



Agenda item 6.1  
For information

**Council**

**CNL(16)26**

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

***EU - UK (Scotland)***



## CNL(16)26

### *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>European Union</b>
<b>Jurisdiction/Region:</b>	<b>UK (Scotland)</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 revisions made.
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>
<p>In January 2015, statutory conservation measures came into force which ensures that no salmon are retained in Scottish fisheries before 01 April each year. The start of the net fishing season is delayed until 01 April while fishing by rod and line can take place from the season start date within the district until 31 March on a catch and release basis. The measures will be reviewed annually.</p> <p>In 2015, Scottish Government (SG) conducted a series of linked consultations on proposals to deliver conservation measures to control the killing of wild salmon. The outcome of these exercises is that SG has brought forward proposals to regulate salmon fisheries for the 2016 season onwards that have as a fundamental principle that any killing of wild salmon - a protected species, is sustainable and does not present a threat to vulnerable stocks</p> <p>Key aspects of the proposals are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Killing beyond estuary limits will be prohibited for three years due to the mixed stock nature of the fishery and limited data on the composition of the catch</li><li>• The killing of Atlantic salmon in inland waters will be managed on an annual basis by categorising fishery districts by their conservation status (probability of a stock achieving a pre-determined Conservation Limit)</li></ul>

- A requirement to have a Conservation Plan for salmon stocks irrespective of the conservation status
- The introduction of Carcass tagging for net-caught fish for areas in category 1 and 2 (including a separate Order for the Tweed) which are to be sold commercially

## 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.**

To support the salmon conservation regulations for 2016 the status of salmon stocks were assessed at fishery district level and for individual SACs. These data are summarised at ... This is the first such assessment that has been undertaken for Scottish salmon stocks.

In addition, and to accompany the annual publication of statistics (detailed below) Marine Scotland produces a detailed report on “Trends in abundance indicators for Scottish salmon and sea trout stocks 2015” Marine Scotland Science Report 01/16 may be downloaded from the Scottish Government website at *link available 22 April*

**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)				
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2014 (tonnes)				
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2015 (tonnes)				
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2015				

## 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	
<b>F1:</b>	(as submitted in the IP):	(a) Instigate an independent review of the management of salmon and freshwater fisheries in Scotland with the aim of creating a management system which is robust, sustainable and fit for purpose in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century.

		(b) Commission independent research to provide an overview of the economic and financial contribution of wild fisheries in Scotland.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	(a) Modernised management system which has greater alignment of responsibility with accountability and facilitates management of fisheries in context of modern requirements and challenges.  (b) Updated baseline information covering the economic value of salmon and freshwater fisheries, including rod and line fisheries and salmon netting, which can be used to inform future policy development.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	(a) During 2015, a consultation paper was published which set out the Government's response to the Wild Fisheries Review. The consultation closed on 7 August 2015. The responses have been considered and the analysis has been published.  A consultation paper on Draft provisions for a Wild Fisheries (Scotland) Bill and draft Wild Fisheries Strategy was launched on 8 February 2016. The consultation will close on 2 May 2016.  (b) We have commissioned a socio-economic study on the value of wild fisheries in Scotland, will be published in June 2016  Discussions are continuing regarding routine collection of socio-economic data for use in characterising Scottish Salmon fisheries
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	(a) Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	(b) Completed June 2016
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	(a) Implementation of local fishery management plans with agreed actions to monitor, mitigate and improve conditions for salmon.  (b) Develop Scottish salmon counter network to improve assessment of salmon stocks.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	(a) Determination of the need for changes to regulatory controls or other measures on salmon fishing by nets and rods and implementation of changes.  (b) The project should provide the information required to plan a strategic counter network. It is anticipated that data gathered from a future counter network, together with local biological information, would allow local stock recruitment relationships to be derived (from

		which CLs can be estimated) and measures of spawning escapement to be obtained
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>( a) the proposed salmon conservation regulations for 2016 includes a provision requiring local district salmon fishery boards to draw up a Conservation Plan irrespective of the conservation status of their stocks.</p> <p>Further guidance on the content of the plans will accompany the Regulations. It is anticipated that the conservation plan will provide details of existing and future local initiatives to address the current assessment of the fishery district.</p> <p>(b) A project to investigate the engineering requirements, technology options and costs of deploying and running counters in different environmental settings in Scotland has been completed</p> <p>A Marine Scotland Science Report “Technical, Logistical, and Economic Considerations for the Development and Implementation of a Scottish Salmon Counter Network” has been completed and published May 2016  <a href="http://www.gov.scot/RSS/Publications/384.xml">http://www.gov.scot/RSS/Publications/384.xml</a></p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	<p>(a) Ongoing</p> <p>(b) Ongoing</p>
	If ‘Completed’, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>(a) Develop Scottish salmon counter network to improve assessment of salmon stocks and aid development of meaningful CLs and assessment of spawning escapement (see F2).</p> <p>(b) Develop methods to aid assessment of the precise nature of MSFs.</p> <p>(c) Scoping work on better understanding marine migration routes.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	(a-c) Improved data on salmon stocks and populations facilitates fisheries management planning, including management of MSFs.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>Previous progress reported as</p> <p>(a) See F2</p> <p>(b) Peer reviewed report on the use of genetics to identify regions of origin of salmon was published on 22 March  <a href="http://www.gov.scot/RSS/Publications/384.xml">http://www.gov.scot/RSS/Publications/384.xml</a></p>

		<p>(c) A paper has been published on migration of adult salmon in Scottish coastal waters (Godfrey, J. D., Stewart, D. C., Middlemas, S. J., &amp; Armstrong, J. D. (2015). Depth use and migratory behaviour of homing Atlantic salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) in Scottish coastal waters. ICES Journal of Marine Science: <i>Journal du Conseil</i>, <b>72(2)</b>, 568-575). Work will commence in spring 2016 to track movements of salmon smolts around the Isle of Mull on the Scottish west coast. An application has been submitted to the EU for funds to develop a network of acoustic listening stations between Hebrides and the Scottish mainland.</p>
	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):	<p>(a) On going DSFB fulfilment of obligations to enhance and protect salmon fisheries (including enforcement of legislation). Activities will vary depending on nature of problems but focus on disruption and intervention of illegal fishing, including intelligence-led enforcement in partnership with Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Officers and the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime. Work with DSFBs and IFM in developing tools and training for enforcement, including improving national coordination of enforcement.</p> <p>(b) Scottish Government currently considering proposals around carcass tagging along with the recommendations detailed within the Report from the Independent review of wild fisheries. A full consultation would take place to inform the development of any scheme.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<p>(a) Improve professionalism and national coordination in salmon fisheries enforcement.</p> <p>(b) Reduced illegal fishing and corresponding response in salmon stocks.</p>
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>a) Evidence has been published indicating that there were no measureable effects of mains frequency alternating current electromagnetic fields on behaviour of Atlantic salmon (Armstrong, J.D., Hunter, D-C., Fryer, R.J., Rycroft, P. &amp; Orpwood, J.E. (2015). Behavioural responses of Atlantic salmon to mains frequency magnetic fields. <i>Scottish Marine and Freshwater Science</i>, Vol. 6, No. 9).</p>

		(b) Refer to response given at F1.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Completed, impact of carcass tagging regulations to be reviewed.
<b>Action F5:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>(a) Development and implementation of monitoring/research strategy for potential marine renewable and salmonid interactions.</p> <p>(b) Through the Ministerial Group for Sustainable Aquaculture(MGSA) machinery and its working groups, helping to ensure that any growth of aquaculture in Scotland is sustainable within the wider Marine environment.</p> <p>(c) Scottish Government and salmon farming industry match-funded research through the Scottish Aquaculture Research forum (SARF) into any measurable impact from sea lice in a Scottish context.</p> <p>(d) enhanced industry-led voluntary sea lice reporting over 30 river catchment areas.</p> <p>(e) Marine Scotland is undertaking a 3-year project to identify areas of opportunity and restriction for aquaculture which will include consideration of the risk to wild salmonids.</p> <p>(f) Scottish Government and SEPA funded work to improve auto DEPOMOD modelling tool to further enhance the sensitivity of the tool for SEPA discharge consents.</p> <p>(g) Scottish Government funded research to develop shelf modelling and sea lice dispersal modelling.</p> <p>(h) Scotland's Aquaculture Database and Website was developed in partnership by Marine Scotland, The Crown Estate, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and The Food Standards Agency in Scotland. This brings together data collected by regulators about Aquaculture in Scotland and makes it accessible through a data search tool and an interactive map. <a href="#">The website</a> went live in October 2013.</p> <p>(i) Marine Scotland's FHI have proactively published <a href="#">operational activity</a> since October 2013.</p>

	<p>Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):</p>	<p>(a) Investigation of potential impacts of marine renewable energy generation on Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>(b - h) framework to enable delivery of industry sustainable aquaculture growth targets by 2020 with due regard to the marine environment.</p>
	<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>(a) Many of the topics in this report are highly relevant to assessing the risk marine renewables development poses to Atlantic salmon and monitoring possible impacts, including work on the state of salmon populations and their resilience to loss. In addition some of the studies have been carried out or planned particularly with reference to marine renewable risk assessment and monitoring, including on the hearing of salmon and responses to noise, their responses to EMF, work on the use of genetics to identify regions of origin of salmon (F3), the movements of returning adult salmon (F3), the installation of validation equipment at a counter and design work towards the reinstallation of a different counter (F3), the planned work on migration routes of smolts in the Cromarty and Moray Firths (F3), and the trials of the video trawl net (F3).</p> <p><b>b)</b> The MGSA provides an appropriate and supportive framework enabling continued sustainable growth of aquaculture and facilitating Scotland's National Marine Plan (NMP) industry targets to grow marine finfish production sustainably to 210,000 T (whole wet fish); and shellfish production to 13,000 T, by 2020.  MGSA: <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/MGSA">http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/MGSA</a></p> <p>In 2014, the MGSA Science and Research Working Group published a Scottish Aquaculture Research Strategy, defining medium to long-term research requirements. Shared, agreed and owned by the science and research community, this strategy focuses effort on priorities, optimising Scotland's aquaculture sector outcomes and improving bidding power when competing for research work.  Scottish Aquaculture Research Strategy:  <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00456584.pdf">http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0045/00456584.pdf</a></p> <p><b>c)</b> Marine Scotland funding for SARF covers research to further enhance and underpin the sustainable growth of Scottish aquaculture, on topics identified by the SARF Board and included in the MGSA Aquaculture, Science and Research Strategy document. Marine Scotland granted SARF £120,000 in 2014/15 and £25,000 in 2015/16 for research which includes funding</p>

for experimental assessment of the impact of sea lice of wild Atlantic salmon, complementing a ten-year study to explore the impacts of sea lice from fish farming in Scotland.

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Research/Aqint>

SARF: <http://www.sarf.org.uk/projects/>

A SARF funded project has been commenced. A comparison is being made of return rates of controls and salmon smolts treated with anti-lice chemical at two sites, one on the east and the other on the west coast of Scotland.

In 2014 the Scottish Government and industry match funded up to £22 million to establish the Scottish Aquaculture Innovation Centre (SAIC) [www.scottishaquaculture.com](http://www.scottishaquaculture.com), to help the sector enhance its environmental performance and growth potential through innovation and the application of high quality research. This includes £4.3 million for two projects to build numbers and quality of farmed wrasse for use of cleaner fish for biological control of sea lice available, and to identify a vaccine to improve their health, welfare and performance when deployed to sea, and £938,000 towards £2.89 million collaborative funding for two projects to improve the sustainable supply and production of lumpsucker fish for use on salmon farms.

**d)** From May 2013 the Scottish Salmon Producers' Organisation (SSPO) has published sea lice data in its quarterly Fish Health Management Report, covering 30 areas of the north-west Scottish coast and islands. The reports use farm supplied data, and show how fish farm sea lice are managed, by reflecting the management strategies employed to protect fish health. The reports also include information on Farm Management Areas, stocking, fallowing and strategic treatments. The public reporting of sea lice data at this level has been widely welcomed as a positive step forward and has allowed any interested parties ready access to a dataset which is judged proportionate and relevant.

<http://scottishsalmon.co.uk/category/industry-information/sspo-publications/>

**e)** MSS has compiled a number of spatial datasets needed to determine the opportunities and constraints to shellfish and finfish development and compiled these

		<p>and analysed them using spatial modelling tools provided by the Crown Estates. Model outputs produce maps showing the extent of constraints to different development types but require further work to finalise outputs. Progress reports have been given to various stakeholder groups and a final output is expected later in 2016.</p> <p><b>f)</b> The Scottish Government funded £576,000 to update autoDEPOMOD, a particle tracking model developed for the prediction of pellet and faecal matter dispersal from finfish pens in the marine environment. It is anticipated that the revised version will further improve the accuracy of the model.</p> <p>The model will be tested March 2016, with an expected launch later in the year.  autoDEPOMOD: <a href="http://www.sams.ac.uk/kenny-black/depomod/?searchterm=depomod">http://www.sams.ac.uk/kenny-black/depomod/?searchterm=depomod</a></p> <p><b>g)</b> Marine Scotland have led the development of a model for the Scottish continental shelf waters called the Scottish Shelf Model (SSM). The SSM has a vast array of potential applications to all areas of marine science including connectivity indices between aquaculture finfish farm management areas within the combined high resolution Scottish shelf waters domain of the model.</p> <p><b>h)</b> Scotland’s Aquaculture website has been fully operational since 2013, providing an invaluable online data tool. Scotland’s Aquaculture: <a href="http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/default.aspx">http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/default.aspx</a></p> <p><b>i)</b> The Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI publishes quarterly summaries of all cases conducted, case inspections and outcomes per region, enhanced inspections conducted under the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2007, and individual case information. Annual summaries of case inspections and outcomes per region, and reports of operations and activities are also published.  FHI: <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/FHI/CaseInformation">http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Fish-Shellfish/FHI/CaseInformation</a></p>
	<p>Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):</p>	<p>a) Ongoing  b) Ongoing  c) Ongoing: Started 2014, concludes March 2016.  d) Ongoing: 2013 - live  e) Ongoing</p>

		f) Ongoing: Started 2014, concludes summer 2016. g) Ongoing h) Completed i) Ongoing 2013-live
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	h) Yes

<b>3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (Section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan).</b> <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>		
<b>Action H1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Implement Climate Change Adaptation Plans (produced by both government and private sector).</p> <p>a) MSS to implement a national river temperature monitoring strategy for salmon rivers in collaboration with CAMERAS (co-ordinated agenda for marine, environment and rural affairs science) partners and local fishery trusts.</p> <p>b) National temperature monitoring network to be used to identify areas of the river network that will be (1) sensitive to climate induced temperature change and (2) appropriate for management action.</p> <p>c) Riparian shade to be increased in sensitive and appropriate water bodies, through collaborative projects undertaken by DSFBs and/or fisheries trusts.</p> <p>d) Influence decisions in the next round of Scottish Water investment plans to ensure climate resilience for both water abstractions and wastewater management, and ensure that due regard is given to their impact on the environment.</p> <p>e) Ensure climate change is considered within strategic environment planning frameworks (eg RBMPs, Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform).</p> <p>f) Support the development and regulation of scientifically justifiable and robust thermal standards for freshwater, transitional and coastal (TraC) waters to manage the impact of industries including power generation.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	The overall aim is to moderate the effects of climate change in waterbodies through landscape, landuse and discharge management.

	<p>Progress on Action to Date (<i>see note above</i>):</p>	<p>A temperature monitoring network was designed and deployed in 2015 and data has been collected and stored in MSS databases. Work has begun to model spatial variability in river temperature from landscape characteristics for a single catchment (<a href="http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science/Researchers/FayeJackson/AGU">http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/science/Researchers/FayeJackson/AGU</a>). This work will be extended to multiple catchments and then the national scale.</p> <p>The design of the Scotland River Temperature Monitoring Network is detailed in: Jackson F.L. Malcolm I.A. Hannah D.M. (in press) A novel approach for designing large-scale river temperature monitoring networks. Hydrology Research. DOI: 10.2166/nh.2015.106</p> <p>Full details of the network and progress are available at <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Monitoring/temperature">http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/Freshwater/Monitoring/temperature</a></p>
	<p>Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):</p>	<p>ongoing</p>
	<p>If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?</p>	
<p><b>Action H2:</b></p>	<p>Description of Action (<i>as submitted in the IP</i>):</p>	<p>Improve river connectivity through the identification and easing / removal of barriers.</p> <p>a) A joint dataset has been developed by SEPA, MSS and local fisheries trusts that builds on previous barrier mapping exercises by MSS. This dataset is used to identify where there are currently barriers to migration. In combination with the MSS salmon distribution map and local fisheries management plans, barriers can be prioritised for easement or removal. Fish passage is also a requirement of Good Ecological Potential (GEP) under WFD, so there is a general expectation that those activities causing a barrier to migration will be required to fund appropriate solutions (subject to cost and benefits see above). Funding for barrier removal can come from a variety of local, national and EU sources. The SEPA restoration fund has some guaranteed resources for habitat improvement over the period 2013-2018 and barrier removal is associated with high priority subject to assessment of costs and benefits.</p>

		b) Wider Scottish Government support for the RAFTS Barrier Easement Programme including funding for a central coordination and support to project development role.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	a) Improvements to fish movement allowing greater access throughout rivers, and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The River Basin Management Plans published in December 2015 prioritised 177 barriers for action. These will be progressively addressed over the period 2016-21
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	On-going
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Ensure appropriate provision of river flows.</p> <p>a) Providing an evidence base from which to assess the flow requirements of salmon. MSS has a project investigating the hydraulic requirements of salmon and the transferability of hydraulic suitability data among catchments. This type of information is important for objectively identifying the likely effects of changing flow regime. In addition projects are under way within SEPA to assess the discharge conditions associated with poor and bad ecological status / potential in order to prioritise future management action.</p> <p>b) Implementing RBMP process and issue of CAR licenses for abstraction and impoundment where the objective is to maintain / achieve Good Ecological Status / Potential, which will consider salmon as part of the overall process. In addition there will be consideration of salmon flow requirements in the revision of discharge standards under WFD and improvements to WFD fish tools to try and improve detection of ecological problems associated with discharge regime.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved scientific understanding of habitat requirements for salmon to underpin decision making;</li> <li>• Water bodies do not deteriorate from their current status; and</li> <li>• Revision of discharge regimes to support GES / GEP or any other alternative WFD objective set</li> </ul>

		within the overall context of affordability and benefits to society.
	Progress on Action to Date ( <i>see note above</i> ):	<p>A series of hydraulic habitat models have been developed and opportunities for transferring models between sites has been tested and assessed. A paper has been prepared on this topic and is currently under review (Millidine et al., submitted). A second paper is being prepared that will investigate the effect of freshets on juvenile habitat quality using the habitat models that have been developed.</p> <p>The River Basin Management Plans published in December 2015 prioritised 108 water bodies for action to improve flows. These will be progressively addressed over the period 2016-21.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H4:</b>	Description of Action ( <i>as submitted in the IP</i> ):	<p>Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use.</p> <p>Reductions in diffuse pollution and morphological impacts will be achieved through the controlled activity regulations (CAR) and associated "General Binding Rules" and adherence to other guidelines such as the forest and water guidelines. GBRs include requirements for buffer strips to reduce fine sediment and nutrient delivery and encourage the growth of riparian vegetation.</p> <p>a) Working with partners to extend range of activities for which SRDP (Scottish Rural Development Programme) funding can be obtained to further reduce morphological and diffuse pollution pressures beyond that prescribed by CAR.</p>
	Expected Outcome ( <i>as submitted in the IP</i> ):	Improvements to land management practices and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential, as well as Natura 2000 Protected Area objectives with associated benefits to salmon. Benefits would be obtained within the overall context of affordability and benefits to society.
	Progress on Action to Date ( <i>see note above</i> ):	The River Basin Management Plans published in December 2015 prioritised 53 catchments for action to improve land use practices and reduce diffuse pollution. These will be progressively addressed over the period 2016-21.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	ongoing

	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
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<p><b>3.3 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics</b> (Section 4.8 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 A1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Continue to regulate salmonid and freshwater fish stocking in Scottish rivers by implementing and enforcing existing introductions legislation under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003, Wildlife and Countryside Act (Scotland) 1981 and Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Greater transparency in stocking operations and hatchery management
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>a) Implementing European Council Regulation No. 708/2007 concerning Use of Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture.</p> <p>b) 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).</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<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 Scotland.</li> </ul>
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 aims to ensure that farmed and wild fisheries – and their interactions with each other – are managed effectively, maximising their combined contribution to supporting

		<p>sustainable economic growth with due regard to the wider marine environment.</p> <p>The Act includes an enabling power for the Scottish Ministers to make regulations prescribing technical requirements for equipment used for and in connection with fish farming; and which make provision to ensure the requirements are complied with. Work on developing a Technical Standard for equipment is at an advanced stage and regulations will be made in 2015.</p> <p>The Ministerial Group on Aquaculture (MGA) was refocused in 2013 to work alongside the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill to secure the sustainability of aquaculture growth, principally with regards to salmon farming, and managing its interactions with the wildfish sector, to enable both sectors to flourish in Scotland. Membership includes aquaculture industry, wild fish interests, Environment NGO and regulators. The main body will be supported by the more focussed and project-based working groups including on Interactions; on Science and Research; an Interactions Working Group and an Improved Containment Working Group. Chairs will provide an update on progress of their groups at the next meeting of MGSA.</p>
	<p>Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):</p>	<p>The technical requirements will further improve containment, minimise the risk of escapes occurring, and ensure installation and deployment of fish farming equipment that is well maintained and appropriate for the site conditions at which the farm operates and minimise the potential for adverse impact on wild salmonids.</p> <p>MGSA will provide a framework to secure the sustainability of salmon aquaculture growth whilst managing its interactions with the wildfish sector, to enable both sectors to flourish in Scotland. The interactions group will facilitate improvements in the current relationship between the wild and farmed fishing sectors, with a view to establishing closer, productive, cooperative working relationships for the overall benefit of the people of Scotland and the environment.</p>
	<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>The MGSA published <i>A Technical Standard for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture</i> (STS) in 2015 <a href="http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/06/5747">http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/06/5747</a>. This, along with statutory training requirements, will help ensure all finfish farms have site appropriate equipment to prevent escapes, by 2020 at the latest. Reported</p>

		<p>escapes in 2015 were the lowest since statutory reporting was introduced in 2002.</p> <p>The MGSA continues to play a key role in overseeing a sustainable aquaculture industry in Scotland, now one of Scotland's key food and drink sectors, with potential for continued sustainable growth. Now that many of MGSA's Working Groups have successfully delivered their key objectives, the group's structure is under consideration, with a revised structure is expected to be established after the next Scottish Parliamentary session.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Not applicable

<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.
	<b>None.</b>
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.
	<b>None.</b>
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
	<b>None.</b>
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.
	<b>None.</b>
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
	<b>None.</b>