

Question & Answer Session held during the Special Session on the Evaluation of the Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation, UK): it would be good to hear from Parties / jurisdictions regarding what they thought about the way the Review Group worked. From an NGO point of view, we felt that some of the APRs [Annual Progress Reports] were overly verbose... I think the NGOs feel that if the IP / APRs were more succinct and actually aimed at genuine wild fish protection, which is what we are all about, it would be a lot easier. We would be very interested to hear from Parties / jurisdictions whether they thought their evaluations were fair / unfair. What is their general feedback? It would be really useful, as a Review Group, to hear that.

Raoul Bierach (Norway): thanks, Cathal for the presentation and also to the Review Group for their work. In response to Paul, I think all the work done by the Review Group was good and, in our case, we got some really good feedback which is helpful for us to improve our report in coming years. I think you have done a good job. We look forward to future reviews and doing better.

Ruth Allin (United Kingdom): the UK would also like to thank the Review Group for all their efforts. We found the process very helpful in terms of bringing focus and we felt that the feedback was fair and valuable. We liked the fact that things that had been done well were highlighted. In that sense it was good for sharing good practice.

Kim Damon-Randall (United States): all I wanted to say is that I agree with the comments from my colleagues in Norway and the UK and thank the Review Group for all their great work.

Ignacio Granell (European Union): I just want to echo the previous speakers' comments, I think the Review Group has done an amazing job reviewing all those reports. Thank you very much on behalf of the European Union.

Doug Bliss (Canada): thank you Cathal and the Review Group for all of your work on the reviews.

Serge Doucet (President): I would also like to echo the Parties / NGOs in thanking Cathal as Chair and the members of the Review Group for all their very important work and for the hours they have spent on this.