

	<p><b>Council</b></p> <p><i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2023 EU – Spain (Navarra)</i></p>	<p>CNL(24)33</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>Spain (Navarra)</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>	
In February 2022 the Review Group considered that EU – Spain (Navarra)’s revised Implementation Plan is fully satisfactory across all sections / areas of the Plan. Therefore, no more changes are foreseen	
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>	
1) The LIFE KANTAUERIBAI Project, that started in October 2022 and will run until 2027, aims to improve the conservation status of species and habitats included in 5 river basins: Urumea, Oria, Bidasoa, La Nive and La Nivelles. One of the main targeted species is Atlantic salmon, for which the following activities will be carried out in the Bidasoa river basin (Navarra): removal of 10 obsolete dams, construction of 4 fish passes, installation of an automatic migratory fish monitoring station, analysis of fish mortality in three hydro power plants and implementation of solutions, and setting up of an International Working Group for the coordination and management of migratory fish species between the 3 regions (2 countries) through which the Bidasoa basin flows. The Project is led by the Government of Navarra (through its public company GAN-NIK) and gathers a consortium of 13 partners from Spain and France. Some of the foreseen actions targeting habitat improvement have already been implemented (see later)	

2) The salmon radiotracking scheme that started in 2018 is still ongoing. In 2023, 21 adult salmon have been tagged in the lower parts of the Bidasoa river basin when they entered from the sea and were tracked during the upstream migration and return to the sea of the surviving kelts. The analysis of the data gathered in 2023 is still ongoing (there are still some salmon alive in the river). All the information gathered through these monitoring schemes will be used by the Government of Navarra in the management of the species with the objective of improving its population size and conservation status.

3) The 2022 salmon migration in the Bidasoa river was the lowest since 1988, as only 90 adults entered the Bidasoa. As a result, the Government of Navarra adopted an unprecedented decision in the history of the region and decided to ban salmon fishing, at least during the 2023 season. This decision is based on the scientific analysis of the historical data of the population dynamics in the basin and the application of the Conservation Limits that the Government of Navarra defined in 2021 to guarantee the conservation of the species. In a meeting held with the fishermen's group, the scientific evidence of the observed population decline was explained and the possibility of population collapse was put on the table. Thus, the risk that the practice of sport fishing could pose for the conservation of salmon in the Bidasoa was explained to the fishermen and, applying the precautionary approach, it was decided to adopt a temporal stop in fishing to allow the recovery of the population.

## 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 is worrying continuous decline from 458 adult salmon entering the Bidasoa River in 2018 to only 90 in 2022. Although 2023 seems to show a recovery, with 308 salmon, only 71 of them were females. Since the development of the Implementation Plan, many barriers have been removed and as a result, we observed an improvement on the colonisation rate of the basin by the migrating spawners, as they seem to reach further and faster to the upper areas of the basin, where they were seldom seen in the past. Since the fluvial habitat conditions are the best for decades, the only explanation to the decline could be related to climate change. The observed decrease in the rainfall and increase in water temperatures (especially during the summer) could be hindering the survival of the Bidasoa population, although other causes, such as an increase in natural mortality in the marine phase could also explain it.

Through our radiotracking programme, we have observed a high natural mortality rate of adults during the dry season in the river. 54% of the tagged adults (n=55) died, although mortality varied greatly depending on the summer conditions, ranging from 100% of the tagged salmon in 2022 (very hot and dry summer) to 22% in 2023 (wet and cool summer).

The populations in the Southernmost distribution area, as in the Bidasoa, will be the first to suffer the consequences of climate change and Bidasoa salmon is already showing its effect. We expect that international organisations, as NASCO, could shed some light on this situation by coordinating the results that are being obtained in other territories and proposing solutions that local managers could implement.

### 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)	0			0
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2022 (tonnes)	0.127			0.127

(c) estimated unreported catch for 2023 (tonnes)	0			0
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2023	0			
<b>3: Implementation Plan Actions.</b>				
<b>3.1 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to the Management of Salmon Fisheries (section 2.9 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 quantitative</b> 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 F1:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Data analysis for the establishment of the necessary reference limits.		
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Reference limits for every indicator of conservation status.		
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Quantitative goal: science based reference limits are established. Monitored by: the corresponding report that will be published in the webpage of the Department of Environment of the Government of Navarra.		
	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>The study “Conservation Limits for Atlantic Salmon in the Bidasoa River” was carried out by Carlos García de Leániz (Swansea University) in 2021. The document establishes the Critical Conservation Limit for the species at ~1 million eggs (equivalent to an escapement of 146 females and a density of 55 eggs/100 m2) and the Favourable Conservation Limit at ~1.3 million eggs (equivalent to an escape of 189 females and a density of 70 eggs/100 m2). In view of the fact that the Bidasoa salmon population is currently below the Critical Conservation Limit established by the study, the Regional Government decided to ban salmon fishing during the 2023 angling season (regional regulation OF 34E/2023). The study is available for anyone who wants to download it freely from the website of the Environment Department of the Government of Navarra.</p> <p>Although no decision has yet been officially adopted, for this year 2024 it is expected that fishing for the species will be prohibited again, as the species is below the aforementioned Conservation Limit.</p>		
	Current status of action (Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall	Completed		

	<i>action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	Yes, new Conservation Limits based on scientific evidence have been defined and they are being applied in the management of the species and its fishing
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Annual monitoring of the species, based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Collection of biometric and biological data of every salmon captured on recreational fishing.</li> <li>(2) Collection of biometric and biological data of every spawner salmon passing the salmon trap.</li> <li>(3) Electrofishing surveys on juvenile production areas.</li> <li>(4) Monitoring of redds and spawners.</li> <li>(5) Collection of biometric and biological data of every salmon passing the salmon trap.</li> <li>(6) Setup of a smolts control system.</li> <li>(7) To collect biometric and biological data of smolts captured.</li> <li>(8) Annual estimation of the conservation status of the salmon stock.</li> <li>(9) Monitoring of the sanitary status.</li> <li>(10) Preparation of protocols for the above actions.</li> </ul>
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Data for stock trend analysis and evaluation.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Quantitative goal: all data (biometric, electrofishing, redds, smolts, conservation status, sanitary status and protocols) have been gathered. Monitored by: the corresponding reports that will published each year in the webpage of the Department of Environment of the Government of Navarra.
	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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Since angling was banned, no biometric data (LF and weight), scale samples for age determination and biological samples for sex determination, were collected from the fish captured on recreational fishing. However, all those fish were monitored in the monitoring station (see next point). Therefore, 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</li> <li>2) Biometric data (LF and weight), scale samples for age determination and biological samples for sex determination (until august), were collected for 90 spawning salmon passing the Salmonid Monitoring Station (fish trap) in 2023. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</li> <li>3) There have been 31 electrofishing surveys on juvenile production areas. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</li> <li>4) During the 2023 redd monitoring campaign, redds have been observed in spawning areas downstream of the monitoring station and upstream of the station. All of them</li> </ul>

		<p>have been counted and located. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>5) Biometric data (LF and weight), scale samples for age determination and biological samples for sex determination (until august), were collected for 90 spawning salmon passing the Salmonid Monitoring Station (fish trap) in 2023. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>6) Use of the rotary screw trap to control smolt production in the basin was discarded in 2017 due to the many problems that have been encountered in its set up and use. In 2019 a new system, based on the counting of the smolts trapped in the most downstream hydroelectric channel, was implemented and is being used since. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>7) In 2023 the new system to control de smolts production in the basin could not be used. The system is based on the counting of the smolts trapped in the most downstream hydroelectric canal, through the use of a fish pump connected to a fish counter, that releases the smolts trapped in the canal safely to the river. Number of smolts and biometric data are then collected. However, in 2023 the hydroelectric channel where the system was installed was not in operation, due to renovation works in the HPP. Therefore, no expected outcomes were achieved.</p> <p>8) The conservation status of the salmon stock in the Bidasoa River has been estimated. Following the indicators proposed in the Salmon Management Plan for the period 2019-2024, the salmon stock in Bidasoa River is “Unfavourable”. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>9) All spawners transferred to the fish farm have been treated preventively with antibiotics. On the fish farm there is a protocol for sanitary status monitoring and prophylactic treatments. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved. All salmon passing the fish trap were monitored for sea lice and Red Vent Syndrome. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</p> <p>10) All the foreseen protocols to carry out the above actions have been prepared. 100% of the expected outcome has been achieved.</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>Completed</p>
	<p>If ‘Completed’, has the action achieved its objective?</p>	<p>Yes, the action objective has been achieved, with the exception of the smolts control due to a specific problem that has already been resolved</p>



<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Establishment of the annual total authorized catch (TAC) and the multi-sea-winter protection measures.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Annual estimate of the total authorized catch.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Quantitative goal: every year, the annual total authorized catch (TAC) and the multi-sea-winter protection measures are implemented in the angling regulation. Monitored by: the yearly published angling regulations.
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed during the reporting year, this should be made clear. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	Since salmon fishing was banned in 2023, the annual total authorized catch (TAC) and the multi-sea-winter protection measures were 0. The expected outcome has been achieved.
	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>	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	Yes, the action has achieved its objective. This year, the annual catches were 0.
<b>Action F4:</b>	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Socio-economic study of the angling activity in Bidasoa River.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	An study dedicated to the socio-economic drivers behind the angling activity in Bidasoa River
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Quantitative goal: the socio-economic drivers of the salmon angling activity in Bidasoa River are known. Monitored by: the corresponding report that will be published in the webpage of the Department of Environment of the Government of Navarra.
	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.)</i>	Progress of this action has been done since 2018, gathering socioeconomic data about the angling activity. Until 2018, anglers only needed an angling license to legally fish salmon in Navarra. This license allowed fishing any authorized fish species and anywhere in the region where angling was allowed, so this system did not allow discriminating information regarding salmon fishing in particular. However, in 2018 a new permit system was introduced to specifically fish for salmon in Bidasoa River. When anglers apply for the

	<p><i>Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i></p>	<p>permit, provide data that allow the analysis of the angling activity in Bidasoa River (origin of anglers, gender, number of days, etc.). Although angling was banned in 2023, an analysis has been carried out with the data of the previous five seasons (2018-2022) that give information also about the angling effort, dates, etc. Although the action has already achieved its objective, the study will be continued to adequately allow the assessment of the activity and its trends, as the information is gathered on a yearly basis. A final report is expected before the end of 2024.</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>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?</p>	<p> </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.*

<p><b>Action H1:</b></p>	<p>Description of action (as submitted in the IP)</p>	<p>Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps.</p>
	<p>Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)</p>	<p>An updated GIS database and maps. This information will be used to report the impact assessment of any construction that could affect the important salmonid mesohabitats identified.</p>
	<p>Approach for monitoring effectiveness &amp; enforcement (as submitted in the IP)</p>	<p>Quantitative goal: the corresponding report and GIS database. Monitored by: the corresponding report that will be published in the webpage of the Department of Environment of the Government of Navarra.</p>
	<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.</p>	<p>In 2022 a first approach of the map was developed. Because the fieldwork effort required to carry out the work is very significant, it was decided to make the map in two years. During 2022, the map of the main channel of the Bidasoa River was made, 50 km from the tidal limit in the international section to the town of Elizondo. By the year 2023, the main tributaries were left (Zia, Onin, Tximista, Latsa, Ezkurra, Ezpelura and Artesiaga rivers), approximately 49 km. However, some administrative barriers prevented the</p>

	<i>Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	contracting of the work in time so that it could be carried out on the appropriate dates (summer). Therefore, it has been necessary to delay the field work for this year 2024. The work consists of mapping, characterizing and georeferencing different habitat units, such as productive areas for fry (riffles), pools, runs, potential spawning grounds, waterfalls and dams.
	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?	
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	(1) Evaluation of the permeability of 7 obstacles or fish-ways carried out. (2) Preparation and implementation of 12 new projects to improve longitudinal connectivity.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Significant improvement of the river habitat accessible for salmon.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Quantitative goal: 7 studies of fishway permeability and 12 projects of longitudinal connectivity written up. Monitored by: the corresponding reports that will be published in the webpage of the Department of Environment of the Government of Navarra.
	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>	Although the timescale of this action is 2019-2024, most progress has been made so far: 1) So far, the evaluation of the permeability of four obstacles has been carried out. One obstacle (Colector de Legasa) was carried out in 2019, another one (Erdikoerrota) in 2021 and two more (Nazas and Funbera) in 2023. The remaining three obstacles are expected to be studied in 2024. Therefore, 57% of the action has been implemented so far. 2) All foreseen obstacles have been removed. Three projects to improve longitudinal connectivity were implemented in 2019: two dams of the Oronoz Hydropower station ("Presa de la Central de Oronoz", located in main Bidasoa River and "Presa del túnel de la Central de Oronoz" located in Artesiaga stream, a tributary of Bidasoa River) and the dam of "Molino de Elgorriaga" (in Ezkurra River, one of the main tributaries of the Bidasoa River) were demolished. In 2020 an obstacle was eliminated ("Paso de colector Ezpelura") in Ezpelura river (tributary of Bidasoa). In 2021, two more dams were demolished in Onin river ("Presa panificadora Lesakarra" and "Presa del Molino Erdikoerrota"), one in Marin river ("Presa del Molino de Ziga") and another obstacle was permeabilized



		<p>in Ezkurra river (Colector Ituren). All three rivers (Onin, Marin and Ezkurra) are tributaries of the Bidasoa River. Besides, a fish ramp was built also in 2021 in “Colector de Bera”, located in the main Bidasoa River. In 2023, in the framework of the LIFE KANTAUERIBAI Project, three more dams have been demolished (Ikatzatea and Kisua in Aranea river and Zubiberrialdea in Baztán river). Therefore, 100% of the action has been implemented so far.</p> <p>What's more, two other dams have been removed in another basin (Ugarana) where salmon could not reach until now due to the presence of a dam in the French section of the river (called La Nivelles). These are the Ferrería and Ugarana dams, so salmon, for the first time in centuries, can currently access Navarre from France. In fact, its presence has been confirmed spawning in such river this winter.</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>	Completed
	<p>If ‘Completed’, has the action achieved its objective?</p>	<p>The radiotracking monitoring programme and the redds counting are proving that salmon are getting further and faster than ever in the basin and already a significant improvement of the habitat accessible and used by the species is being observed. The presence of salmon in Ugarana river basin (La Nivelles in France) has been confirmed this winter for the first time in centuries.</p>
<b>Action H3:</b>	<p>Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i></p>	<p>Study about the smolt mortality during the migration to the sea in the hydropower turbines of the Bidasoa River basin.</p>
	<p>Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i></p>	<p>Study that would provide data about the smolt mortality in hydropower turbines during the migration to the sea.</p>
	<p>Approach for monitoring effectiveness &amp; enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i></p>	<p>Quantitative goal: the corresponding report on smolt mortality. Monitored by: the corresponding report that will be published in the webpage of the Department of Environment of the Government of Navarra.</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.</i></p>	<p>This action started in the summer of 2023, when the RFID antennas and monitoring equipment were placed in the canals of the three HPP to be studied in the Bidasoa river. 1000 fish have also been tagged with PIT tags and 90 with acoustic tags. At the moment they are kept in the fish farm waiting for the smolt migration begins (spring 2024), when they will be released in the river and the evaluation of their mortality in HPPs will be completed.</p>

	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')	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
<p><b>3.3 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics</b> (section 4.11 of the Implementation Plan).</p> <p><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></p>		
<b>Action A1:</b>	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Supplemental stocking of the Bidasoa River with salmon yearlings:  (1) Selection and transfer of wild spawners from the fish trap to the hatchery. (2) Artificial spawning and fry growth in captivity. (3) Differential tagging of fry according to stocking moment. (4) Supplemental stocking in the Bidasoa River and tributaries, following the annual stocking plan.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Increase of the emigrating smolt population and returning salmon.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Quantitative goal: number of wild spawners transferred to the hatchery, number of eggs produced, number of fry tagged and number of fry stocked. Monitored by: the corresponding report that will be published in the webpage of the Department of Environment of the Government of Navarra
	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.	1) 5 females and 7 males were selected in the Salmonid Monitoring Station in 2022 and transferred to the hatchery for the 2022 fry production, where they were spawned together with other 3 females recovered from the previous year. Therefore, the expected outcome has been achieved. 2) 70,383 eggs were obtained and they produced 39,397 fry. The expected outcome has been achieved. 3) All juvenile salmon fish stocked into Bidasoa River are tagged. Fry stocked in June-July are adipose clipped (ADC) while parr stocked in autumn are tagged with CWT (Coded

	<i>website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	Wire Tag) and ADC. Differential DCWTsq marking according to the origin (different females, MSWxMSW, MSWx1SW and 1SWx1SW crossing, etc.) is carried out. The expected outcome has been achieved. 4) In 2023, 28,570 salmon fry and 10,827 autumn parr were stocked in the Bidasoa River and its tributaries. There are still around 1,500 parr kept in the fish farm that will be stocked in early spring as pre-smolts, to be used in the fish mortality study explained in Action H3. The expected outcome has been achieved.
	<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>	Completed
	<i>If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?</i>	The action is achieving its objective, as tagged salmon keep returning to the Bidasoa River
<b>Action A2:</b>	<i>Description of action (as submitted in the IP)</i>	Genetic characterization of the salmon population.
	<i>Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)</i>	Study of the genetic characterization of the salmon population
	<i>Approach for monitoring effectiveness &amp; enforcement (as submitted in the IP)</i>	Quantitative goal: An analysis of the genetic variability and its comparison with the previous genetic characterization carried out in 2006 will be done. The results of this work are used to monitor the evolution of the genetic variability of the wild populations of Bidasoa salmon and ensure that it is not put at risk due to the supplemental stocking (action A1) carried out. It is vital to ensure that the genetic variability of the population is kept at low levels of consanguinity and high levels of genetic variability, both with respect to heterozygosity and the number of alleles. If these conditions are not met, the number of wild 16 spawners transferred from the fish trap to the hatchery (action A1) should be increased. Monitored by: the corresponding report that will be published in the webpage of the Department of Environment of the Government of Navarra.
	<i>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.</i>	The genetic characterization of the salmon population was carried out in 2020.

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

#### 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.

Annually, a regional regulation (Orden Foral de Vedas) regulates salmon fishing: defines the Authorized Total Catch (TAC) in the season, the closing date (if the TAC has not been reached before), MSW protection measures, fishing calendar, minimum size, baits, hooks, etc. In 2023, such regulation banned the salmon fishing (OF 34E/2023).

As explained before, the radiotracking monitoring programme started in 2018 and the voluntary donations programme in 2019. Both continue today, although due to the salmon fishing ban the donation programme was not in operation in 2023.

The Project LIFE KANTAUERIBAI, targeting the improvement of Atlantic Salmon (among other species) in the river catchments of the project area (Gipuzkoa, Navarre and Aquitaine), has been funded by the European Commission. It started in October 2022 and will run until 2027. Foreseen actions related to salmon improvement include removal of obstacles, establishment of automatic monitoring stations, quantification of fish mortality by hydropower plants, solutions to avoid fish entering the canals of the hydropower plants, evaluation of the permeability of obstacles, radiotracking and establishment of an international Bidasoa Salmon Working Group, to share salmon related information with our Gipuzkoan and French colleagues. Some of the habitat improvement actions (removal of 5 obstacles) have already been implemented during 2023 in the Bidasoa river basin.

In December 2023, the Regional Government of Navarra has approved the new Regional Fish Management Law (Ley Foral 21/2023), which aims to guarantee an orderly use of fish resources, adapting to the new scenarios that currently exist, both in relation to the state of aquatic ecosystems and the new social perception of fishing.

##### 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.

The Salmon Working Group in Spain, re-established in 2019, is expected to enable the exchange of information between all competent authorities and the establishment of synergies that may lead to further improvements in species management in the country. After the meeting held in Santander (Cantabria) in spring 2022, a new meeting was held in Pamplona in December 2023. More yearly meetings are expected to come.

In the framework of the LIFE KANTAUERIBAI project, it is foreseen to set up an International Working Group for the coordination and management of migratory fish species between the 3 regions (2 countries) through which the Bidasoa basin flows. The first meeting is foreseen for March 2024. The objectives of the Working Group are: 1) facilitate the exchange of information about aspects such as the

<p>evolution of populations, fishing exploitation, surveillance of the international section and estuary, etc. in order to 2) allow authorities to coordinate fisheries management measures, 3) develop projects to improve their conservation and research status, 4) unify criteria and 5) promote collaboration between competent entities with the objective to improve the conservation status of the target species.</p>
<p>4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.</p>
<p>Not applicable (Navarra has not sea)</p>
<p>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.</p>
<p>Not applicable</p>
<p>4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.</p>
<p>Not applicable</p>
<p><b>North American Commission Members only:</b></p>
<p>4.6 Details of any new measures to minimise bycatches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member.</p>
<p>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.</p>
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