

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)</i></p>	<p>CNL(24)18</p> <p>Agenda items: 7b)</p>
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Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)

NASCO HQ, Edinburgh, Scotland

22-25 April 2024

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The NASCO Secretary, Emma Hatfield, opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Review Group. She noted that the Chair, Cathal Gallagher (EU – Ireland) was unable to participate in this year’s meeting. She reminded the Review Group that the main task before it was to evaluate the 2024 Annual Progress Reports (APRs) under the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024). She reminded participants that NASCO is committed to the Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines it develops, and that Implementation Plans (IPs) and APRs provide a succinct, transparent, fair and balanced approach for reporting on their implementation by the Parties / jurisdictions. The Review Group’s evaluation of the APRs is intended to ensure that Parties / jurisdictions have provided a clear account of progress in implementing the actions detailed in their IPs.
- 1.2 Documents relevant to the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024) can be found on the NASCO website: [Third Reporting Cycle \(2019 – 2024\)](#).
- 1.3 A list of the members of the Review Group is contained in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Review Group adopted its Agenda, IP(24)04 (Annex 2).

3. Review and Agree Working Methods

- 3.1 The Review Group noted that while no Terms of Reference had been provided by the Council, the Group’s assessments would rely upon instructions for evaluation given in the ‘Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress’, [CNL\(18\)49](#). The Group kept the same Working Methods as those used previously (see [CNL\(22\)16](#)).
- 3.2 Prior to the meeting, a template was developed by the Secretariat (Annex 3). This was used to record the evaluations.
- 3.2 During discussion of the IPs and APRs at the Annual Meeting in June 2023, [CNL\(23\)87](#), the Council agreed that actions that were found not to be satisfactory in the IPs would not be reviewed by the Review Group in 2024.

4. Evaluation of the 2024 Annual Progress Reports and Development of Feedback to the Parties / jurisdictions

Overview of the Annual Progress Report Evaluations

- 4.1 In 2024, the Review Group welcomed the submission of all 21 APRs from Parties and jurisdictions.
- 4.2 The Review Group acknowledged that it would, in line with Council’s decision in 2023, provide feedback on all satisfactory actions but none on actions that were found not to be satisfactory in the IP reviews.

2024 Annual Progress Report Evaluations

- 4.3 The APR template was issued to Parties / jurisdictions in January 2024. Once again, the Secretariat had completed the ‘Description of action’, ‘Expected outcome’ and ‘Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement’ fields in the APR template for each Party / jurisdiction using the text from the most recently reviewed versions of the IP. Parties / jurisdictions were asked to return their completed APRs to the Secretariat no later than 1 April 2024.
- 4.4 The 21 APRs submitted in 2024, listed below, are on the [NASCO website](#).

Party / jurisdiction	Document No.
Canada	CNL(24)39
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands	CNL(24)25
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	CNL(24)34
EU – Denmark	CNL(24)45
EU – Finland	CNL(24)29
EU – France	CNL(24)40
EU – Germany	CNL(24)30
EU – Ireland	CNL(24)31
EU – Portugal	CNL(24)44
EU – Spain (Asturias)	CNL(24)41
EU – Spain (Cantabria)	CNL(24)42
EU – Spain (Galicia)	CNL(24)32
EU – Spain (Gipuzkoa)	CNL(24)42
EU – Spain (Navarra)	CNL(24)33
EU – Sweden	CNL(24)36
Norway	CNL(24)35
Russian Federation	CNL(24)37
UK – England and Wales	CNL(24)26
UK – Northern Ireland	CNL(24)27
UK – Scotland	CNL(24)28
United States	CNL(24)38

4.6 The Review Group’s full evaluations of the 2024 APRs are contained in Annex 4. All of the evaluations were agreed unanimously by the Review Group.

4.7 As in previous years, the following text was presented at the start of the feedback document to emphasise the importance of the IP / APR process to NASCO:

‘NASCO considers that the provision of Implementation Plans, together with annual reporting of progress on actions contained within them, is one of the most valuable mechanisms that it has developed. It is a vitally important mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Parties to NASCO have committed to the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. The Review Group has referenced, where relevant, progress towards implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements or Guidelines in the evaluations below.’

4.9 The Review Group used the following format in presenting its evaluations:

- a table providing links to the relevant documents for that Party / jurisdiction;
- a paragraph summarising the overall assessment of the APR in terms of whether it provided a clear account of progress for the satisfactory actions in the IP;
- a paragraph, if relevant, highlighting interesting developments or challenges related to implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines;
- paragraphs noting whether actions considered to be satisfactory during the most recent review of the IPs and taken in relation to the management of fisheries, habitat protection and restoration and aquaculture, and related activities, were demonstrating clear progress; and
- a table providing details of the Review Group’s evaluation of progress on each action, highlighting any shortcomings and adding comments or recommendations where it was considered to be helpful to inform future reporting.

4.10 In the third reporting cycle, for the reporting of progress, the column ‘Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress’ replaced the text used during the second reporting cycle, i.e. ‘Clear Progress / No Clear Progress’.

4.11 The Review Group adopted, for the most part, the same standard text for use in the tables as in 2019 to 2022:

Action No.	Description	Status of Action	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
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- The ‘status of action’ categories are:
 - NS = Not Started;
 - OG = Ongoing – clear progress;
 - OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress;
 - OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress;
 - CD = Completed – clear progress;
 - CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress;
- progress on each action was evaluated and categorised according to the list above;

- where progress was deemed to be ‘Ongoing’, but the Review Group considered that improvements could be made to future reporting, these improvements were suggested in the comments / recommendations column in the table;
- for actions where progress was not able to be determined, standard descriptors, giving an explanation of the shortcomings, were used, with further explanations (in italics) as to why these descriptors were used in each case. The agreed standard descriptors were:
 - action not yet started;
 - lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress;
 - reliance on references to websites or publications;
 - reporting timeframe not clearly specified;
 - no (apparent) progress has been made in the reporting year;
 - progress report is unclear; and
 - the expected outcome is not being achieved.
- the Review Group agreed that, given the reporting cycle is five years in, that any actions that had not yet started would be marked as ‘Unsatisfactory’ unless the IP clearly stated a specific start date. At this stage in the reporting cycle the Review Group would have expected these actions to have started, to enable them to deliver against the expected outcomes by the end of 2024; and
- the Review Group highlighted the importance of reporting clearly against stated deliverables for each action given the reporting cycle ends in 2024;

4.12 With regard to the content of the APRs, the Review Group noted that shortcomings again included:

- several of the APRs had, again, provided information on activities in years prior to the reporting year. The Review Group reminds Parties / jurisdictions that reporting should describe, succinctly, activities conducted in the relevant reporting year, or the most recent information available. However, quantitative information, for example trends, showing progress towards expected outcomes in the reporting cycle is expected, where possible;
- there is a need to focus on demonstrating progress towards achievement of the actions’ outcomes, specifically referencing the ‘Expected outcome’ set out in the IP. In several instances, the ‘Approach for monitoring...’ and ‘Planned timescale’ laid out in the IP were not followed, such that progress in relation to the targets / metrics stated in those sections of the IP was difficult to determine. Those sections of the IP, together with the ‘Expected outcome’, are what informs the basis for the Review Group’s evaluation and feedback to Parties / jurisdictions; and
- the Review Group would like to remind Parties / jurisdictions that only those actions that have achieved the expected outcome for the third reporting cycle or where no further action within the reporting cycle is expected, be marked ‘Complete’. Actions that will continue through the reporting cycle should be marked as ‘Ongoing’.

4.13 The Review Group thanked the Secretariat for performing the two tasks it had requested following its meeting in 2023 and asked that the Secretariat carry them out again, as follows :

- in addition to tweeting highlights from the APRs, to put the same highlights in the ‘News’ section of the NASCO website and to link to the relevant APRs in each case; and
 - include a link to the previous year’s APR review in each of the APR templates sent to Parties / jurisdictions.
- 4.14 The Review Group welcomed some of the clear reporting in the APRs, in particular, EU – France for its example of using a national strategy to support salmon-specific challenges and EU – Ireland for its clear metrics and SMART reporting.
- 4.15 The Review Group noted that several Parties / jurisdictions reported interesting and useful developments and challenges in addressing NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines, as follows:
- **Canada:** the Review Group welcomed, that following collaboration with provincial and territorial authorities, Indigenous partners, fishing and stewardship organizations, in 2023 Canada published a ‘What We Heard’ report that was used to refine Canada's draft Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Strategy, which is expected to be finalized in 2024;
 - **DFG – Faroe Islands:** the Review Group welcomed the first APR in the third reporting cycle from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands and noted that, in line with the advice from ICES, no salmon fisheries were conducted in Faroese waters in 2023 ([NEA\(21\)16](#));
 - **DFG – Greenland:** the Review Group noted the continued efforts to manage the fishery under the regulatory measure [WGC\(22\)10](#), which stipulates that the fishery at West Greenland will close when the registered catch has reached no more than 49% of the overall TAC, set at 27 tonnes. Despite these efforts, however, it is noted that the provisional nominal catch for 2023 is reported to be 32.6 tonnes; therefore 5.6 tonnes over TAC (~20% over);
 - **EU – Denmark:** the Review Group noted that two rivers (Storå and Ribe Å) have reached a conservation status that has led to the cessation of stocking ([CNL\(06\)48](#));
 - **EU – Finland:** the Review Group noted that the law that bans all salmon fishing in the River Teno-Anarjohka border area and tributaries of the Teno River included special regulations for targeted pink salmon fishing in 2023, with ~20,000 pink salmon captured on the Finnish side of the Teno River in 2023 ([CNL\(22\)47](#)). The Review Group also noted that the recently developed spawning targets were used to assess stock status in the Näätämöjoki in 2023 ([CNL\(09\)43](#));
 - **EU – France:** the Review Group welcomed the development of risk maps depicting the risk of sea fisheries catching salmon around the French coast backed up by targeted observer campaigns that may facilitate the evaluation of the impact of sea fisheries on salmon populations ([CNL\(09\)43](#));
 - **EU – Germany:** the Review Group welcomed the work to improve fish passage at the barrages in Rhinau and Marckolsheim and the reopening of the southern fishway at the barrage of Geesthacht after four years of restoration ([CNL\(10\)51](#)). The Review Group noted the small-scale possible natural reproduction in the Lower Elbe region, in 2023;
 - **EU – Ireland:** the Review Group welcomed the continuation of the systematic programme to assess barriers and improve fish passage in line with [CNL\(10\)51](#);

- **EU – Portugal:** the Review Group welcomed the publication of The Portuguese Red Book of freshwater and diadromous fishes and noted the Conservation Status for *Salmo salar* in Portugal as ‘Critically Endangered’ ([CNL\(04\)55](#));
- **EU – Spain (Asturias):** the Review Group noted that three old dams on the Deva and Eo rivers were demolished in 2023 ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).
- **EU – Spain (Cantabria):** the Review Group commented EU – Spain (Cantabria) continues to make good progress in improving fish passage at dams and other barriers to fish passage in line with the Habitat Guidelines ([CNL\(10\)51](#));
- **EU – Spain (Galicia):** the Review Group welcomed the removal of two barriers to fish passage in 2023 in line with the Habitat Guidelines ([CNL\(10\)51](#));
- **EU – Spain (Gipuzkoa):** the Review Group commended the progress made in 2023 on actions to further improve fish passage in the Gipuzkoan rivers, in line with the Habitat Guidelines ([CNL\(10\)51](#));
- **EU – Spain (Navarra):** the Review Group acknowledged the difficult management decision taken by the Government of Navarra to close its fishery for the 2023-2024 season. The Review Group noted the application of CLs in making this decision in line with [CNL\(09\)43](#). Additionally the Review Group commended the work to improve fish passage in line with [CNL\(10\)51](#);
- **EU – Sweden:** the Review Group welcomed the further progress made in relation to the large scale habitat restoration project in the River Rönneån ([CNL\(10\)51](#));
- **Norway:** the Review Group noted that the most recent assessment of impact factors identified escaped farmed salmon, salmon lice and climate change as the greatest anthropogenic threats to Norwegian wild salmon ([SLG\(09\)5](#)). The Review Group commended the extensive targeted removal measures undertaken in 2023 to reduce the capacity of pink salmon spawning in Norwegian rivers ([CNL\(98\)46](#));
- **UK – England & Wales:** the Review Group acknowledged the latest IUCN Red List of Threatened Species that reclassified Atlantic salmon from ‘Least Concern’ to ‘Endangered’ in Great Britain ([CNL\(04\)55](#)). The Review Group also acknowledged efforts in Wales to apply the Norwegian pressure matrix model ([CNL\(98\)46](#)) and efforts in England to develop a river water temperature monitoring network to better inform salmon management ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).
- **UK – Northern Ireland:** the Review Group commended UK – Northern Ireland for updating CLs in four DAERA area rivers in 2023 (Main, U Bann, Blackwater & Sixmile), using its new stock and recruitment datasets ([CNL\(09\)43](#)). The Review Group shared the concern of UK – Northern Ireland that salmon returns were amongst the lowest recorded in modern times, with marine survival for 1SW salmon on the River Bush estimated to be ~2.1%;
- **UK – Scotland:** the Review Group noted that the Scottish Wild Salmon Strategy Implementation Plan was published in February 2023 ([CNL\(09\)43](#)); and
- **USA:** the Review Group welcomed the proposals to improve Atlantic salmon passage at hydroelectric dams on the Kennebec River through the construction of upstream and downstream fishways and full night-time turbine shutdowns during the smolt run ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

4.16 The Review Group noted with concern the number of jurisdictions with the lowest

returns on record in 2023.

5. Exploration of Options for a Fourth Reporting Cycle or Equivalent Process

- 5.1 The Secretary informed the Review Group of the discussions that had taken place about the fourth reporting cycle during the second meeting of the Working Group on the Future of NASCO (WGFON) in Copenhagen in February 2024.
- 5.2 She noted that the ‘Draft Terms of Reference for a Future Reporting Working Group’ had been agreed by the WGFON as NASCO document CNL(24)15. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) are up for discussion and adoption by Council at the 2024 Annual Meeting. The Draft ToRs propose, among other things, that the IP / APR Review Group members form the base of the Future Reporting Working Group.
- 5.3 The Review Group reiterated the importance of the provision of Implementation Plans, together with annual reporting of progress on actions contained within them, as the most important mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. The accountability function of the IP / APR process was noted as particularly important in the context of a regional fisheries management organization that lacks binding regulatory measures. With that in mind, the Review Group noted its concern that the proposed process to move towards biennial review of sections of the IPs and / or APRs by Theme-based Working Groups (TBWGs) would weaken the impact of the reporting process significantly and, therefore, its value.
- 5.4 The Review Group noted the desire laid out in the ToRs for the fourth reporting cycle (4RC) for a process that ‘will build on some objective analysis of stressors by each Party / jurisdiction, to enable a reporting cycle that balances simplicity with effectiveness and transparency’ and indicated that the 4RC would benefit from being considerably streamlined and standardised in comparison to the third reporting cycle whilst building on the successful aspects of the current cycle to ensure a more focused approach on the actions that make a difference to salmon.
- 5.5 The Review Group expressed concern for the consistency of future IP / APR reviews if carried out by separate groups, in line with the proposal put forward in the ‘Draft of an Action Plan for NASCO’, CNL(24)14, to have four separate TBWGs carrying out the review of the different theme areas in the IPs and APRs.
- 5.6 The Review Group also noted that the proposed timeline for the development of a new reporting framework does not take into consideration the need for alignment with the development of TBWGs.
- 5.7 The Review Group discussed how it felt the work of the WGFR could be done most effectively and wondered if the meeting might be split into two parts, within a whole week. For the first part, all WG members could scope out the direction / flavour and timelines for the 4RC and then a smaller group – possibly the IP / APR RG members – could then produce the templates and guidelines required for agreement by the whole WGFR.
- 5.8 Finally, given that the WGFR ToRs propose that the WGFON acts as a filter for the proposed 4RC process and structure in advance of the 2025 Council Annual Meeting, the Group wondered if time typically allocated to the review of Annual Progress Reports in April be used instead by members of the WGFR to further its work following the proposed WGFON meeting to deal with any requested changes to the templates / guidelines proposed by the WGFR.

6. Arrangements for Presenting the Group’s Report to the Council

- 6.1 The Review Group agreed that the Chair, or his designate, would present its report to the Council during the combined Special Session at the Annual Meeting in June 2024. The Group agreed that this report should provide an overview of the evaluations in terms of progress five years into the third reporting cycle. The circulation of the evaluations ahead of the Annual Meeting would facilitate discussion involving all Parties and NGOs.

7. Report of the Meeting

- 7.1 The Review Group agreed a report of its meeting.

8. Other Business

- 8.1 There was no other business.

9. Close of the Meeting

- 9.1 The Secretary thanked the members of the Review Group for their hard work during and prior to the meeting and the other Secretariat members for their support. She closed the meeting.

***Members of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report
Review Group***

Cathal Gallagher	Inland Fisheries Ireland (Review Group Chair) (unable to participate in April 2024)
Rebekka Nygaard Bak	Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Greenland (unable to participate in April 2024)
Nils Olav Gjonne	Norske Lakseelver, Norway (unable to participate in April 2024)
Livia Goodbrand	Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Dan Kircheis	NOAA Federal, USA
Michael Millane	Inland Fisheries Ireland
Steve Sutton	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada (unable to participate in April 2024)
Lawrence Talks	Environment Agency, UK

IP(24)04

***Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group
for the Review of Annual Progress Reports***

NASCO, Edinburgh

22 – 25 April 2024

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Review and Agree Working Methods
4. Evaluation of the 2024 Annual Progress Reports and Development of Feedback to the Parties / jurisdictions
5. Exploration of Options for a Fourth Reporting Cycle or Equivalent Process
6. Arrangements for Presenting the Group's Report to the Council
7. Report of the Meeting
8. Other Business
9. Close of the Meeting

Annual Progress Report Evaluation Table 2024

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR

1. Should anything be noted from Section 1 of the APR ‘Changes to the Implementation Plan’?

2. Should anything be noted from Section 2 of the APR ‘Stock status and catches’?

3. Actions on Management of Salmon Fisheries in section 2.9 in the IP *(see Annex below for standard text)*

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

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- Do you have any overall comments on actions related to Management of Salmon Fisheries?

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4. Evaluation of Actions on Habitat Protection and Restoration in section 3.5 of the IP *(see Annex below for standard text)*

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

- Do you have any overall comments on actions related to Habitat Protection and Restoration?

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5. Evaluation of Actions on Aquaculture and Related Activities in section 4.11 of the IP *(see Annex below for standard text)*

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations

- **Do you have any overall comments on actions related to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics?**

- 6. Do you have any overall comments on the actions in general?**

- 7. Please highlight interesting developments or challenges related to the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines from anywhere in the APR?**

Thank you very much indeed.

Standard Text

***Status of the action:** evaluate the status of the action using one of the following categories:

- o NS = Not Started;
- o OG = Ongoing – clear progress;
- o OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress;
- o OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress;
- o CD = Completed – clear progress;
- o CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Explanation of the shortcomings: if progress can be determined, leave blank. If progress cannot be determined, please use standard descriptors, giving an explanation of the shortcomings. Further explanations can be provided (in italics) as to why these descriptors were used. The standard descriptors are:

- o action not yet started;
- o lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress;
- o reliance on references to websites or publications;
- o reporting timeframe not clearly specified;
- o no progress has been made in the reporting year;
- o progress report is unclear.

Comments / Recommendations: examples of text used in 2021:

- o The Review Group notes that the current status of this action has not been identified;
- o The Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary in next year’s Annual Progress Report;
- o The Review Group looks forward to the update on project outputs (Expected outcome) in the next Annual Progress Report;
- o The Review Group asks when this action will start;

- o The Review Group questions whether this action is completed for the duration of the Implementation Plan, or just for 2020. If just for 2020 and it will continue, it should be marked as 'ongoing';
- o The Review Group expected reporting in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. XXXX);
- o The Review Group welcomes the clear and measurable report of progress.

IP(24)03

Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports from the Review Group to Parties / jurisdictions

NASCO considers that the provision of Implementation Plans, together with annual reporting of progress on actions contained within them, is one of the most valuable mechanisms that it has developed. It is a vitally important mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Parties to NASCO have committed to the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon. The Review Group has referenced, where relevant, progress towards implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements or Guidelines in the evaluations below.

Full information and documents are available: [Third Reporting Cycle – NASCO](#).

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
Canada	IP(19)17rev3	IP(21)12_Canada	CNL(20)44rev	CNL(21)45rev	CNL(22)40	CNL(23)41	CNL(24)39

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 10 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which eight were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, five actions showed clear progress, for two actions the Review Group was unable to determine progress and, for a further action, the expected outcome was not being achieved. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed that, following collaboration with provincial and territorial authorities, Indigenous partners, fishing and stewardship organizations, in 2023 Canada published a 'What We Heard' report that was used to refine Canada's draft Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Strategy, which is expected to be finalised in 2024.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1 and F2 showed clear progress, while the Review Group was unable to establish progress for Actions F3 and F4.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1 and H2 showed clear progress. The Review Group found that the expected outcome was not being achieved for Action H3.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there were three actions in this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that action A3 was satisfactory and showed clear progress. As Actions A1 and A2 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review them.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Improve understanding of factors affecting survival of salmon at sea, to inform management	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Action against illegal fishing	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	Warm water protocols for adaptive management of recreational fisheries	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – i.e. increased number of rivers with warm water protocol in Canada, and a reduction in the number and proportion of salmon that die as a result of catch and release associated with warm water conditions
F4	Monitoring and management of Labrador mixed-stock fishery	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – i.e. on the declining trend in captured fish of non-Labrador origin

					based on improvement of associated management actions
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Management of threats related to industrial land-use activities	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Management of Acid Rain	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would expect to see reporting against the 'Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement' in next year's APR to report parr and adult salmon numbers
H3	Management of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)	CD	Unsatisfactory	The expected outcome is not being achieved on the Miramichi	The Review Group welcomed the clear reporting against this action, but noted with concern that the eradication programme for Smallmouth bass on the Miramichi has stopped. The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2023
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Research to support assessment of potential impacts of sea lice from farmed fish on wild Atlantic salmon stocks				
A2	Research to support assessment of genetic introgression and mitigation measures				

A3	Research with respect to wild and farmed fish health and emerging diseases	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement' and the 'Expected outcome' as stated in the IP
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*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
DFG-Faroe Islands	IP(19)23rev	IP(20)09	-	-	-	-	CNL(24)25

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are three actions in the Implementation Plan, two of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, the two actions showed clear progress. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the first APR in the third reporting cycle from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands and noted that, in line with the advice from ICES, no salmon fisheries were conducted in Faroese waters in 2023 ([NEA\(21\)16](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there is one action from this section of the Implementation Plan, Action F1, which showed clear progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are no actions in this section of the Implementation Plan.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action A1 showed clear progress. As Action A2 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review it.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	No quota for commercial fishery for Atlantic salmon	OG	Satisfactory		
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Continue to apply the Williamsburg Resolution in order to minimise the risk of impacts from salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon – sea lice	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group would like to understand how the implemented sea lice measures have minimised impacts on wild Atlantic salmon
A2	Continue to apply the Williamsburg Resolution in order to minimise the risk of impacts from salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon - containment				

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	CNL(19)81	IP(20)09 Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland	CNL(20)40	CNL(21)32	CNL(22)30	CNL(23)46	CNL(24)34

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are four actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report’s review, three showed clear progress, while for one, there was a lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.

The Review Group noted continued efforts to manage the fishery under the regulatory measure [WGC\(22\)10](#), which stipulates that the fishery at West Greenland will close when the registered catch has reached no more than 49% of the overall TAC, set at 27 tonnes. Despite these efforts, however, it is noted that the provisional nominal catch for 2023 is reported to be 32.6 tonnes; therefore 5.6 tonnes over TAC (~20% over).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1 and F2 showed clear progress, while for action F3 the Review Group found a lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there is one action from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1 showed clear progress.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are no actions in this section of the Implementation Plan.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Evaluation of the reporting system implemented in 2018	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted an increase in the reporting percentages from 68% in 2022 to 82% in 2023 and increase in number of 0-catch reports received. However, the number of in-season

					reports declined by nearly half and therefore did not contribute to the monitoring of the fishery and the decision on when to close it
F2	Enhance awareness and implementation of the new license system	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	Continue the heightened level of monitoring and control of the salmon fishery	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	The Review Group noted the wording ‘increased patrolling and random checks...’ in the ‘Approach to monitoring effectiveness & enforcement’ but was unable to determine progress given the lack of quantitative data to assess any increases
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	The completion and adoption of a protection plan for the Kapisillit River stock and the entire river area	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group appreciated the update on the development of the Kapisillit River conservation area
Aquaculture and Related Activities					

*The ‘status of action’ categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Denmark	IP(19)09rev2	IP(21)12 EU-Denmark	CNL(20)38	CNL(21)39	CNL(22)25	CNL(23)35	CNL(24)45

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are five actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed unsatisfactory during its review in November 2021. Therefore, in the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, in line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review any actions.

The Review Group noted that two rivers (Storå and Ribe Å) have reached a conservation status that has led to the cessation of stocking ([CNL\(06\)48](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are no actions in this section of the Implementation Plan.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions in this section of the Implementation Plan. As Actions H1-H4 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review any of the actions.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there is one action in this section of the Implementation Plan. As Action A1 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review it.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Removal of barriers				
H2	Predator regulation				
H3	River restoration				
H4	Sediment management				

Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Avoid establishment of marine salmon farms.				

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Finland	CNL(21)68	IP(21)12 EU-Finland	CNL(20)34	CNL(21)34	CNL(22)23	CNL(23)36	CNL(24)29

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are five actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, four actions showed clear progress, while one was already completed.

The Review Group noted that the law that bans all salmon fishing in the River Teno-Anarjohka border area and tributaries of the Teno River included special regulations for targeted pink salmon fishing in 2023, with ~20,000 pink salmon captured on the Finnish side of the Teno River in 2023 ([CNL\(22\)47](#)).

The Review Group noted that the recently developed spawning targets were used to assess stock status in the Näätämöjoki in 2023 ([CNL\(09\)43](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1 and F2 both showed clear progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there is one action from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1 was completed in 2020.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions A1 and A2 both showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Enable recovery of the weak salmon stocks to a sustainable level in the River Tana	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Defining spawning targets for the Näätämöjoki river system	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this action was completed in 2023
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Avoidance of small migration barriers and erosion during road construction	CD			The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2020
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Preventing spread of <i>G. salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group again requested information in relation to the monitoring programme and also in relation to the protection of the Näätämöjoki river from <i>G. salaris</i>
A2	Monitoring of farmed salmon in catches of wild salmon	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU – France	IP(19)16rev2	IP(20)09_EU – France	CNL(20)35	CNL(21)37	CNL(22)34	CNL(23)37	CNL(24)40

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 10 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which nine were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report’s review, five showed clear progress, while for three, progress was unable to be determined. One action had not yet started. In line with Council’s decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the development of risk maps depicting the risk of sea fisheries catching salmon around the French coast backed up by targeted observer campaigns that may facilitate the evaluation of the impact of sea fisheries on salmon populations ([CNL\(09\)43](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1 and F2 showed clear progress. As Action F4 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review it.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H2 and H4 showed clear progress, while the Review Group was unable to establish progress for Action H1, due to a lack of quantitative data in the APR itself to demonstrate progress, and progress was unclear for Action H4.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions A1, A2 and A3 all showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Diadromous Good Ecological Status indicators	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the development of risk maps depicting the risk of sea fisheries catching salmon around the French coast backed up by targeted observer campaigns.

F2	Conservation limits for fished French rivers	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Determine the origin of salmon caught in estuaries and rivers through scientific studies				
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Improve upstream and downstream movement by reducing the impacts of obstacles on the main watercourses populated by salmon (removing, levelling or modifying obstacles).	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data in the APR itself to demonstrate progress	The Review Group welcomed the map but expects to see the summary metrics as detailed in the 'Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement' included in the APR rather than in a separate file.
H2	Identify strategic salmon spawning and nursery habitats and match these with appropriate regulatory instruments for their protection.	OG	Satisfactory		
H3	Improving the function of 'weakened' habitats.	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group expected to see reporting on work carried out in the reporting period i.e. 2023.
H4	Co-ordinate salmon action plans with existing planning and management documents.	OG	Satisfactory		
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Assessment of stocking practices	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looked forward to the report on the national overview of

					stocking practices in various river basins in France.
A2	Implementing reporting specifically on sea lice	OG	Satisfactory		
A3	Monitoring escapes from commercial marine salmon farms	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Germany	CNL(21)69	IP(21)12 EU-Germany	CNL(20)36	CNL(21)36	CNL(22)26	CNL(23)47rev	CNL(24)30

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, five actions showed clear progress and one was already completed. One action showed no progress.

The Review Group welcomed the work to improve fish passage at the barrages in Rhinau and Marckolsheim and the reopening of the southern fishway at the barrage of Geesthacht after four years of restoration ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

The Review Group noted the small-scale possible natural reproduction in the Lower Elbe region, in 2023.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action F1 showed clear progress, while the Action F2 showed no progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1, H2 and H3 showed clear progress. Action H4 was already completed.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there was one action in this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that this action (A1) was satisfactory and showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Build up a self-sustaining salmon stock in the Agger river system	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Requirement to designate a fishing ban zone in the Nahe river	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted the planned timescale in the IP. However, the Review Group was unclear whether the action has delivered a fishing ban zone in the area of the Nahe river mouth as would have been expected
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Preserve and restore the ecological passability at about 250 barrages in German federal waterways	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Restoration of up- and downstream river connectivity in the German Rhine catchment area	OG	Satisfactory		
H3	Establish river connectivity for fish in the Elbe catchment	OG	Satisfactory		
H4	Regulation of avian predation	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this was completed in 2022

Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Undertake a co-ordinated genetic monitoring in the entire Rhine Catchment area	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Ireland	IP(19)15rev2	IP(21)12 EU-Ireland	CNL(20)28	CNL(21)38	CNL(22)39	CNL(23)38	CNL(24)31

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which nine were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, seven actions showed clear progress, with one already completed. For one action the Review Group was unable to determine progress, and one action was deemed unsatisfactory as the 'Expected outcome' was not being achieved. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the continuation of the systematic programme to assess barriers and improve fish passage in line with [CNL\(10\)51](#).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1, F2 and F4 showed clear progress. Action F3 was completed in 2020.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H3 and H4 showed clear progress. For Action H1, the expected outcome was not being achieved. Progress could not be determined for Action H2.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action A3 showed clear progress. As Actions A1 and A2 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review them.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Protection against illegal fishing by Fishery Inspectors, Navy, Garda etc.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the continued provision of informative enforcement metrics
F2	Active promotion of the returns of accurate catch information from anglers and commercial fishers through the national carcass tagging and logbook scheme	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group found it helpful to have preceding years' data to show trends, in addition to the reporting for 2023
F3	IYS promotion through IFI's education and outreach programme	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2020
F4	Permit the operation of mixed-stock commercial fisheries only in estuaries where the stocks of contributing rivers simultaneously exceed the conservation limit (CL) set	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the continued permitting of four mixed-stock commercial fisheries in 2023
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Actions that will be taken to address identified pressures as set out in Ireland's River Basin Management Plan	OG	Unsatisfactory	Expected outcome is not being achieved	The Review Group welcomed the clear reporting against this action but noted with concern the overall poor state of river water quality
H2	Addressing hydromorphological threats	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group welcomed the ongoing work to assess the impact of

					barriers and deliver a targeted programme of fish passage improvement. However as noted in 2022 the Review Group expects to see clear reporting on work delivered in the reporting year
H3	Evidence-based assessment programme to determine the impact of climate change on the Irish fisheries	OG	Satisfactory		
H4	Prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species	OG	Satisfactory		
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Salmon lice infestations				
A2	Containment				
A3	Maintenance of disease-free status for major diseases of salmonids listed in Regulation 2016/429 and for which Ireland is declared disease free under national Measures (BKD and <i>G. salaris</i>)	OG	Satisfactory		Whilst the Review Group recognised that EU – Ireland maintained disease free status it noted that there were a number of occurrences of salmon rickettsial septicaemia (SRS), though implications for wild salmon were unclear in the APR.

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Portugal	IP(19)06rev3	IP(21)12 EU-Portugal	CNL(20)43	CNL(21)35	CNL(22)24	CNL(23)39 rev	CNL(24)44

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which four were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, three showed clear progress, two of which were completed, while for one, progress was unable to be determined. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the publication of the Portuguese Red Book of freshwater and diadromous fishes and noted the Conservation Status for *Salmo salar* in Portugal as 'Critically Endangered' ([CNL\(04\)55](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F3, F4 and F6 showed clear progress, while for Action F1, the Review Group was unable to determine progress. As Actions F2 and F5 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review them.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. As Actions H1 and H2 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review them.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. As all three (Actions A1, A2 and A3) were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review them.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Establishment of a Commission for the Monitoring of Diadromous Species Fisheries with a working group exclusively	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group again welcomed the cross jurisdictional engagement relating to the management of salmon The Review Group remain unclear if the Commission described in the

	dedicated to the Atlantic salmon				‘Description of action’ has been established. Given this lack of clarity it is difficult to determine progress in the reporting year
F2	Perform a scientific assessment				
F3	Operational Plan for the Monitoring and Management of Anadromous Fish in Portugal – An@dromos.PT	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this was completed in 2022. The Review Group acknowledged the monitoring work done to collect data and look forward to the management and production models made possible with these data
F4	Permanent International Commission for collaborative management of the international section of the Minho River	OG	Satisfactory		
F5	Establishing harmonized legislation regarding: fishing restrictions/interdictions, closures, minimum sizes, allowed gears, control and inspection in both rivers. Promote clarification actions among fishermen				
F6	Revision of the Portuguese Red Book of freshwater and diadromous fishes	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this was completed in 2023
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Assessing and enhancing				

	ecosystem services provided by diadromous fish in a climate change context – DiadES				
H2	Migra Miño-Minho Project:				
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Ensure the monitoring and control of the facility and minimize the environmental impacts. To guarantee the physical-chemical quality and the biological safety of the discharged water in the natural environment				
A2	Prevent the escape of non-indigenous specimens to the natural environment, avoiding the ecological impact				
A3	Attribution and maintenance of a disease-free status for all aquaculture establishments				

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Spain (Asturias)	IP(19)20rev4	IP(21)12 EU-Spain (Asturias)	CNL(20)29	CNL(21)44	CNL(22)35	CNL(23)30	CNL(24)41

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2023. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, six actions showed clear progress, while for one, progress was unable to be determined due to lack of quantitative data.

The Review Group noted that three old dams on the Deva and Eo rivers were demolished in 2023 ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. It agreed that Actions F1, F2, F3 and F4 all showed clear progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the two satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. It agreed that Action H1 showed clear progress, whilst it was unable to determine progress due to lack of quantitative data for Action H2.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there is one action from this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that Action A1 showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Increase vigilance to evaluate possible illegal fishing. Although it is estimated that undeclared catches are very low, efforts will continue to maintain this situation	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that the number of complaints related to fishing without payment of fees has increased from five in 2021 to seven in 2022 and nine in 2023

F2	Regulate river catches avoiding overfishing	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the change to the annual quota in the Nalón-Narcea River; limitations on some baits allowed and annual catches were less than 30% of the total census of returning salmon
F3	Perform annual censuses (counts) broodstock salmon to estimate their number against fishing. This data allows to calculate a conservation limit	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Reinforce populations with repopulations of salmon fry	OG	Satisfactory		As this seems to be an action with annual monitoring, 'Current status' should be identified as 'Ongoing' in future APRs
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Program of cleaning and annual maintenance of the scales in mini-stations and obstacles to the ski lift of the salmon	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Controls of <i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i> are performed. Increase knowledge about the problem of predation, which is difficult to solve	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	As this seems to be an action with annual monitoring, 'Current status' should be identified as 'Ongoing' in future APRs
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Continue restocking programmes	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that Action F4 refers to the numbers of fish stocked in

					2023 and that the target has been surpassed. Consideration should be given to using the numbers provided in F4 when reporting on this action
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*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Spain (Cantabria)	IP(19)22rev3	IP(21)12 EU-Spain (Cantabria)	CNL(20)30	CNL(21)40	CNL(22)36	CNL(23)31	CNL(24)42

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 10 actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2023. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, three actions showed clear progress, while for three actions the Review Group found the progress report was unclear and four actions had not yet started.

The Review Group noted that EU – Spain (Cantabria) continues to make good progress in improving fish passage at dams and other barriers to fish passage in line with the Habitat Guidelines ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the five satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. Action F1 showed clear progress, while the Review Group found the progress report was unclear for one action (Action F3) and three had not yet started (Actions F2, F4 and F5).

Habitat Protection and Restoration: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. Two actions showed clear progress (Actions H1 and H2) while Action H3 had not yet started and for Action H4 the progress report was unclear.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there is one action from this section of the Implementation Plan (Action A1). The Review Group agreed that for Action A1 the progress report was unclear.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Reducing over-exploitation of MSW in rivers through restrictions on landing large fish	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group recognised that the TAC had been reduced in some rivers over the reporting cycle. As noted in 2022 and 2023 <i>'The Review Group recognises the positive element of setting a TAC, but it remains unclear what the "XX% quantitative measure of progress" is in reference to, and how setting a TAC relates to a reduction in the over-exploitation of MSW fish. Nor does the progress report speak to the 'Expected outcome' of increased egg deposition and MSW survival.'</i>
F2	Joint promotion, with stakeholders, of catch and release in rod fisheries	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year
F3	Establishing Conservation Limits and management targets from all salmon stocks	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear. As the Review Group stated in 2022 and 2023 it <i>'acknowledges the setting of the TAC</i>	The Review Group reiterated that it expected to see reporting in line with the monitoring outlined in the Implementation Plan (i.e. Monitor the current status of stocks relative to the reference points established. Parr surveys, catch statistics & exploitation in rivers)

				<i>(management target) but it remains unclear how setting a catch limit contributes to providing data on the current stock status, or the development of Conservation Limits.'</i>	
F4	Establishing in-river exploitation levels, through tagging/returns & catch and effort statistics	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year
F5	Running monitoring in index river (smolt & spawner census, tagging of smolt, electrofishing)	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Improve fish passage by removing dams, installing fishways, removing culverts and upgrading road-stream crossings	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the construction of two fishways that opened up access to 8.8 km of river

H2	Undertaking further research on impacts of hydropower (including cumulative effects) and taking account of best scientific advice to maintain etc.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the installation of a behavioural barrier on the Saja River, although it remains unclear what the 70% measure of progress is in reference to
H3	Provision of appropriate river flows by implementing sustainable abstraction programmes	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year
H4	Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use, through implementing the SACs Management Plans	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear.	The Review Group requested reporting on the number of water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status as well as Natura 2000 Protected Area objectives
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	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	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear.	As we expressed in 2023, the Review Group welcomed the explanation on how the Recovery Plan informs the stocking program. It requested that information is provided that demonstrates clear progress made within the reporting year towards the 'Expected outcome'

*The ‘status of action’ categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Spain (Galicia)	IP(19)19rev3	IP(21)12 EU-Spain (Galicia)	CNL(20)31	CNL(21)42	CNL(22)37	CNL(23)32	CNL(24)32

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are nine actions in the Implementation Plan, of which eight were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2023. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report’s review, five actions showed clear progress with three deemed to be completed, while two showed no progress. One action was not yet started. In line with Council’s decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the removal of two barriers to fish passage in 2023 in line with the Habitat Guidelines ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the five satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. It agreed that two actions (Actions F1 and F4) showed clear progress with one completed, two actions (Actions F2 and F3) showed no progress and one action (Action F5) had not yet started.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2023. The Review Group agreed that all three actions (Actions H1, H2 and H4) showed clear progress with two completed.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: There are no actions in this section of the Implementation Plan.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Development of CLs for the Ulla river	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to an update on the development of the CLs by the end of the reporting cycle
F2	Development of a stand-alone IP for the river Miño-Minho, jointly with the government of Portugal	NS	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	
F3	Progressive limitation of “conflictive” sea-trout fisheries (14 rivers), closing the season together for both species	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that it appears that no additional conservation measures have been introduced since 2021
F4	Stocking Miño’s tributaries in Portugal and Spain presently not used by salmon with parr of local origin (river Tea)	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted in 2024 that this was completed
F5	Installation of monitoring devices in the lower Ulla river	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	The Review Group noted that the fish counter in the River Ulla will be installed in summer 2024

Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Design and testing of new passage facilities for some tributaries of the Miño river	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this was completed in 2021. However it would welcome an understanding of whether these new fish ladders have allowed salmon to reach the cooler pristine waters of the upper reaches of the Miño system as stated in the 'Expected outcome'
H2	Permeabilization or demolition of barriers in the Miño system	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this was completed in 2022
H3	Eradication of invasive alien species in 6 salmon rivers				
H4	Improved accessibility for 14 barriers in 6 rivers	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Spain (Gipuzkoa)	CNL(23)92	IP(21)12 EU-Spain (Gipuzkoa)	-	-	CNL(22)38	CNL(23)33	CNL(24)43

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are six actions in the Implementation Plan, of which six were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2023. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, five actions showed clear progress and one had not yet started.

The Review Group commended the progress made in 2023 on actions to further improve fish passage in the Gipuzkoan rivers, in line with the Habitat Guidelines ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, all of which showed clear progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1 showed clear progress, while Action H2 had not yet started.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there was one action in this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that this action (A1) was satisfactory and showed clear progress.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Annual scientific monitoring of the species	OG	Satisfactory		As this is an action with annual monitoring, 'Current status' should be identified as 'Ongoing' in future APRs. The Review Group would welcome an annual update on the conservation status of the salmon stock if available
F2	Control of recreational fishery	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	Increase the knowledge about the angling activity	OG	Satisfactory		As this seems to be an action with annual monitoring, 'Current status' should be identified as 'Ongoing' in future APRs
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Evaluation of fish passage and increased connectivity	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group commended the progress made in 2023 on actions to further improve fish passage in the Oria, Urola and Oiartzun rivers

H2	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps	NS	Unsatisfactory	Action not yet started	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have started by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Supplemental [Restorative] stocking of Gipuzkoan rivers with salmon yearlings	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Spain (Navarra)	CNL(21)70	IP(21)12_EU-Spain (Navarra)	CNL(20)32	CNL(21)43	CNL(22)38	CNL(23)34	CNL(24)33

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are nine actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, eight actions showed clear progress with two already completed. For one action no progress had been made in the reporting year.

The Review Group acknowledged the difficult management decision taken by the Government of Navarra to close its fishery for the 2023-2024 season. The Review Group noted the application of CLs in making this decision in line with [CNL\(09\)43](#). Additionally the Review Group commended the work to improve fish passage in line with [CNL\(10\)51](#).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. It agreed that all showed clear progress. Action F1 was completed in 2021.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are three satisfactory actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H2 and H3 showed clear progress, while for Action H1 no progress had been made in the reporting year.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two satisfactory actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Both actions showed clear progress with one completed in 2020.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Data analysis for the establishment of the necessary reference limits	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the report published in 2021
F2	Annual monitoring of the species, based on collection of various biometric and biological data	OG	Satisfactory		As this seems to be an action with annual monitoring, 'Current status' should be identified as 'Ongoing' in future APRs
F3	Establishment of the annual total authorized catch (TAC) and the multi-sea-winter protection measures	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the decision to close the fishery due to ongoing declines for 2023 and 2024 season. As this seems to be an action with an annual TAC estimation, 'Current status' should be identified as 'Ongoing' in future APRs
F4	Socio-economic study of the angling activity in Bidasoa River	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looked forward to the publication of the report on the socio-economic study of the angling activity in Bidasoa River later in 2024
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted the delay to the fieldwork, which will now take place in 2024

H2	Evaluation of the permeability of 7 obstacles or fish-ways carried out. Preparation and implementation of 12 new projects to improve longitudinal connectivity	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group commended achievements made against this ambitious action
H3	Study about the smolt mortality during the migration to the sea in the hydropower turbines of the Bidasoa River basin	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the commencement of this project in 2023 and looks forward to seeing the results in 2025
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Continue supplemental stocking until Favourable Conservation Status is achieved	OG	Satisfactory		As this seems to be an action with an annual stocking plan, 'Current status' should be identified as 'Ongoing' in future APRs
A2	Genetic characterization of the salmon population	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this action was completed in 2020

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
EU-Sweden	IP(19)07rev2	IP(21)12 EU-Sweden	CNL(20)33	CNL(21)33	CNL(22)27	CNL(23)40	CNL(24)36

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 16 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 15 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, 10 showed clear progress, while for five, progress was unable to be determined. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the further progress made in relation to the large-scale habitat restoration project in the River Rönneån ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are 10 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Six showed clear progress (Actions F3, and F5-F9) with three completed. For Actions F1 and F2, progress was unable to be determined due a lack of quantitative data. For Action F4 no apparent progress had been made in the reporting year. As Action F10 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review it.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1, H3 and H4 showed clear progress. For Action H2 the Review Group found the progress report was unclear.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action A2 showed clear progress and was complete. For Action A1 progress was unable to be determined due to a lack of quantitative data.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Implementing fishing rules that decrease exploitation of weak stocks	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	The Review Group expected reporting in line with the 'Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement' and 'Expected outcomes' outlined in the Implementation Plan

F2	Fin-clipping smolts	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see reporting against the ‘Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement’ in the IP
F3	Avoiding mixed-stock fisheries on the coast	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2023
F4	Avoiding mixed-stock fisheries in rivers with stocking of reared salmon in the main river stem and production of wild salmon in tributaries	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that these fisheries have continued again in 2023. Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the ‘Expected outcome’ –i.e. recovery of wild salmon stocks in tributaries to the rivers Göta älv, Nissan and Lagan
F5	Successively, improve knowledge of genetic diversity and status of all stocks in the main rivers, and larger tributaries	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted in 2024 that this action was completed
F6	Continued monitoring in the designated (index) river	OG	Satisfactory		
F7	Annually assess each river stock’s reproductive capacity	OG	Satisfactory		
F8	Monitor exploitation in two rivers	OG	Satisfactory		
F9	Improve catch statistics in rivers and on the coast	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted in 2024 that this action was completed
F10	Fish management units in salmon rivers				

Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Continued liming of acidified salmon rivers and tributaries	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expects to see delivery against the ‘Expected outcome’ as stated in the IP
H2	Impact of hydropower production on salmon migration and loss of salmon habitat	1. OG-UD 2. CD 3. CD 4. OG 5. CD 6. CD	1. Unsatisfactory 2. Satisfactory 3. Satisfactory 4. Satisfactory 5. Satisfactory 6. Satisfactory	1. Progress report is unclear	1. Once again the Review Group would welcome a more succinct summary in next year’s Annual Progress Report
H3	Continued improvement of habitat in salmon rivers.	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group welcomed the further details reported and further progress made in relation to the large-scale habitat restoration project in the River Rönneån.
H4	Improved ability to prevent introduction of alien species, detect and identify alien species and take measures against alien species	OG	Satisfactory		
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Continued monitoring of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> , and develop a road map and contingency plan to prevent spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> to not infected rivers	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the ‘Description of action’, in particular the development of a road map and contingency plan to prevent spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> to uninfected rivers and the ‘Expected

					outcome' of 'Quality assured data on presence and prevalence of the parasite'
A2	Develop the national ability to genetically identify alien Atlantic salmon	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted in 2024 that this action was completed

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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
Norway	IP(19)18rev5	IP(21)12 Norway	CNL(20)39	CNL(21)28	CNL(22)29	CNL(23)45	CNL(24)35

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 23 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 19 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2023. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, 11 showed clear progress with one already completed, while for eight actions, progress was unable to be determined. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group noted that the most recent assessment of impact factors identified escaped farmed salmon, salmon lice and climate change as the greatest anthropogenic threats to Norwegian wild salmon ([SLG\(09\)5](#)).

The Review Group commended the extensive targeted removal measures undertaken in 2023 to reduce the capacity of pink salmon spawning in Norwegian rivers ([CNL\(98\)46](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1, F3 and F5 showed clear progress and Action F3 was completed. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Actions F2 and F4 due to a lack of quantitative data.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1 showed clear progress. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action H2 due to a lack of quantitative data. As Actions H2-2 and H3 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review them.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are 14 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Seven actions showed clear progress (Actions A1-1, A1-4, A3-1, A3-3, A3-4, A4-1, A4-3). For Actions A1-2, A1-5 and A3-2 the Review Group was unable to

determine progress due to a lack of quantitative data. For Action A1-3 no apparent progress had been made in the reporting year and for Action A1-6 the expected outcome was not being achieved. As Actions A2 and A4-2 were deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review them.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Development, testing and evaluation of an expanded sea survival surveillance program	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – i.e. increased knowledge about salmon recruitment, growth and sea survival at a national and regional scale
F2	(a) Increased effort to reveal and sanction illegal fisheries (b) Revision of salmon and inland fisheries act to introduce stricter reactions to violation of legislation	CD-NP	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress in part a)	The Review Group noted this was deemed completed in 2021. The Review Group again reiterated its wish to be informed of the number of illegal salmon fisheries that were sanctioned. The Review Group noted that the 'Expected outcome', 'reduction in illegal fisheries', is unable to be determined given the lack of quantitative data
F3	Major revision of regulatory measures in rivers and in mixed-stock fisheries in the sea for the period 2021-2026	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2021 and minor adjustments were implemented in 2022 and 2023

F4	Development of an electronic system to make reporting of catches in the sea by recreational anglers possible	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expects to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – i.e. reduction in unreported catches
F5	Introduction of second generation Spawning Targets	OG	Satisfactory		
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Long-term liming of 24 acidified salmon rivers	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – i.e. restored salmon stocks and fishing possibilities
H2	Mitigation measures for improved salmon habitat in regulated rivers	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – i.e. restored fish habitat and increased salmon production in regulated rivers, with data on monitoring provided as outline in the 'Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement'
H2-2	Revision of terms for hydropower production licenses and address of rules of operation, in several rivers				
H3	Improving salmon habitat in rivers altered to improve security during flood				

Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1-1	Approximately 20 stocks in Hardangerfjord region will be conserved in the Hardangerfjord live Gene Bank	OG	Satisfactory		
A1-2	Further improvement of precautionary measures in aquaculture facilities	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the ‘Expected outcome’ – i.e. reduced hybridisation between wild and farmed fish, with a qualitative improvement in genetic integrity at population level
A1-3	Establish more experience with farming sterile fish in commercial fish farms	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the ‘Expected outcome’ –i.e. reduced hybridisation between wild and farmed fish, with a qualitative improvement in genetic integrity at population level
A1-4	Further developing and improving the National monitoring program of escaped salmon in the rivers	OG	Satisfactory		Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the ‘Expected outcome’ – i.e. reduced hybridisation between wild and farmed fish, with a qualitative improvement in genetic integrity at population level
A1-5	Continue the efforts of removal of escaped fish in rivers before spawning season through OURO	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the ‘Expected outcome’ – i.e. reduced hybridisation

					between wild and farmed fish, with a qualitative improvement in genetic integrity at population level
A1-6	Monitoring project on genetical integrity in wild Atlantic Salmon populations	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	Expected outcome is not being achieved	The Review Group welcomed the clear reporting against this action but noted with concern the risk of further genetic changes in wild salmon due to introgression from escaped farmed salmon
A2:	Continuous implementation of the Traffic Light System and the regulations related to production areas, and sea lice monitoring and control in fish farms				
A3-1	Eradication of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in the Driva (4 rivers) and Drammen (3 river) region	OG	Satisfactory		
A3-2	Surveillance of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	The Review Group acknowledged the extensive work being done to address this issue but would welcome more quantitative reporting in next year's Annual Progress Report to better demonstrate progress any under this action
A3-3	Contingency plan for <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		
A3-4	Information campaign on <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		
A4-1	Threats posed by Pink Salmon	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group commended the extensive targeted removal measures

					undertaken in 2023 to reduce the capacity of pink salmon spawning in Norwegian rivers
A4-2	Research about fish traps				
A4-3	Catch register for Pink salmon	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
Russian Federation	IP(19)05rev	IP(20)09 Russian Federation	CNL(20)26	CNL(21)26	CNL(22)22	CNL(23)28	CNL(24)37

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are seven actions in the Implementation Plan, of which six were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2020. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, one showed clear progress, while for five, progress was unable to be determined. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are three actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action F2 showed clear progress. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action F1 as the progress report was unclear and for Action F3 due to a lack of quantitative data.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action H1 as the progress report was unclear. As Action H2 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review it.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are two actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action A1 due to a lack of quantitative data and for Action A2 as the progress report was unclear.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Estimate unreported catches	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group was uncertain whether there is actually no unreported catch or no estimates of unreported catch
F2	Develop CLs for salmon stocks	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	Monitor salmon stocks in the Murmansk region. Monitor interceptory coastal salmon fishery in the Barents Sea	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Continue developing inventories of salmon rivers	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	
H2	Development of habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers				
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Develop a policy on sea lice and containment consistent with NASCO's BMP guidance	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress	To determine progress, the Review Group expects to see quantitative information on the numbers of sea lice each year together with the trend in numbers across the reporting period
A2	Minimise the risk of further spread of <i>Gyrodactylus</i>	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have

	<i>salaris</i> . Implement the 11 'Road Map' recommendations				expected to see progress towards the development of a plan in line with the 11 recommendations of the 'Road Map'. The Review Group expects progress on this to be reported next year
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*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024
UK – England and Wales	CNL(21)71	IP(21)12 UK – England and Wales	CNL(20)37	CNL(21)29	CNL(22)32	CNL(23)42	CNL(24)26

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 16 actions in the Implementation Plan, all of which were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, 10 actions showed clear progress. For six actions the Review Group was unable to establish progress.

The Review Group acknowledged the latest IUCN Red List of Threatened Species that reclassified Atlantic salmon from 'Least Concern' to 'Endangered' in Great Britain ([CNL\(04\)55](#)).

The Review Group also acknowledged efforts in Wales to apply the Norwegian pressure matrix model ([CNL\(98\)46](#)) and efforts in England to develop a river water temperature monitoring network to better inform salmon management ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are six actions in this section of the Implementation Plan. All six actions showed clear progress.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are six actions in this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1, H3 and H6 showed clear progress. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Action H2 as for some of the sub-actions there was either no apparent progress or progress was unclear. For Action H4 the Review Group found that the progress report was unclear and for Action H5 no apparent progress had been made in the reporting year.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there were four actions in this section of the Implementation Plan. The Review Group agreed that Action A3 showed clear progress. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Actions A1 and A2 as the progress report was unclear and for Action A4 no progress had been made in the reporting year.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Annual assessments of salmon stocks and review of management measures	OG	Satisfactory		
F2	Improved stock assessment methodology	OG	Satisfactory		
F3	New restrictions on net and rod fisheries	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Introduce measures to phase out / regulate any remaining MSFs to reduce fishing mortality to sustainable levels in order to conserve stocks	CD / OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted in 2024 that elements a. and b. are completed, whereas c. and d. are ongoing
F5	Promote Catch & Release	OG	Satisfactory		
F6	Ensure that unregulated (illegal) fishing and bycatch in other fisheries does not threaten conservation of stocks	OG	Satisfactory		
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Increase salmon's climate change resilience	OG	Satisfactory		
H2	Improve the survival of salmon in estuaries and inshore waters	CD (a-d) OG-UD (e-f))	(a-c)) Satisfactory (d-f))Unsatisfactory	Although good, progress has been made on parts a), b), and c), there	a) Completed b) Completed c) Completed

				was either no apparent progress or unclear progress with parts d), e) and f).	d) Encountered a major setback when the effort aimed at expanding protection of migratory salmon in inshore waters was withdrawn by Chief Officer. That said, existing measures that maintain net restrictions remain in place e) Unable to determine progress as only current year data are reported and there is no way to evaluate progress f) Not enough information to determine progress
H3	Improve fish passage and salmon habitat through implementing River Basin Management Plans	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that the target for improving fish passage has been exceeded in England's salmon rivers
H4	Ensure sufficient flow for salmon through delivering measures to realise sustainable abstraction	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group considered that although progress was made for some parts of the action, there were a notable number of elements where there was no progress or the progress was unclear
H5	Improving healthy smolt production by improving water quality	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would expect to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' in next year's APR
H6	Addressing the threat of predation	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that the reporting is challenging to review because it includes activities that occurred in year prior to 2023. Although there was no apparent progress for element d), there appeared to be progress towards elements a), b), and c)

Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Controlling salmon stocking	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	Given the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expects to see reporting against the 'Expected outcome' and 'Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement' in next year's APR
A2	Prevent the introduction and spread of non-native fish, invertebrate species, parasites and diseases, excluding <i>G. salaris</i>	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Progress report is unclear	The Review Group was unable to determine progress as it relates to the conservation of salmon
A3	Prevent the introduction and spread of the non-native parasite <i>G. salaris</i>	OG	Satisfactory		
A4	Prevent an adverse impact of aquaculture on water quality	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group would like to understand how the breaches have impacted on the wild salmon population

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
UK – Northern Ireland	IP(19)08rev4	IP(21)12 UK – Northern Ireland	CNL(20)41	CNL(21)31	CNL(22)33	CNL(23)43	CNL(24)27

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 17 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 16 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2022. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, 13 showed clear progress, while for three, progress was unable to be determined. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group commended UK – Northern Ireland for updating CLs in four DAERA area rivers this year (Main, U Bann, Blackwater & Sixmile), using its new stock & recruitment datasets ([CNL\(09\)43](#)).

The Review Group shared the concern of UK – Northern Ireland that salmon returns were amongst the lowest recorded in modern times, with marine survival for 1SW salmon on the River Bush estimated to be ~2.1%.

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F2, F3, F4 and F6 showed clear progress. For Action F1 the Review Group was unable to determine progress due to a lack of quantitative data and noted for Action F5 that no apparent progress had been made in the reporting year.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Action H1, H3, H4 and H5 showed clear progress. For Action H2, the Review Group noted that the target was not being achieved.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are six actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions A2-A6 showed clear progress. As Action A1 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review it.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Manage NI's 18 primary rivers affected by both	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data	

	commercial and recreational fisheries to exceed their CLs			to demonstrate progress towards the achievement of the 'Expected outcome'.	
F2	Update Conservation limits and Management targets for 3 primary salmon rivers in Northern Ireland using refreshed habitat data	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that CLs have been reviewed for the Main, U Bann, Blackwater and Sixmile River
F3	Maintain the Long Term Monitoring of Wild Salmon Stock on the R Bush - used as an Index River for NI	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Assess mortality of wild salmon smolts moving from the freshwater to the marine environment	OG	Satisfactory		
F5	Improve recreational catch returns and statistics from the current baseline of 5 - 10% to 30%	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group would have expected to see more progress given UK- Northern Ireland's 'Planned timescale' in its IP 'To be achieved in the current plan period 2019-2024'
F6	Protect wild salmon stocks from illegal activity	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that efforts and capacity was significantly reduced in 2023 relative to 2022 in the DAERA and LA areas
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Assess and provide fishery advice for 100% of River drainage maintenance	OG	Satisfactory		

	schemes to protect salmon habitat and to incorporate mitigation / improvement measures where possible				
H2	Management and control of water quality in salmon producing rivers in NI - the target is to have 70% of rivers at good ecological status by 2021	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	The target is not being achieved.	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Description of action' – i.e. management and control of water quality in salmon producing rivers in NI - the target is to have 70% of rivers at good ecological status by 2021
H3	Identify and assess the impact of barriers on 18 primary salmon rivers in NI by 2024	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to seeing the completion of the barrier assessments on 18 primary salmon rivers in NI by 2024 in the next APR
H4	Update the inventory of current and potential salmon habitat on 3 primary salmon rivers in NI	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group looks forward to seeing the completed inventories on the three primary salmon rivers in NI by 2024 in the next APR
H5	Enhance degraded habitat or improve salmon habitat on primary salmon rivers in NI with rivers below CL being prioritised	OG	Satisfactory		Again, the Review Group commended the very clear quantitative reporting on this action
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	To manage sea lice levels in salmon aquaculture in NI				

A2	Monitor for Non NI escapee aquaculture salmon in a wild salmon stock in N. Ireland	OG	Satisfactory		
A3	Monitoring sea lice levels in aquaculture salmon in N. Ireland	OG	Satisfactory		
A4	Monitor levels of genetic introgression of aquaculture salmon into wild stocks in NI	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group anticipates the triennial assessment update next year
A5	Assess marine aquaculture sites annually	OG	Satisfactory		
A6	Establish long term monitoring through the establishment of a sea lice - mortality risk index in wild anadromous salmonids in an area with aquaculture production	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.

Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
UK – Scotland	IP(19)10rev3	IP(21)12_UK – Scotland	CNL(20)42rev	CNL(21)30rev	CNL(22)31	CNL(23)44	CNL(24)28

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 20 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 19 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2022. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, ten showed clear progress, four of which were completed, while for nine progress was unable to be

determined, five due to a lack of quantitative data and three due to a lack of progress in the reporting year. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group noted that the Scottish Wild Salmon Strategy Implementation Plan was published in February 2023 ([CNL\(09\)43](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions F1-1, F1-2 and F1-3 showed clear progress. For Action F2 no progress had been made in the reporting year.

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are 11 actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions H1-2, H6, H7, H8-1 and H8-2 all showed clear progress, while for Actions H1-1, H2, H3, H4, H5, and H8-3 progress was unable to be determined due to a lack of quantitative data.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are five actions from this section of the Implementation Plan. Actions A2 and A3 (iii) showed clear progress. The Review Group was unable to determine progress for Actions A1 and A3(i) as no apparent progress was made in the reporting year. As Action A2 & A3(ii) was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review it.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1-1	Continued annual assessment of Scotland's stocks using an adult based assessment method based on rod catch information and additional ancillary data	OG	Satisfactory		
F1-2	Development of a complementary juvenile assessment tool	OG	Satisfactory		
F1-3	Research study on C&R effect on fish	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this action was completed in 2022

F2	Review of Scotland's inshore marine gill net legislation	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year.	Given that the reporting cycle ends in 2025, the Review Group would have expected this action to have progressed by now. The Review Group expects progress against the action to be reported next year
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1-1	Reductions in point source and diffuse pollution through River Basin Management Planning (RBMP) and associated Regulations	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress. Although it is reported that work is ongoing in 46 catchments and number of compliance visits are reported, it was unclear if any quantifiable progress has been made to reduce point source and diffuse pollution.	The Review Group could not determine if any quantifiable progress has been made to reduce point source and diffuse pollution and expected that a classification update would have been available to report as indicated in the previous APR
H1-2	Explore the benefit and feasibility of nutrient enrichment in upland oligotrophic parts of river systems	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted this was completed in 2023

H2	Assessment of the main pressures on river flows and levels in Scotland	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group again looks forward to seeing data to support a reduction in the river length affected by abstraction; flow regulation; upland / agriculture, land-use and drainage; and/or forestry drainage, in future Annual Progress Reports. In addition, the Review Group expected that a classification update would have been available to report as indicated in the previous APR
H3	Implement Scotland's Second Climate Change Adaptation Programme (SCCAP2).	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group looks forward to UK – Scotland reporting against the 'Expected outcome' of increasing riparian shade
H4	Prevention of morphological impacts and passive recovery of watercourses through the controlled activity regulations (CAR) and associated "General Binding Rules"	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group expected to see progress in the delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – i.e. a reduction in the river length affected by sedimentation; loss of sediment transfer; lack of, or excessive, large woody debris; canalisation / dredging / boulder removal. In addition, the Review Group expected that a classification update would have been available to report as indicated in the previous APR
H5	Adherence to the UK Forestry Standard (UKFS) and its supporting Forests and Water Guidelines	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	Lack of quantitative data to demonstrate progress.	The Review Group expected to see progress in the delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – i.e. by the end of the five-year NASCO plan period, a reduction in the river length affected by

					loss of natural riparian vegetation and/or conifer afforestation
H6	Address fish passage challenges identified in Scotland's River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs)	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' in the next year's APR. i.e. – reduction, by the end of the five-year NASCO plan period, in the river length affected by upstream passage (consider cumulative impacts); downstream passage; dams/weirs/large water bodies; and/or other
H7	Carry out detailed assessments required for the regulation of existing marine renewable developments, new developments and proposed new developments to assess the risk to salmon populations	OG	Satisfactory		
H8-1	Research, review and experimentation to better understand and address, as appropriate, the impact of piscivorous birds on Atlantic salmon	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group requested information on how the research will guide potential management of piscivorous birds
H8-2	Pilot study to identify the degree of interaction and potential scale of impact of dolphins on returning adult Atlantic salmon in the Moray Firth	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group requested information on how the research has improved understanding of the predation interactions between dolphins and salmon.

					The Review Group noted this action was completed in 2023
H8-3	The Seals and Salmon Interactions (SSI) work to identify the impact of seal predation on wild Atlantic salmon	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory		The Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – 'provision of estimates of potential Atlantic salmon removals from the River Dee by seals'
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Marine Scotland to revisit options for a new licensing regime under the policy permitting salmon introductions (stocking)	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	As stated in previous APR reviews, the Review Group expected information to be reported in this year's Annual Progress Report on how the revised policy and associated licensing regime will have improved 'the conservation status of local wild Atlantic salmon populations' which is noted as the 'Expected outcome' in the Implementation Plan. The update again provided very limited information to assess progress adequately
A2	National introgression project to provide key data to support the minimisation of adverse genetic interactions by identifying impacted areas	OG	Satisfactory		
A3(i)	Post-smolt, west coast sweep netting and a continued work programme at the Shieldaig site to provide data to investigate	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No apparent progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group expected to see delivery against the 'Expected outcome' – i.e. how data will be used to inform the proposed sea lice framework as part of an adaptive management process. In

	potential links between sea lice, farms and sea trout				addition, the 2022 APR reported that there would be implementation of the framework later in 2023. However, no such information was reported in the APR on this being achieved in 2023
A2 & A3(ii)	<p>The Salmon Interactions Workstream has provided advice on existing and potential future arrangements to mitigate the 12 high level pressures on wild salmon. As an initial task, a new, independently chaired Working Group was established in October 2018, to examine and provide advice on the interactions between wild and farmed Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>This process is a critical step in working towards the achievement of NASCO's goals on containment and sea lice.</p>				
A3(iii)	Develop and implement field studies and migration models to better understand migration behaviours and potential interactions	OG	Satisfactory		

	between salmonids and aquaculture developments				
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Party / jurisdiction	Implementation Plan	IP Review	2020 APR	2021 APR	2022 APR	2023 APR	2024 APR
United States	IP(19)25rev2v	IP(21)12 United States	CNL(20)27	CNL(21)27	CNL(22)28	CNL(23)29	CNL(24)38

Overall Assessment of the Annual Progress Report

There are 11 actions in the Implementation Plan, of which 10 were deemed satisfactory during its review in November 2021. In the April 2024 Annual Progress Report's review, eight actions showed clear progress or were completed, while for two, progress was unable to be determined due to a lack of quantitative data. In line with Council's decision in 2023 ([CNL\(23\)87](#)) the Review Group did not review actions deemed unsatisfactory in the IP Review.

The Review Group welcomed the proposals to improve Atlantic salmon passage at hydroelectric dams on the Kennebec River through the construction of upstream and downstream fishways and full night-time turbine shutdowns during the smolt run ([CNL\(10\)51](#)).

Management of Salmon Fisheries: the Review Group reviewed the four satisfactory actions from the Implementation Plan. It agreed that all showed clear progress (Actions F1 to F4).

Habitat Protection and Restoration: there are three actions in this section of the Implementation Plan. All were deemed satisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. Actions H1 and H3 showed clear progress with Action H3 completed, while for Action H2 progress was unable to be determined due to a lack of quantitative data.

Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics: there are four actions from this section of the Implementation Plan, of which one was deemed unsatisfactory during the review of the Implementation Plan in November 2021. The Review Group agreed that Actions A3 and A4 showed clear progress and were unable to determine progress for Action A2 due to a lack of quantitative data. As Action A1 was deemed unsatisfactory in the review of the Implementation Plan, the Review Group did not review it.

Action No.	Description	Status of Action*	Satisfactory / Unsatisfactory Progress	Explanation of Shortcoming	Comments / Recommendations
Management of Salmon Fisheries					
F1	Reduce mortality of U.S.-origin salmon in mixed-stock fisheries by remaining active in the West Greenland Commission (WGC) and the North American Commission (NAC)	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group acknowledged the continued implementation of the multi-year regulatory measure for the West Greenland fishery (2022-2025); the USA's continued facilitation of the West Greenland fishery sampling program; and its review of Canada's report on Labrador's mixed-stock fishery (NAC(23)04)
F2	Reduce bycatch of Atlantic salmon in recreational fisheries for other species, such as brook trout, to the maximum extent possible	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the increase in outreach to reduce the likelihood of Atlantic salmon being mistaken for landlocked salmon
F3	Reduce poaching of Atlantic salmon to the maximum extent possible	OG	Satisfactory		
F4	Maintaining closures for all directed fisheries and reduced mortality of Atlantic salmon through bycatch	OG	Satisfactory		
Habitat Protection and Restoration					
H1	Improve fish passage by removing dams, installing fishways, removing	OG	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted the continuing progress made to improve fish passage

	culverts, decommissioning roads, and upgrading road-stream crossings				
H2	Improve fish passage at hydroelectric dams through dam removal or construction of effective fishways and the implementation of adaptive management strategies to achieve passage efficiency and survival targets for dams that cannot be removed	OG-NP	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	While the Review Group acknowledged the Endangered Species Act consultation there has been no quantifiable progress reported in the restoration of connectivity
H3	Develop and implement a freshwater protection, restoration, and enhancement strategy by 2024 for each of the three salmon habitat recovery units (actions PBS6.4, MBS7.4 and DES5.4 in the current recovery plan)	CD	Satisfactory		The Review Group noted that this action was completed in 2021
Aquaculture and Related Activities					
A1	Sea lice attributable to marine net pens				
A2	Containment --- Minimize effects to wild salmon from genetic introgression from escaped aquaculture-origin salmon by ensuring that	OG-UD	Unsatisfactory	No progress has been made in the reporting year	The Review Group noted that there were two reportable escapes totalling 50,000 smolts

	containment measures are maintained at 100% of all salmon farms each year				
A3	Implement broodstock management protocols at conservation hatcheries on an annual basis	OG	Satisfactory		
A4	Reduce stocking of non-native salmonids in the freshwater range of endangered salmon to ensure that predatory and competitive effects are minimized	OG	Satisfactory		

*The 'status of action' categories are: NS = Not Started; OG = Ongoing – clear progress; OG-NP = Ongoing – no progress; OG-UD = Ongoing – unable to determine progress; CD = Completed – clear progress; CD-NP = Completed – without clear progress.