

	Council <i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2023 EU – Spain (Cantabria)</i>	CNL(24)42
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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 (Cantabria)

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan	
	1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan (<i>Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 November.</i>)
None	
	1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
None	
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.
None	

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)	0,145607 t	N/A	N/A	0,145607 t
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2022 (tonnes)	0,105445 t	N/A	N/A	0,105445 t
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2023 (tonnes)	0	N/A	N/A	0
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2023	0			

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 F1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Reducing over-exploitation of MSW in rivers through restrictions on landing large fish. [This action will contribute to addressing threat F1]
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Increased egg deposition and MSW survival.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Annual assessments of current status of stocks relative to 1SW/MSW ratio. Monitoring annual catch data.
	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.	TACs (Total Allowable Catch) that are set for each particular river based on some measures of abundance. In 2023 TAC was 85. The TAC in the Asón river was reduced by 5 salmon specimens. Quantitative measure of progress 40 %

	<i>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?	On going
Action F2:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Joint promotion, with stakeholders, of catch and release in rod fisheries. <i>[This action will contribute to addressing threat F1]</i>
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Increased uptake of catch and release in rod fisheries.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Changes in levels of C&R will be reviewed following the campaigns that will be carried out.
	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>	None
	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>	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	

Action F3:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Establishing Conservation Limits and management targets from all salmon stocks. [This action will contribute to addressing threat F2]
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Data on the current status of salmon stocks. Conservation limits for all salmon stocks.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Monitor the current status of stocks relative to the reference points established. Parr surveys, catch statistics & exploitation in rivers.
	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)	Although CLs have not been established for Cantabrian populations exploitation of salmon stocks that are below their reference point probably occurs. Salmon quota for Cantabrian rivers was established (a Total Allowable Catch of 85 fish). Angling is only permitted from April 1st to June 30th, but if the salmon quota is fully utilized the fishery will be stopped. Salmon quotas are yearly revised
	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?	
Action F4:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Establishing in-river exploitation levels, through tagging/returns & catch and effort statistics. [This action will contribute to addressing threat F2]
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Catch & effort statistics for Cantabrian rivers.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Annual assessments of current status of stocks. Monitoring annual catch data.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. If sub-actions are completed	None

	<i>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>	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action F5:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Running monitoring in index river (smolt & spawner census, tagging of smolt, electrofishing). <i>[This action will contribute to addressing threat F3]</i>
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Stock-recruitment data, sea survival, run-timing, diversity of stock, age at smolting, age in the sea.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Annual report on status of salmon stocks and fisheries.
	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>	None
	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>	Not started

	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). <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 H1:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Improve fish passage by removing dams, installing fishways, removing culverts and upgrading road-stream crossings. [This action will contribute to addressing threat H1]
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Enhanced connectivity between freshwater habitats and the Cantabrian Sea
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Enumerate the number of habitat area units and / or stream kilometres made accessible.
	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)	In 2023, two fishways were built in Pisueña (Pas basin) river ("Presa de la Molina" and Presa de Selaya) by basin authorities (Confederación Hidrográfica del Cantábrico). It made 8,8 km accessible
	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?	

Action H2:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Undertaking further research on impacts of hydropower (including cumulative effects) and taking account of best scientific advice to maintain and where possible to improve fish passage and implementing new regulations enhancing powers to require fish passage. <i>[This action will contribute to addressing threat H1]</i>
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Improvements to fish movement allowing greater access throughout rivers and to obtain better understanding of the potential impacts of hydropower.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Number of hydropower facilities have been made permeable.
	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)	1 Behavioral barriers installed in Saja river in 2023. Quantitative measure of progress 70 %
	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?	
Action H3:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP)	Provision of appropriate river flows by implementing sustainable abstraction programmes. <i>[This action will contribute to addressing threat H2]</i>
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Water bodies do not deteriorate from their current status and provision of flows to support <i>Good Ecological Status</i> of river habitat.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Periodical assessments of <i>Good Ecological Status</i> , as well as Natura 2000 site condition. Where appropriate monitored rivers will be utilised for detailed assessment / understanding of the effects of environmental changes on the production and survival of salmon in freshwater.

	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>	None
	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>	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H4:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use, through implementing the SACs Management Plans. <i>[This action will contribute to addressing threat H3]</i>
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Improvements to land management practices and more water bodies meeting <i>Good Ecological Status</i> , as well as Natura 2000 Protected Area objectives.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Periodical assessments of <i>Good Ecological Status</i> , as well as Natura 2000 site condition. Where appropriate monitored rivers will be utilised for detailed assessment / understanding of the effects of environmental changes on the production and survival of salmon in freshwater.
	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>	All Cantabrian salmon rivers are sited in designated Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). Under the Habitats Directive member states are called upon to establish the necessary conservation measures and, if need be, appropriate management plans with the goal to achieve a favourable conservation status for the species and habitat types. The conservation status of salmon will be determined with special assessment and evaluation keys in the Management Plans for each SAC (were approved in 2017, https://boc.cantabria.es/boces/verBoletin.do?idBolOrd=19089). The management target will be a favourable conservation status of salmon populations. Quantitative measure of progress 60 %
	Current status of action	Ongoing

	<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>	
	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 (as submitted in the IP)	<i>[This action will contribute to addressing threat A1]</i> Regulate salmonid stocking in Cantabrian rivers by implementing and enforcing existing and proposed new stocking programme. The scheme will include limiting stock levels and preserving the genetic integrity of stocked fish. Out of catchment introductions of fish will be forbidden. Ongoing review of evidence about impacts of stocking will be used to update the stocking guidance and procedures underpinning existing and proposed new regulations.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Stocking operations are more focused, appropriate and lower risk leading to protected genetic integrity and reduced risks from inadvertent introduction of diseases, non-native invasive species, etc.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Periodic review and quality assurance of stocking programmes.
	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.	The Cantabria Salmon Recovery Plan, initiated in 1996, includes the restocking of juvenile salmon using wild-origin breeding salmon from each river. The breeding salmon are artificially spawned, using specimens from the same river and restocking the rivers with juveniles from salmon from that same river Quantitative measure of progress 83 %

	<i>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>	Ongoing
	<i>If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?</i>	
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.		
None		
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.		
None		
4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.		
None		
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.		
None		
4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.		
None		
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.		