a vessel landings database, a dealer purchases database, and an observer database for commercial fisheries subject to federal jurisdiction. To ensure that bycatch of Atlantic salmon in other commercial fisheries remains insignificant, each year, we query these databases. For 2022, our query of the dealer purchases database and vessel landings database revealed one record (vessel Landings) where a nearshore charter fishery reported one angler catching an Atlantic salmon by hook and line. The salmon was landed and released. For the observer database, bycatch of Atlantic salmon remains a rare event. Interactions have been observed in only 7 of the 30-year time series, and no Atlantic salmon have been reported by vessel observers since August 2013. Reporting is complete through August, 2022.</p>
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it</i>	Ongoing

	<i>should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	

<p>3.2 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (section 3.5 of the Implementation Plan).</p> <p><i>Note: the reports under 'Progress on action to date' should provide a brief overview of each action. Please report in relation to the reporting year only or the most relevant recent year. For all actions, provide clear and concise quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.</i></p>		
Action H1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Improve fish passage by removing dams, installing fishways, removing culverts, decommissioning roads, and upgrading road-stream crossings
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	By 2024, restore connectivity to 5,000 units of suitable Atlantic salmon habitat (as defined in the Atlantic salmon Recovery Plan).
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Enumerate the number of habitat units made accessible each year (2019 – 2024).
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)	<p>Progress was made at restoring connectivity through improving fish passage at 28 culverts, and 3 dam projects in 2022.</p> <p>The estimates of habitat gains are provisional and will be adjusted in future annual reports. Only habitat units above projects with unimpeded access from the ocean are considered accessible and count towards our goal of restoring 5,000 units of habitat. For example, a dam removal that occurs upstream of an existing barrier or partial barrier to passage would not be included in the estimate. Habitat gains are reported in habitat units, where 1 habitat unit equals 100m².</p> <p>Recognizing the important work that our conservation partners are doing throughout the watersheds where Atlantic salmon live, we are also including a summary of salmon habitats where access was improved but there remains a barrier or partial barrier downstream.</p>

	Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit (SHRU)	# of Projects		Habitats with improved access (partial barriers below)		Total Units																														
		Dams	Culverts /Bridges	Habitat units made accessible (no barriers below)	Habitats with improved access (partial barriers below)																															
	Downeast Coastal	1	0	58	0	15																														
	Penobscot Bay		11	0	43.8	0																														
	Merrymeeting Bay	2	17	36	2007	2641																														
	Total	3	28	94	2050.8	2656																														
<p>Summary table towards achieving goal of 5,000 accessible habitat units (across all SHRUs):</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>2019</th> <th>2020</th> <th>2021</th> <th>2022</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Downeast Coastal</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>87</td> <td>58</td> <td>145</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Penobscot Bay</td> <td></td> <td>152</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>152</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Merrymeeting Bay</td> <td>2,656</td> <td></td> <td>36</td> <td>36</td> <td>2,728</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>2,656</td> <td>152</td> <td>123</td> <td>94</td> <td>3,025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>								2019	2020	2021	2022	Total	Downeast Coastal			87	58	145	Penobscot Bay		152			152	Merrymeeting Bay	2,656		36	36	2,728	Total	2,656	152	123	94	3,025
	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total																															
Downeast Coastal			87	58	145																															
Penobscot Bay		152			152																															
Merrymeeting Bay	2,656		36	36	2,728																															
Total	2,656	152	123	94	3,025																															
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Ongoing																																		
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?																																			
Action H2:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	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.																																		
	Expected outcome	By 2024, restore connectivity to 10,000 units of suitable Atlantic salmon habitat and reduce mortality and injury of																																		

	<i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	smolts and kelts at hydroelectric dams.		
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Enumerate the number of habitat units made accessible each year (2019 – 2024). Ensure attainment of passage efficiency and survival targets through adherence to the requirements of regulatory processes (Federal Power Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, Magnuson-Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act).		
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	For most hydro-electric dams in areas where salmon live, for the habitat upstream to be considered “accessible” upstream and downstream passage effectiveness must be 95% or greater. No additional habitat units were made accessible due to improvements in fish passage at hydroelectric dams in calendar year 2022. However, progress has been made towards implementing and verifying effective passage through the relicensing of projects under the U.S. Federal Power Act (FPA), and through consultation requirements of the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). The objective in these proceedings is to implement effective upstream and downstream fish passage and reduce the impact of hydroelectric dams and their operations on Atlantic salmon and the ecosystems on which they depend. Consultations addressing the implementation of effective fish passage are currently ongoing at all mainstem hydro dams within designated critical habitat in the Gulf of Maine population. In 2022, ESA consultation was concluded for a passage proposal at the Brunswick Project (the lowermost dam on the Androscoggin River), which included operational measures (i.e., night time spill) to increase downstream survival of Atlantic salmon smolts, as well as measures to better monitor upstream passage of salmon at the existing fishway. Similarly, after extensive consultation with the fisheries agencies, Brookfield Renewable modified their fish passage proposal for the four lower river dams on the Kennebec River to incorporate significant operational and structural modifications to reduce mortality of smolts and kelts, and to provide safe, timely, and effective upstream passage. The modifications to increase downstream survival include turbine shutdowns, guidance structures, new downstream fishways, narrow spaced racks to prevent adults passing through the turbines, and repairs to non-turbine routes. Additionally, Brookfield has committed to construct new fishways at three of the four dams, and to implement an adaptive management strategy to achieve high (>95%) survival and efficiency standards. Consultation to determine the sufficiency of the proposal is anticipated to conclude in 2023.		
	SHRU	FPA	ESA	

			Relicensing that are ongoing	Consultations in place or underway
		Merrymeeting Bay	6	11
		Penobscot Bay	4	5
		Downeast Coastal	2	1
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Ongoing.		
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?			
Action H3:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	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).		
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Geographically explicit freshwater protection, restoration, and enhancement strategy for each of the three recovery units. These strategies will explicitly consider protection of climate-resilient spawning and rearing habitats for each recovery unit in the face of climate change.		
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	The strategies will use adaptive management to ensure that management actions have a measurable effect on recovery criteria. Progress reports on the development of the strategies will occur for each recovery unit separately to enhance our ability to demonstrate progress toward the overall goal of completing each strategy by 2024.		
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	This action was completed in 2021 and was considered satisfactory by the RG in 2022. In review, we completed our geographically explicit freshwater protection, restoration and enhancement strategies (five-year work plans) for the three geographic areas where wild salmon remain: Penobscot, Merrymeeting Bay and Downeast. These work plans detail conservation goals and priorities within each geographic area and priority actions necessary to advance these areas towards meeting the delisting criteria identified in the 2019 recovery plan. Each of the recovery teams in these geographic areas are now working to implement these plans.		
	Current status of action	Complete		

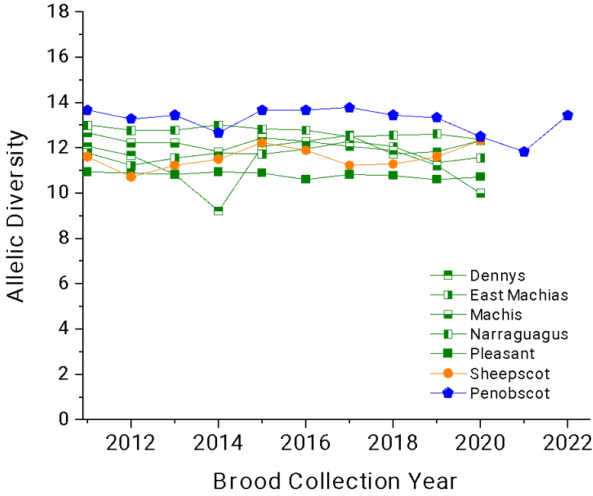
	<i>(Please note: ‘Completed’ means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as ‘Ongoing’)</i>	
	If ‘Completed’, has the action achieved its objective?	Yes. The work plans continue to be implemented and updated as action items in the work plans are completed, or new actions are identified.

3.3 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics (section 4.11 of the Implementation Plan).

*Note: the reports under ‘Progress on action to date’ should provide a **brief overview** of each action. Please report in relation to the reporting year only or the most relevant recent year. For all actions, provide **clear and concise** quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.*

Action A1:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Sea Lice - Minimize sea lice loads on commercial aquaculture fish being reared in marine net pens to reduce risks to salmon in the wild each year. This will be accomplished by mandatory fallowing, monitoring of lice levels (monthly when temperatures range from 6 – 8°C and bimonthly when temperatures exceed 8°C), and mandatory treatments when thresholds for sea lice counts are exceeded (1 gravid female and 5 pre-adult lice).
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	a) Lice loads in marine net pens maintained at a level below the pre-determined thresholds and b) Treatment when necessary (monitoring reveals sea lice levels above threshold levels) to ensure that risks to salmon in the wild remain low.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Monthly surveillance conducted by a third party for pathogens and sea lice required under the State of Maine Fish Health regulations.
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g.</i>	This action was considered unacceptable in our implementation plan as it does not demonstrate clear progress towards reducing sea lice loads on wild salmonids.

	<i>website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action A2:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	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
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	No escapees of U.S. origin spawning in the rivers containing endangered salmon.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Annual audits of containment management plans and records; timely reporting requirements for escape events; surveillance of five salmon rivers for the presence of aquaculture-origin salmon
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	In 2022, we achieved our objectives of minimising effects of wild salmon from genetic introgression from farmed raised salmon. The containment management system (CMS) remains in place for 100% of salmon farms in Maine. The CMS (a condition of federal permits) requires the aquaculture industry to report any escapes of 50 fish that are 2 kg or larger or a 25% reduction in biomass for marine net pens. There were no reportable escape events from commercial farms in Maine in 2022, and no aquaculture origin fish were captured at any of the trapping facilities or observed in Maine rivers. For detailed information on industry permitting and reporting requirements please refer to the U.S. Implementation Plan.
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	

Action A3:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Implement broodstock management protocols at conservation hatcheries on an annual basis
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Reduce or eliminate the loss in diversity from endangered populations
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Estimates of genetic diversity, such as allelic variability (i.e. number of alleles per locus, allelic diversity), and heterozygosity are obtained through the use of a comparable suite of molecular markers that are consistently used to monitor diversity over time. We will conduct these assessments and report the results annually.
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	<p>In 2022, we continued monitoring genetic diversity within seven river-specific broodstock populations to ensure the goals of the conservation hatcheries were met. A total of 18 variable microsatellite loci are used to characterise genetic diversity for all individuals considered for use in broodstocks. Individuals characterised represent either parr collected for broodstock purposes (Dennys, East Machias, Machias, Narraguagus, Pleasant, and Sheepscot rivers), or adults returning to the Penobscot River and collected for broodstock at USFWS Craig Brook National Fish Hatchery. These individuals were used for broodstock following removal of potential aquaculture origin individuals, or landlocked Atlantic salmon identified in screening. Annual characterization allows for comparison of allelic diversity between broodstocks, and over time.</p> <p>Currently, managers are evaluating allelic diversity based on 18 loci, between 2008 and 2020 collection years (or from 2008 to 2022 in the case of the Penobscot broodstock), the average number of alleles per locus ranged from 10.69 alleles per locus for the Pleasant River to 13.34 alleles per locus for the Penobscot River.</p>  <p><i>Allelic diversity time series for GOM DPS salmon populations, measured from 18 microsatellite loci (DE- Dennys, EM-East Machias, MA- Machias, NA-Narraguagus, PN-Penobscot, PL-Pleasant, SH-Sheepscot populations).</i></p>

	<p>Current status of action <i>(Please note: ‘Completed’ means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as ‘Ongoing’)</i></p>	Ongoing									
	If ‘Completed’, has the action achieved its objective?										
Action A4:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Reduce stocking of non-native salmonids in the freshwater range of endangered salmon to ensure that predatory and competitive effects are minimised.									
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Minimally, the current locations for stocking non-native salmonids will be maintained where only the Sandy River is routinely stocked with brown trout.									
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>Coordination with state programs that stock salmonids to support recreational fisheries; Review of stocking reports and consultation with state authorities.</p> <p>Note: this action (and therefore expected outcome and approach for monitoring) does not lend itself to truly quantitative measures. Instead, reporting will rely on qualitative descriptions of progress in reducing stocking of non-native salmonids from 2019 to 2024 using specific examples (e.g., changes to stocking strategies) whenever possible.</p>									
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	<p>In 2022, there continued to be no stocking of non-native salmonids in the seven rivers that support a river specific stock of endangered Atlantic salmon. However, there continues to be brown trout stocked in the Sandy River, which is actively being managed for Atlantic salmon recovery efforts (The Sandy River does not have its own genetic stock of Atlantic salmon). Stocking of brown trout in the Sandy has either decreased or been maintained throughout the term of this reporting cycle, which is consistent with our expected outcome.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="678 1675 1436 1989"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Number</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>4,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>3,700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>3,700</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>3,700</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Number	2019	4,600	2020	3,700	2021	3,700	2022
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2019	4,600										
2020	3,700										
2021	3,700										
2022	3,700										

		<p>As a product of decades of stocking, brown trout now spawn successfully and have become established in the Sandy River. The impact that brown trout are having on the already very low populations of Atlantic salmon in these systems is not well known.</p> <p>Non-native brown trout and rainbow trout are also routinely stocked in lakes and ponds throughout Maine, but in areas that currently do not support wild sea-run Atlantic salmon. There are also a few rivers that are stocked with brown trout that currently do not have known populations of Atlantic salmon but are designated as Atlantic salmon critical habitat. Over the last year, no additional progress has been made to further reduce the stocking of non-native salmonids (i.e., brown trout) to minimise interactions with wild Atlantic salmon although such stocking has not increased.</p>
	<p>Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?</p>	

4: Additional information required under the Convention	
4.1	Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification.
	N/A
4.2	Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration, and other management measures.
	N/A
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
	N/A
4.4	Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention.
	N/A
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
	N/A
North American Commission Members only:	
4.6	Details of any new measures to minimise bycatches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member.
	N/A
4.7	Details of any alteration to fishing patterns that result in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party except with the consent of the latter.
	N/A