



Agenda item 6.1  
For information

**Council**

**CNL(16)25**

***Annual Progress Report  
on Actions Taken Under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2015***

***Russian Federation***



## CNL(16)25

### *Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2015*

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 2016**.

<b>Party:</b>	<b>Russian Federation</b>
<b>Jurisdiction/Region:</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>
None
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>
In autumn 2015 the Russian Federation and Norway signed the MEMORANDUM of understanding between the Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway) and the Federal Agency for Fishery (the Russian Federation) on cooperation in management of and monitoring and research on wild Atlantic salmon in Finnmark County (Norway) and the Murmansk region (the Russian Federation)
The joint working group was established under the Memorandum. The group shall consist of managers and scientists from each country as appointed by Parties. It shall meet and report annually to the Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway) and to the Federal Agency for Fishery (the Russian Federation). The first meeting was held in November 2015 in Oslo, Norway.

## 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.

In 2015 a massive death of adult salmon occurred in the Kola river, Murmansk region. First dead fish were found in late June in the cage used for holding broodstock nearby the counting fence. The counting fence was installed 30 km upstream from the river's outlet. The counting fence has been in operation since late 1950s and over the past 15 years was used only for counting purposes and for collecting broodstock for hatcheries.

From the beginning of July sick and dead adult salmon appeared drifting down above the counting fence. Later in the season sick and dead adult salmon were regularly found by rod anglers over the whole catchment. A bulk of angler reports came from the downstream section of the main stem whereas very little reports were received from the top of the river and from its tributaries. In August the decision was taken by the Murmansk Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish to close salmon recreational fisheries in the Kola river for the 2015 season. Dead salmon was taken for veterinary analyses which were conducted in Murmansk, Moscow and in the Norwegian Veterinary Institute, Oslo. Results of the analysis and symptoms of sick fish allowed the Murmansk regional veterinary authority to assume that the outbreak was caused by UDN disease.

In total 200 salmon died in the cage and another 500 salmon was found dead on the counting fence netting. It was about 10% of the total run of Atlantic salmon to the Kola river in 2015. The total number of dead salmon in the river is unknown. Parr surveys conducted in September by electrofishing method showed no adverse impact on salmon juveniles so far. Fry and parr densities were at average levels. The impact of massive death of adult salmon on the spawning stock will be assessed in autumn 2016 by electrofishing method.

### 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 2015 (tonnes)	46.3	0.0	33.9	80.2
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2014 (tonnes)	48.3	0.0	32.9	81.1
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2015 (tonnes)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2015.	7028 salmon caught and released (50% of the total rod catch). Catch and release rates have previously been high (average 33575 or 84% of the total rod catch in the five years 2004 to 2008) and are believed to have remained at this level.			
	In accordance with the current legislation no quota or catch/bag limits are set for catch-and-release fisheries. Therefore there are no obligations to report caught-and-released fish. However some users of fishing sites with most developed catch-and-release fisheries in the Kola Peninsula			

	have been collecting catch statistics carefully on a voluntary basis since yearly 1990s.
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### 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.*

<b>Action F1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Determine problem areas. Estimate the level of unreported catches. Take further measures to reduce unreported catches.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Reduced level of unreported catches in problem areas.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>The level of unreported catches was estimated for some areas (APR 2015).</p> <p>Measures to reduce the level of unreported catches in the Varzuga River (the White Sea basin, Murmansk region) were developed. Amendments to the Rules of the Fisheries Reserve of the Varzuga River came in force in 2015 (Order of the Government of Murmansk region No. 229-PP, 08.06.2015). New rules restrict boat usage in the river and prohibit rafting and other boat activities from 15 July till the ice cover.</p> <p>The Murmansk Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish closed salmon recreational fisheries in some remote fishing sites of the Varzuga River for 2015 season and the restrictions will be prolonged in 2016.</p> <p>Protection patrols were carried out using different methods on lakes and rivers by fish inspectors of the Regional Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries.</p> <p>Protection patrols in coastal areas of Barents and White seas were carried out using different methods by fish inspectors of the Border Guard Department of the Russian Federal Security Service.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	

<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Develop genetic baseline for Atlantic salmon populations. Characterise the exploited stocks in mixed-stock fisheries. Develop recommendations for management measures for coastal salmon fisheries.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Comprehensive genetic database of Atlantic salmon baseline for management purposes. Stock specific migration model of various salmon stocks migrating along Norwegian and Russian northern coastal areas. Recommendations for management measures for the coastal salmon fishery to minimize mixed-stock fishing.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The genetic baseline developed in the Kolarctic Salmon project 2011-2013 ( <a href="http://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/Kolarcticsalmon/">http://prosjekt.fylkesmannen.no/Kolarcticsalmon/</a> ) allows for precise identification of wild salmon caught at sea to individual rivers/regions, providing opportunities for more adaptive and informed management of coastal salmon fisheries. The development of the genetic baseline allows for further studies on the marine distribution, migration routes and exploitation of wild salmon. The genetic baseline for Atlantic salmon populations has been developed.  The findings of the Kolarctic Salmon Project were used for developing recommendations for the Murmansk Regional Commission on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish in 2015. The quota allocations for coastal salmon fisheries in the White Sea were made on the basis of data on salmon stock contributions to the fisheries. No Atlantic salmon fisheries are allowed in the Russian Federation in the Barents Sea (Fishing Regulations for the Northern Fisheries basin, Order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 414, 30.10.2014).  Further recommendations for coastal salmon fisheries in Murmansk region are under development.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Develop conservation limits for salmon stocks.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Data on the current status of salmon stocks. Conservation limits for all salmon stocks.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Conservation limits have been set for salmon stocks in the Murmansk region. Estimates of adult returns to rivers were derived by direct counting at barrier fences

		and fish ladder (3 stocks) and by mark-recapture method in recreational fisheries (5 stocks). In the Arkhangelsk region and in the Nenets Autonomous Region conservation limits have been set for exploited salmon stocks. In the Republic of Karelia no conservation limits have been established. In 2015 conservation limits for a number of salmon stocks in the Murmansk region were revised.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F4:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Develop stricter rules to manage the fisheries conducted by indigenous small nations of the North.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Clearer legislation to manage the fisheries conducted by indigenous small nations of the North.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>The new coastal fishery by Sami communes of the Murmansk region began in 2010 in the White Sea, where it had never been recorded in the past. The fishery continued in the coastal areas of the White Sea in 2011 and 2012. In 2010-2012 the quotas for this fishery were established by the Territorial Directorate of the Federal Agency for Fisheries on the basis of applications from Sami communes which didn't take into account the status of salmon stocks due to unclear legislation.</p> <p>In 2013 new amendments to the procedure rules of the Regional Commissions on Regulation of Harvesting the Anadromous Fish came into force by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 170, 08.04.2013. The amendments allow the Regional Commissions to establish quotas for indigenous people fisheries on the basis of scientific advice only taking into account the status of salmon stocks.</p> <p>New Fishing Regulations for the Northern Fisheries basin came into force in 2014 by the order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 414, 30.10.2014. There is a clearer legislation to manage the fisheries conducted by indigenous small nations of the North in the new Fishing Regulations.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Completed.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	The Action achieved its objective.

**3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (Section 3.4 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 H1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Develop inventories of salmon rivers. Estimate salmon habitat and productive capacity.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Inventories of salmon rivers to provide baseline data on salmon habitat and productive capacity for management in relation to estuarine and freshwater habitat.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The carrying capacity of some Barents Sea rivers of the Murmansk region was revised in 2015 on the basis of new data on spawning and nursery grounds. The reassessment of the carrying capacity of the White Sea rivers of the Murmansk and Archangelsk regions is underway. The study to estimate salmon habitat and productive capacity in the Republic of Karelia has been planned.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Develop and implement detailed habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Detailed habitat protection and restoration plans for specific rivers.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The inventory of the Barents Sea rivers has been established and the work on developing the inventory of salmon rivers of the White sea basin of Murmansk and Archangelsk regions is under way. It's planned to compile the work for salmon rivers of the White sea basin of Murmansk region in 2017. General recommendations on habitat restoration were prepared for a number of salmon rivers in the Murmansk region. No detailed plans have been developed for specific rivers.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	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):	Develop and bring in to force the Federal Law "On aquaculture" and related by-laws.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	The Federal Law "On aquaculture" and related by-laws.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The Federal Law "On aquaculture" No. 148-FZ, 02.07.2013 came into force in 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2014. A number of by-laws came into force in 2015.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Minimise the risk of further spread of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> .
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Measures to prevent the introduction or further spread of parasite.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Parasite <i>Gyrodactylus Salaris</i> was found in the Keret River (Karelia, the White Sea basin) in 1992, where it caused considerable damage to salmon stocks. Parasite was introduced into the river through aquaculture activities. Annual monitoring programmes were launched in 1993 for a number of salmon rivers in the Karelia Republic and in the Murmansk region. Findings from studies demonstrated that there was no <i>Gyrodactylus Salaris</i> in index salmon rivers of the White, Baltic and Barents Seas basins within the Murmansk region.  There's a risk of further spread of parasite in rivers of the Republic of Karelia and a risk of its introduction to the Murmansk region through recreational fisheries and through freshwater aquaculture activities. Veterinary control is applied for aquaculture. New veterinary measures for aquaculture activities in Murmansk region have been under development.  Some recreational fisheries companies in Murmansk region started voluntary programmes for anglers to disinfect their tackles, clothes etc. No obligatory measures to prevent the introduction or further spread of parasite through recreational fisheries have been developed.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing.

	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Control introductions and transfers.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Control movements into a Commission area of reproductively viable non-indigenous anadromous salmonids or their gametes.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The requirements and rules relating to introduction of aquatic species came into force by the Order of the Federal Agency for Fisheries No. 433, 06.05.2010 in accordance with the Federal Law “On fisheries and conservation of aquatic biological resources” No. 166-FZ, 20.12.2004. The Order requires a comprehensive scientific substantiation for any introduction of aquatic species to take place. No movements into the Commission area of reproductively viable non-indigenous anadromous salmonids or their gametes have been planned.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	Ongoing.
	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 amendments to the Fishing Regulations for the Northern Fisheries basin came into force in 2015 by the orders of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 288, 09.07.2015 and No. 610, 08.12.2015.  A number of by-laws to the Federal Law “On aquaculture” came into force in 2015. The order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 223, 03.06.2015 established methods for calculating aquaculture production.
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.
No details.
4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
Fishing Regulations for the Northern Fisheries basin (the order of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 414, 30.10.2014) prohibits salmon fisheries in the Barents Sea.
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.
No details.
4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
No details.