

	<p><b>Council</b></p> <p><i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2023 EU – Finland</i></p>	<p><b>CNL(24)29</b></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.**

<b>Party:</b>	<b>European Union</b>
<b>Jurisdiction / Region:</b>	<b>Finland</b>

<b>1: Changes to the Implementation Plan</b>
<b>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).</b>
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>
Because of poor stock status of Atlantic salmon populations in the River Teno system, all salmon fishing was closed in 2023 both in the river and in nearby coastal areas in Norway, similarly as in 2021 and 2022. Statutes implementing the salmon fishing ban for fishing season 2023 included also provisions for pink salmon removal fishing.

<b>2: Stock status and catches.</b>
<b>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.</b>

Despite the reduced exploitation rates in the River Teno fishery since 2017, salmon stocks showed even worse status in 2019-2020. Likely explanations for this development include increased natural mortality factors in different life stages of salmon. As a response to this poor development, no salmon fishing was allowed in 2021, 2022 and 2023 in the Teno river and in nearby coastal areas in Norway. Fishing ban led to significant increase in spawning stocks in different salmon populations. The 2023 salmon catch consists of catches from the River Nääämöjoki only.

On the Finnish side of the Teno river, local fishery for pink salmon was allowed in 2023 using drift nets, stationary nets and seine. Fishing was based on special permissions from the regional fishery authority. While approximately 20 000 pink salmon were captured, very low levels of bycatch of Atlantic salmon were reported, some tens of individuals at the maximum.

**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’).**

	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2023 (tonnes)	1,0			
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2022 (tonnes)	1,1			
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2023 (tonnes)	0,1			
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2023	65 (30%)			

**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).**  
*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	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	
<b>F1:</b>		<p>The overall goal of Tana salmon management is to enable recovery of the weak salmon stocks to a sustainable level.</p> <p>The steps for the recovery are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce fishing mortality to level enabling positive trend in stock development</li> <li>• monitoring the stock status of individual salmon populations in the Teno system by assessing their yearly spawning target (CL) attainment</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• evaluate annually monitoring results and CL attainment trends.</li> </ul> <p>If the stock development does not show a positive trend, or if other circumstances require, yearly amendments can be made to general fishing rule through bilateral negotiations with Norway.</p> <p>Monitoring the stock status of individual salmon populations in the Teno system by assessing their yearly spawning target (CL) attainment. Management target for each population has been defined as achieving a 75% probability of attaining spawning target in a four-year period (a sliding four-year window). In particular, fishing mortality caused by various, sequential fisheries is estimated using catch data, catch samples and genetic analysis of stock contributions in mixed-stock fisheries.</p> <p>Analysis of suggested measures to react to mortality levels that deviate from the agreed target levels (addressed strongly in the new Fin-Nor agreement on the Teno salmon fisheries 2017).</p> <p>Annual assessment of the effect of the new agreement and its regulations: will the reduction of fishing mortality enable stock recovery?</p>
	<p>Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i></p>	<p>An overall reduction of fishing mortality of 30% compared to the estimated level in 2016, i.e. prior to the new agreement, and positive development in the individual stock status.</p>
	<p>Approach for monitoring effectiveness &amp; enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i></p>	<p>Annual evaluation of salmon stock status development.</p> <p>Evaluation of reduction in fishing mortality. Development in both fishing mortality and attainment of spawning targets are evaluated on a yearly basis, and results published in annual stock status reports.</p> <p>Based on stock status information, annual bilateral negotiation process to assess possible needs for amendments to the general fishing rule.</p>
	<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>The estimated exploitation rates have shown a decrease for all individual salmon stocks in the mixed-stock fishery in the Teno mainstem following the 2017 agreement between Norway and Finland.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there are indications that natural mortality factors have increased at the same time, and the reduced exploitation rates are likely not sufficient to allow recovery of Teno salmon stocks over two generations. Therefore, no salmon fishing was allowed in 2021, 2022 and 2023. This has led to increase in the spawning stock, although the pre-fishery abundance has been estimated at the same level or less than in 2020.</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</i></p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<i>ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Defining spawning targets for the Näätamöjoki river system.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Spawning target estimated, first compliance assessed in 2022.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Näätamönjoki fisheries has been monitored annually sing catch data, catch samples and electrofishing. This ongoing monitoring gives a good background to continue management work when the spawning target estimation in completed.
	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)	A report describing the estimated, set spawning targets for the Näätamöjoki river salmon stock was published in 2022. <a href="http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-380-558-3">http://urn.fi/URN:ISBN:978-952-380-558-3</a>  Stock status evaluation of the Näätamöjoki was carried out following the general estimation procedure for Norwegian salmon rivers. First estimation of spawning target attainment for the entire river system was completed in 2023 for the 2022 stock status.
	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')	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	Yes

**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.

<b>Action H1:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Recommendations have been given to road constructors and regional authorities responsible for road construction to avoid small migration barriers and erosion. Few culverts will be restored after damage from floods
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	No new problematic areas. Restoration of few impacted culvert sites.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Monitored as a part of the Water Framework Directive planning. A collaborative project between Finland and Norway for inspecting and improving road culverts has been started in 2017. The catchments are very remote, mostly wilderness. Very sparse road network.
	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)	
	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')	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	yes
<b>3.3 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transgenics (section 4.11 of the Implementation Plan).</b> <i>Note: the reports under 'Progress on action to date' should provide a <b>brief overview</b> of each action. Please report in relation to the reporting year only or the most relevant recent year. For all actions, provide <b>clear and concise</b> 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>		
<b>Action A1:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Continue the spread of information. Applying and enforcing the current, renewed legislation for preventing spread of <i>G.salaris</i> .

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active information about the threat of <i>G. salaris</i> and measures to spread information (brochures, billboards, roadside information boards, information at fishing licence selling points)</li> <li>• Disinfection station network in the northernmost Finland, training of staff at fishing-licence sales points for disinfection</li> <li>• Increased focus on active information at Finnish-Russian boarder station in the River Tuloma watershed, to minimize risks on <i>G. salaris</i> spread from this direction.</li> </ul>
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Spread of <i>G. salaris</i> is prevented.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Monitored along with other biological monitoring (samples from electrofishing).
	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)	The current fisheries agreement for the Teno river system is further strengthening the action against the possible spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> . Due to salmon fishing ban since 2021, there was much less tourist fishing in Teno (allowed only for other species than salmon) and therefore possibilities for spread of G.s. between watersheds was strongly reduced. Existing network of disinfection stations and information have functioned in a planned manner, no infected samples or areas have been detected.
	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')	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A2:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	<p>Continuation of monitoring the incidence of farmed salmon in the catches. In addition, genetic monitoring will enable more effective detection of possible escapes in wild populations.</p> <p>Other measures are mostly Norwegian responsibility.</p> <p>No new actions planned.</p> <p>New genetic baseline on Teno salmon populations will be collected in 2019-2021. This will help in assessing the impact of</p>

		escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon populations.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Improved and timely information about the amount of aquaculture escapees for decision-making if necessary.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Escaped salmon abundance will be monitored as part of other biological monitoring of wild salmon populations.
	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>Due to total salmon fishing ban in the Teno river, no new genetic samples from mixed-stock fisheries were collected in 2020-2023. The long term monitoring has shown that the annual number of escaped farmed salmon in catch samples has been very low, the proportion of escapees in the total catch sample being mostly below 0,5%.</p> <p>For the Teno river, data are reported in a yearly report by the joint Finnish-Norwegian research group. In the latest report, no farmed salmon were found: “Based on scale reading the proportion of escaped farmed salmon among the samples have varied between 0 and 0.6 %, the long-term average (1985-2020) being 0.19 %. In 2020 no escapees were detected in the scale material.”</p> <p>Catch sampling has been continued in the River Näätamöjoki on a yearly basis. Very few, single or no escaped salmon have been detected in catch samples from the River Näätamöjoki in recent years.</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’)	Ongoing
	If ‘Completed’, has the action achieved its objective?	

<b>4: Additional information required under the Convention</b>
4.1 Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification.
<p>Law that bans all salmon fishing in River Teno-Anarjohka border area and tributaries of River Teno has been published. This law was valid for year 2023. For the first time, the law included also special regulations for targeted pink salmon fishing.</p> <p>Negotiations with Norway on a new fishing rule, which is better adapted to the present status of salmon stocks for Teno were concluded at the end of the year. The new fishing rule still requires the approval of the Finnish Parliament; the proceedings in Parliament are still ongoing.</p>

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.
<b>North American Commission Members only:</b>	
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.