	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)</i></p>	<p>CNL(23)22rev¹</p> <p>Agenda item: 7c(iii)</p>
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**Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress
Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports under
the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)**

NASCO HQ, Edinburgh, Scotland

17 – 21 April 2023

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair, Cathal Gallagher (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Review Group. He noted that the main task before the Group was to evaluate the 2023 Annual Progress Reports (APRs) under the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024). He reminded participants that NASCO is committed to the Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines it develops, and that Implementation Plans (IPs) and APRs provide a succinct, transparent, fair and balanced approach for reporting on their implementation by the Parties / jurisdictions. The Review Group’s evaluation of the APRs is intended to ensure that Parties / jurisdictions have provided a clear account of progress in implementing the actions detailed in their IPs.
- 1.2 Documents relevant to the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024) can be found on the NASCO website: [Third Reporting Cycle \(2019 – 2024\)](#).
- 1.3 A list of the members of the Review Group is contained in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Review Group adopted its Agenda, IP(23)04 (Annex 2).

3. Review and Agree Working Methods

- 3.1 The Review Group noted that while no Terms of Reference had been provided by the Council, the Group’s assessments would rely upon instructions for evaluation given in the ‘Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress’, [CNL\(18\)49](#). The Group kept the same Working Methods as those used previously (see [CNL\(22\)16](#)).
- 3.2 Prior to the meeting, a template was developed by the Secretariat (Annex 3). This was used to record the evaluations.
- 3.2 During discussion of the IPs and APRs at the Annual Meeting in June 2021, [CNL\(21\)62](#), the Council agreed that:

‘...all actions should be reviewed by the Review Group during future APR reviews. If a virtual meeting was needed, the Council agreed that it would be up

¹ Minor editorial changes were made to the feedback for EU – Spain (Gipuzkoa), EU - Sweden and Norway

to the discretion of the Chair and Secretary to determine the best approach. Any decisions reached must be clearly communicated to the Parties.'

- 3.3 However, the Review Group noted the difficulty of evaluating actions that were not found to be satisfactory in the IP review. They agreed to review these actions and provide standard wording for all such actions, that is:

'Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.'

4. Evaluation of the 2023 Annual Progress Reports and Development of Feedback to the Parties / jurisdictions

Overview of the Annual Progress Report Evaluations

- 4.1 In 2023, the Review Group welcomed the submission of 20 of the 21 expected APRs.
- 4.2 The Review Group acknowledged that it would provide feedback on all actions, including the actions deemed unsatisfactory in each IP. The Group developed some standard text (see 3.3 above) to note that it was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines for those actions considered to be unsatisfactory in each IP review.

2023 Annual Progress Report Evaluations

- 4.3 The APR template was issued to Parties / jurisdictions in January 2023. The Secretariat had completed the 'Description of action', 'Expected outcome' and 'Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement' fields in the APR template for each Party / jurisdiction using the text from the most recent reviewed versions of the IP. Parties / jurisdictions were asked to return their completed APRs to the Secretariat no later than 1 April 2023.
- 4.4 20 of the 21 expected APRs were submitted and are on the [NASCO website](#).

Party / jurisdiction	Document No.
Canada	CNL(23)41
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands	Not provided
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	CNL(23)46
EU – Denmark	CNL(23)35
EU – Finland	CNL(23)36
EU – France	CNL(23)37rev
EU – Germany	CNL(23)47rev
EU – Ireland	CNL(23)38
EU – Portugal	CNL(23)39rev
EU – Spain (Asturias)	CNL(23)30
EU – Spain (Cantabria)	CNL(23)31

EU – Spain (Galicia)	CNL(23)32
EU – Spain (Gipuzkoa)	CNL(23)33
EU – Spain (Navarra)	CNL(23)34
EU – Sweden	CNL(23)40
Norway	CNL(23)45
Russian Federation	CNL(23)28
UK – England and Wales	CNL(23)42
UK – Northern Ireland	CNL(23)43
UK – Scotland	CNL(23)44
United States	CNL(23)29

4.6 The Review Group’s full evaluations of the 2023 APRs are contained in Annex 4. All of the evaluations were agreed unanimously by the Review Group.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Action No.	Description	Status of Action	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
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- The ‘status of action’ categories are:
 - NS = Not Started;
 - OG = Ongoing – clear progress;
 - OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress;
 - OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress;
 - CD = Completed – clear progress;
 - CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress;
- progress on each action was evaluated and categorised according to the list above;
- where progress was deemed to be ‘Ongoing’, but the Review Group considered that improvements could be made to future reporting, these improvements were suggested in the comments / recommendations column in the table;
- for actions where progress was not able to be determined, standard descriptors, giving an explanation of the shortcomings, were used, with further explanations (in italics) as to why these descriptors were used in each case. The agreed standard descriptors were:
 - action not yet started;
 - lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress;
 - reliance on references to websites or publications;
 - reporting timeframe not clearly specified;
 - no (apparent) progress has been made in the reporting year;
 - progress report is unclear; and
 - the expected outcome is not being achieved.
- in a few instances, where reporting was clear and it was apparent that the ‘Expected outcome’ of the action could not be achieved within the lifetime of the IP, the status of the action was marked as ‘OG’ but the progress marked as ‘Unsatisfactory’, with an accompanying explanation from the Review Group;
- the Review Group agreed that, given the reporting cycle is four years in, that any actions that had not yet started would be marked as ‘Unsatisfactory’ unless the IP clearly stated a specific start date. At this stage in the reporting cycle the Review Group would have expected these actions to have started, to enable them to deliver against the expected outcomes by the end of 2024; and
- the Review Group highlighted the importance of reporting clearly against stated deliverables for each action given the reporting cycle ends in 2024;
- the Review Group also agreed, for those actions considered to be unsatisfactory, to report only that progress towards NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines could not be established.

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

- several of the APRs had, again, provided information on activities in years prior to the reporting year. The Review Group reminds Parties / jurisdictions that reporting should describe, succinctly, activities conducted in the relevant reporting year, or the most recent information available. However, quantitative information, for example trends, showing progress towards expected outcomes in the reporting cycle is expected, where possible;
- there is a need to focus on demonstrating progress towards achievement of the actions' outcomes, specifically referencing the 'Expected outcome' set out in the IP. In several instances, the 'Approach for monitoring...' and 'Planned timescale' laid out in the IP were not followed, such that progress in relation to the targets / metrics stated in those sections of the IP was difficult to determine. Those sections of the IP, together with the 'Expected outcome', are what informs the basis for the Review Group's evaluation and feedback to Parties / jurisdictions; and
- the Review Group would like to remind Parties / jurisdictions that only those actions that have achieved the expected outcome for the third reporting cycle or where no further action within the reporting cycle is expected, be marked 'Complete'. Actions that will continue through the reporting cycle should be marked as 'Ongoing'.

4.13 The Review Group requested the Secretariat to perform two tasks following its meeting:

- in addition to tweeting highlights from the APRs, to put the same highlights in the 'News' section of the NASCO website and to link to the relevant APRs in each case; and
- include a link to the previous year's APR review in each of the APR templates sent to Parties / jurisdictions.

4.14 The Review Group welcomed the clear reporting on some actions in particular. It agreed that all of EU – Ireland's 'Management of Salmon Fisheries' actions were succinctly reported. The Review Group welcomed the clear quantitative reporting from UK – Northern Ireland on Action H5 and from the United States on Action H1.

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

- **Canada:** the Review Group welcomed that following a 2022 review, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard was mandated to 'Work in close collaboration with provincial and territorial authorities, Indigenous partners, fishing and stewardship organizations and implicated communities to make new investments and develop a conservation strategy to restore and rebuild wild Atlantic salmon populations and their habitats – consultations with Indigenous peoples and stakeholders in 2022 with a refined conservation strategy to be developed in 2023' (CNL(04)55 and CNL(10)51). The Review Group noted that the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador updated the Code of Containment for the Culture of Salmonids in Newfoundland and Labrador to delineate the provincial and federal regulator's role as it pertains to reporting, fish containment and recapture (SLG(09)5);
- **DFG – Greenland:** the Review Group applauded the adoption of a new regulatory

measure that was agreed upon for the 2022 season, and ongoing efforts to regulate the fishery (CNL(09)43). The Review Group welcomed the proposed development of the Kapisillit-Austmannadalen national park (CNL(09)43);

- **EU – Denmark:** the Review Group noted the removal of barriers on Skjern River, Sneum River and upper Ribe River in 2022. The Review Group commended the continued commitment of EU – Denmark for its efforts to restore salmon catchments (CNL(10)51);
- **EU – Finland:** the Review Group noted that due to poor stock status of Atlantic salmon populations in the River Teno system, all salmon fishing was closed in 2022 both in the river and in nearby coastal areas in Norway, similarly to 2021 (CNL(09)43);
- **EU – France:** the Review Group welcomed the new migratory fish management plans (PLAGEPOMI) (CNL(09)43);
- **EU – Germany:** the Review Group noted that in 2022, the states in the Rhine catchment started work on commissioning a study to monitor the success of the reintroduction programme. The study is expected to provide insights into the causes of the low numbers as well as proposals for countermeasures (CNL(06)48); it welcomed that construction work to restore ecological continuity at the weir in Kostheim on the River Main, an important tributary of the Rhine, is nearing completion (CNL(10)51); and it was excited to read that in the upper reaches of the Elbe River in Saxony, there is evidence of natural reproduction of salmon in rivers where salmon have not previously been released. It seems that salmon are expanding their range in this region naturally;
- **EU – Ireland:** the Review Group noted the publication of a climate change vulnerability assessment, the identification of waterbodies most at risk from climate change and the delineation of cold-water refuges (CNL(10)51);
- **EU – Portugal:** the Review Group noted changes to legislation on the Lima, Cávado and Minho rivers directed at supporting the conservation of wild salmon; it welcomed that the SALMONLINK project has started, with the objective of engagement with and between scientists and fishermen to support the conservation and participatory management of Atlantic salmon populations in Portugal (CNL(04)55 and CNL(09)43);
- **EU – Spain (Cantabria):** the Review Group commented that the removal of four dams, two in 2021 and two in 2022 is a notable achievement and in line with the Habitat Guidelines (CNL(10)51);
- **EU – Spain (Galicia):** the Review Group noted that in 2022, NGEU funds have supported restoration of habitat measures and actions were taken on removing barriers, new fish ladders or improvement of defective ladders (CNL(10)51). The Review Group noted the impact of the 2022 drought and welcomed EU – Spain (Galicia)’s intention to evaluate the impacts (CNL(10)51);
- **EU – Spain (Gipuzkoa):** the Review Group welcomed that fisheries pressure information has been formally reported for the first time in 2022 (CNL(09)43) and commended the progress made in 2022 on actions to further improve fish passage in the Gipuzkoan rivers (CNL(10)51);
- **EU – Spain (Navarra):** the Review Group welcomed the efforts of the Government

of Navarra, together with other partners, to implement the new LIFE project proposal (LIFE KANTAUERIBAI) targeting the improvement of Atlantic salmon (among other species) in the river catchments of the project area (Gipuzkoa, Navarre and Aquitaine), that has been funded by the Commission (CNL(09)43 and CNL(10)51). It also noted the use of CLs for the first time in the management of wild salmon stocks (CNL(09)43);

- **EU – Sweden:** the Review Group welcomed the progress made in relation to the large scale habitat restoration project in the River Rönneån (CNL(10)51);
- **Norway:** the Review Group noted that the most recent assessment of impact factors identified escaped farmed salmon, salmon lice and climate change as the greatest anthropogenic threats to Norwegian wild salmon (SLG(09)5);
- **UK – Northern Ireland:** the Review Group commended the habitat restoration activities taken across a number of catchments in UK – Northern Ireland (CNL(10)51);
- **UK – Scotland:** the Review Group welcomed the publication of Scotland’s Wild salmon strategy: implementation plan 2023 to 2028 which sets out the actions to be taken over a five-year period to achieve the vision as outlined in the Scottish wild salmon strategy published in January 2022 (CNL(09)43 and CNL(10)51); and
- **USA:** the Review Group welcomed the outreach campaign directed at salmon conservation and the investment in connectivity projects (CNL(09)43 and CNL(10)51).

5. Reflections and Recommendations to Inform Planning of the Fourth Reporting Cycle

5.1 Four years into the third reporting cycle, the Review Group agreed some additional recommendations to / considerations for Council regarding the fourth reporting cycle, as follows:

- it should be recognised that the third reporting cycle has increased engagement across NASCO’s Parties / jurisdictions. The 21 IPs and associated reporting of progress have highlighted the common challenges for wild Atlantic salmon across the North Atlantic and provided a platform for sharing experiences and approaches to address these challenges;
- the Review Group found NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines to be very useful in supporting the development and evaluation of IPs / APRs. The relevant sections of those Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines should be referenced in each IP and the Parties / jurisdictions should state clearly how each action moves them towards their achievement;
- to enable a full understanding of what is expected of NASCO’s Parties / jurisdictions for their IPs and APRs in the fourth reporting cycle, a workshop should be held in advance of IP development to inform the authors of the Plans;
- the impact of climate change on wild Atlantic salmon should be given more prominence;
- the development of a NASCO standardised risk assessment tool capturing the main threats to wild Atlantic salmon, such as presented in recent years by Norway, should be considered to inform an assessment of the highest priority threats / challenges to

populate the IPs for all of NASCO’s Parties / jurisdictions;

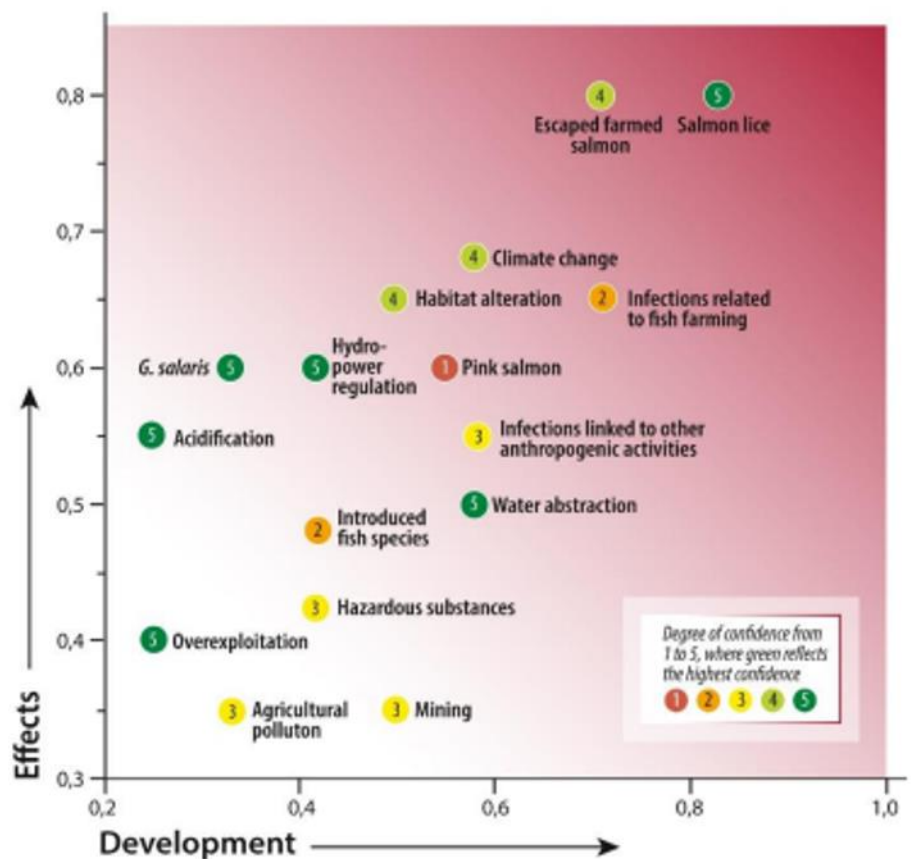


Figure 1. Norway’s risk assessment tool as an example of the kind of assessment tool that can be used to capture the main threats to wild Atlantic salmon ([Norwegian Scientific Advisory Committee for Atlantic Salmon \(SACAS\) 2022](#)).

- mandatory actions in the key reporting areas should be retained;
- where actions are qualitative, there must be a measurable outcome, with milestones, to determine movement towards the achievement of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines;
- for each quantitative action, wherever possible, a standard graph should be used, in each year of reporting, to show the annual results and associated trend over the life of each reporting cycle, together with the appropriate baseline / target;

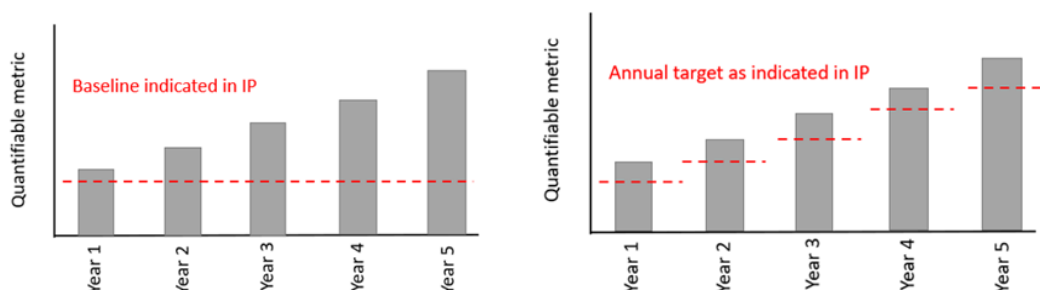


Figure 2. Examples of generic standard graphs to show annual results of a metric, together with the associated baseline / target, over the life of a reporting cycle.

- actions considered to be unsatisfactory by the Review Group should not be reviewed in the APRs; and

- the Review Group Chair and Secretary should be consulted if the Council wants to make changes during the reporting cycle.

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

- 6.1 The Review Group agreed that the Chair would present its report to the Council during the combined Special Session at the Annual Meeting in June 2023. The Group agreed that this report should provide an overview of the evaluations in terms of progress four years into the third reporting cycle. The circulation of the evaluations ahead of the Annual Meeting would facilitate discussion involving all Parties and NGOs.

7. Report of the Meeting

- 7.1 The Review Group agreed a report of its meeting.

8. Other Business

- 8.1 There was no other business.

9. Close of the Meeting

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

***Members of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report
Review Group***

Cathal Gallagher	Inland Fisheries Ireland (Review Group Chair)
Katrine Kærgaard	Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Greenland
Livia Goodbrand	Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Dan Kircheis	NOAA Federal, USA
Paul Knight	Salmon and Trout Conservation UK
Michael Millane	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Steve Sutton	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada (unable to participate in 2023)
Lawrence Talks	Environment Agency, UK



IP(23)04

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

NASCO, Edinburgh

17 – 21 April 2023

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Review and Agree Working Methods
4. Evaluation of the 2023 Annual Progress Reports and Development of Feedback to the Parties / jurisdictions
5. Reflections and Recommendations to Inform Planning of the Fourth Reporting Cycle
6. Arrangements for Presenting the Group's Report to the Council
7. Report of the Meeting
8. Other Business
9. Close of the Meeting

Annual Progress Report Evaluation Table 2023

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you very much indeed.

Standard Text

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

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

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

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

Comments / Recommendations: examples of text used in 2021:

- o The Review Group notes that the current status of this action has not been identified;
- o The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary in next year’s Annual Progress Report;
- o The Review Group looks forward to the update on project outputs (Expected outcome) in the next Annual Progress Report;
- o The Review Group asks when this action will start;

- o The Review Group questions whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2020. If just for 2020 and it will continue, it should be marked as ‘ongoing’;
- o The Review Group expected reporting in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. XXXX);
- o The Review Group welcomes the clear and measurable report of progress.

IP(23)03rev

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

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

Full information and documents are available: [Third Reporting Cycle – NASCO](#).

Revised Implementation Plans (IPs) were received from four of the jurisdictions in EU – Spain in March 2023. However, the actions in those revised IPs were not evaluated by the Review Group in April 2023 because those revised IPs have not yet been reviewed.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
Canada	IP(19)17rev3	IP(21)12_Canada	CNL(20)44rev	CNL(21)45rev	CNL(22)40	CNL(23)41

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 10 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which eight were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, four actions showed clear progress, for two actions the Review Group was unable to determine progress. For one further action, no progress was made in the reporting year and for an eight action the expected outcome was not being achieved. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the two actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed that, following a 2022 review, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard was mandated to 'Work in close collaboration with provincial and territorial authorities, Indigenous partners, fishing and stewardship organizations and implicated communities to make new investments and develop a conservation strategy to restore and rebuild wild Atlantic salmon populations and their habitats – consultations with Indigenous peoples and stakeholders in 2022 with a refined conservation strategy to be developed in 2023' ([CNL\(04\)55](#) and [CNL\(10\)51](#)).

The Review Group noted that the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador updated the Code of Containment for the Culture of Salmonids in Newfoundland and Labrador to delineate the provincial and federal regulator’s role as it pertains to reporting, fish containment and recapture (SLG(09)5).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1 and F2 showed clear progress, while the Review Group was unable to establish progress for Action F4. No progress had been made in the reporting year for Action F3.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1 showed clear progress, while for Action H2, the Review Group was unable to establish progress. The Review Group found that the expected outcome was not being achieved for Action H3.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there were three actions in this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that Action A3 was satisfactory and showed clear progress. As Actions A1 and A2 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Improve understanding of factors affecting survival of salmon at sea, to inform management	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Action against illegal fishing	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that the target for patrol hours in the Maritimes, Quebec and Gulf Regions was not met but was exceeded in the NL region.
F3	Warm water protocols for adaptive management of recreational fisheries	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted no increase in the number of rivers having warm water protocols. Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected

					outcome – i.e. increased number of rivers with warm water protocol in Canada, and a reduction in the number and proportion of salmon that die as a result of catch and release associated with warm water conditions.
F4	Monitoring and management of Labrador mixed-stock fishery	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear in relation to the expected outcome.	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. on the declining trend in captured fish of non-Labrador origin based on improvement of associated management actions.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Management of threats related to industrial land-use activities	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Management of Acid Rain	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear in relation to the approach to monitoring.	The Review Group reiterated its request that a succinct report is provided for each of the seven aspects of the action, to enable efficient evaluation of progress. Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the approach for monitoring – i.e. parr numbers will continue to be monitored in limed areas to assess the continued effectiveness of these efforts. Additionally, adult salmon will be measured by a counting fence.

H3	Management of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	OG	Unsatisfactory	The expected outcome is not being achieved.	The Review Group welcomed the clear reporting against this action, but noted with concern that the eradication programme for Smallmouth bass on the Miramichi has stopped.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Research to support assessment of potential impacts of sea lice from farmed fish on wild Atlantic salmon stocks				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A2	Research to support assessment of genetic introgression and mitigation measures				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A3	Research with respect to wild and farmed fish health and emerging diseases	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Approach for monitoring...' and the 'Expected outcome' as stated in the IP.

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	CNL(19)81	IP(20)09 Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	CNL(20)40	CNL(21)32	CNL(22)30	CNL(23)46

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are four actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, three showed clear progress, while for one, progress was unable to be determined.

The Review Group applauded the adoption of a new regulatory measure that was agreed upon for the 2022 season, and ongoing efforts to regulate the fishery ([CNL\(09\)43](#)). The Review Group welcomed the proposed development of the Kapisillit-Austmannadalen national park ([CNL\(09\)43](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1 and F2 showed clear progress, while for action F3 the Review Group was unable to determine progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there is one action from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1 showed clear progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are no actions in this section of the Implementation Plan.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Evaluation of the reporting system implemented in 2018	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted a slight decline in the reporting percentages from 69.5% in 2021 to 68% in 2022.
F2	Enhance awareness and implementation of the new license system	OG	Satisfactory		

F3	Continue the heightened level of monitoring and control of the salmon fishery	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	The Review Group would welcome quantitative reporting against the expected outcome (i.e. reporting and compliance).
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	The completion and adoption of a protection plan for the Kapisillit River stock and the entire river area.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group appreciated the update on the development of the Kapisillit-Austmannadalen national park.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
NA					

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Denmark	IP(19)09rev2	IP(21)12 EU-Denmark	CNL(20)38	CNL(21)39	CNL(22)25	CNL(23)35

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are five actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed unsatisfactory during its review in November 2021. Therefore, in the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, the Review Group was unable to establish progress on all actions.

The Review Group noted the removal of barriers on Skjern River, Sneum River and upper Ribe River in 2022. The Review Group commended the continued commitment of EU – Denmark for its efforts to restore salmon catchments ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are no actions in this section of the Implementation Plan.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. As Actions H1 to H4 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there was one action in this section of the Implementation Plan. As Action A1 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
NA					
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Removal of barriers				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
H2	Predator regulation				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

H3	River restoration				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
H4	Sediment management				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Avoid establishment of marine salmon farms.				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Finland	CNL(21)68	IP(21)12 EU-Finland	CNL(20)34	CNL(21)34	CNL(22)23	CNL(23)36

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are five actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, four actions showed clear progress, while one was complete.

The Review Group noted that due to poor stock status of Atlantic salmon populations in the River Teno system, all salmon fishing was closed in 2022 both in the river and in nearby coastal areas in Norway, similarly to 2021 ([CNL\(09\)43](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1 and F2 both showed clear progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there is one action from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1 was complete.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions A1 and A2 both showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Enable recovery of the weak salmon stocks to a sustainable level in the River Tana	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that monitoring of conservation status has led to cessation of exploitation of stocks for 2021 and 2022.
F2	Defining spawning targets for the Näätamöjoki river system	OG	Satisfactory		

Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Avoidance of small migration barriers and erosion during road construction	CD			The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2020.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Preventing spread of <i>G. salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group again requested information in relation to the monitoring programme and also in relation to the protection of the Näätämöjoki river from <i>G. salaris</i> .
A2	Monitoring of farmed salmon in catches of wild salmon	OG	Satisfactory		

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – France	IP(19)16rev2	IP(20)09 EU – France	CNL(20)35	CNL(21)37	CNL(22)34	CNL(23)37

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 10 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which nine were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, five showed clear progress, while for three, progress was unable to be determined. One action had not yet started. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the action deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the new migratory fish management plans (PLAGEPOMI) ([CNL\(09\)43](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action F2 showed clear progress. For Action F1 the Review Group was unable to determine progress. As Action F4 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H2 and H3 showed clear progress, while the Review Group was unable to establish progress for Action H1 and H4.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions A2 and A3 showed clear progress and Action A1 had not yet started.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Diadromous Good Ecological Status indicators	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. management of the resource will be adapted and the MSFD objectives will be achieved.
F2	Conservation limits for fished French rivers	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that progress is being made in establishing Conservation Limits and would expect the indicators in the approach to monitoring section, to be reported on.
F4	Determine the origin of salmon caught in estuaries and rivers through scientific studies				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress

					against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Improve upstream and downstream movement by reducing the impacts of obstacles on the main watercourses populated by salmon (removing, levelling or modifying obstacles).	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see reporting against the indicators in the 'Approach to monitoring'.
H2	Identify strategic salmon spawning and nursery habitats and match these with appropriate regulatory instruments for their protection.	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see reporting against the indicators in the 'Approach to monitoring'.
H3	Improving the function of 'weakened' habitat.	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see reporting against the expected outcome as provided in the IP.
H4	Co-ordinate salmon action plans with existing planning and management documents.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see reporting against the 'Approach for monitoring' as provided in the IP.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Assessment of stocking practices	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects

					progress against the action to be reported next year.
A2	Implementing reporting specifically on sea lice	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group sought clarification that no sea lice are being reported on fish in EU – France aquaculture.
A3	Monitoring escapes from commercial marine salmon farms	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group requested information on the monitoring process used to establish the level of escapes.

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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Germany	CNL(21)69	IP(21)12 EU-Germany	CNL(20)36	CNL(21)36	CNL(22)26	CNL(23)47rev

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report’s review, five actions showed clear progress and one was complete. For one action the Review Group was unable to determine progress.

The Review Group noted that in 2022, the states in the Rhine catchment started work on commissioning a study to monitor the success of the reintroduction programme. The study is expected to provide insights into the causes of the low numbers as well as proposals for countermeasures ([CNL\(06\)48](#)).

The Review Group welcomed that construction work to restore ecological continuity at the weir in Kostheim on the River Main, an important tributary of the Rhine, is nearing completion ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

The Review Group was excited to read that in the upper reaches of the Elbe River in Saxony, there is evidence of natural reproduction of salmon in rivers where salmon have not previously been released. It seems that salmon are expanding their range in this region naturally.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action F1 showed clear progress, while the Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action F2.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1, H2 and H3 showed clear progress, while Action H4 was complete.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there was one action in this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that this Action (A1) was satisfactory and showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Build up a self-sustaining salmon stock in the Agger river system.	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Requirement to designate a fishing ban zone in the Nahe river.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group noted the planned timescale in the IP. However, the Review Group was unclear whether the action has delivered a fishing ban zone in the area of the Nahe river mouth as would have been expected.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Preserve and restore the ecological passability at about 250 barrages in German federal waterways	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Restoration of up- and downstream river connectivity in the German Rhine catchment area	OG	Satisfactory		

H3	Establish river connectivity for fish in the Elbe catchment.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the addition of qualitative data to the body of the report as requested.
H4	Regulation of avian predation.	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2022.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Undertake a co-ordinated genetic monitoring in the entire Rhine Catchment area.	OG	Satisfactory		

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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Ireland	IP(19)15rev2	IP(21)12 EU-Ireland	CNL(20)28	CNL(21)38	CNL(22)39	CNL(23)38

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which nine were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, seven actions showed clear progress, while one was complete. One action was deemed unsatisfactory as the 'Expected outcome' was not being achieved. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the two actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group noted the publication of a climate change vulnerability assessment, the identification of waterbodies most at risk from climate change and the delineation of cold-water refuges ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1, F2 and F4 showed clear progress and Action F3 was complete. The Review Group welcomed the clear and succinct reporting for all of these actions.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H2, H3 and H4 showed clear progress. For Action H1, the expected outcome was not being achieved.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action A3 showed clear progress. As Actions A1 and A2 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Protection against illegal fishing by Fishery Inspectors, Navy, Garda etc.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the continued provision of informative and succinct enforcement metrics and noted the 11% increase in fishery enforcement staff hours on 2021.
F2	Active promotion of the returns of accurate catch information from anglers and commercial fishers through the national carcass tagging and logbook scheme	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group found it helpful to have preceding years’ data to show trends, in addition to the reporting for 2022.
F3	IYS promotion through IFI’s education and outreach programme	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2020.
F4	Permit the operation of mixed-stock commercial fisheries only in estuaries where the stocks of contributing rivers simultaneously exceed the conservation limit (CL) set	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the continued permitting of four mixed-stock commercial fisheries in 2022.

Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Actions that will be taken to address identified pressures as set out in Ireland's River Basin Management Plan	OG	Unsatisfactory	Expected outcome is not being achieved	The Review Group welcomed the clear reporting against this action but noted with concern the general decline in river water quality.
H2	Addressing hydromorphological threats	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the ongoing work to address barriers and improve habitat, but clear within year reporting is expected.
H3	Evidence-based assessment programme to determine the impact of climate change on the Irish fisheries	OG	Satisfactory		
H4	Prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that the second part of this action was completed in 2021.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Salmon lice infestations				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A2	Containment				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the

					Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A3	Maintenance of disease-free status for major diseases of salmonids listed in Regulation 2016/429 and for which Ireland is declared disease free under national Measures (BKD and <i>G. salaris</i>)	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that EU – Ireland has maintained disease free status.

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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Portugal	IP(19)06rev2	IP(21)12 EU-Portugal	CNL(20)43	CNL(21)35	CNL(22)24	CNL(23)39rev

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which four were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, one showed clear progress, while for three, progress was unable to be determined. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the seven actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group noted changes to legislation on the Lima, Cávado and Minho rivers directed at supporting the conservation of wild salmon.

The Review Group welcomed that the SALMONLINK project has started, with the objective of engagement with and between scientists and fishermen to support the conservation and participatory management of Atlantic salmon populations in Portugal ([CNL\(04\)55](#) and [CNL\(09\)43](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action F4 showed clear progress, while for Actions F1, F3 and F6 the Review Group was unable to determine progress. As Actions F2 and F5 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. As Actions H1 and H2 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. As all three (Actions A1, A2 and A3) were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Establishment of a Commission for the Monitoring of Diadromous Species Fisheries with a working group exclusively dedicated to the Atlantic salmon.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group welcomed the cross jurisdictional engagement relating to the management of salmon. The Review Group was unclear if the Commission described in the ‘Description of action’ has been established. Given this lack of clarity it is difficult to determine progress in the reporting year.
F2	Perform a scientific assessment				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

F3	Operational Plan for the Monitoring and Management of Anadromous Fish in Portugal – An@dromos.PT	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group acknowledged that EU – Portugal has provided information on monitoring but has not provided information on management. The Review Group considered that this action is not complete as all the expected outcomes have not been achieved.
F4	Permanent International Commission for collaborative management of the international section of the Minho River	OG	Satisfactory		
F5	Establishing harmonized legislation regarding: fishing restrictions/interdictions, closures, minimum sizes, allowed gears, control and inspection in both rivers. Promote clarification actions among fishermen.				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
F6	Revision of the Portuguese Red Book of freshwater and diadromous fishes	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Assessing and enhancing ecosystem services provided by diadromous fish in a climate change context – DiadES				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review

					Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
H2	Migra Miño-Minho Project:				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Ensure the monitoring and control of the facility and minimize the environmental impacts. To guarantee the physical-chemical quality and the biological safety of the discharged water in the natural environment.				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A2	Prevent the escape of non-indigenous specimens to the natural environment, avoiding the ecological impact.				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A3	Attribution and maintenance of a disease-free status for all				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group.

	aquaculture establishments.				However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
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*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Spain (Asturias)	IP(19)20rev3	IP(21)12 EU-Spain (Asturias)	CNL(20)29	CNL(21)44	CNL(22)35	CNL(23)30

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, five actions showed clear progress, while for two, progress was unable to be determined.

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

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

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there is one action from this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that Action A1 showed clear progress.

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

F1	Increase vigilance to evaluate possible illegal fishing. Although it is estimated that undeclared catches are very low, efforts will continue to maintain this situation.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that the number of complaints related to fishing without payment of fees increased between 2021 and 2022. As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
F2	Regulate river catches avoiding overfishing.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group requested that data be provided on the number of fish entering the river, number caught and the number killed by anglers and how that relates to the expected outcome of the action. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported in the section 'Progress on action to date'. As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
F3	Perform annual censuses (counts) broodstock salmon to estimate their number against fishing. This data allows to calculate a conservation limit.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledged that the annual census was completed for 2022. As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
F4	Reinforce populations with repopulations of salmon fry.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the ongoing restocking programme was completed in 2022. As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.

Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Program of cleaning and annual maintenance of the scales in mini-stations and obstacles to the ski lift of the salmon	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the ongoing programme of cleaning fish passes was completed in 2022. As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
H2	Controls of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> are performed. Increase knowledge about the problem of predation, which is difficult to solve.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Not possible to determine progress	The Review Group noted the ongoing action to control cormorants but would have welcomed numbers / metrics on the impact the action is having on the cormorant population/salmon predation. As this seems to be an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Continue restocking programmes	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that Action F4 refers to this action of restocking and that the target has been surpassed in 2022. Consideration should be given to using the numbers provided in F4 when reporting on this action. As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.

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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Spain (Cantabria)	IP(19)22rev2	IP(21)12 EU-Spain (Cantabria)	CNL(20)30	CNL(21)40	CNL(22)36	CNL(23)31

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 10 actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report’s review, for five actions the Review Group was unable to determine progress and five actions had not yet started.

The Review Group commented that the removal of four dams, two in 2021 and two in 2022 is a notable achievement ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

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

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. Two actions had not yet started (Actions H2 and H3), while for two, Actions H1 and H4, progress was unable to be determined.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there is one action from this section of the Implementation Plan (Action A1). The Review Group agreed that progress was unable to be determined for the action.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Reducing over-exploitation of MSW in rivers through restrictions on landing large fish.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report continues to be unclear. As we noted in 2022, <i>‘The Review Group recognises the positive element of setting a TAC, but it remains unclear</i>	The Review Group noted that the reporting is in line with the reporting done in 2021 and 2022, except for the decreases in the TAC. The Review Group reiterated that it would welcome a clear description of demonstrated progress towards increased MSW survival and increased egg deposition as described in the Expected outcome.

				<i>what the 20% is in reference to, and how setting a TAC of 90 relates to a reduction in the over-exploitation of MSW fish. Nor does the response speak to the expected outcome of increased egg deposition and MSW survival.'</i>	
F2	Joint promotion, with stakeholders, of catch and release in rod fisheries.	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year.
F3	Establishing Conservation Limits and management targets from all salmon stocks	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. As the Review Group stated in 2022, we <i>'acknowledge the setting of the TAC (management target) but it remains unclear how setting a catch limit contributes to</i>	The Review Group reiterated that it expected to see reporting in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan - i.e. Monitor the current status of stocks relative to the reference points established. Parr surveys, catch statistics & exploitation in rivers.

				<i>providing data on the current stock status, or the development of Conservation Limits.'</i>	
F4	Establishing in-river exploitation levels, through tagging/returns & catch and effort statistics	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year.
F5	Running monitoring in index river (smolt & spawner census, tagging of smolt, electrofishing).	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Improve fish passage by removing dams, installing fishways, removing culverts and upgrading road-stream crossings	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data that is in line with the expected outcomes necessary to demonstrate progress	The Review Group welcomed the removal of two additional dams in areas with salmon habitat. However, in 2021, the Review Group requested that in future reporting that consideration is given to the provision of data in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. Enumerate the number of habitat area units and / or stream kilometres made accessible). Without information that enumerates habitat units / stream miles opened up,

					the Review Group is unable to evaluate progress. The Review Group commended efforts in removing the 13 dams in basins with no salmon habitat currently but sought information as to whether these were historically salmon catchments .
H2	Undertaking further research on impacts of hydropower (including cumulative effects) and taking account of best scientific advice to maintain etc.	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year.
H3	Provision of appropriate river flows by implementing sustainable abstraction programmes	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year.
H4	Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use, through implementing the SACs Management Plans	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. As the review group stated in 2022, <i>'although it states a 40% measure of progress, it is unclear what progress has been made and what the 40% is in reference to.'</i>	As expressed in 2022, the Review Group reiterated that it would like to see a description of the improvements to water bodies and land management practices that contributed to the 40% stated measure of progress (similar to the reporting under Action H1). The Review Group considered that inclusion of targets would support the evaluation of this action.

Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Regulate salmonid stocking in Cantabrian rivers by implementing and enforcing existing and proposed new stocking programme. The scheme will include limiting stock levels and preserving the genetic integrity of stocked fish. Out of catchment introductions of fish will be forbidden	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress	The Review Group welcomed the explanation on how the Recovery Plan informs the stocking program. It requested that information is provided that demonstrates clear progress made within the reporting year towards the expected outcomes.

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Spain (Galicia)	IP(19)19rev2	IP(21)12 EU-Spain (Galicia)	CNL(20)31	CNL(21)42	CNL(22)37	CNL(23)32

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

All four actions in the Implementation Plan were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, three actions were deemed to be complete, while for one, progress was unable to be determined.

The Review Group noted that in 2022, NGEU funds have supported restoration of habitat measures and actions were taken on removing barriers, new fish ladders or improvement of defective ladders ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

The Review Group noted the impact of the 2022 drought and welcomed EU – Spain (Galicia)'s intention to evaluate the impacts ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. It agreed that one action (Action F4) was complete and for the other (Action F3), progress was unable to be determined.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Both were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that both actions (Actions H1 and H2) had been completed.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: There are no actions in this section of the Implementation Plan.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F3	Progressive limitation of “conflictive” sea-trout fisheries (14 rivers), closing the season together for both species	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that it appears that no additional conservation measures have been introduced since 2021.
F4	Stocking Miño’s tributaries in Portugal and Spain presently not used by salmon with parr of local origin (river Tea).	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that stocking has been completed and looked forward to evaluation of the smolt trap and annual return figures.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Design and testing of new passage facilities for some tributaries of the Miño river.	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group would welcome an understanding of whether these new fish ladders have allowed salmon to reach the cooler pristine waters of the upper reaches of the Miño system.
H2	Permeabilization or demolition of barriers in the Miño system	CD	Satisfactory		

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Spain (Gipuzkoa)	IP(20)04rev	IP(21)12 EU-Spain (Gipuzkoa)	NA	NA	CNL(22)38	CNL(23)33

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are six actions in the Implementation Plan, of which five were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report’s review, four actions showed clear progress and one had not yet started. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the action deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed that fisheries pressure information has been reported formally for the first time in 2022 ([CNL\(09\)43](#)) and commended the progress made in 2022 on actions to further improve fish passage in the Gipuzkoan rivers ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1 and F3 showed clear progress. As Action F2 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1 showed clear progress, while Action H2 had not yet started.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there was one action in this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that this Action (A1) was satisfactory and showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Annual scientific monitoring of the species	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looked forward to seeing summary reporting on “biometric and biological data” of fish

					sampled in the traps on the Urumea and Oria rivers in future APRs as stated in the Implementation Plan. As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
F2	Control of recreational fishery				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
F3	Increase the knowledge about the angling activity	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed that fisheries pressure information has been formally reported for the first time in 2022. As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Evaluation of fish passage and increased connectivity	OG	Satisfactory	Progress report is unclear for item (1); reliance on references to websites or publications for item (1)	The Review Group commended the progress made in 2022 on actions to further improve fish passage in the Deba, Urola and Oiartzun rivers. The Review Group requires more information in future APR reports to assess whether satisfactory progress has been made under this action for (1).

					As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as Ongoing’.
H2	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Supplemental [Restorative] stocking of Gipuzkoan rivers with salmon yearlings	OG	Satisfactory		As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as ‘Ongoing’.

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Spain (Navarra)	CNL(21)70	IP(21)12 EU-Spain (Navarra)	CNL(20)32	CNL(21)43	CNL(22)38	CNL(23)34

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are nine actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report’s review, seven actions showed clear progress or were complete. For one action progress was unable to be determined and another had not yet started.

The Review Group welcomed the efforts of the Government of Navarra, together with other partners, to implement the new LIFE project proposal (LIFE KANTAUERIBAI) targeting the improvement of Atlantic salmon (among other species) in the river catchments of the project area (Gipuzkoa, Navarre and Aquitaine), that has been funded by the Commission ([CNL\(09\)43](#) and [CNL\(10\)51](#)).

The Review Group also noted the use of Conservation Limits for the first time in the management of wild salmon stocks ([CNL\(09\)43](#)).

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

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are three satisfactory actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1 showed clear progress, while for Action H2 the Review Group was unable to determine progress. Action H3 had not yet started.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two satisfactory actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action A1 showed clear progress, while Action A2 was complete.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Data analysis for the establishment of the necessary reference limits.	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the report published in 2021.
F2	Annual monitoring of the species, based on collection of various biometric and biological data	OG	Satisfactory		As this is an annual action, status should be identified as ‘Ongoing’.
F3	Establishment of the annual total authorized catch (TAC) and the multi-sea-winter protection measures.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the proactive management of TAC and alignment to established CLs for 1SW and MSW stock. The Review Group shared the concern of EU – Spain (Navarra) over the very worrying decline in returning adult salmon. As this is an annual action, status should be identified as ‘Ongoing’.

F4	Socio-economic study of the angling activity in Bidasoa River	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looked forward to the publication of the report on the socio-economic study of the angling activity in Bidasoa River.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Evaluation of the permeability of 7 obstacles or fish-ways carried out. Preparation and implementation of 12 new projects to improve longitudinal connectivity.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group could not establish progress on this action for 2022.
H3	Study about the smolt mortality during the migration to the sea in the hydropower turbines of the Bidasoa River basin	NS		Action not yet started	The Review Group noted the commencement of this project in 2023 and looks forward to seeing the results in 2025.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Continue supplemental stocking until Favourable Conservation Status is achieved	OG	Satisfactory		As this is an annual action, status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
A2	Genetic characterization of the salmon population	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this action was completed in 2020.

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
EU – Sweden	IP(19)07rev2	IP(21)12 EU-Sweden	CNL(20)33	CNL(21)33	CNL(22)27	CNL(23)40

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 16 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 15 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, 12 showed clear progress, while for one, progress was unable to be determined. For two actions, no progress had been made in the reporting year. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the action deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the progress made in relation to the large scale habitat restoration project in the River Rönneån ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are 10 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Seven showed clear progress (Actions F2, F3 and F5-F9). For Actions F1 and F4, no progress had been made in the reporting year. As Actions F10 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1, H3 and H4 showed clear progress. For Action H2 no apparent progress had been made in the reporting year.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Both showed clear progress (Actions A1 and A2).

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Implementing fishing rules that decrease exploitation of weak stocks	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that new fishing rules were due to be implemented in 2021 / 22 but have been delayed.
F2	Fin-clipping smolts	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to

					see reporting against the ‘Approach to monitoring’ in the IP.
F3	Avoiding mixed-stock fisheries on the coast	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Avoiding mixed-stock fisheries in rivers with stocking of reared salmon in the main river stem and production of wild salmon in tributaries	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that these fisheries have continued in 2022. Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. recovery of wild salmon stocks in tributaries to the rivers Göta älv, Nissan and Lagan.
F5	Successively, improve knowledge of genetic diversity and status of all stocks in the main rivers, and larger tributaries	OG	Satisfactory		As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as ‘Ongoing’.
F6	Continued monitoring in the designated (index) river	OG	Satisfactory		As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as ‘Ongoing’.
F7	Annually assess each river stock’s reproductive capacity	OG	Satisfactory		As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as ‘Ongoing’.
F8	Monitor exploitation in two rivers	OG	Satisfactory		As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as ‘Ongoing’.
F9	Improve catch statistics in rivers and on the coast	OG	Satisfactory		As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as ‘Ongoing’.
F10	Fish management units in salmon rivers				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group.

					However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Continued liming of acidified salmon rivers and tributaries	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expects to see delivery against the expected outcome as stated in the IP. As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
H2	Impact of hydropower production on salmon migration and loss of salmon habitat	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year.	The Review Group noted that the progress report provided contains the same text as the previous year. In addition, the Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary in next year's Annual Progress Report (as also recommended previously). As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.
H3	Continued improvement of habitat in salmon rivers.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the further details reported and progress made in relation to the large-scale habitat restoration project in the River Rönneån.
H4	Improved ability to prevent introduction of alien species, detect and identify alien species and take measures against alien species	OG	Satisfactory		

Aquaculture and Related Activities						
A1	Continued monitoring of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> , and develop a road map and contingency plan to prevent spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> to not infected rivers	OG	Satisfactory			Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the description of action, in particular the development of a road map and contingency plan to prevent spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> to uninfected rivers.
A2	Develop the national ability to genetically identify alien Atlantic salmon	OG	Satisfactory			As this is an annual action, current status should be identified as 'Ongoing'.

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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
Norway	IP(19)18rev4	IP(22)12 Norway	CNL(20)39	CNL(21)28	CNL(22)29	CNL(23)45

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 23 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 19 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2022. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, 12 showed clear progress, one was complete, while for three actions, progress was unable to be determined. For two actions, no progress had been made in the reporting year and one had not achieved the expected outcome. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the four actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group noted that the most recent assessment of impact factors identified escaped farmed salmon, salmon lice and climate change as the greatest anthropogenic threats to Norwegian wild salmon ([SLG\(09\)5](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1 and F5 showed clear progress and Action F3 was complete. For Action F2 no progress had been made in the reporting year, and for Action F4 the Review Group was unable to determine progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1 and H2 both showed clear progress. As Actions H2-2 and H3 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are 14 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Eight actions showed clear progress (Actions A1-1, A1-4, A3-1, A3-2, A3-3, A3-4, A4-1, A4-3). For Actions A1-2 and A1-5 the Review Group was unable to determine progress and for Action A1-3, no apparent progress has been made in the reporting year. For Action A1-6 the expected outcome was not being achieved. As Actions A2 and A4-2 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Development, testing and evaluation of an expanded sea survival surveillance program	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. increased knowledge about salmon recruitment, growth and sea survival at a national and regional scale.
F2	(a) Increased effort to reveal and sanction illegal fisheries. (b) Revision of salmon and inland fisheries act to introduce stricter reactions to violation of legislation	CD-NP	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress in part a)	The Review Group again reiterated its wish to be informed of the number of illegal salmon fisheries that were sanctioned. The Review Group noted that the expected outcome, ‘reduction in illegal fisheries’, is unable to be determined given the lack of quantitative data.
F3	Major revision of regulatory measures in rivers and in	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2021.

	mixed-stock fisheries in the sea for the period 2021-2026				
F4	Development of an electronic system to make reporting of catches in the sea by recreational anglers possible.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expects to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. reduction in unreported catches.
F5	Introduction of second generation Spawning Targets	OG	Satisfactory		
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Long-term liming of 24 acidified rivers	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. restored salmon stocks and fishing possibilities.
H2	Mitigation measures for improved salmon habitat in regulated rivers	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. restored fish habitat and increased salmon production in regulated rivers.
H2-2	Revision of terms for hydropower production licenses and address of rules of operation, in several rivers.				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

H3	Improving salmon habitat in rivers altered to improve security during flood.				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1-1	Approximately 20 stocks in Hardangerfjord region will be conserved in the Hardangerfjord live Gene Bank	OG	Satisfactory		
A1-2	Further improvement of precautionary measures in aquaculture facilities	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. reduced hybridisation between wild and farmed fish, with a qualitative improvement in genetic integrity at population level.
A1-3	Establish more experience with farming sterile fish in commercial fish farms	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome –i.e. reduced hybridisation between wild and farmed fish, with a qualitative improvement in genetic integrity at population level.
A1-4	Further developing and improving the National	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected

	monitoring program of escaped salmon in the rivers				outcome – i.e. reduced hybridisation between wild and farmed fish, with a qualitative improvement in genetic integrity at population level.
A1-5	Continue the efforts of removal of escaped fish in rivers before spawning season through OURO	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. reduced hybridisation between wild and farmed fish, with a qualitative improvement in genetic integrity at population level.
A1-6	Monitoring project on genetical integrity in wild Atlantic Salmon populations	OG	Unsatisfactory	Expected outcome is not being achieved	The Review Group welcomed the clear reporting against this action but noted with concern the risk of further genetic changes in wild salmon due to introgression from escaped farmed salmon.
A2:	Continuous implementation of the Traffic Light System and the regulations related to production areas, and sea lice monitoring and control in fish farms.				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A3-1	Eradication of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in the Driva (4 rivers) and Drammen (3 river) region.	OG	Satisfactory		
A3-2	Surveillance of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		

A3-3	Contingency plan for <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		
A3-4	Information campaign on <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		
A4-1	Threats posed by Pink Salmon	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to the update on this action in the next Annual Progress Report in anticipation of the expected 2023 run of pink salmon.
A4-2	Research about fish traps				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A4-3	Catch register for Pink salmon	OG	Satisfactory		

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
Russian Federation	IP(19)05rev	IP(20)09 Russian Federation	CNL(20)26	CNL(21)26	CNL(22)22	CNL(23)28

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, of which six were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, four showed clear progress, while for two, progress was unable to be determined. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the action deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action F2 showed clear progress. For Action F1 no progress had been made in the reporting year, and for Action F3 the Review Group was unable to determine progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1 showed clear progress. As Action H2 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Both showed clear progress (Actions A1 and A2).

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Estimate unreported catches	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expects estimates of unreported catches and further measures to reduce unreported catches, to be reported next year.
F2	Develop CLs for salmon stocks	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group requested reporting, in the next APR, on the number of salmon rivers that have been assigned CLs.
F3	Monitor salmon stocks in the Murmansk region. Monitor interceptory coastal salmon fishery in the Barents Sea	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome - i.e. reporting on status of salmon stocks in the Murmansk region and assessment of the effectiveness of management measures.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					

H1	Continue developing inventories of salmon rivers	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Development of habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Develop a policy on sea lice and containment consistent with NASCO's BMP guidance	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. achievement of the international goals for 100% of farms to have effective sea lice management and achieving 100% containment.
A2	Minimise the risk of further spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> . Implement the 11 'Road Map' recommendations	OG	Satisfactory		

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

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
UK – England and Wales	CNL(21)71	IP(21)12 UK – England and Wales	CNL(20)37	CNL(21)29	CNL(22)32	CNL(23)42

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 16 actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report’s review, nine actions showed clear progress and one was complete. For six actions the Review Group was unable to establish progress.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Five actions showed clear progress (Actions F1-F3 and F5 and F6). Action F4 was complete.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1, H3 and H5 showed clear progress, while for three actions the Review Group was unable to determine progress (Actions H2, H4 and H6).

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there were four actions in this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that Action A3 showed clear progress, and was unable to determine progress for Actions A1, A2 and A4.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Annual assessments of salmon stocks and review of management measures	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Improved stock assessment methodology	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	New restrictions on net and rod fisheries	OG	Satisfactory		

F4	Introduce measures to phase out / regulate any remaining MSFs to reduce fishing mortality to sustainable levels in order to conserve stocks	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2022.
F5	Promote Catch & Release	OG	Satisfactory		
F6	Ensure that unregulated (illegal) fishing and bycatch in other fisheries does not threaten conservation of stocks	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the clear reporting but noted that the enforcement effort was low.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Increase salmon's climate change resilience	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expects to see delivery against the description of action in part c) and clearer understanding of the effectiveness of part b).
H2	Improve the survival of salmon in estuaries and inshore waters	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress.	The Review Group noted clear progress on parts a), b), c) and f). It was unable to determine if progress was made on parts d) and e).
H3	Improve fish passage and salmon habitat through implementing River Basin Management Plans	OG	Satisfactory		
H4	Ensure sufficient flow for salmon through delivering measures to realise sustainable abstraction	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress.	The Review Group considered that although progress was made for some parts of the action, there were an equal

					number of parts where there was no progress or the progress was unclear.
H5	Improving healthy smolt production by improving water quality	OG	Satisfactory		The reporting on this action continues to be long by nature of having 4 parts.
H6	Addressing the threat of predation	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress.	The Review Group considered that although progress was made for some parts of the action, there were an equal number of parts where there was no progress or the progress was unclear.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Controlling salmon stocking	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group noted clear progress on parts a) and c) but was unable to determine if progress was made on parts b). Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expects to see reporting against the 'Approach for monitoring' in the Implementation Plan for part b).
A2	Prevent the introduction and spread of non-native fish, invertebrate species, parasites and diseases, excluding <i>G. salaris</i>	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group was unable to determine progress as it relates to the conservation of salmon.
A3	Prevent the introduction and spread of the non-native parasite <i>G. salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		
A4	Prevent an adverse impact of aquaculture on water quality	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group was unable to determine progress because there were no reference points to show progress

					against the expected outcomes, as in the 2022 APR. The Review Group would like to understand how the breaches impact wild salmon populations.
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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
UK – Northern Ireland	IP(19)08rev4	IP(22)12 UK – Northern Ireland	CNL(20)41	CNL(21)31	CNL(22)33	CNL(23)43

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 17 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 16 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2022. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, 10 showed clear progress, while for four, progress was unable to be determined. For two actions, no progress had been made in the reporting year. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the action deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group commended the habitat restoration activities taken across a number of catchments in UK – Northern Ireland ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F3-F6 showed clear progress. For Action F2 no progress had been made in the reporting year, and for Action F1 the Review Group was unable to determine progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1, H2, H3 and H5 showed clear progress. For Action H4, the Review Group was unable to determine progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions A2 and A4 showed clear progress, whilst the Review Group was unable to determine progress for Actions A5 and A6. No progress was reported on Action A3. As Action A1 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Manage NI's 18 primary rivers affected by both commercial and recreational fisheries to exceed their CLs	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	The Review Group noted with concern that rivers below their CLs had been allocated a harvestable surplus. The Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. evidence of more primary salmon rivers increasing their adult returns and exceeding their CLs.
F2	Update Conservation limits and Management targets for 3 primary salmon rivers in Northern Ireland using refreshed habitat data	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	
F3	Maintain the Long Term Monitoring of Wild Salmon Stock on the R Bush - used as an Index River for NI	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Assess mortality of wild salmon smolts moving from the freshwater to the marine environment	OG	Satisfactory		
F5	Improve recreational catch returns and statistics from the current baseline of 5 - 10% to 30%	OG	Satisfactory		
F6	Protect wild salmon stocks from illegal activity	OG	Satisfactory		

Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Assess and provide fishery advice for 100% of River drainage maintenance schemes to protect salmon habitat and to incorporate mitigation / improvement measures where possible	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Management and control of water quality in salmon producing rivers in NI - the target is to have 70% of rivers at good ecological status by 2021.	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expects to see delivery against the 'Description of action' – i.e. management and control of water quality in salmon producing rivers in NI - the target is to have 70% of rivers at good ecological status by 2021.
H3	Identify and assess the impact of barriers on 18 primary salmon rivers in NI by 2024.	OG	Satisfactory		
H4	Update the inventory of current and potential salmon habitat on 3 primary salmon rivers in NI.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress	
H5	Enhance degraded habitat or improve salmon habitat on primary salmon rivers in NI with rivers below CL being prioritised.	OG	Satisfactory		Again, the Review Group commended the very clear quantitative reporting on this action.

Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	To manage sea lice levels in salmon aquaculture in NI.				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A2	Monitor for Non NI escapee aquaculture salmon in a wild salmon stock in N. Ireland.	OG	Satisfactory		
A3	Monitoring sea lice levels in aquaculture salmon in N. Ireland	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year.	The Review Group noted that no progress on the action was reported.
A4	Monitor levels of genetic introgression of aquaculture salmon into wild stocks in NI	OG	Satisfactory		
A5	Assess marine aquaculture sites annually	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group acknowledged that no escapes were reported from aquaculture facilities in 2022 but it still remains unclear how a visual surface inspection can establish the potential for escapes.
A6	Establish long term monitoring through the establishment of a sea lice - mortality risk index in wild anadromous salmonids in an	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	It was unclear to the Review Group how the survey as outlined will deliver the establishment of a long-term sea lice-mortality risk index.

	area with aquaculture production.				
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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
UK – Scotland	IP(19)10rev3	IP(22)12 UK – Scotland	CNL(20)42rev	CNL(21)30rev	CNL(22)31	CNL(23)44

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 20 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 19 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2022. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, nine showed clear progress, while progress was unable to be determined for another nine. One was complete. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the action deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the publication of Scotland's 'Wild Salmon Strategy: Implementation Plan 2023 to 2028' which sets out the actions to be taken over a five-year period to achieve the vision as outlined in the Scottish Wild Salmon Strategy published in January 2022 ([CNL\(09\)43](#) and [CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1-1 and F1-2 showed clear progress and Action F1-3 was complete. For Action F2 no progress had been made in the reporting year.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are 11 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1-2, H7, H8-1 and H8-3 all showed clear progress, while for Actions H1-1, H2, H3, H4, H5, H6 and H8-2 progress was unable to be determined. The Review Group expects that UK – Scotland will provide quantitative reports on progress made (i.e. river length / proportion of individual and / or collective rivers affected by actions) for Actions H1-1, H2, H3, H4, H5 and H6 in next year's APR as stated in expected outcomes to enable the Review Group to assess progress made.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions A2, A3(i) and A3 (iii) showed clear progress. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action A1. As Action A2 & A3(ii) was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1-1	Continued annual assessment of Scotland's stocks using an adult based assessment method based on rod catch information and additional ancillary data.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group requested a revised date for completion of this action with regard to developing and publishing of the assessment methods.
F1-2	Development of a complementary juvenile assessment tool	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group requested, as the end of the reporting cycle is approached, that the completion date for this action be provided.
F1-3	Research study on C&R effect on fish	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this action was completed in 2022.
F2	Review of Scotland's inshore marine gill net legislation.	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year.	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have progressed by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1-1	Reductions in point source and diffuse pollution through River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) and associated Regulations	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Although explanations are provided for the lack of reporting, it could not be determined if progress was	The Review Group notes the reported impacts on the action from the cybersecurity attacks.

				made in the reporting year.	
H1-2	Explore the benefit and feasibility of nutrient enrichment in upland oligotrophic parts of river systems.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that UK – Scotland has provided information in the ‘Approach to monitoring’ section rather than the ‘Progress on action to date’ section. It asks that in future that UK – Scotland only provides status updates in the ‘Progress on action to date’ section.
H2	Assessment of the main pressures on river flows and levels in Scotland	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Although explanations are provided for the lack of reporting, it could not be determined if progress was made in the reporting year.	The Review Group noted the reported impacts on the action from the cybersecurity attacks. The Review Group again looks forward to seeing data to support a reduction in the river length affected by abstraction; flow regulation; upland / agriculture, land-use and drainage; and / or forestry drainage, in future Annual Progress Reports.
H3	Implement Scotland’s Second Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP2).	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group welcomed the reported initiatives to advance this action and the development of associated management tools in the previous Annual Progress Report. However, it is unclear what progress has been achieved in relation to the expected outcome and ‘Approach for monitoring effectiveness and enforcement’ as set out in the Implementation Plan.

H4	Prevention of morphological impacts and passive recovery of watercourses through the controlled activity regulations (CAR) and associated “General Binding Rules”	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Although explanations are provided for the lack of reporting, it could not be determined if progress was made in the reporting year.	The Review Group noted the reported impacts on the action from the cybersecurity attacks. The Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – a reduction in the river length affected by sedimentation; loss of sediment transfer; lack of, or excessive, large woody debris; canalisation / dredging / boulder removal.
H5	Adherence to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and its supporting Forests and Water Guidelines	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome - by the end of the five-year NASCO plan period, a reduction in the river length affected by loss of natural riparian vegetation and / or conifer afforestation.
H6	Address fish passage challenges identified in Scotland’s River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Although explanations are provided for the lack of reporting, it could not be determined if progress was made in the reporting year.	The Review Group noted the reported impacts on the action from the cybersecurity attacks. The Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome - reduction, by the end of the five-year NASCO plan period, in the river length affected by upstream passage (consider cumulative impacts); downstream passage; dams / weirs / large water bodies; and / or other. The Review Group noted, in the 2021 UK – Scotland APR, a target to remove or ease 244 impassable man-made barriers by 2027. The Review Group

					sought confirmation that these targets remain in place.
H7	Carry out detailed assessments required for the regulation of existing marine renewable developments, new developments and proposed new developments to assess the risk to salmon populations	OG	Satisfactory		
H8-1	Research, review and experimentation to better understand and address, as appropriate, the impact of piscivorous birds on Atlantic salmon.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledged progress with this action and requested information on how the research will guide potential management of piscivorous birds.
H8-2	Pilot study to identify the degree of interaction and potential scale of impact of dolphins on returning adult Atlantic salmon in the Moray Firth.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress.	The Review Group noted the planned timescale in the IP. However, this action has yet to deliver a report as would have been expected based on the 2021 APR.
H8-3	The Seals and Salmon Interactions (SSI) work to identify the impact of seal predation on wild Atlantic salmon.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – ‘provision of estimates of potential Atlantic salmon removals from the River Dee by seals’. The Review Group considered that this action is not complete as the expected outcome has not been achieved.

Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Marine Scotland to revisit options for a new licensing regime under the policy permitting salmon introductions (stocking)	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Unable to determine progress	As stated in the review of the 2021 APR, the Review Group expected information to be reported in this year's Annual Progress Report on how the revised policy and associated licensing regime will have improved 'the conservation status of local wild Atlantic salmon populations' which is noted as the expected outcome in the Implementation Plan. In general, the update provided very limited information to assess progress adequately.
A2	National introgression project to provide key data to support the minimisation of adverse genetic interactions by identifying impacted areas	OG	Satisfactory		
A3(i)	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.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group expected to see delivery against the expected outcome – i.e. how data will be used to inform the proposed sea lice framework as part of an adaptive management process.
A2 & A3(ii)	The Salmon Interactions Workstream has provided advice on existing and potential future				Reported progress on this action was reviewed by the Review Group. However, as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the

	<p>arrangements to mitigate the 12 high level pressures on wild salmon. As an initial task, a new, independently chaired Working Group was established in October 2018, to examine and provide advice on the interactions between wild and farmed Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>This process is a critical step in working towards the achievement of NASCO's goals on containment and sea lice.</p>				Implementation Plan, the Review Group was unable to establish progress against NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
A3(iii)	Develop and implement field studies and migration models to better understand migration behaviours and potential interactions between salmonids and aquaculture developments.	OG	Satisfactory		

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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR
United States	IP(19)25rev2	IP(21)12 United States	CNL(20)27	CNL(21)27	CNL(22)28	CNL(23)29

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 10 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2023 Annual Progress Report's review, nine actions showed clear progress or were complete, while for another, progress was unable to be determined. The Review Group was unable to establish progress on the action deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the outreach campaign directed at salmon conservation and the investment in connectivity projects ([CNL\(09\)43](#) and [CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. It agreed that all showed clear progress (Actions F1 to F4).

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. All were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. Action H1 showed clear progress and Action H3 was complete, while for one (Action H2), progress was unable to be determined.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one was deemed unsatisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. No progress was reported on the unsatisfactory action (Action A1). The Review Group agreed that the other three actions were satisfactory and showed clear progress (Actions A2 to A4).

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Reduce mortality of U.S.-origin salmon in mixed-stock fisheries by remaining active in the	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the agreement to the multi-year regulatory measure for the West Greenland fishery (2022-2025); the USA's

	West Greenland Commission (WGC) and the North American Commission (NAC).				continued facilitation of the West Greenland fishery sampling program; and its review of Canada's report on Labrador's mixed-stock fishery (NAC(22)03).
F2	Reduce bycatch of Atlantic salmon in recreational fisheries for other species, such as brook trout, to the maximum extent possible.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the outreach campaign with educational brochure and tackle box stickers to increase public awareness to further the protection of Atlantic salmon.
F3	Reduce poaching of Atlantic salmon to the maximum extent possible.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the clear and succinct account of enforcement activity to protect Atlantic salmon including details of enforcement hours and the number of violations.
F4	Maintaining closures for all directed fisheries and reduced mortality of Atlantic salmon through bycatch	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that, in 2022, there continued to be no directed fisheries for sea-run Atlantic salmon and that dealer purchases and landings databases recorded one salmon caught and released.
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Improve fish passage by removing dams, installing fishways, removing culverts, decommissioning roads, and upgrading road-stream crossings.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the clear progress made in improving fish passage at 28 culverts and three dam projects in 2022 with 3,025 habitat units now accessible of the 5,000 target by 2024.

					The Review Group welcomed the clear quantitative reporting on this action.
H2	Improve fish passage at hydroelectric dams through dam removal or construction of effective fishways and the implementation of adaptive management strategies to achieve passage efficiency and survival targets for dams that cannot be removed.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	The expected outcome is not being achieved.	The Review Group noted that no additional habitat units were made accessible in 2022 though it acknowledged that reviews to improve fish passage at hydroelectric dams are ongoing. Progress towards the expected outcome is unable to be determined from this report. The Review Group is expecting to see connectivity restored to 10,000 habitat units by 2024.
H3	Develop and implement a freshwater protection, restoration, and enhancement strategy by 2024 for each of the three salmon habitat recovery units (actions PBS6.4, MBS7.4 and DES5.4 in the current recovery plan)	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the completion of freshwater protection, restoration and enhancement strategies in 2021, though was less clear about progress with implementation.
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Sea lice attributable to marine net pens				No progress was reported on this action by the Party as the action was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan.
A2	Containment --- Minimize effects to wild salmon from genetic introgression from	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that there were no reportable escapes from commercial farms in Maine in 2022.

	escaped aquaculture-origin salmon by ensuring that containment measures are maintained at 100% of all salmon farms each year.				
A3	Implement broodstock management protocols at conservation hatcheries on an annual basis.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the continued monitoring of genetic diversity within seven river-specific broodstock populations to ensure the goals of the conservation hatcheries are being met.
A4	Reduce stocking of non-native salmonids in the freshwater range of endangered salmon to ensure that predatory and competitive effects are minimized.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that no stocking of non-native salmonids occurred in rivers that support locally adapted Atlantic salmon.

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