CNL(13)42

NASCO Implementation Plan for the period 2013-18

EU - Finland

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The main purpose of this Implementation Plan is to demonstrate what actions are being taken by the jurisdiction to implement NASCO Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Questions in the Implementation Plan refer to the following documents:

- *NASCO Guidelines for Management of Salmon Fisheries, CNL(09)43 (referred to as the 'Fisheries Guidelines');*
- *Minimum Standard for Catch Statistics, CNL(93)51 (referred to as the 'Minimum Standard');*
- *NASCO Guidelines for Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Atlantic Salmon Habitat, CNL(10)51 (referred to as the 'Habitat Guidelines');*
- *Williamsburg Resolution, CNL(06)48; and*
- *Guidance on Best Management Practices to address impacts of sea lice and escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon stocks (SLG(09)5) (referred to as the 'BMP Guidance').*

Party:	**European Union**
Jurisdiction/Region:	**Finland**

1. Introduction

1.1 What are the objectives for the management of wild salmon? *(Max 200 words)*

To conserve and restore anadromous salmonid (Atlantic salmon, sea trout, anadromous charr) stocks at levels of abundance and with a composition that ensures biological diversity and the natural productive capacity.

1.2 What reference points (e.g. conservation limits, management targets or other measures of abundance) are used to assess the status of stocks? *(Max 200 words)*
(Reference: Sections 2.4 and 2.5 of the Fisheries Guidelines)

In the absence of measures of the salmon run sizes, the salmon catch is considered to represent a surrogate of abundance. The lack of catch quotas for any fisheries in these rivers and significant correlations in the Atlantic salmon catches between fishing methods indicate that the estimated numbers of salmon caught may reflect actual variations in the populations. In addition, significant relationships between the estimated numbers of salmon in the catches and the abundance of juveniles in subsequent years indicate that the catch may be realistic surrogate of the stock size. In recent years, however, the Norwegian method for defining spawning targets for salmon rivers has also been applied to certain tributaries of the Teno river (Tana in Norwegian), five of which are truly assessed on a yearly basis. Bilateral collaboration between Finland and Norway is underway for defining targets for more tributaries, and the method itself will be revised in 2013 as well.

1.3 To provide a baseline for future comparison, what is the current status of stocks relative to the reference points described in 1.2, and how are threatened and endangered stocks identified?

Category	Description of category and link to reference points	No. rivers
1	Poor status, estimates of spawning populations clearly less (mostly below 50%) of the spawning target (CL)	5 (the currently monitored tributaries on the Norwegian side of the Teno system)
2		
3		
4		
Insert additional categories as required		
TOTAL:		

Additional comments:

1.4 How is stock diversity (e.g. genetics, age composition, run-timing, etc.) taken into account in the management of salmon stocks? *(Max 200 words)*

In recent years, knowledge on the diversity, both in terms of genetics and life histories, of the River Teno salmon stock complex has been increasing. The Teno river system comprises of more than 30 genetically distinct salmon populations in tributaries and different parts of the main stem, and they include c. 100 life history combinations of smolt ages, sea ages and previous spawning times.

Finnish tributary stocks of the Teno are managed based on national legislation in addition to the bilateral agreement between Norway and Finland for the main stem fisheries. Some elements of the fishing regulations aim at safeguarding certain genetic and life history groups. For instance, restricting early season drift netting to a period of 20 May – 15 June, three days in a week, aims at protecting the large 3SW females of populations furthest up in the system, and

previous spawners of many tributary populations that have the earliest run timing of all the Teno populations/groups.

1.5 To provide a baseline for future comparison, what is the current and potential quantity of salmon habitat? *(Max 200 words)*
(Reference: Section 3.1 of the Habitat Guidelines)

It has been estimated that the Teno river system contains some 47.2 million m^2 (habitat units) of production area for salmon, and the corresponding figure for the River Näätämöjoki is 2.1 million m^2. These figures are practically at the level of the current habitat use of the salmon populations.

1.6 What is the current extent of freshwater and marine salmonid aquaculture?

Number of marine farms	
Marine production (tonnes)	
Number of freshwater facilities	0
Freshwater production (tonnes)	

Append one or more maps showing the location of aquaculture facilities and aquaculture free zones in rivers and the sea.

1.7 To aid in the interpretation of this Implementation Plan, have complete data on rivers within the jurisdiction been provided for the NASCO rivers database?
Yes/no/comments

No. Some basic data are there but more will be provided in collaboration with the Norwegian authorities.

2. Fisheries Management:

2.1 What are the objectives for the management of the fisheries for wild salmon? *(Max. 200 words)*

To conserve and restore anadromous salmonid (Atlantic salmon, sea trout, anadromous charr) stocks at levels of abundance and with a composition that ensures biological diversity and the natural productive capacity.

2.2 What is the decision-making process for fisheries management, including predetermined decisions taken under different stock conditions (e.g. the stock level at which fisheries are closed)? *(Max. 200 words)*
(This can be answered by providing a flow diagram if this is available.)
(Reference: Sections 2.1 and 2.7 of the Fisheries Guidelines)

A general fishery agreement has been concluded between the governments of Finland and Norway, and this agreement primarily regulates the local fisheries and their fishing rights. Tourist angling is regulated by regional authorities in both countries, and these regulations can be amended on a yearly basis. Regional authorities meet regularly, on annual basis, to assess the needs for amendments on tourist fishery regulations, in light of the status of salmon stocks and practical arrangements of the tourist fishery. Advice and comments are provided by the Finnish-Norwegian scientific group and the local stakeholders.

The latest general agreement for the River Teno has been concluded in 1989 and that for the River Näätämöjoki in 1984. Negotiations for revision of the Teno agreements are underway. The aim for the new agreement is to make it more flexible, science-based, target-based and adopt NASCO's principle of Decision Structure. There is a need to revive the River Näätämönjoki agreement after the new agreement on the Teno river has been completed. Given the available resources, the Teno has been prioritized, because there are more complex issues to be solved, and the stock status and the management environment in the River

Näätämönjoki is more stable.
2.3 Are fisheries permitted to operate on salmon stocks that are below their reference point and, if so, how many such fisheries are there and what approach is taken to managing them that still promotes stock rebuilding? *(Max 200 words.)* *(Reference: Section 2.7 of the Fisheries Guidelines)*
Yes. The river fisheries are operational although the reference points for the five Norwegian tributaries are not attained. Negotiation on the new agreement is underway (see 2.2). The agreement and the regulatory measures will be including a stock recovery programme for the stocks below their CL. In addition, intermediate measures to decrease fishing pressure are considered.
2.4 Are there any mixed-stock salmon fisheries and, if so, (a) how are these defined, (b) what was the mean catch in these fisheries in the last five years and (c) how are they managed to ensure that all the contributing stocks are meeting their conservation objectives? *(Max. 300 words in total)* *(Reference: Section 2.8 of the Fisheries Guidelines)*
(a) The main stem fishery of the River Teno is mixed-stock fishery exploiting some 30 tributary populations.
(b) c. 80-90 metric tonnes (Finland and Norway combined)
(c) Preparation of the new agreement in underway (see 2.2)
2.5 How are socio-economic factors taken into account in making decisions on fisheries management? *(Max. 200 words)* *(Reference: Section 2.9 of the Fisheries Guidelines)*
Both rivers Teno and Näätämöjoki are in the area inhabited by indigenous Sámi people. Fishing for salmon is an important part of Sami culture. Traditional salmon fishing methods may be used in the fisheries, but the use of stationary gears is restricted to fishing right owners who live in the area. In addition, rod fishing for tourists is more restricted than local rod fishery. For example, only the use of locally-owned boats is allowed in salmon fishing. Salmon based tourism is an important livelihood especially in the River Teno area. Restrictions, like the rules for boat ownership, are applied to help the local businesses in supporting the local economy and the Sámi culture.
2.6 What is the current level of unreported catch and what measures are being taken to reduce this? *(Max. 200 words)* *(Reference: Section 2.2 of the Fisheries Guidelines and the Minimum Standard)*
7 metric tonnes. Majority of this is legal but unreported (no mandatory reporting), and recent development of the reporting system will likely reduce this figure in near future.
2.7 What are the main threats to wild salmon and challenges for management in relation to fisheries, taking into account the Fisheries Guidelines and the specific issues on which action was recommended for this jurisdiction in the Final Report of the Fisheries Management FAR Review Group, (CNL(09)11)?

Threat/ challenge F1	Mixed stock fishery in the main stem of the River Teno, and the cumulative fishing pressure on salmon stocks experiencing the sequence of various fisheries: the Norwegian coast, estuary, different parts of the main stem, and the tributaries.
Threat/ challenge F2	

Threat/ challenge F3	
Threat/ challenge F4	

Copy and paste lines to add further threats/challenges which should be labelled F5, F6, etc.

2.8 What actions are planned to address each of the above threats and challenges in the five year period to 2018?		
Action F1:	Description of action:	Preparation of the new fishery agreement between Norway and Finland is underway (concerning river fisheries, coastal fishery is the responsibility of Norwegian national management)
	Planned timescale:	Effective 2015 (the Teno agreement)
	Expected outcome:	New restrictions, decrease in fishing mortality in relation to reference point achievement.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	New population-specific monitoring sites will be established, existing monitoring programme will be further focused on population-specific level and other requirements set by the new fishery agreement, now under preparation.
Action F2:	Description of action:	Spawning targets have been established and annually assessed for five tributaries of the Teno river. Bilateral collaboration between Finland and Norway is underway for defining targets for more tributaries
	Planned timescale:	Targets for new tributaries and an overall revision of the method for establishing and assessing the spawning targets is under development in 2013-2014.
	Expected outcome:	More accurate spawning targets in more rivers enable better coverage in stock status assessment in the large, versatile Teno system.
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	New monitoring sites will be established that are more representative of the various populations of the system, enabling prioritized and tailored population-specific management actions if necessary.
Action F3:	Description of action:	
	Planned timescale:	
	Expected outcome:	
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	

Action F4:	Description of action:	
	Planned timescale:	
	Expected outcome:	
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	

Copy and paste lines to add further actions which should be labelled F5, F6, etc.

3. Protection and Restoration of Salmon Habitat:

3.1 How are risks to productive capacity identified and options for restoring degraded or lost salmon habitat prioritised, taking into account the principle of 'no net loss' and the need for inventories to provide baseline data? *(Max. 200 words)*
(*Reference: Section 3 of the Habitat Guidelines)*

Not applicable for Finland. Minor concerns about habitat impacts from road building and erosion have been handled in co-operation with Norway. To avoid these problems in the future, recommendations have been given to road constructors and regional authorities responsible for road-building according to initiatives mentioned in the Water Framework Directive river-district plan.

3.2 How are socio-economic factors taken into account in making decisions on salmon habitat management? *(Max. 200 words)*
(Reference: Section 3.9 of the Habitats Guidelines)

3.3 What are the main threats to wild salmon and challenges for management in relation to estuarine and freshwater habitat taking into account the Habitat Guidelines, and the specific issues on which action was recommended for this jurisdiction in the Final Report of the Habitat Protection, Restoration and Enhancement FAR Review Group, (CNL(10)11)?

Threat/ challenge H1	Minor concerns about habitat impacts from road building and erosion.
Threat/ challenge H2	
Threat/ challenge H3	
Threat/ challenge H4	

Copy and paste lines to add further threats/challenges which should be labelled H5, H6, etc.

3.4 What actions are planned to address each of the above threats and challenges in the five year period to 2018?		
Action H1:	Description of action:	Recommendations have been given to road constructors and regional authorities responsible for road-building to avoid small migration barriers and erosion.
	Planned timescale:	ongoing
	Expected outcome:	no new problematic areas
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	Monitored as a part of the Water Framework Directive planning.
Action H2:	Description of action:	
	Planned timescale:	
	Expected outcome:	
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	
Action H3:	Description of action:	
	Planned timescale:	
	Expected outcome:	
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	
Action H4:	Description of action:	
	Planned timescale:	
	Expected outcome:	
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	

Copy and paste lines to add further actions which should be labelled H5, H6, etc

4. Management of Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers, and Transgenics:

4.1 What is the approach for determining the location of aquaculture facilities in (a) freshwater and (b) marine environments to minimise the risks to wild salmon stocks? *(Max. 200 words for each)*

(a)
No aquaculture facilities in the catchment areas of the Rivers Teno and Näätämöjoki

(b)

4.2 What progress can be demonstrated towards the achievement of the international goals for effective sea lice management such that there is no increase in sea lice loads or lice-induced mortality of wild stocks attributable to sea lice? *(Max. 200 words)*
(Reference: BMP Guidance)

4.3 What progress can be demonstrated towards the achievement of the international goals for ensuring 100% containment in (a) freshwater and (b) marine aquaculture facilities? *(Max. 200 words each)*
(Reference: BMP Guidance)

(a)

(b)

4.4 What progress has been made to implement NASCO guidance on introductions, transfersand stocking? *(Max. 200 words)*
(Reference: Articles 5 and 6 and Annex 4 of the Williamsburg Resolution)

Introduction of fishes is prohibited in the River Teno drainage area by the agreement of the River Teno fishery between Finland and Norway (94/1989). However, in the River Näätämöjoki, fish releases are possible in the drainage area although they have been directed and permitted only to lakes outside the salmon migration area. Introduction of a new fish species or a non-indigenous fish stock to this area is prohibited without a permit from the regional fishery authority.

Most of the waters in the River Teno and Näätämöjoki drainage area are managed by the Metsähallitus. The transfer plans to move fish from an area to another within the drainage area have to be approved by the local fisheries management council where stakeholders have their representation. In addition Metsähallitus has to apply for a permit from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to transfer fish within the drainage area of the rivers Teno and Näätämöjoki.

4.5 What is the policy/strategy on use of transgenic salmon? *(Max. 200 words)*
(Reference: Article 7 and Annex 5 of the Williamsburg Resolution)

As aquaculture is prohibited in the River Teno drainage area, the question of transgenics is not applicable in this area. Even though there is a small hatchery in the River Näätämöjoki drainage area, it only uses eggs of indigenous fish species of local stocks and the question of transgenics is not applicable in this area either.

4.6 What measures are in place to prevent the introduction or further spread of *Gyrodactylus salaris*? *(Max. 200 words)*
Legislation on Gyrodactylus –related issues (fish transfers, disinfection etc.; n:o 1376/2004) has been implemented. A preparatory report ”The protection of Rivers Teno and Näätämö against *Gyrodactylus salaris*” for the *Gyrodactylus salaris* prevention plan has been completed in 2012. Eviran julkaisuja 1/2013, ISSN 1797-299X, ISBN 978-952-225-120-6, The ongoing practical work to prevent G. salaris. continues. Main elements of this work are: - active informing about the G. salaris threat and measures needed for prevention (brochures, billboards, roadside information boards, information at fishing-licence sales) - disinfection site network in the northernmost Finland - training of staff at fishing-licence sales points for disinfection

4.7 What are the main threats to wild salmon and challenges for management in relation to aquaculture, introductions and transfers, and transgenics, taking into account the Williamsburg Resolution, the BMP Guidance and specific issues on which action was recommended for this jurisdiction in the Final Report of the Aquaculture FAR Review Group, (CNL(11)11)?	
Threat/ Challenge A1	Gyrodactylus salaris
Threat/ challenge A2	Aquaculture escapees
Threat/ challenge A3	
Threat/ challenge A4	

Copy and paste lines to add further threats/challenges which should be labelled A5, A6, etc.

4.8 What actions are planned to address each of the above threats and challenges in the five year period to 2018?		
Action A1:	Description of action:	Continue the spread of information. New legislation in Finland 2010.
	Planned timescale:	No new actions planned. Spread of information ongoing
	Expected outcome:	Spread of *Gyrodactylus salaris* is prevented
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness:	monitored in the same process as other biological monitoring (samples from electrofishing)
Action A2:	Description of action:	Continuation of monitoring. Other measures are mostly Norwegian responsibility. No new actions planned
	Planned timescale:	Ongoing
	Expected outcome:	
	Approach for monitoring	monitored in intervals as a part of other biological monitoring

	effectiveness & enforcement:	
Action A3:	Description of action:	
	Planned timescale:	
	Expected outcome:	
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	
Action A4:	Description of action:	
	Planned timescale:	
	Expected outcome:	
	Approach for monitoring effectiveness & enforcement:	

Copy and paste lines to add further actions which should be labelled A5, A6, etc