

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2023 EU – Spain (Asturias)</i></p>	<p>CNL(24)41</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:	European Union
Jurisdiction / Region:	Spain (Asturias)

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).
<p>There are no major management changes planned In the Implementation Plan that is reviewed, aspects are specified. The protocol to avoid <i>Girodactylus</i> in fish farms is explained, although there is no record of its presence.</p>
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
<p>It continues to develop a program to donate alive and reserve large salmon in the fishing season (RSM) to allocate them to spawning and repopulation of juveniles. Some wild specimens in the fishing season have been donated by fishermen for artificial spawning. Salmon are also being recovered after artificial spawning, for subsequent spawning.</p>

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.

It has been regulated with regulations that imply reducing the fishing effort: New "fishing Cotos" have been created, in Narcea and Nalón river, which implies a regulation of maximum daily catches. In 2023, for the first time, a maximum catch quota has been imposed in each salmon river.

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Catch number salmon	498	601	834	858	526	414	377

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)	1,76	There are not. Fishing prohibited in the sea	There are not. Fishing prohibited in the sea	1,76
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2022 (tonnes)	2,15	There are not. Fishing prohibited in the sea	There are not. Fishing prohibited in the sea	2,15
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2023 (tonnes)				There are no unreported catches, since there is only controlled angling and each salmon must be registered with a seal
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2023	There are not precise data in catch and released. The length of catch-and-release fishing areas is 10% on the Narcea River, 12% on the Sella River and 15% on the Cares River. The number of fishing areas "cotos catch and release" is 10% of the total salmon rivers "cotos". In 2023, in Narcea: 10% of the catches were returned alive			

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.*

<i>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 <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Increase vigilance to evaluate possible illegal fishing. Although it is estimated that undeclared catches are very low, efforts will continue to maintain this situation.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Check that illegal fishing does not increase.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Check that the number of complaints for illegal fishing does not increase. It is necessary to coordinate information to improve surveillance between basins and rivers bordering the Spanish regions.
	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>	In the annual surveillance campaign, no sources of illegal salmon fishing were detected. In the 2023 salmon fishing period, only 9 complaints/year were registered, related to fishing without payment of fees, but without the use of illegal or prohibited networks or gear. No illegally caught salmon were detected. The illegal fishing of some salmon is considered very occasional.
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of</i>	Ongoing

	<i>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
Action F2:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Regulate river catches avoiding overfishing.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	The objective is that the annual catches by fishing with death be less than a third (limit of 30%) of the total of salmon that enter the rivers annually. In this way, a high percentage of spawning is guaranteed. Fishing pressure will decrease if the spawning numbers decrease.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	The creation of breeder reserves in each river will be promoted, especially to protect the large MSW spring females.
	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>	To achieve the sustainability of the populations: measures have been taken to reduce the free fishing period, annual quotas per river and creation of refuge areas for reproducers. The changes have been: annual quota in the Nalón-Narcea river; limitation on some baits allowed.

	<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>	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	<p>He achieves the objective of stabilizing a low level of catches with respect to the annual stock: the autumn surveys showed that the percentage of salmon that is not caught and remains as a spawning population is high.</p> <p>The data show that fishing represents less than 20% of the adults returning to the river until autumn in the three main rivers (Sella, Narcea and Cares) and that it is less than 5% in the Esva river.</p>
Action F3:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Perform annual censuses and counter in capture traps broodstock salmon to estimate their number against fishing. This data allows to calculate a conservation limit. An special running monitoring in Sella river.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Increase knowledge for data on conservation limit: Get information: Data, diversity of stock, weight, age.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	It will be based on underwater census in all the salmon rivers. Speciality capture traps in the Sella River The fish capture and scale station will be maintained. The efficiency of the trap in the Sella River will be evaluated.
	Progress on action to date	An annual series of catch and adult breeders in the Sella River has continued. Annual data from the autumn census, step counts per scale and counter are still being obtained (Sella river in Caño)

	<p><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 style="text-align: center;">Sella River: salmon number in fisheries / breeding salmon number in pools: census after fishing</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Sella River: salmon number in fisheries / breeding salmon number in pools: census after fishing</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Total Census by diving Sept-Oct</th> <th>Estimated breeding salmon (counter+visual census)</th> <th>N° salmon catches in fluvial fisheries (May-July)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2014</td> <td>686</td> <td>0</td> <td>392</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2015</td> <td>1229</td> <td>0</td> <td>337</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2016</td> <td>1461</td> <td>0</td> <td>484</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017</td> <td>1060</td> <td>0</td> <td>148</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018</td> <td>620</td> <td>0</td> <td>203</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019</td> <td>1005</td> <td>0</td> <td>319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020</td> <td>832</td> <td>832</td> <td>225</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021</td> <td>489</td> <td>0</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022</td> <td>611</td> <td>0</td> <td>54</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2023</td> <td>535</td> <td>0</td> <td>145</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The data from the Sella River show that the fraction exploited is much lower than that of the breeding salmon</p>	Year	Total Census by diving Sept-Oct	Estimated breeding salmon (counter+visual census)	N° salmon catches in fluvial fisheries (May-July)	2014	686	0	392	2015	1229	0	337	2016	1461	0	484	2017	1060	0	148	2018	620	0	203	2019	1005	0	319	2020	832	832	225	2021	489	0	150	2022	611	0	54	2023	535	0	145
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	<p>If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?</p>	<p>Yes, Data from counter and underwater censuses have continued to be obtained</p>																																												
<p>Action F4:</p>	<p>Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i></p>	<p>Reinforce populations with repopulations of salmon fry.</p>																																												

	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Restocking programmes with native fish in Asturias: 300,000 restocked parr.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Marking allows to distinguish the percentage of farmed salmon (restocking-hatchery) Results suggest that the repopulations have strengthened the 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)	Restocking programmes: Restocking programmes with native fish in Asturias. Parr production in hatchery in 2023 was 304.000 parr (Sella 107.000; Narcea 90.000; Deva-Cares 105.000). The marking results suggest that the repopulations have strengthened the populations by 15-20%
	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	Completed

	annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')	
	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.*

Action H1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Program of cleaning and annual maintenance of the scales in dams (fish steps in hydroelectric plants) and obstacles to the ski lift of the salmon.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Increase accessibility and nursery habitats for juveniles.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Check accessibility, especially in the months of raising of breeding salmon.
	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)	Cleaning actions have been carried out on all the scales of the Sella, Narcea, Esva and Cares rivers and tributaries. In addition, an old dam on the Deva River and two other old dams on the Eo River have been demolished.
	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?	Access for adult salmon to spawning areas has been improved
Action H2:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Controls of predators as <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> are performed. Increase knowledge about the problem of predation, which is difficult to solve.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Obtaining information and decrease the presence of cormorant in salmon rivers.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Information in this regard should be followed up.
	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)	Controls for <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> are carried out by members of the surveillance service of the regional administration in the salmon rivers with the greatest predation by the cormorant, not on the coast. They are aimed especially at avoiding predation on parr and smolts. They do not mean an impact on the cormorant population that is sustainable.
	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
Action H3:	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 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')	Choose an item.
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
<p>3.3 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics (section 4.11 of the Implementation Plan).</p> <p><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></p>		
Action A1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Restocking: Aquaculture is not carried out, except for restocking. The eggs and juveniles to repopulate always come from the spawning of wild species in Asturias. There are no transgenics. In restocking, genetic diversity is guaranteed in spawning and fertilization tasks. The spawning salmon are wild and come from the river environment.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Continue with restocking programs and marking.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	There is a health surveillance program, Marking allows for reared and wild salmon to be distinguished
	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,	Restocking: Aquaculture is not carried out, except for restocking. The eggs and juveniles to repopulate always come from the spawning of wild species in Asturias

	<i>this should be made clear. 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>	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	Yes
Action A2:	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>	
	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>	
	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>	Choose an item.
	If 'Completed', has the action 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.
The annual regulation for salmon fishing includes a prohibition in certain periods of some fishing gear to reduce extraction.
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.
A maximum annual fishing quota per river (TAC) has been included (2023)
4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
Salmon fishing is prohibited beyond 12 nautical miles. Also in estuaries and coast. It is only allowed in rivers with a rod. (Law 6/2000 of Principado de Asturias)
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.
It would be important to monitor issues of marketing of salmon caught in the sea.
4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
Not precise
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.