

CNL(24)83

IP/APR Report 2024



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)

Date: 5th June 2024

Presenter: Dr Cathal Gallagher



IP/APR Review Group



Members:

*Cathal Gallagher	Europe (Chair)
Michael Millane	SSC
Dan Kircheis	North America
Lawrence Talks	UK
Livia Goodbrand	Canada
Rebekka Nygaard Bak	Denmark(FI&G)
Steve Sutton	NGO
Nils Olan Gjonne	NGO

Co-ordinators: Emma Hatfield

Introduction and Background



- 5th APR review in the 3rd cycle (2020 review was cancelled)
 - No specific TOR for the APR review relied on CNL(18)49 (*Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress*)
 - Secretariat designed review template (CNL40.2178 A3)
 - Lead/Initial reviewers assigned
 - Review Group – Reviewed all Actions (CNL(21)07)
 - Ground rules:
 - *Only info in the APR & IP to be reviewed*
 - *Reviewers not present for own jurisdictional APR*
 - *Initial reviewer to remain anonymous*



APR Evaluation timeline 2023



DATE/DEADLINE	MAJOR ACTION	PROGRESS
1st Feb 2019	Deadline for submission of Implementation Plans to Review Group	10 Plans Received
28th Feb -13th May 2019	Review concluded 1st evaluation of the IPs (see CNL (19)14)	20 Plans reviewed: 1 IP acceptable
6th June 2019	IP Review Group presentation to Council	
1st November 2019	Deadline for submission of revised Implementation Plans to NASCO	16 revised Plans submitted
18th to 22nd November 2019	Meets and develops its 2nd evaluation of the revised Implementations Plans	Considerable progress by almost all Parties/jurisdictions. Still only 2 IPs acceptable.
1st May 2020	Deadline for revised IP to be submitted to NASCO	No special session in 2020. - IPs not discussed until November 2020.
1st November 2020	Deadline for revised IPs	
16th to 27th November, 4th, 11th, 16th & 17th December 2020	Review Group meets and develops its 3rd evaluation of the revised Implementation Plans Revised guidance.	21 IPs review (1 new IP): 12 IPs were revised from 2019. 1 IP satisfactory in all areas.
1st April 2021	Deadline for submission of Annual Progress Report to Secretariat	19 Of 21 APRs
19th to 28th April 2021	APR Review Group review progress against IPs reviewed in November 2020	19 of 21 APRs reviewed
15th to 19th November 2021	Review Group meets and develops its 4th evaluation of the revised Implementation Plans Revised guidance.	17 revised IPs received and reviewed
11th to 14th April & 3rd May 2022	APR Review Group review progress against IPs reviewed in November 2021	20 of the 21 Aps received by deadline
14th and 15th November 2022	Review Group meets and develops its 5th evaluation of the revised Implementation Plans Revised guidance.	3 revised IPs received and reviewed
17th to 21th April 2023	APR Review Group review progress against IPs reviewed in November 2022	20 of the 21 APRs expected were received and reviewed
20th, 21st and 23rd Dec 2023	IP Review Group meets to review revised IPS	6 IPs received and reviewed
22nd to 25th April 2024	APR Review Group review progress against IPS reviewed in Nov 2023	All 21 APRs received and reviewed 
1 November 2021/2022/2023	Deadline for return of modified Implementation Plans to NASCO for inclusion in APR template.	
31 December 2021 /2022/2023	Deadline for return of modified Implementation Plans to NASCO for inclusion in APR template.	

APR Evaluation Std Text



Progress of actions evaluated and categorised against:

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;

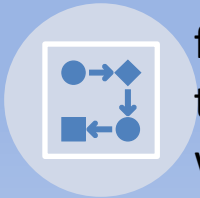
Progress deemed ongoing - reporting improvement provided

Progress not able to be determined (standard descriptors):

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



APR Review Group Agreed



Given the reporting cycle is five years in, any actions that had not yet started would be marked as 'Unsatisfactory'



For those actions considered to be unsatisfactory; to report only that progress towards NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines could not be established



APR RG noted shortcomings



several of the APRs had, again, reported on activities in years prior to the reporting year; reporting should be confined to reporting year. However, quantitative information on trends is expected, where possible;

focus on demonstrating progress towards 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.

in some cases the overall action was stated to be 'Completed' however, it was unclear whether this meant that the overall action was complete or whether it was an ongoing action that would be reported on annually, in which case it should have been marked as 'Ongoing'. This is now stated more clearly in the review feedback.



APR Review Group Feedback



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

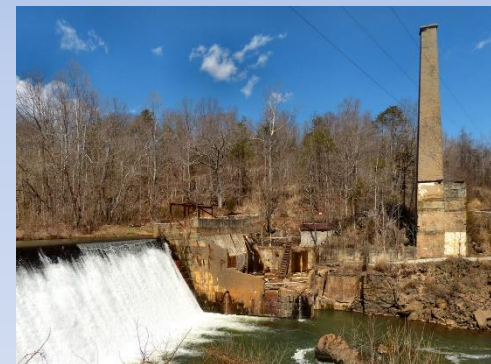
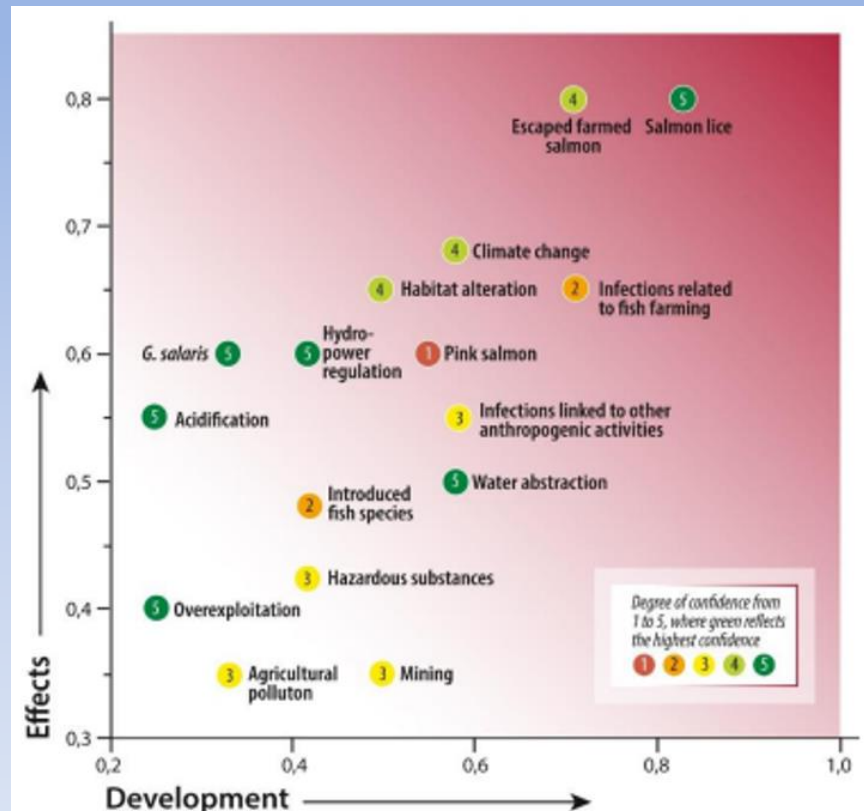
CNL(24)18 contains further positive feedback for various Parties/jurisdictions



APR Review Group Feedback on the Reporting Cycle 2023



the development of a NASCO standardised risk assessment tool capturing the main threats to wild Atlantic salmon, should be considered to inform an assessment of the highest priority threats / challenges to populate the IPs for all of NASCO's Parties / jurisdictions;



APR Review Group and FRWG



THE RG noted Draft ToRs propose that the IP / APR Review Group members form the base of the Future Reporting Working Group.



The RG 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.

APR Review Group and FRWG



The RG noted the desire 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.



The RG 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.



The RG 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.

APR Review Group and FRWG



The RG 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.



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.

Comments and Questions

