	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2023 Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands</i></p>	<p>CNL(24)25</p>
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***Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for
the Calendar Year 2023***

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

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

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

These reports will be reviewed by the Council. Please complete this form and return it to the Secretariat **no later than 1 April 2024.**

Party:	Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Jurisdiction / Region:	Faroe Islands

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan
1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan (Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 November).
No revisions to the Implementation Plan are planned
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
No major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management but consistent with the scientific advice no salmon fishery was conducted in the waters around the Faroe Islands in 2024 (see action F1)

2: Stock status and catches.
2.1 Provide a description of any new factors that may affect the abundance of salmon stocks significantly and, if there has been any significant change in stock status since the

development of the Implementation Plan, provide a brief (200 word max) summary of these changes.				
There are no new factors in Faroese waters which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks				
2.2 Provide the following information on catches: (nominal catch equals reported quantity of salmon caught and retained in tonnes ‘round fresh weight’ (i.e. weight of whole, ungutted, unfrozen fish) or ‘round fresh weight equivalent’).				
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2023 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	0	0	0	0
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2022 (tonnes)	0	0	0	
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2023 (tonnes)	0	0	0	0
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2023	N/A			

3: Implementation Plan Actions.		
3.1 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to the Management of Salmon Fisheries (section 2.9 of the Implementation Plan). <i>Note: the reports under ‘Progress on action to date’ should provide a brief overview of each action. Please report in relation to the reporting year only or the most relevant recent year. For all actions, provide clear and concise quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.</i>		
Action F1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	In accordance with NASCO decision NEA(18)12 there will no quota set for commercial fishery for Atlantic salmon in 2018-2019, 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 unless the application of the FWI shows that a reassessment is warranted. The Faroe Islands will continue to manage any salmon fishery through international cooperation and on the basis of the advice from ICES regarding the stocks contributing to the Faroese salmon fishery in a precautionary and sustainable manner. Reporting of all bycatch will remain mandatory.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Zero fishery until at least 2021, and pending the advice of ICES, most likely until 2024.

	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	<p>A multi-annual decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters in 2021 / 2022, 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024 was adopted at the 2021 Annual Meeting of NASCO's North-East Atlantic Commission, NEA(21)16.</p> <p>Under this decision Faroese management decisions will be made with due consideration of the advice of ICES concerning the biological situation and the status of the stocks contributing to the salmon fishery.</p> <p>The 2022 ICES advice (CNL(22)09) stated, that "in the absence of any fisheries in the fishing seasons 2021/2022 to 2023/2024, there is a less than 95% probability of spawner escapement reserves (SERs) being met for potential 1-sea-winter (1SW) and multi-sea-winter (MSW) salmon from the Southern NEAC stock complex and for the 1SW salmon from the Northern NEAC stock complex. Therefore, in the absence of specific management objectives, ICES advises that the catch on both NEAC complexes at the Faroes in the fishing seasons 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 should be zero".</p> <p>Consistent with the with the 2022 advice from ICES no salmon fishery was conducted Faroese waters in 2023 in order to contribute to the conservation and rebuilding of the Atlantic salmon stocks.</p>
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action F2:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	

	<p>Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</p>	
	<p>Current status of action (Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</p>	Choose an item.
	<p>If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?</p>	

3.2 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (section 3.5 of the Implementation Plan).

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

Action H1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If	

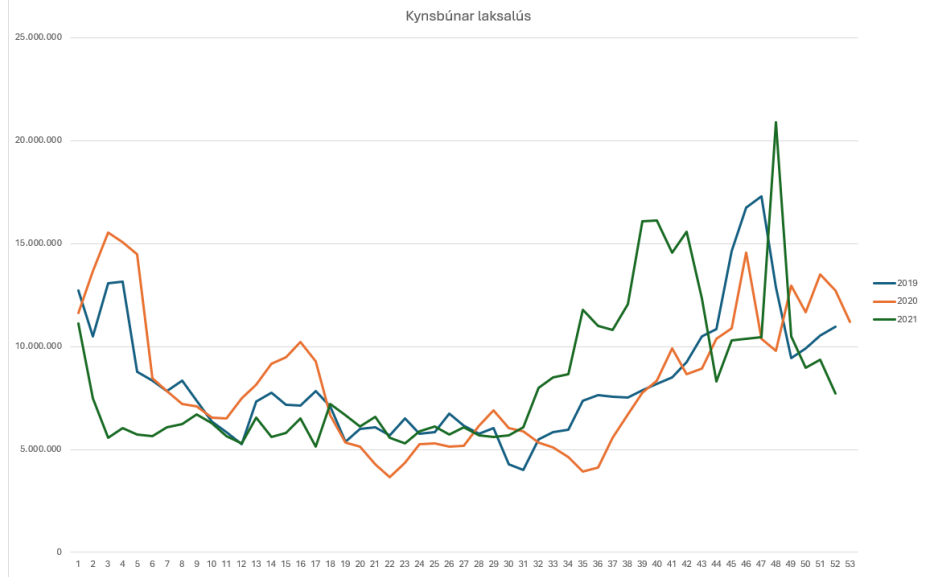
	<i>sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	
	<i>Current status of action (Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Choose an item.
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	

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

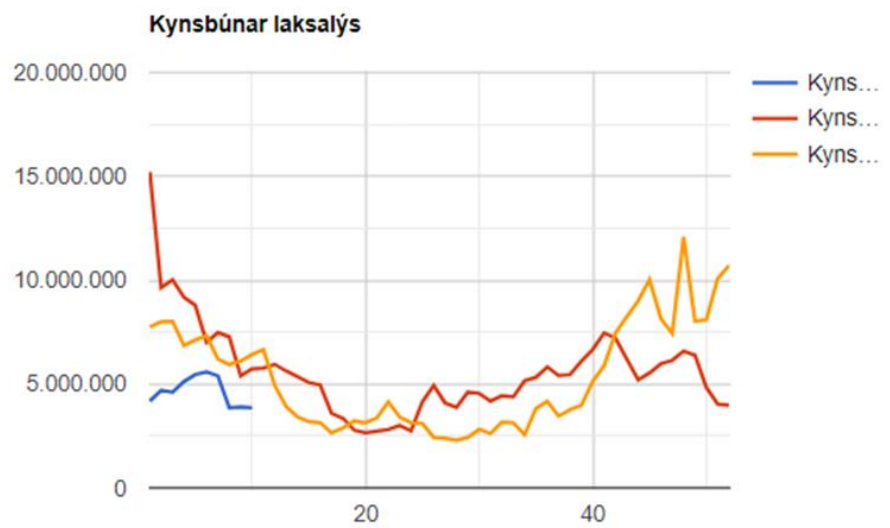
*Note: the reports under 'Progress on action to date' should provide a **brief overview** of each action. Please report in relation to the reporting year only or the most relevant recent year. For all actions, provide **clear and concise** quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances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

Action A1:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Continue to apply the Williamsburg Resolution in order to minimise the risk of impacts from salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon. Specifically, the threshold for cages requiring treatment will be reduced from 1½ mature louse to 1 louse per fish by the end of 2021. The goal remains to reach zero, and it is therefore expected that the threshold will be lowered again sometime after 2021, pending the rate of adaptation to the new regulations by the industry and the success in combating sea lice.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Continuing progress in reducing sea lice by introducing new maximum limits and by continuing to work with the industry to introduce new measures to combat sea lice.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Statutory reporting

<p>Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</p>	<p>Sea lice management has high priority and comprehensive legislative and management measures have rendered positive results. The regulatory framework for sea lice management was updated in 2016 (Executive Order 75/2016), lowering the threshold from 2 to 1½ sexually mature female lice per fish, permitting treatment on a cage-by-cage basis and introducing a carrot and stick “traffic light” regime; reduction of smolt numbers at farms repeatedly breaching threshold or applying pesticides, whilst farms with few lice or treatments may, ceteris paribus, remain at equilibrium or increase the smolt number.</p> <p>The executive order was updated again in 2019, stipulating a new threshold of 1 sexually mature female lice per fish, from the 1st of June 2020. From the 1st of June 2021, the threshold during the summer period (May to July) was lowered to 0.5 lice per fish. The traffic light regime was also tightened in 2020, and again in a revised version of the executive order in 2023.</p> <p>The executive order also requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • effective lice control plans • fortnightly lice counts by an independent party • lice counts to be available the following day • specification of lice species, life stage and size • stamping out (slaughter of all fish) within 11 weeks in case of 3 consecutive threshold breaches, and from 2021 also after four breaches in total during a production cycle • evaluation and recount after each treatment • scrutiny of ineffective treatment • reporting to the Food and Veterinary Authority (FVA) of ineffective treatment, suspicion of immunity or inconsistency with anticipated results. <p>Lice counts are published on the FVA website. The CVO may order additional or more frequent counts – also of other lice species – or coordinated fallowing of nearby fjords.</p> <p>Since 2016 lumpfish, <i>Cycloterus lumpus</i> L., have also been introduced to farms as a measure to combat sea lice. Starting in 2023, the FVA has introduced a three-year period, with increased surveillance on efficiency and welfare when using lumpfish in the aquaculture industry.</p> <p>The average size of smolts put to sea has increased to above 400 gr. in 2023, from 270 gr. in 2018, thus shortening time at sea and hence the lice infestation window, to an average of approximately 12 months.</p> <p>The latest threshold values for lice were introduced on the 1st of June 2021, and that year there were recorded 73 breaches with counts above the threshold values. In 2022 there were 31 breaches and in 2023 there were 23 breaches.</p> <p>The table below shows weekly number of sexually mature female salmon lice, <i>Lepeophtheirus salmonis</i>, calculated on basis of fortnightly counts in all operations (2019 blue, 2020 orange, 2021 green).</p>
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The table below shows weekly number of sexually mature female salmon lice, *Lepeophtheirus salmonis*, calculated on basis of fortnightly counts in all operations (2022 orange, 2023 red, 2024 so-far blue).



Above, the number of lice is given as total calculated number, not as lice pr. fish. Hence, annual deviations also relate to the standing number of fish at any given time. On a perennial scale, the annual number of slaughtered fish may serve as an indirect indication of developments between years. In the years 2019 to 2023, the number, average and total weight (bled and gutted) of slaughtered salmon from aquaculture operations was as follows*:

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
No. salmon	14,293,619	14,027,802	19,241,926	18,521,631	16,692,765

		Weight average (kg)	5.45	5.20	4.93	4.81	4.82
		Total weight (kg)	77,863,352	72,918,499	94,822,522	89,080,812	80,462,302
		*Source: industry.fo (Faroe Islands House of Industry)					
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Ongoing					
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?						
Action A2:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Continue to apply the Williamsburg Resolution in order to minimise the risk of impact from salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon. The monitoring of cages will be strengthened by working with the industry to install cameras in all farming pens to better be able to observe behavioural patterns and possible escapes. Furthermore, consideration is being given to.					
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Continuing the progress to reduce the number of escape incidents in order to minimise the impact of aquaculture.					
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement	Statutory reporting.					

	<i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	
	<p>Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i></p>	<p>Contingency plans in case of escapes, attempts to recapture escaped fish and report of escape incidents to the CVO/FVA are mandatory. Escape incidents are considered at next production cycle permit, but are not directly penalised, in all likelihood yielding fairly reliable reporting.</p> <p>Escape incidents tend to occur primarily as a consequence of adverse weather, but also during transport to pens. In order to minimise escapes, all fish farming equipment and facilities must be built and installed with the adequate strength and other properties necessary to ensure responsible operations in accordance with the legislation, and should be used with the necessary care and precaution.</p> <p>Since mortalities have to be reported by farmers on a daily basis in order to both alert the CVO/FVA of possible disease problems and for the farmers to be able to ensure optimal feeding, escapees may be indirectly verified by calculation of loss of fish at slaughter. Relatively reliable estimates of escapees are therefore available with some delay. Farms must also report suspected cases through observed hole in nets and subsequently report the calculated number of missing fish at slaughter.</p> <p>From 2019, the following incidents of escape have been reported:</p> <p>2019: 1 incident. 141,549 salmon. Average size 1.9 kg. 2020: 3 incidents. 381,838 salmon. Average size 2.7 kg. 2021: 1 incident. 32,821 salmon. Average size 4.5 kg. 2022: No incidents 2023: 1 incident. 251,334 salmon. Average size 3.6 kg.</p>
	<p>Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>If 'Completed', has the action</p>	

	achieved its objective?	
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4: Additional information required under the Convention

4.1 Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification.

4.2 Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration, and other management measures.

4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.

4.4 Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention.

4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.

North American Commission Members only:

4.6 Details of any new measures to minimise bycatches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member.

4.7 Details of any alteration to fishing patterns that result in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party except with the consent of the latter.