



Agenda Item 5.1
For Information

Council

CNL(15)22

***Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2014***

EU – Sweden

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Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under Implementation Plans for the Calendar Year 2014

The primary purposes of the Annual Progress Reports are to provide details of:

- any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the Implementation Plan;
- actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plan in the previous year;
- significant changes to the status of stocks, and a report on catches; and
- actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention

These reports will be reviewed by the Council. Please complete this form and return it to the Secretariat **by 1 April 2015**.

Party:	European Union
Jurisdiction/Region:	Sweden

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan
1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan <i>(Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 December).</i>
The Swedish Government has ordered an investigation for a national plan for the future conservation and management of salmon and sea-running brown trout for both stocks in the Baltic sea and the Atlantic. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management will coordinate the work. Focus is e.g. on international and national management, harmonization of management between species and areas, and stakeholders involvement. The plan will be presented late autumn 2015.
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
A new legislation was implemented in the sea in 2014; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• with a bag-limit of only two salmon allowed in angling per fisherman and day.• a ban on using gill nets for salmon fishing in coastal waters (depth >3 m).

2: Stock status and catches.

2.1 Provide a description of any new factors which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks and, if there has been any significant change in stock status since the development of the Implementation Plan, provide a brief (200 word max) summary of these changes.

As river specific CL's are lacking for Swedish rivers, the stock status for each river is assessed using recruitment data (abundance of parr). Salmon habitat quality is classed in nine categories (habitat index values 0 to 8) from depth, water velocity, dominating substrate and wetted width. For each category an expected abundance was calculated from electrofishing data from the 1980ies when the number of returning spawners was high. Data from each site each year is then compared to the expected value and expressed in per cent. All sites in a river are pooled and an average (and 95% c. i.) is calculated. Rivers with averages of 75% or more are considered to be of good status. Rivers with an average of 50-74% are labeled intermediate status, and rivers below 50% are labeled poor status.

Using the period 2000-2014 data is available from 22 rivers. Three rivers (14%) have poor status; R. Vegeå and R. Törlan are both affected by organic pollution. In River Enningdalsälven, the border river between Norway and Sweden, there is too few spawners reaching the upper reaches of the river, i.e. the Swedish part of the river. Eight rivers (36%) have good status, among these the largest wild salmon rivers; R. Ätran and River Örekilsälven. Finally, eleven rivers (50%) have intermediate status.

2.2 Provide the following information on catches:(nominal catch equals reported quantity of salmon caught and retained in tonnes 'round fresh weight' (i.e. weight of whole, ungutted, unfrozen fish) or 'round fresh weight equivalent').

	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2014 (tonnes)	13	-	17*	30
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2013 (tonnes)	9.680	-	5.018	14.698
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2014 (tonnes)	1	-	2	3
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2014.	<p>Catch and release (C&R) is generally only carried out when angling in rivers with wild salmon (with adipose fin), whereas people fishing in rivers with reared salmon generally do not release caught fish back. C&R is voluntary and there is no total statistics of the magnitude. Although a thorough statistics is lacking, the C&R proportion evidently increases over time.</p> <p>In 2014 445 salmon were released back alive in C&R.</p> <p>From what is reported the total catch in 2014 in all rivers sport fishing would have increased by 14.5% in numbers if all caught salmon had been landed, looking only at wild salmon rivers the C&R proportion was 37.7%.</p> <p><i>* New legislation with ban on using gill nets for salmon fishing in 2014 (depth >3 m). Catch statistics revealed that coastal fishery did not decrease. The Swedish Agency for Marine and Water management has due to illegal fishing filed a law suit against responsible fishermen.</i></p>			

3: Implementation Plan Actions.		
3.1 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to the Management of Salmon Fisheries (Section 2.8 of the Implementation Plan). <i>Note: The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.</i>		
Action F1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Implementing new fishing rules to lessen exploitation of wild salmon in rivers with low status.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increased stocks through lessened exploitation.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	New legislation was implemented in the sea in 2014 with a bag-limit of only two salmon allowed in angling per fisherman and day. Electrofishing data indicating increased recruitment in weak rivers in 2014, but this is too soon for evaluation of new fishing rules.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Not evaluated yet.
Action F2:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Phasing out mixed-stock fisheries on wild salmon in reared rivers, and mixed-stock fisheries on the coast.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increased stocks through lessened exploitation.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	New legislation with ban on using gill nets for salmon fishing in 2014 (depth >3 m).
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes. (Although initial problems with illegal fishing.)
Action F3:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Fin-clipping of reared salmon and trout, annually ca 180,000.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Allows for reared and wild salmon to be distinguished.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Screened by Country boards annually. Was implemented in 2005. In 2014 167,665 reared smolts were fin-clipped and released. Of these 70% was one year old smolts. During the period 2000-2014 the average number of released reared salmon smolt annually has been approximately 174,000.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes.
Action F4:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Genetic base line of salmon stocks.

	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Stocks in mixed-stock fisheries identified. International exchange of data possible.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Data sampling 2014-2015. Analysis late 2015.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes.
Action F5:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Running monitoring in index river (smolt & spawner census, tagging of smolt, electrofishing).
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Stock-recruitment data, sea survival, run-timing, diversity of stock, age at smolting, age in the sea.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Program running as planned in the index river Ätran/Högvadsån with counting of smolts and ascending spawners since the 1950s. The spawning run in 2014 was above average (2000-2014).
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes
Action F6:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Establishing Conservation Limits & Management Targets from index river data and habitat surveys.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Individual river assessment facilitates management and advice.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Planned to 2015-2016. Work progressing as planned, see time table.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Not yet.
Action F7:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Establishing in-river exploitation levels, through tagging/returns & catch and effort statistics in two rivers.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Aiding MTs, and also required for International assessment through ICES
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Not started, lack of funding.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Not started, lack of funding.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	No
Action F8:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Improving catch statistics (C&R, effort)
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Aiding Management Targets (MTs), and also required for International assessment through ICES.

	Progress on Action to Date (<i>see note above</i>):	A plan for better catch statistics has been prepared in 2014. Implementation lacking due to legal problems, reporting from non-commercial fishermen can only be voluntary according to Swedish law. Further work required.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	No.
Action F9:	Description of Action (<i>as submitted in the IP</i>):	Reducing over-exploitation of MSW in rivers through restrictions on landing large fish. (Compare F1.)
	Expected Outcome (<i>as submitted in the IP</i>):	Increased egg deposition. Action aimed at weak stocks or where catches are unreported/uncertain.
	Progress on Action to Date (<i>see note above</i>):	Not enforced. The goal will hopefully be achieved through information to sport fishing associations. Further action is planned.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	No.
Action F10:	Description of Action (<i>as submitted in the IP</i>):	Coordinating and securing monitoring of recruitment (parr) in rivers.
	Expected Outcome (<i>as submitted in the IP</i>):	Securing monitoring in at least 17 of 23 rivers, preferably all rivers if feasible.
	Progress on Action to Date (<i>see note above</i>):	All data are reported to our national database on electrofishing. Still some sites/rivers lack monitoring. These will be fished this year, but funding of long-term monitoring still uncertain.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes for 2015
Action F11:	Description of Action (<i>as submitted in the IP</i>):	Initiate and support formation of fish management units (fmu) in salmon rivers
	Expected Outcome (<i>as submitted in the IP</i>):	A more effective decision process involving fishing rights owner regarding decision on CL, regulation of fisheries, data collection, habitat restoration.
	Progress on Action to Date (<i>see note above</i>):	No new fish management units have been formed. The authorities can't force the establishment of fmu according to present legislation.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	No.

3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (Section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan).		
<i>Note: The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.</i>		
Action H1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Continued liming of acidified salmon rivers and tributaries
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increased pH, lowered toxic aluminium. Increased juvenile survival, increased biodiversity.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The Swedish Agency for marine and water management has a national database of all efforts. Liming of acidified rivers (78 % of the salmon main rivers require liming) is essential for salmon production and aquatic biodiversity.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes.
Action H2:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Habitat surveys compiled, quality assured and new data added if required.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Quality controlled data on salmon habitat and quality compiled in a database.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	A database is on its way through the Swedish Univ. of Agricultural Sciences.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Soon – in 2016.
Action H3:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Plan for continued habitat restoration in salmon rivers. (Also including H2 & H4)
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Plan in 2015, with the cooperation of the County Administrative Boards. Different plans exist.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Postponed one year, but otherwise going according to plan.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Not yet.
Action H4:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Establishing criteria for BAT (best available technology) for hydropower generation.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Plan in 2015. Implemented in all Counties.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Will be finished in autumn 2015.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.

	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Soon.
Action H5:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Establishing criteria and workflow for surveillance of hydropower plants according to Environmental Law & BAT.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Plan in 2015. Implemented in all Counties.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Will be finished in autumn 2015.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Soon.

3.3 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics (Section 4.8 of the Implementation Plan).

Note: The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.

Action A1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Monitoring of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Updated information on <i>G. salaris</i> distribution and infection.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Annual monitoring carried out according to plan. No new rivers infected in 2014. Only nine, out of 23, rivers have not been infected with the ectoparasite <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> . The effects of the parasite on salmon stocks have not been proven significant at the population level, but negative effects on individual fish are evident.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes.
Action A2:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Genetic screening of alien (escaped) salmon. (Compare action F4).
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Determination of origin of alien salmon. Based on established base line (action F4).
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Awaiting action F4.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Not yet.

4: Additional information required under the Convention

4.1 Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification.

From 2013 commercial or non-commercial fishermen may only use a maximum of six gill nets (maximum length 180 m, max. height 3 m) in shallow (<3 m) coastal waters. The allowed mesh size is 120 mm.

From 2014 there is a ban on gill net fishing aimed at salmon in deeper (>3 m) coastal waters to avoid mixed stock fishing.

New legislation was implemented in 2014 with a bag-limit of only two salmon allowed per angler and day.

Trap nets are allowed but operating under a license system, where permits normally are not renewed. Today only 2 licenses exist.

4.2 Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures.

4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.

4.4 Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not Party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention.

4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.