

CNL(26)21

Review of Draft Conservation Commitments Report

Date	Party / jurisdiction	Draft CCR – February 2026
February 2026	EU-Portugal	EU_Portugal - Draft CCR submitted February 2026

Overview of Conservation Commitments Report

Overall Comments / Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Review Group welcomes the ambition to implement new actions and recommends that more detail of the restoration activities to be implemented are provided and milestones are specified to allow for tracking progress. • The Review Group recommends that consultation with stakeholders takes place before the final CCR is submitted.

Consultation and Engagement

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations
E.1. E.2.	Are the questions in the ‘Consultation and Engagement’ section of the CCRs answered fully?	No. The answer was NA to both questions.

Stressors

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations
Stressor Justification	Are the top three stressors identified in the Party’s / jurisdiction’s stressor analysis used as the basis for the CCRs?	Yes.
	If not, are the justifications provided for the substitutions adequate?	Not applicable.

Stressor 1

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations		
S.1.a.	Are NASCO's theme areas identified?	Yes.		
S.1.b. S.1.c. S.1.d.	Is the impact of the stressor on wild Atlantic salmon described clearly?	In part. There is discussion of Portugal being at the southern limit of the species distribution range and that populations are 'highly affected' by the stressor. There is no detail on <i>how</i> climate change impacts these salmon stocks.		
	Are there no more than three actions for this stressor?	Yes.		
		Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
S.1.1.d S.1.2.d S.1.3.d.	Does the action have a clear and measurable tangible outcome to improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the identified stressor (i.e. in line with NASCO's Strategic Goal)?	In part. This action aims to implement habitat restoration measures but the description of exactly what these measures will be and the extent of the measures is unclear.	In part. The action is to reinforce salmon population through sustainable restocking. There is little detail of the scale of the stocking, including whether this would be in line with the NASCO Stocking Guidelines. There is no information on how the outcome of this restocking will be measured	
S.1.1.c. S.1.2.c. S.1.3.c.	Does the action have a clear starting point (baseline) against which progress towards the outcome can be measured?	Yes. The number of 'Atlantic salmon populations with direct actions focused on habitat restoration'. This is zero at present.	Yes. The starting point appears to be zero – 'populations Atlantic targeted by restocking actions'	

S.1.1.e. S.1.2.e. S.1.3.e.	Are clear interim goals / milestones identified for this action?	No. It would be useful to define the specific steps involved in the action. This can be described in section S.1.1.f with an index included in the milestones section e.g. (e.g. 1: develop habitat restoration plan; 2: plan habitat restoration works; 3: implement X habitat restoration works; 4: implement Y habitat restoration works; 5: monitor outcomes.	No. It would be useful to define the specific steps involved in the action. This can be described in section S.1.1.f with an index provided in the milestones section.	
S.1.4.	Does this stressor include a quantitative baseline and tangible outcome to enable progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Goal to be measured?	<p>In part.</p> <p>There is a quantitative baseline is the number of populations severely diminished and with reduced capacity to deal with climate change effects. However, more information could be provided on how these stocks are assessed to be ‘severely diminished and with reduced capacity to deal with climate change effects’.</p> <p>The tangible outcome is that at least 1 population (Minho) could be restored to a high level of resilience to climate change impacts. However, it is unclear how a ‘high level of resilience’ would be measured and reported on.</p>		
Comments / Recommendations				
<p>The Review Group welcomes the ambition to implement these new actions.</p> <p>It is recommended that more detail of the restoration activities to be implemented are provided.</p> <p>It is recommended that milestones are specified to allow for tracking progress.</p> <p>It would be helpful to explain how the actions will lead to a high level of resilience to climate change impacts.</p>				

Stressor 2

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations
S.2.a.	Are NASCO’s theme areas identified?	Yes.

S.2.b. S.2.c. S.2.d.	Is the impact of the stressor on wild Atlantic salmon described clearly?	Yes.		
	Are there no more than three actions for this stressor?	Yes.		
		Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
S.2.1.d S.2.2.d S.2.3.d.	Does the action have a clear and measurable tangible outcome to improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the identified stressor (i.e. in line with NASCO's Strategic Goal)?	Yes.		
S.2.1.c. S.2.2.c. S.2.3.c.	Does the action have a clear starting point (baseline) against which progress towards the outcome can be measured?	Yes.		
S.2.1.e. S.2.2.e. S.2.3.e.	Are clear interim goals / milestones identified for this action?	Yes.		
S.2.4.	Does this stressor include a quantitative baseline and tangible outcome to enable progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Goal to be measured?	<p>Yes.</p> <p>The quantitative base line is 'number of Atlantic salmon rivers whose habitat quantity is affected by the presence of barriers of difficult or impossible passage'</p> <p>Yes.</p> <p>The outcome is that in 6 tributaries, difficult or unsurmountable barriers will be significantly reduced.</p> <p>However, there is a lack of specificity in this answer. How would the outcome of 'significantly reduced' be measured?</p>		
Comments / Recommendations				
The Review Group welcomes the information provided about ongoing work on the prioritization and selection of areas, rivers and obstacles to be removed and the hope that in addition to the 15 barriers mentioned in the milestones, that an additional set of 3-4 obstacles may be addressed.				

Stressor 3

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations		
S.3.a.	Are NASCO's theme areas identified?	Yes.		
S.3.b. S.3.c. S.3.d.	Is the impact of the stressor on wild Atlantic salmon described clearly?	Yes.		
	Are there no more than three actions for this stressor?	Yes.		
		Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
S.3.1.d S.3.2.d S.3.3.d.	Does the action have a clear and measurable tangible outcome to improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the identified stressor (i.e. in line with NASCO's Strategic Goal)?	No. This action describes a human co-ordinating activity associated with salmon conservation, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action is not being measured.		
S.3.1.c. S.3.2.c. S.3.3.c.	Does the action have a clear starting point (baseline) against which progress towards the outcome can be measured?	No. Moving from zero to one Surveillance and Awareness Plan is positive, but this does not allow progress to be measured		
S.3.1.e. S.3.2.e. S.3.3.e.	Are clear interim goals / milestones identified for this action?	No. It would be useful to use the steps set out in the answer to Question S.3.1.f as an index included. This could be included on the milestones section.		

S.3.4.	Does this stressor include a quantitative baseline and tangible outcome to enable progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Goal to be measured?	<p>No.</p> <p>A baseline is referenced (2 river basins with high impact from illegal fisheries/poaching), but it isn't clear how this 'high impact' is measured.</p> <p>The tangible outcome is 'a significant reduction of impacts' of illegal fisheries/poaching. However, the impacts are not quantified and so a reduction will be difficult to track.</p>
<p>Comments / Recommendations</p> <p>The discussion during the interview of the importance of education in schools and the wider population showed an awareness of the types of measures that might be needed to address the stressor.</p>		