

	Council <i>Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2023 EU – Denmark</i>	CNL(24)45
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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:	Denmark

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).
The plan has not been changed
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
No major changes
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.
As reported last year, concerns have been raised about beaver dams (especially in the river Storå) leading to a reduction in smolt production, because the dams reduce or block access to spawning areas. The municipalities have the possibility to regulate the dams, if necessary.

In addition, predation from cormorants, both during the juvenile (parr) phase and during smolt migration, reduce smolt production and survival. In order to mitigate this, organised cormorant deterring and regulation along most salmon rivers throughout the winter has been continued and upscaled.

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)	7.3	0	0	7.3
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2022 (tonnes)	8.6	0	0	8.6
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2023 (tonnes)	0	0.281	NA	0.281
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2023	3015 (C&R 64.5 pct.) salmon released, 1658 (35.5 pct.) retained.			

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)	As Denmark has not identified any serious threats cf. 2.8, we have not provided any detailed description of how to address threats.
	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?	

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)	Removal of barriers. For the salmon, especially two remaining Hydropower stations constitute a major migration obstacle, but also several small barriers are found in tributaries.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Access to more spawning and rearing habitat, less smolt-loss for downstream migration. More returning salmon.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	Not necessary, we have enough documentation of the benefits of removing barriers.
	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)	No major barriers were removed in 2023, but improvement of connectivity of streams is prioritized in the Water Framework Directive, and there are plans for several larger removals.

	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H2:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Predator regulation. Increasingly harsh management measures to regulate cormorant population. More egg oiling, shooting and lethal regulation. Shooting of seals in salmon rivers.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Keeping cormorant predation of salmon smolts at or below the current level of app 50%. Preventing seals from entering salmon rivers and kill upstream migrants before they spawn.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Very difficult. Regular surveys of smolt survival in lower river and estuary provides information on the loss. Different management measures are tested. One project on studying the effect of seal shooting in one river is initiated.
	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 2023, seals have not been reported as a problem in the salmon rivers, so it seems that the option of regulating the seals that enter rivers have had an effect. Cormorant deterring and regulation has been carried out according to the Birds Directive. The measures carried out are (1) deterring and shooting in (at) rivers during winter and at river mouths during smolt emigration (licensed and controlled by the Danish Environmental Protection Agency) and (2) oiling of eggs in colonies (carried out by the Danish Nature Agency). Many volunteers sign up for cormorant patrolling along rivers during winter.
	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?	
	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	River restoration.

Action H3:	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	More and better habitat available for salmon spawning and rearing – giving more wild smolts and then more returning adults.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Many restoration projects have been carried out and many more are ongoing, ranging from introducing spawning substrate to removal of major dams and re-meandering / restoration of long river stretches. Studies have been carried out and will likely continue to assess the efficiency of the restoration measures.
	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>	As in previous years, a large number of activities were, in 2023, undertaken in the streams holding wild salmon. In more than 40 sites, areas with gravel suitable for spawning were established. In addition to this, projects with establishing shade, cleaning of gravel shortly before spawning time (i.e. removal of fine sediment), re-meandering of stream sections, re-opening of culverted streams sections and removal of beaver dams were carried out. These improvements were affecting over hundred kilometres of river with salmon habitat.
	Current status of action <i>(Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the lifetime of the third reporting cycle. If it is an ongoing action that is reported on annually, it should be marked as 'Ongoing')</i>	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H4:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Sediment management, sediment traps and securing of buffer zones along streams and rivers to trap sediment before reaching the streams.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Improved habitat quality and quantity, securing good spawning habitat.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Studies have been carried out and will likely continue to assess the efficiency of the sediment management measures.
	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>	Fine sediment particles from both riverbanks and surrounding areas remain to be problematic, especially in many places in Western Jutland, where the natural content of sand in the soil is high. This is also the part of the country, where the streams holding Atlantic salmon populations are all situated. Dealing with this problem is difficult. While sediment traps may locally protect spawning grounds from excessive sand loads, the best

	<i>Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated)</i>	approach is in areas where the entire stream is re-meandered as part of larger wetland projects.
	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?	

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)	Avoid establishment of marine salmon farms.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP)	NA
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement (as submitted in the IP)	NA
	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)	There are still no marine salmon farms in Denmark
	Current status of action (Please note: 'Completed' means that the overall action is complete for the	Ongoing

	<i>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?	
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.		
Fishing with circle hooks turned out to be less gentle when fishing with worms, so it is again allowed to use J-hooks.		
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.		
Two rivers (Storå and Ribe Å) has reached a conservation status that led to the stop of stocking. Therefore, there has not been any stocking in those two rivers.		
4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.		
4.4 Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention.		
4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.		
North American Commission Members only:		
4.6 Details of any new measures to minimise bycatches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member.		
4.7 Details of any alteration to fishing patterns that result in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party except with the consent of the latter.		