



Agenda Item 5.1  
For Information

**Council**

**CNL(15)27**

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

***EU – UK (England and Wales)***



CNL(15)27

*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**.

<b>Party:</b>	<b>European Union</b>
<b>Jurisdiction/Region:</b>	<b>UK (England and Wales)</b>

<b>1: Changes to the Implementation Plan</b>
<b>1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan</b> <i>(Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 December).</i>
No changes
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>
Following public consultation, Natural Resources Wales has decided to end the stocking of salmon (and sea trout) into Welsh rivers. Most stocking was carried out to mitigate for upland impounding reservoirs, and this will now be replaced (from 2015) by alternative means of delivering benefit for fish and fisheries, including work to resolve barriers to migration and sub-optimum habitats.

<b>2: Stock status and catches.</b>
<b>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.</b>

The provisional annual review of stock status for 2014 showed the following river classifications:

- 0 rivers (0 %) ‘not at risk’ – i.e.  $p > 95\%$  of meeting the management objective (MO);
- 4 rivers (6 %) ‘probably not at risk’ – i.e.  $p > 50\%$  but  $< 95\%$  of meeting MO;
- 39 rivers (61 %) ‘probably at risk’ – i.e.  $p > 5\%$  but  $< 50\%$  of meeting MO;
- 21 rivers (33 %) ‘at risk’ – i.e.  $p < 5\%$  of meeting MO.

[NB: The ‘at risk’ category does not mean that stocks are in danger of becoming extinct, but rather that they are falling well short of the management objective – i.e. of meeting or exceeding the conservation limit in four years out of five, on average.]

Factors affecting stock abundance:

River flow is a key factor affecting angler effort. In 2014, flows were generally below the long-term average in March and April as well as for much of the summer and early autumn (July to October inclusive) and were particularly low in July and September. The summer and early autumn represents an important period for most rod fisheries, and relatively low flows at this time are likely to have affected runs of fish and provided conditions that were unfavourable for angling, particularly for ISW salmon since these only start to return to rivers in the summer months. The number of days fished by anglers in 2014 was 33% below the average of the previous five years. This is likely to have contributed to the low in-river catch in 2014.

**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’).**

(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2014 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	8.8	4.4	38.4	51.5
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2013 (tonnes)	17.0	5.6	61.5	84.0
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2014 (tonnes)				9.9
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2014.	7,368 salmon (provisional) were released by rods in 2014, representing 77% of the declared catch.			

**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).**

*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	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	
F1:		Conduct annual assessments of the status of salmon stocks.

	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Determination of the need for emergency regulatory controls or other new measures (including voluntary) on salmon fishing by nets and rods and implementation of changes.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Assessment of salmon stocks completed for 2014 (see sec 2.1). Results will be reported to ICES in March 2015 and published subsequently in the annual Cefas/EA/NRW assessment of salmon stocks and fisheries.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Completed for 2013; Ongoing and on target for 2014.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Objectives achieved for 2013.
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Conduct regular (normally every 5 or 10 years) reviews of current Net Limitation Orders (NLOs) and Byelaws for estuary and river fisheries using the Decision Structure for Fisheries Management (see Annex 2) and amend the NLOs (licence numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) as appropriate.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Determination of the need for changes to existing regulatory controls on salmon fishing by nets and rods and implementation of changes.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>The NLOs for the seine net fisheries in the rivers Tamar, Tavy and Lynher were reviewed. These fisheries each exploit fish from all three rivers, and the following restrictions have been introduced to protect the weakest of the three stocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tamar estuary - reducing (zero) NLO*. A 69 fish catch limit has been introduced for the 3 nets still operating; this will be subject to a three yearly review.</li> <li>• Tavy estuary - reducing (zero) NLO*. A 5 fish catch limit has been introduced for the single net still operating; this will be subject to a three yearly review.</li> <li>• Lynher estuary - NLO of zero. No nets are operating.</li> </ul> <p>* A reducing NLO means that the number of licences issued will be reduced as existing netsmen leave the fishery.</p> <p>A catch limit of 10 salmon per licence was introduced for the Solway haaf nets in 2014. This is expected to reduce the total net catch by approximately 50%.</p> <p>Discussions are underway for the following NLOs:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teign estuary NLO</li> <li>• Dart estuary NLO</li> <li>• Dee estuary NLO</li> </ul>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Actions planned up to 2014 completed; other actions ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Objectives fulfilled for completed elements.
<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Implement policy on mixed stock fisheries, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement new regulatory measures for Severn Estuary (currently under consultation) and NE coast mixed stock fisheries (measures agreed).</li> <li>Conduct 10 year review of NLO for Anglian Coastal Fishery and amend the NLO (licence numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) as appropriate.</li> <li>Conduct a review of the NE coast beach net fishery to provide a full evaluation of the potential for maintaining some nets (other than drift nets) that will conform to national policy and NASCO guidance on salmonid fishery management and amend the NLO (licence numbers) and Byelaws (fishing periods and gear) as appropriate.</li> <li>Conduct further genetic stock assignment studies on catches in mixed stock fisheries.</li> </ol>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Implementation of regulations to bring all mixed stock fisheries in line with national policy and international guidance.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A new 5 year NLO was introduced in the Severn Estuary mixed stock salmon fishery in 2014 limiting the number of lave nets to 27, reducing to 15 as current netmen leave the fishery, and draft (seine) nets to 1 reducing to zero. A catch limit of 5 fish per lave net and 5 fish for the draft net has also been applied following a Habitats Directive Appropriate Assessment.</li> <li>A review of the Anglian fishery NLO is underway and new regulatory measures will be put in place for the 2016 season.</li> <li>The review of the NE coast beach net fishery is due in 2017.</li> </ol> <p>An investigation is underway into the possibility of limiting the level of catch of salmon and sea trout by the North East coast net fishery (drift nets and T and J beach nets) using catch limits or additional</p>

		<p>effort controls. Decisions on any action to be taken are expected in 2015.</p> <p>d) Genetic analysis is ongoing to determine the resolution of stock discrimination that can be achieved using Single Nucleotide Polymorphic (SNP) genetic markers. Samples of salmon from north east English rivers are being screened and together with information from Scottish rivers, the resolving power between different rivers and assignment success rates to each river will be determined. This work is due to report in 2015.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Actions planned up to 2014 completed; other actions ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Objectives achieved for completed elements.
<b>Action F4:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Joint promotion, with stakeholders, of catch and release in rod fisheries.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increased uptake of catch and release in rod fisheries.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>Action taken to promote C&amp;R in rod fisheries in rivers where new restrictions (NLOs) have been introduced on net fisheries.</p> <p>C&amp;R in rod fisheries has increased from 10% in 1993 to &gt;60% in the last four years. For 2014, C&amp;R is provisionally estimated at 77%, the highest in the time series.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing and on target
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F5:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Ensure effective enforcement of fishery regulations:</p> <p>a. Continue with prevention, disruption and intervention of illegal fishing, including intelligence-led enforcement and implementation of a ban on sale of rod caught fish and a carcass tagging scheme for net caught fish.</p> <p>b. Review the effectiveness of fishery enforcement activities, including consistent application of a national intelligence model and best-practice in intelligence-led enforcement.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Reduced illegal fishing and corresponding response in salmon stocks in vulnerable rivers.

<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>a. Prevention, disruption and intervention of illegal fishing:</p> <p>A high level of compliance in the use and recording of carcass tags has been seen amongst licensed net fishers in 2014, and there has been no evidence of the sale of significant numbers of rod (or illegally) caught fish through fishmongers, hotels or restaurants. Furthermore, anecdotal evidence suggests illegal fishers are finding it more difficult to dispose of their catch through legitimate outlets.</p> <p>Nevertheless, illegal fishing continues to pose a risk. Across England and Wales intelligence-led targeted operations are carried out by the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales, often jointly with Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAS) and the police.</p> <p>In the south west joint Environment Agency and IFCA enforcement operations have secured a number of recent prosecutions including two Clovelly fishermen who were convicted and fined £2,650 for illegal netting off the north Devon coast. In another incident two men on the River Camel were convicted and fined £6,768 for illegal netting. Along the Dorset coast 4.5km of illegal nets were seized from inshore waters, harbours and estuaries.</p> <p>In the north east, following a joint undercover operation by the Environment Agency and Durham Police to crack down on illegal fishing on the River Wear, in County Durham, seven anglers were successfully convicted and subject to a range of penalties including a ban on fishing.</p> <p>In west Cumbria a restaurant owner was successfully prosecuted for being in possession of illegally caught (untagged) salmon.</p> <p>Enforcement initiatives by Natural Resources Wales have included the development of closer working links with local police forces. Successful prosecutions have included one brought against a group of individuals caught taking salmonids from the River Neath using spear guns.</p> <p>‘Buyer beware’ campaigns have been conducted across England and Wales by the Environment Agency and Natural Resource Wales, in partnership with IFCAs, the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), <a href="#">Welsh Government Marine Enforcement</a></p>
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	<p>Officers and police targeting high risk fish dealers, restaurants and hotels.</p> <p>In the south of England, ‘Salmon Watch’ continued to raise the profile amongst the public to the vulnerability of salmon. Catering premises and fish dealers were visited when illegal salmon fishing is most likely. In part because of such campaigns there was good awareness of the illegal nature of handling untagged salmon. No illegally caught (untagged) salmon were detected although around 10% of the establishments visited admitted they had been offered (but not accepted) illegally caught fish. This is further evidence that carcass tagging is closing the loophole on the trade through legitimate outlets.</p> <p>b. Effectiveness of enforcement activities:</p> <p>Fisheries enforcement activities are continuing to be reviewed by the Environment Agency to make sure they provide a risk-based, intelligence-led and consistent enforcement service. Central to this is developing a framework that aligns its work with a national intelligence model.</p>
Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	Ongoing and on target.
If ‘Completed’, has the Action achieved its objective?	

<p><b>3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration</b> (Section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan).</p> <p><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></p>		
<b>Action H1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Implementing Climate Change Adaptation Plans (produced by both government and private sector) and specifically:</p> <p>a) inspiring organisations to increase riparian shade over water bodies, through the ‘Keeping Rivers Cool Project’;</p> <p>b) influencing decisions in the next round of Water Company investment plans to ensure climate resilience for both water abstractions and wastewater management, and ensuring that due regard is given to their impact on the environment;</p> <p>c) ensuring climate change is considered within strategic environment planning frameworks (e.g. River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs), Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform);</p>

		d) supporting the regulation of robust thermal standards for transitional and coastal waters to manage the impact of cooling water from power stations.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	The overall aim is to moderate the effects of climate change in waterbodies through landscape, river flow and water level management. Targets for tree planting and fencing are being set in the demonstration catchments for the ‘Keeping Rivers Cool Project’.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>a. Keeping Rivers Cool (KRC) Project:</p> <p>In 2014 riparian shade maps were completed for all catchments in England and distributed to RBMP Catchment Co-ordinators. By March 2014 19,429 trees had been planted and 9.5km of fencing erected, although delivery was hampered by a warm autumn and winter flooding. Projects promoting the objectives of KRC are appearing across the country. In 2015 the Woodland Trust will be taking on leadership of KRC and will both actively promote the programme and hopefully assist with future funding.</p> <p>b. Water Company investment plans:</p> <p>In December 2014, Water Company business plans were signed off by the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat). Within these plans water companies have had to take account of climate change in terms of energy consumption, emissions. Under the Drainage Strategy Framework, climate change is one of the pressures in the catchment that should be described and quantified.</p> <p>In addition, water company Water Resources Management Plans, which were published in 2014, have been required to assess the impact of climate change on supply and demand over the next 25 years and consider the impacts of climate change on any new options, including carbon costs, in its cost-effectiveness analysis.</p> <p>c. Strategic environment planning frameworks:</p> <p>In England and Wales, climate change is considered in river planning and will be reported in River Basin Management Plans. Consultation on these plans is ongoing and the aim is to publish the final plans by the end of 2015.</p> <p>d. Thermal standards:</p> <p>The Environment Agency has completed a review of the potential impacts of thermal emissions on the</p>

		marine environment. A number of evidence gaps and opportunities to improve data collection have been identified and will be taken forward in 2015.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing and on target
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Improving river connectivity through implementing the 11 RBMPs in England and Wales and specifically by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) taking a catchment based approach and removing or easing barriers;</li> <li>b) implementing new regulations enhancing powers to require fish passage;</li> <li>c) undertaking further research on impacts of hydropower (including cumulative effects) and taking account of best scientific advice to maintain and where possible to improve fish passage.</li> </ul>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) &amp; b) Improvements to fish movement allowing greater access throughout rivers, and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential.</li> <li>c) Better understanding of the potential impacts of hydropower.</li> </ul>
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Removing or easing barriers Work was undertaken on 12 barriers to fish migrations in England during 2014, improving access for salmon to 185km of river. In Wales, completion of one fish pass in 2014 and 25 fish passage easements has improved access to ~150km of river.</li> <li>b) New fish passage regulations The Government is developing proposals for new regulations enhancing powers to require fish passage and screening in England and Wales and expects to be consulting on these changes in 2015.</li> <li>c) Research on hydropower Research is continuing (funded by Defra and the Environment Agency) into the effects of new in-river hydropower schemes, particularly Archimedes screw turbines, on upstream and downstream movements of fish and the potential for damage, either direct or delayed. Investigations are also underway (funded by</li> </ul>

		<p>the Environment Agency) on the effectiveness of different approaches to screening and the effect of hydropower schemes on weir pool habitats. A report has been published on the potential cumulative effects of hydropower on salmon populations based on a modelled catchment.</p> <p>(<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cumulative-effects-of-hydropower-schemes-on-fish-migration-and-populations">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/cumulative-effects-of-hydropower-schemes-on-fish-migration-and-populations</a>)</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing and on target.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Provision of appropriate river flows by:</p> <p>a) Implementing the 11 RBMPs and the Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) programme (see: <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/32026.aspx">http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/topics/water/32026.aspx</a>), taking a catchment-based approach; and</p> <p>b) Taking forward the Water Bill.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water bodies do not deteriorate from their current status; and</li> <li>• by 2027, provision of flows to support Good Ecological Status/Potential or any other alternative WFD objective set within the overall context of affordability and benefits to society.</li> </ul>
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>a) RBMPs and Restoring Sustainable Abstraction (RSA) programme:</p> <p>Since 2008, the RSA programme has prevented damage (or the risk of damage) to the environment associated with 135 unsustainable abstraction licences, including 101 where licence holders made voluntary changes and 34 where the Environment Agency and the Secretary of State made compulsory changes. Of the 135 licence changes made, 44 affected rivers supporting salmon stocks.</p> <p>b) Many of the licence changes in Wales have been associated with Natura 2000 rivers (including the rivers Wye and Dee). Some of these changes have included installing fish screens to reduce or prevent the risk of environmental damage. The Water Bill:</p> <p>The Water Act passed into law in 2014. It includes a new duty for the Water Services Regulation Authority (Ofwat) to ensure the long-term resilience of both</p>

		water supply services and the environment on which those services depend. This requires Ofwat to promote measures to manage water sustainably and reduce demand so as to reduce pressure on water resources. The Act also includes a clause which removes the right for water companies to obtain compensation for variations or revocations to abstraction licences.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing and on target
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H4:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use, through implementing the 11 RBMPS and also, specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Investigating the sources of sediment (including catchment walkovers) to help identify the most appropriate remedial action;</li> <li>b) Increasing participation of stakeholders in the decision making process;</li> <li>c) Providing advice to land managers through projects such as Catchment Sensitive Farming and providing advice and support to other relevant stakeholders (e.g. to control erosion from road verges);</li> <li>d) Encouraging uptake of incentive schemes to promote better land management (e.g. agri-environment schemes);</li> <li>e) Regulation (e.g. cross-compliance), pollution prevention campaigns and improving soil protection;</li> <li>f) Reviewing Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition; and</li> <li>g) Making effective use of local partnerships and voluntary schemes identified in the 'Significant Water Management Issues' and 'Living Waters for Wales' programmes as part of the WFD planning process.</li> </ul>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Improvements to land management practices and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential, as well as Natura 2000 Protected Area objectives within the overall context of affordability and benefits to society.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	a) Sources of sediment:

		<p>Investigations and wet-weather walkovers continue to be instrumental in targeting measures to tackle diffuse water pollution. Under the Water Framework Directive 6% of reasons for not achieving good status are attributed to fine sediment.</p> <p>b) &amp; c) Stakeholder engagement:</p> <p>The Catchment Based Approach (CaBA) initiative was launched in June 2013. This approach places value on collaborative decision-making and local action to help deliver improvements to water bodies across England. There are now 107 Catchment Partnerships operating across England's 86 management catchments, plus the 6 that cross the border with Wales. These catchment partnerships are hosted by third sector led organisations, supported by Environment Agency catchment coordinators. The catchment partnerships are helping to update River Basin Management Plans which will set out water body objectives and a summary of the programme of measures that will be required to achieve these objectives by 2021 and beyond.</p> <p>Catchment Sensitive Farming (CSF) delivers practical solutions and targeted support to enable farmers and land managers to take voluntary action to reduce diffuse water pollution from agriculture to protect water bodies and the environment. CSF works in 79 catchments to address WFD Protected Areas and SSSIs failing water quality objectives. To date, over 18,400 farm holdings covering 2.5 million hectares have received CSF advice. Evaluation has shown demonstrable reductions in pollutants through CSF work. Between 2007 and 2013 CSF has funded £35million of practical projects to tackle diffuse water pollution. (For more information see: <a href="http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6510716011937792">http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6510716011937792</a>).</p> <p>For Natura 2000 sites and SSSIs, Natural England and the Environment Agency are preparing and implementing Diffuse Water Pollution Plans across England.</p> <p>Water companies are increasingly taking an interest in catchment approaches to tackle diffuse pollution as a means of protecting the quality of key drinking water sources and reducing the need for expensive water treatment processes e.g. South West Water (<a href="http://www.upstreamthinking.org">http://www.upstreamthinking.org</a>) and United Utilities Sustainable Catchment Management Programme (SCaMP).</p>
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		<p>Other industry led initiatives include the Campaign for the Farmed Environment (CFE) led by the National Farmers Union to encourage farmers and land managers across England to protect and enhance the environmental value of farmland (for more information see: <a href="http://www.cfeonline.org.uk">www.cfeonline.org.uk</a>). Similarly, the long standing Voluntary Initiative was set up by the farming and crop protection industry to promote best practice in the use and management of pesticides and minimise their environmental impacts (for more information see: <a href="http://www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk">www.voluntaryinitiative.org.uk</a>).</p> <p>A one-year trial is taking place in England to assess the efficacy of wider area-based licences as a means of better coordinating shooting and other management activities in reducing the impact of fish-eating birds on fisheries. Three new Fishery Management Advisors (employed by the Angling Trust) are facilitating the trial and helping to disseminate best practice.</p> <p>d) Incentive schemes</p> <p>Environmental Stewardship is a UK government scheme that offers financial rewards for good stewardship and management of the land to improve the quality of the environment. It is delivered by Natural England on behalf of Defra as part of the Rural Development Programme for England and is available to farmers and land managers in England. At the end of 2014, 6,533,787 ha of agricultural land was under environmental stewardship through 49,078 agreements (source: Natural England).</p> <p>The ‘Glastir Advanced Water Quality scheme’ is Welsh Government’s agri-environment scheme. Natural Resources Wales plays a lead role in helping to deliver this scheme – focussing on visiting selected farms to assess and identify opportunities to improve, conserve or make more efficient use of water and soils. Findings are provided in a Water Management Plan and, where required, a Storage Report and Nutrient Management Plan. Some 126 farm visits were undertaken in 2014 covering over 10,000 hectares of land.</p> <p>e) Regulation, pollution prevention and soil protection:</p> <p>The Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales continued to follow up incidents and issues identified in catchment walkovers and WFD data. This included giving advice to farmers (during farm visits or workshops) on pollution prevention and complying with regulations. Material has been developed for</p>
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		<p>Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales staff on dealing with sediment pollution, prevention and enforcement to improve soil protection.</p> <p>f) Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC):</p> <p>New cross compliance guidance on soil management has been published for 2015 on minimum soil cover and measures to limit erosion from: cropping practices; livestock management; vehicles, trailers and machinery; wind; and post-harvest land and late harvested crops. Penalties will apply for significant erosion events.</p> <p>g) Local partnerships:</p> <p>The CaBA is helping identify the priorities within a catchment and broader aspects such as voluntary campaigns. Catchment partnerships are implementing actions and building on the good work of earlier pilots which demonstrated that working collaboratively brings about many benefits including stronger relationships with partners, an improved and agreed understanding of the problems faced and a greater commitment to action.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing and on target
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	

### 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.*

<b>Action A1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>a) Regulate salmonid stocking in English and Welsh rivers by implementing and enforcing existing and proposed new (anticipated Oct 2013) live fish movements legislation. For rivers, the scheme will include limiting stock levels and preserving the genetic integrity of stocked fish. Out of catchment introductions of fish will only be permitted from sites authorised and regulated under the Aquatic Animal Health (England and Wales) Regulations 2009.</p> <p>b) Ongoing review of evidence about impacts of stocking will be used to update the stocking guidance and procedures underpinning existing and proposed new regulations, and to influence fisheries and conservation organisations.</p>
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	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Stocking operations are more focused, appropriate and lower risk leading to protected genetic integrity and reduced risks from inadvertent introduction of diseases, non-native invasive species, etc.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>a) Regulate salmonid stocking: All stocking activities are regulated on an ongoing basis. Other salmonid stocking initiatives in 2014 included: ongoing discussions by the Environment Agency to agree stocking levels of brown trout with Natural England that will be incorporated into stocking permits issued by the Environment Agency for rivers.</p> <p>The new live fish movement legislation came into force in England on 19 January, and Wales on 20 January 2015.</p> <p>All stocking of farm bred diploid brown trout in England and Wales into rivers ceased from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015. From that date only triploid brown trout, or the progeny of local broodstock schemes are permitted to be stocked.</p> <p>b) Review of evidence on stocking: Natural Resources Wales has completed a public consultation on its proposals to bring to an end the stocking of salmon and sea trout into Welsh rivers. The decision was ratified by the NRW Board in October 2014 and work to end the stocking commitment has begun. Most stocking was carried out to mitigate for upland impounding reservoirs, and this will now be replaced by alternative means of delivering benefit for fish and fisheries, including work to resolve barriers to migration and sub-optimum habitats. This alternative work will commence in 2015.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing and on target
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>a) Implementing and enforcing existing and proposed new live fish movement regulations, making sure fish movements are screened to prevent spread of non-native fish and diseases. Movements of fish from waters known to contain high-risk invasive species will be prohibited. Audit selected high-risk movements to ensure compliance.</p> <p>b) Implementing European Council Regulation No. 708/2007 concerning Use of Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture and the Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture (England and Wales)</p>

		<p>Regulations 2011.</p> <p>c) Rapid and robust application of fish movement regulations to prevent the spread of new and/or emerging parasite or disease threats.</p> <p>d) Making sure in-river operations comply with biosecurity protocols.</p> <p>e) Encouraging anglers and other water users to remain vigilant to the risk of non-native species and pathogens, to report sightings and to take biosecurity measures (the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign; see <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/129217.aspx">http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/wildlife/129217.aspx</a>)</p> <p>f) Working with fishery owners to eradicate non-native fish at high-risk sites and/or applying Import of Live Fish Act (IFLA) or new fish movement regulations enforcement to take action where site owners are not compliant.</p>
	<p>Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Containment and/or eradication of undesirable non-native fish species.</li> <li>• Regulation of other fish species.</li> <li>• Prevention of <i>G. salaris</i> and other parasites and diseases occurring in England and Wales.</li> </ul>
	<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>a) Live fish movement regulations: The new live fish movement legislation came into force on January 19<sup>th</sup> (England) and January 20<sup>th</sup> (Wales). This contains provisions to allow the audit of high risk movements and requirements on the industry to notify the Environment Agency or Natural Resources Wales of such movements.</p> <p>b) EU Regulations: European Council Regulation No. 708/2007 concerning the Use of Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture and the Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 are being fully implemented.</p> <p>c) Preventing the spread of parasite or disease threats: The Keeping and Introduction of Fish (England) Regulations and Section 27a of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Act 1975 provide a robust critical framework for controlling the spread of non-notifiable, new and emerging diseases and parasites. Partnership projects are underway to assess the risks of <i>G. salaris</i> establishment, spread and impact.</p>

		<p>d) Compliance with biosecurity protocols.</p> <p>Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales operational field staff are required to follow the principles of the Defra “check, clean, dry campaign” which is also widely promoted to all water users.  <a href="http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/">(http://www.nonnativespecies.org/checkcleandry/)</a></p> <p>e) Communication with anglers and water users:</p> <p>AquaInvaders is a newly created mobile device ‘app’ available to anglers and other water users to help report new occurrences and distribution of 26 aquatic, non-native species (including 12 fish species). It was developed by the Nature Locator Project Team at Bristol University, in partnership with the Environment Agency, Scottish National Heritage, SEPA, British Sub Aqua Club and the Biological Records Centre. It is supported by the Angling Trust and Fisheries Trust Scotland. It is available in both Android and Apple formats.</p> <p>f) Eradicating non-native fish at high-risk sites:</p> <p>A five year Water Framework Directive funded programme to eradicate the highly invasive topmouth gudgeon (<i>Pseudorasbora parva</i>) using piscicides has been developed and implemented. Topmouth gudgeon are host to novel parasites and disease which pose a potential risk to native fish species, including salmonids. Of 33 potential sites in England, 21 were confirmed to hold topmouth gudgeon, of which 18 have been successfully cleared of the species, leaving 3 sites to be treated. The programme is due to be completed in 2017. Salmon catchments protected through the WFD topmouth gudgeon eradication programme include: Rivers Kent, Tamar, Test and Severn.</p> <p>Two other high risk invasive fish species the fathead minnow and black bullhead catfish have also been eradicated from the only known sites containing these species in England.</p> <p>Rapid response eradications will be delivered to react to novel invasive species should they be detected.</p> <p>[NB: The Import of Live Fish Act now only applies to the ornamental sector.]</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	Ongoing and on target
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	a) On-going application of discharge controls and EU restrictions on prohibited substances;

		b) Research on effects of contaminants from fish farms on wild salmon populations.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Improved water quality and compliance with WFD GES/GEP status.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>a) Discharge controls and prohibited substances: Application of national and EU regulations is continuing. Across England and Wales, under the water companies' environmental investment programme AMP5 (2009-14), 3,097km of river length was improved or prevented from deterioration, which realised improvements in a range of parameters including ammonia, dissolved oxygen and BOD. AMP6 will see further water company investment between 2015-2020.</p> <p>Under the CaBA, local partnerships are implementing novel approaches to tackle urban diffuse pollution including the 'yellow fish' campaign and the installation of pollution prevention plaques.</p> <p>b) Contaminants from fish farms: Research on the effects on potential contaminants from fish farms has been completed and is expected to be published in July 2015.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing and on target
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	

<b>4: Additional information required under the Convention</b>	
4.1	Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification.
	New Net Limitation Orders approved for rivers Tamar, Tavy and Lynher. Catch limit of 10 salmon per licence was introduced for the Solway haaf nets.
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.
	Existing commitments unchanged.
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
	Existing measures remain in force.
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.
	None
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
	None