

CNL40.2196

18 December 2023

[REDACTED]

Status of EU – Denmark's Revised Implementation Plan

Dear [REDACTED]

In the context of the persisting decline of Atlantic salmon populations across the North Atlantic, NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines are essential for ensuring that the objectives of the NASCO Convention 'to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon' can be met.

As you are aware, the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the NASCO Parties is achieved through the preparation and submission of Implementation Plans, together with Annual Progress Reports. Although EU – Denmark did not submit a revised Implementation Plan for review in either 2022 or 2023, I write to remind you of the outcome of the review carried out in 2021, in line with paragraph 16 of the Council's Enhanced Guidance, [CNL\(20\)55](#).

In 2021, the Review Group found EU – Denmark's Implementation Plan to be improved but requiring further work for it to become fully satisfactory, in particular in sections 2.9, 3.5 and 4.11, i.e. the actions in the Implementation Plan against which progress towards the achievement of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines can be measured. I attach the detailed outcome of the review of EU – Denmark's Implementation Plan, together with a summary.

Paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Enhanced Guidance, CNL(20)55, relate to the review of actions provided in an Implementation Plan, as follows: ‘

12. *Council recognises the use, and review, of SMART actions as recommended in the IP Guidelines. Where the Review Group considers that an action moves the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines even if the action is not entirely in line with the SMART criteria, the Review Group may consider such an action as satisfactory.*
13. *However, where the elements of an action may appear to adhere to the SMART criteria but the action is considered by the Review Group not to move the Party / jurisdiction towards the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines, it should be deemed*

unsatisfactory. The Review Group should give a clear explanation of their assessment in their feedback.'

In light of this Guidance and of the shortcomings identified by the 2021 Review, EU – Denmark may wish to revise its Implementation Plan further. If so, please inform me (via the Secretariat) and submit it by 1 November of any year during this third reporting cycle. However, work to begin deliberations around the fourth reporting cycle will likely begin around that time and the Review Group may not, therefore, have the time to carry out any further reviews of IPs under the third reporting cycle.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the deadline for the submission of EU – Denmark's Annual Progress Report, based on its Implementation Plan, by 1 April 2024.

This letter will be posted on the NASCO website shortly.

Yours sincerely,

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CNL40.2196

18 December 2023

[REDACTED]

Status of EU – France’s Implementation Plan

Dear [REDACTED]

In the context of the persisting decline of Atlantic salmon populations across the North Atlantic, NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines are essential for ensuring that the objectives of the NASCO Convention ‘to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon’ can be met.

As you are aware, the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the NASCO Parties is achieved through the preparation and submission of Implementation Plans, together with Annual Progress Reports. Although EU – France has not submitted a revised Implementation Plan for review since 2020, I write to remind you of the outcome of the review carried out in 2020, in line with Paragraph 16 of the Enhanced Guidance from the Council of NASCO, [CNL\(20\)55](#).

In 2020, the Review Group considered that EU – France’s Implementation Plan required some further work to achieve a satisfactory rating across all sections / areas of the Plan, including in two of the sections that relate to the Management of Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers, and Transgenics. I attach the detailed outcome of the 2020 review of EU – France’s Implementation Plan, along with a summary.

As you know, NASCO is highly concerned by the impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon stocks, and this has led over the years to the adoption of a number of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines specifically seeking to minimise these impacts. These concerns were expressed again in 2022 when the NASCO Council agreed a statement on salmon farming, [CNL\(22\)49](#), which states:

‘Highlighting the conservation needs of wild Atlantic salmon, NASCO urges the development of innovative salmon farming technologies, both at sea and on land, and, where those technologies provide additional environmental protections, encourages their use, or the use of equally effective alternative approaches, to enable further progress toward the attainment of the international goals on effective sea lice management and containment agreed by ISFA and NASCO in 2009. One possible strategy for implementation, should a Party deem it appropriate, would be to prioritise this approach initially in sensitive areas, such as in areas where wild salmon stocks are

already severely weakened or threatened, the estuaries of NASCO Class I¹ salmon rivers or salmon rivers and other areas designated by Parties and jurisdictions for conservation and / or protection, and along salmon migration routes. NASCO recognises the importance of Atlantic salmon, both wild and farmed, especially in coastal and rural areas and notes the need for careful continuance and development of farming practices to attain the mutually agreed upon international goals.'

The Council also agreed a NASCO statement to Parties / jurisdictions with salmon farming, [CNL\(22\)50](#), which states:

'all Parties and jurisdictions with salmon farming should produce SMART actions in their Implementation Plans (IPs) for the management of sea lice and escapes from aquaculture facilities. These actions should reflect sustained progress towards meeting the international goals of 100 % containment of farmed fish, and 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. Monitoring of sea lice of farmed fish and escapes should be a secondary activity to help better assess the effectiveness of the SMART management actions with the primary objective being the assessment and mitigation of impacts on wild fish';

and

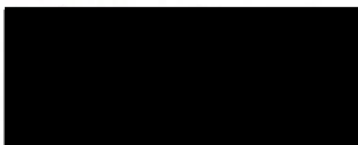
'IPs where such management actions are not forthcoming will not be considered under the review process as progressing the relevant Party or jurisdiction towards achieving the international goals'.

In light of these Statements and of the shortcomings identified by the 2020 Review, EU – France may wish to revise its Implementation Plan further. If so, please inform me (via the Secretariat) and submit it by 1 November of any year during this third reporting cycle. However, work to begin deliberations around the fourth reporting cycle will likely begin around that time and the Review Group may not, therefore, have the time to carry out any further reviews of IPs under the third reporting cycle.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the deadline for the submission of EU – France's Annual Progress Report, based on its Implementation Plan, by 1 April 2024.

This letter will be posted on the NASCO website shortly.

Yours sincerely,



¹ Rivers are classified as Class I when they are pristine. Class I rivers have no significant human-induced habitat alterations, and neither any history of introductions or transfers of fish into the watersheds nor any fish-rearing operations in the watersheds, and no aquaculture has been conducted in marine cage culture within a specified distance of the river.

CNL40.2196

18 December 2023

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]

Status of EU – Ireland's Implementation Plan

Dear [REDACTED],

In the context of the persisting decline of Atlantic salmon populations across the North Atlantic, NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines are essential for ensuring that the objectives of the NASCO Convention 'to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon' can be met.

As you are aware, the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the NASCO Parties is achieved through the preparation and submission of Implementation Plans, together with Annual Progress Reports. Although EU – Ireland did not submit a revised Implementation Plan for review in either 2022 or 2023, I write to remind you of the outcome of the review carried out in 2021.

In 2021, the Review Group found EU – Ireland's Implementation Plan to be improved but requiring further work for it to become fully satisfactory. In particular, the Review Group judged section 4.11 of the Implementation Plan from EU – Ireland (SMART actions for aquaculture etc.) to be unsatisfactory. I attach the detailed outcome of the review of EU – Ireland's Implementation Plan, along with a summary.

As you know, NASCO is highly concerned by the impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon stocks, and this has led over the years to the adoption of a number of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines specifically seeking to minimise these impacts. These concerns were expressed again in 2022 when the NASCO Council agreed a statement on salmon farming, [CNL\(22\)49](#), which states:

'Highlighting the conservation needs of wild Atlantic salmon, NASCO urges the development of innovative salmon farming technologies, both at sea and on land, and, where those technologies provide additional environmental protections, encourages their use, or the use of equally effective alternative approaches, to enable further progress toward the attainment of the international goals on effective sea lice management and containment agreed by ISFA and NASCO in 2009. One possible strategy for implementation, should a Party deem it appropriate, would be to prioritise this approach initially in sensitive areas, such as in areas where wild salmon stocks are already severely weakened or threatened, the estuaries of NASCO Class I¹ salmon

¹ Rivers are classified as Class I when they are pristine. Class I rivers have no significant human-induced habitat alterations, and neither any history of introductions or transfers of fish into the watersheds nor any fish-rearing

rivers or salmon rivers and other areas designated by Parties and jurisdictions for conservation and / or protection, and along salmon migration routes. NASCO recognises the importance of Atlantic salmon, both wild and farmed, especially in coastal and rural areas and notes the need for careful continuance and development of farming practices to attain the mutually agreed upon international goals.'

The Council also agreed a NASCO statement to Parties / jurisdictions with salmon farming, [CNL\(22\)50](#), which states:

'all Parties and jurisdictions with salmon farming should produce SMART actions in their Implementation Plans (IPs) for the management of sea lice and escapes from aquaculture facilities. These actions should reflect sustained progress towards meeting the international goals of 100 % containment of farmed fish, and 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. Monitoring of sea lice of farmed fish and escapes should be a secondary activity to help better assess the effectiveness of the SMART management actions with the primary objective being the assessment and mitigation of impacts on wild fish';

and

'IPs where such management actions are not forthcoming will not be considered under the review process as progressing the relevant Party or jurisdiction towards achieving the international goals'.

In light of these Statements and of the shortcomings identified by the 2021 Review, EU – Ireland may wish to revise its Implementation Plan further. If so, please inform me (via the Secretariat) and submit it by 1 November of any year during this third reporting cycle. However, work to begin deliberations around the fourth reporting cycle will likely begin around that time and the Review Group may not, therefore, have the time to carry out any further reviews of IPs under the third reporting cycle.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the deadline for the submission of EU – Ireland's Annual Progress Report, based on its Implementation Plan, by 1 April 2024.

This letter will be posted on the NASCO website shortly.

Yours sincerely,



operations in the watersheds, and no aquaculture has been conducted in marine cage culture within a specified distance of the river.

CNL402196

18 December 2023

[REDACTED]

Status of EU – Portugal’s Revised Implementation Plan

Dear [REDACTED],

I write to thank EU – Portugal for the work it has done to revise and resubmit its Implementation Plan to NASCO.

In the context of the persisting decline of Atlantic salmon populations across the North Atlantic, NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines are considered as essential for ensuring that the objectives of the NASCO Convention ‘to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon’ can be met.

As you are aware, the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the NASCO Parties is achieved through the preparation and submission of Implementation Plans, together with Annual Progress Reports. In 2023, the Review Group welcomed the revisions to EU – Portugal’s Implementation Plan but agreed that it still requires further work for it to become fully satisfactory. It noted that improvements were still required in several responses to the questions on salmon management to enable each of these sections to be considered as satisfactory, in addition to improvements in sections 2.9, 3.5 and 4.11, i.e. the actions in the Implementation Plan against which progress towards the achievement of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines can be measured. I attach the detailed outcome of the review of EU – Portugal’s Implementation Plan, together with a summary.

Paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Enhanced Guidance, [CNL\(20\)55](#), relate to the review of actions provided in an Implementation Plan, as follows: ‘

12. *Council recognises the use, and review, of SMART actions as recommended in the IP Guidelines. Where the Review Group considers that an action moves the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines even if the action is not entirely in line with the SMART criteria, the Review Group may consider such an action as satisfactory.*
13. *However, where the elements of an action may appear to adhere to the SMART criteria but the action is considered by the Review Group not to move the Party / jurisdiction towards the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines, it should be deemed*

unsatisfactory. The Review Group should give a clear explanation of their assessment in their feedback.'

In light of this Guidance and of the shortcomings identified by the 2023 Review, EU – Portugal may wish to revise its Implementation Plan further. If so, please inform me (via the Secretariat) and submit it by 1 November of any year during this third reporting cycle. However, work to begin deliberations around the fourth reporting cycle will likely begin around that time and the Review Group may not, therefore, have the time to carry out any further reviews of IPs under the third reporting cycle.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the deadline for the submission of EU – Portugal's Annual Progress Report, based on its Implementation Plan, by 1 April 2024.

This letter will be posted on the NASCO website shortly.

Yours sincerely,

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CNL40.2196

18 December 2023

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Status of EU – Spain (Asturias)’ Revised Implementation Plan

Dear [REDACTED]

I write to thank EU – Spain (Asturias) for the work it has done to revise and resubmit its Implementation Plan to NASCO.

In the context of the persisting decline of Atlantic salmon populations across the North Atlantic, NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines are considered as essential for ensuring that the objectives of the NASCO Convention ‘to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon’ can be met.

As you are aware, the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the NASCO Parties is achieved through the preparation and submission of Implementation Plans, together with Annual Progress Reports. In 2023, the Review Group found that EU – Spain (Asturias)’ Implementation Plan still required some minor improvements for it to become fully satisfactory across all areas of the plan. I attach the detailed outcome of the review of EU – Spain (Asturias)’ Implementation Plan, along with a summary.

In light of the minor shortcomings identified by the 2023 Review, EU – Spain (Asturias) may wish to revise its Implementation Plan further. If so, please inform me (via the Secretariat) and submit it by 1 November of any year during this third reporting cycle. However, work to begin deliberations around the fourth reporting cycle will likely begin around that time and the Review Group may not, therefore, have the time to carry out any further reviews of IPs under the third reporting cycle.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the deadline for the submission of EU – Spain (Asturias)’ Annual Progress Report, based on its Implementation Plan, by 1 April 2024.

This letter will be posted on the NASCO website shortly.

Yours sincerely,

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CNL40.2196

18 December 2023

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[REDACTED]

Status of EU – Spain (Cantabria)’s Revised Implementation Plan

Dear [REDACTED]

I write to thank EU – Spain (Cantabria) for the work it has done to revise and resubmit its Implementation Plan to NASCO.

In the context of the persisting decline of Atlantic salmon populations across the North Atlantic, NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines are considered as essential for ensuring that the objectives of the NASCO Convention ‘to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon’ can be met.

As you are aware, the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the NASCO Parties is achieved through the preparation and submission of Implementation Plans, together with Annual Progress Reports. In 2023, the Review Group found that EU – Spain (Cantabria)’s Implementation Plan still required some minor improvements for it to become fully satisfactory across all areas of the plan. I attach the detailed outcome of the review of EU – Spain (Cantabria)’s Implementation Plan, along with a summary.

In light of the minor shortcomings identified by the 2023 Review, EU – Spain (Cantabria) may wish to revise its Implementation Plan further. If so, please inform me (via the Secretariat) and submit it by 1 November of any year during this third reporting cycle. However, work to begin deliberations around the fourth reporting cycle will likely begin around that time and the Review Group may not, therefore, have the time to carry out any further reviews of IPs under the third reporting cycle.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the deadline for the submission of EU – Spain (Cantabria)’s Annual Progress Report, based on its Implementation Plan, by 1 April 2024.

This letter will be posted on the NASCO website shortly.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

CNL40.2196

18 December 2023

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Status of EU – Spain (Galicia)’s Revised Implementation Plan

Dear [REDACTED]

I write to thank EU – Spain (Galicia) for the work it has done to revise and resubmit its Implementation Plan to NASCO.

In the context of the persisting decline of Atlantic salmon populations across the North Atlantic, NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines are considered as essential for ensuring that the objectives of the NASCO Convention ‘to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon’ can be met.

As you are aware, the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the NASCO Parties is achieved through the preparation and submission of Implementation Plans, together with Annual Progress Reports. In 2023, the Review Group found EU – Spain (Galicia)’s Implementation Plan to show considerable improvement but still requiring further work for it to become fully satisfactory. It noted that some further improvements were required in several responses to the questions on salmon management to enable each of those sections to be considered as satisfactory, in addition to improvements in sections 2.9 and 4.11, i.e. the actions in the Implementation Plan against which progress towards the achievement of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines can be measured. I attach the detailed outcome of the review of EU – Spain (Galicia)’s Implementation Plan, along with a summary.

Paragraphs 12 and 13 of the Enhanced Guidance, [CNL\(20\)55](#), relate to the review of actions provided in an Implementation Plan, as follows: ‘

1. *Council recognises the use, and review, of SMART actions as recommended in the IP Guidelines. Where the Review Group considers that an action moves the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines even if the action is not entirely in line with the SMART criteria, the Review Group may consider such an action as satisfactory.*
2. *However, where the elements of an action may appear to adhere to the SMART criteria but the action is considered by the Review Group not to move the Party / jurisdiction towards the implementation of NASCO’s*

Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines, it should be deemed unsatisfactory. The Review Group should give a clear explanation of their assessment in their feedback.'

In light of this Guidance and of the shortcomings identified by the 2023 Review, EU – Spain (Galicia) may wish to revise its Implementation Plan further. If so, please inform me (via the Secretariat) and submit it by 1 November of any year during this third reporting cycle. However, work to begin deliberations around the fourth reporting cycle will likely begin around that time and the Review Group may not, therefore, have the time to carry out any further reviews of IPs under the third reporting cycle.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the deadline for the submission of EU – Spain (Galicia)'s Annual Progress Report, based on its Implementation Plan, by 1 April 2024.

This letter will be posted on the NASCO website shortly.

Yours sincerely,

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CNL40.2196

18 December 2023

[REDACTED]
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Status of EU – Sweden’s Revised Implementation Plan

Dear [REDACTED]

In the context of the persisting decline of Atlantic salmon populations across the North Atlantic, NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines are essential for ensuring that the objectives of the NASCO Convention ‘to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon’ can be met.

As you are aware, the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the NASCO Parties is achieved through the preparation and submission of Implementation Plans, together with Annual Progress Reports. Although EU – Sweden did not submit a revised Implementation Plan for review in either 2022 or 2023, I write to remind you of the outcome of the review carried out in 2021, in line with paragraph 16 of the Council’s Enhanced Guidance, [CNL\(20\)55](#).

In 2021, the Review Group considered that EU – Sweden’s revised Implementation Plan required further work to achieve a satisfactory rating across each section / area of the Plan. In addition, the Review Group noted that some of the revisions made in 2021, especially to the ‘Management of Salmon Fisheries’ actions, resulted in actions that were weakened and no longer SMART. I attach the detailed outcome of the review of EU – Sweden’s Implementation Plan, along with a summary.

In light of the shortcomings identified by the 2021 Review, EU – Sweden may wish to revise its Implementation Plan further. If so, please inform me (via the Secretariat) and submit it by 1 November of any year during this third reporting cycle. However, work to begin deliberations around the fourth reporting cycle will likely begin around that time and the Review Group may not, therefore, have the time to carry out any further reviews of IPs under the third reporting cycle.

Finally, I would like to remind you of the deadline for the submission of EU – Sweden’s Annual Progress Report, based on its Implementation Plan, by 1 April 2024.

This letter will be posted on the NASCO website shortly.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]