

CNL(26)31

Review of Draft Conservation Commitments Report

Date	Party / jurisdiction	Draft CCR – April 2026
April 2026	UK-England	UK England – Updated Draft CCR submitted April 2026

Overview of Conservation Commitments Report

Overall Comments / Recommendations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall, England’s CCR has strong actions to address the identified stressors. The actions associated with Habitat Alterations are particularly strong with very ambitious goals and tangible outcomes that benefit salmon. • It’s well understood that the actions associated with water quantity and water quality will afford benefits to Atlantic salmon, though in this CCR no quantifiable metrics directly related to salmon survival or productivity were identified that would help demonstrate this. • Some clarity is needed for the goals and milestones for some of the actions. These are intended to provide a metric that the review group can evaluate progress towards achievement of the tangible outcome, and therefore, should be incremental to the tangible outcome. For several of the actions in this CCR, the goals and milestones are the same as the tangible outcome which makes the distinction between milestones and tangible outcome unclear and will make it difficult for the Review Group to assess progress.

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?	Yes.

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?	No.

	If not, are the justifications provided for the substitutions adequate?	Yes.
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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?	Yes.		
	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)?	<p>In part.</p> <p>This action will promote and support targeted habitat restoration measures but the benefits to salmon are not being measured.</p> <p>The anticipated outcome is that restoring peatlands will maintain a more stable flow regime which in turn, will improve conditions for salmon.</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>This action describes a regulatory procedure that will improve conditions for salmon, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action are not being measured.</p> <p>It is not clear in the narrative whether the act of completing abstraction licence reviews will directly translate into improved conditions for flow. However, this was clarified during the interview that they indeed would. This could be enhanced by clarifying this in the narrative to help make the</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>This action describes a regulatory procedure that will improve conditions for salmon, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action are not being measured.</p> <p>This action describes that implementation of the water management schemes for drinking water reservoirs will improve flow conditions for salmon</p>

			connection that the action would lead to improved conditions for salmon.	
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.	Yes.	Yes. The established baseline is 2 percent of heavily modified waterbodies that currently meet good ecological potential for flow.
S.1.1.e. S.1.2.e. S.1.3.e.	Are clear interim goals / milestones identified for this action?	Yes	Yes.	Yes. The interim goals and milestones could be enhanced by entering the tangible outcome of 8.2 for the year you anticipate that you will fully achieve this goal (2030). Enter zero for subsequent years if you don't anticipate any additional progress beyond 2030.
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?	Yes. At present, 86% of the Principal Salmon Rivers are achieving their flow targets. Their goal is for 90% of the Principal Salmon Rivers to achieve their flow targets.		
Comments / Recommendations Detailed comments were included a part of the review of the actions above.				

Stressor 2

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations
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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)?	<p>In part.</p> <p>This action describes a regulatory procedure that will improve conditions for salmon, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action are not being measured</p> <p>The narrative is unclear whether farm inspections will lead to improved conditions for salmon. This action will promote improved water quality for salmon but it does not provide a clear link to the benefit of salmon. This action could be enhanced if a water quality metric was used as the indicator of improved conditions for salmon, though we understand the challenges associated with doing so.</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>This action describes a regulatory procedure that will improve conditions for salmon, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action are not being measured</p> <p>Upon completion of this action 841 facilities that discharge into the river will have measures in place to ensure that discharge meets or exceeds the regulatory standards.</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>This action describes a regulatory procedure that will improve conditions for salmon, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action are not being measured</p> <p>This action will promote improve water quality in areas that support salmon through management of storm overflows, but the action does not provide a clear measurable benefit to salmon.</p>

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. The baseline of 1548 reflects the number of farm inspections completed in 2024.	Yes. A baseline of zero has been identified to represent the baseline	Yes. 1192 inspections undertaken in 2024/25
S.2.1.e. S.2.2.e. S.2.3.e.	Are clear interim goals / milestones identified for this action?	Yes	Yes. Clear, goals / milestones are identified for each year of the reporting cycle.	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?	Yes. The description of the quantitative baseline states that 22% of the waterbodies in PSRs are currently meeting or exceeding GES/GEP, and that the tangible outcome is that 75% of waterbodies will meet or exceed GES/GEP, which is a very ambitious goal. Tightening up the reporting metrics for the actions such that they track with the expected outcome for the stressor would help clarify the anticipated impact of the action in addressing the stressor.		
Comments / Recommendations Detailed comments were included a part of the review of the actions above.				

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	Does the action have a clear and measurable tangible outcome to improve	Yes.	In part.	Yes.

S.3.2.d S.3.3.d.	conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the identified stressor (i.e. in line with NASCO's Strategic Goal)?	<p>This action will promote and support targeted habitat restoration measures that are known to benefit salmon.</p> <p>The tangible outcome is very clear. There are 492 known barriers with the goal of removing or improving passage at 105.</p>	<p>This action will promote and support targeted habitat restoration measures that are known to benefit salmon.</p> <p>It would be more meaningful if the restored reaches were reporting as river km relative to some estimate of river km that need restoration. At present, it's hard to understand whether these 252 projects will equate to 1 km or 50 km of restored river reaches. Representing this in km will give a greater understanding of the expected benefit.</p>	<p>This action will promote and support targeted habitat restoration measures that are known to benefit salmon.</p> <p>Over 500 Ha of trees are expected to be planted over the course of the reporting cycle.</p>
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?	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
S.3.1.e. S.3.2.e. S.3.3.e.	Are clear interim goals / milestones identified for this action?	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.
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>In part.</p> <p>The narrative provides a good summary of the expected tangible outcome for each of the actions.</p> <p>No tangible outcome was identified for the stressor as it states that a target for this metric is not possible. Might a plausible metric be the anticipated level of improvement in the HQA score as mentioned in the description of the quantitative baseline (S.3.c)?</p>		
Comments / Recommendations				
Detailed comments were included a part of the review of the actions above.				

