



Agenda item 6.1  
For information

**Council**

**CNL(16)33**

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

***Norway***



## CNL(16)33

### ***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>	Norway
<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>
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>

<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>

<b>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’).</b>				
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2015 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	350	-	233	583
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2014 (tonnes)	277	-	213	490
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2015 (tonnes)		-		250
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2015	25 433 caught and released (number of fish) 19,3% caught and released (% of total number of fish) 106 257 caught (number of fish) 131 690 total number of fish (caught + caught and released)			

<b>3: Implementation Plan Actions.</b>		
<b>3.1 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to the Management of Salmon Fisheries (Section 2.8 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 F1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Annual assessments of the management target achievement for the previous 4-5 year period are made by The Norwegian Scientific Committee for Atlantic Salmon Management (SACAS). In response to advice from the committee regulatory measures will be introduced normally every four or five years or if necessary annually or within season, as described in section 2.2. Special caution is exercised when regulating the fishery in areas with the risk of impacts from aquaculture. Fishing season, in sea and river fisheries will be used as a primary means to reach the management targets. Pre-agreed regulatory measures are implemented in rivers if there is a risk that spawning targets are not met.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increase in number of stocks reaching management targets.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The process of adopting new fishing regulations from 2016 is finished, and the new regulations are introduced. The regulatory measures follows SACAS’s advice.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	Ongoing. The number of stocks reaching management targets after the regulatory period 2012-2015 will be evaluated by SACAS in 2016.
	If ‘Completed’, has the Action achieved its objective?	

<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Introduction of mandatory mid-season assessment of the fishery and salmon run and pre-agreed measures in more rivers. Consider the introduction of similar requirements for sea-fisheries. Further develop the specific toolkit, consisting of a procedural memo and specially adapted spread sheets for each individual river.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increase in number of stocks reaching management targets.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The number of rivers with mandatory mid-season assessment of the fishery and salmon run as well as pre-agreed measures are increasing. Legislation necessary to introduce continuous reporting of catches in the sea fisheries is in progress. Spreadsheets updated in 2015. An evaluation of how the local river management handles the mid-season assessment is in progress.
	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):	Introduction of "second" generation spawning targets.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	More precise spawning targets and better stock management.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The number of rivers with reliable stock recruitment data has been increased. Additional information about mesohabitat distribution and juvenile salmon production increases the understanding of constrains in salmon production, which is important for the development of new methodology for second generation spawning targets. New spawning targets are not in place yet.
	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):	Negotiate a new regulatory regime for the river Tana with Finland, and introduce a stock rebuilding program in collaboration with Finland.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	A new agreement in 2016, followed by stock-rebuilding up to spawning target achievement in the river Tana.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	A new agreement is intended to be signed in June 2016, and enter into force before the fishing season in 2017
	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>3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration</b> (Section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan).  <i>Note: The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.</i></p>		
<b>Action H1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Liming of 22 acidified salmon rivers and if feasible include five additional rivers in the long-term liming program.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Restored salmon stocks and fishing possibilities.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	At present, 22 Norwegian salmon rivers are included in the national liming program. "New" salmon stocks have been re-established in rivers whose stocks were lost due to acid rain. Salmon catches in limed rivers have increased from about 10 tons per year in the 1980s to 40 - 50 tons today, and at present this makes up for 10-14 % of total salmon catches in Norwegian rivers. The liming of 22 rivers is financed by public budgets, and in 2015 the cost was 47 mill NOK. Liming of the river Modalselva started in 2015, and is complemented by a restocking program.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>All rules of operations for the largest and oldest hydropower plants are subject to revision within 2022. A major challenge is how the water needed for reintroduction of Atlantic salmon and other environmental improvements shall be weighed in relation to the goals for producing renewable energy (the RES Directive). Measures in National Salmon Rivers will be given high priority. Positive and negative effects will be evaluated. If the positive values turns up to exceed the negative values new conditions will be set.</p> <p>Other actions are habitat improvements, fish-ladders, adjustment in the manoeuvring regimes etc.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	In general, an increase in water discharge in dewatered areas, no ramping, less fluctuations in water levels, and more environmentally friendly allocation of water and habitat improvements in critical periods of the salmon life cycle will be evaluated in each specific river.

	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	New rules of operation have been set for river Årdal in Rogaland giving the stocks of Atlantic salmon and anadromous brown trout new minimum water flow in summer and winter. Approximately 40 different revisions are ongoing including anadromous and non-anadromous watercourses.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action H3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Removal or reconstruction of artificial migration obstacles such as pipes and culverts through roads.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Effective fish passages increase available nursery habitats in upper reaches of salmon rivers - removal of migration obstacles increases available habitat in tributaries of larger salmon rivers and in smaller coastal streams.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	A report from 2015 shows that the road authorities have removed 15 migration obstacles for salmon and sea trout. As part of the implementation of EUs Water Framework Directive in Norway, regional plans with environmental objectives and prioritizing of habitat improvements in all river basins were finished in 2015. Measures to mitigate barriers caused by roads are planned in prioritized rivers by the road authorities. New program of measures will be in operation within 2018.
	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 (as submitted in the IP):	<p>a) Increased focus on enforcing the current legislation against habitat deterioration, to avoid further negative impact on salmon nursery habitat. Special focus will be on National Salmon Rivers, in which there are particular restrictions against most types of habitat encroachment. An important part of this initiative is to bring updated information on the new regime to important stakeholders such as landowners and road constructors.</p> <p>b) Habitat restoration and biotope adjustments. A lot of weirs have been constructed throughout the country. In later years several of these have been reconstructed to improve the passage of migrating anadromous salmonids. In Northern Norway in particular several actions have taken place to improve the salmon habitat. Several rivers that were</p>

		channelized in the 1990'ies have achieved improvements by opening of river reaches to be active during floods, placement of large stones to increase habitat heterogeneity, rebuilding of flood protection works, including jacks and other constructions to increase hydraulic heterogeneity.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increased productivity in nursery habitats for Atlantic salmon due to decreased habitat degradation and increased connectivity in salmon river systems.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Habitat restoration is an important factor for improving ecological status, and two projects have been completed(?) in northern Norway. In river Kvalvik in Lyngen, the natural riverbed was re-established after removing old erosion protection works, and old river stretches were opened. In the Alta river erosion protection works along lower stretches were removed. The size of the river indicates that this project will have small effect to the overall ecological status of the river.
	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):	A regional carrying capacity model for sea lice is now being developed.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Based on farmed salmon biomass and other parameters in a region, the numbers of sea lice copepodites in the area can be estimated. Taking into account the dispersion patterns for selected times the copepodite transmission within the region can be determined.  Adaptive management in response to monitoring results will then be possible.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The national monitoring programme of sensitivity of drugs against lice continues. NFSA takes action against fish farms that are exceeding the sea lice limit in a more or less systematic manner; requiring slaughtering and/or reduction of site-MAB. Parliament has decided a new policy for determining growth in aquaculture, based on environmental footprint.

	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):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Further improvement of precautionary measures e.g : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Site based technical certificate for every fish farm in sea.</li> <li>- Stricter requirements concerning mesh size and number of fish held in one cage.</li> <li>- A public consultation on amendments of the The Norwegian Aquaculture Act to improve legal base for environmental measures has been undertaken.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Research on sterile farmed salmon to reduce genetic and ecological threats to wild salmon populations.</li> <li>3. Additional long-term monitoring programs and studies of ecological processes and the environmental impacts of fish farming.</li> <li>4. Test of resistance board weirs etc. to monitor and remove escaped salmon from Norwegian rivers.</li> <li>5. Search for better methods and technical solutions tracing the origin of farmed Atlantic salmon escapees. (This can be done by using DNA Parentage Assignment (industry based project) or other suitable methods.</li> </ol>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduced genetic interaction between farmed and wild Atlantic salmon.</li> <li>2. Reduced spawning activity of farmed salmon in rivers.</li> <li>3. -4. Get better knowledge and measures to cope with escaped Atlantic salmon.</li> <li>5. Methods for immediate identification of escaped Atlantic salmon and basis for action against leaking sites. Secure identification of the guilty polluter.</li> </ol>
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Ongoing</li> <li>2. Research is still ongoing to evaluate animal welfare considerations as well as performance in relation to various environmental factors. Consequently, research licenses are currently using triploid fish. Also several commercial salmon-farmers have started using triploid fish as in "green" salmon farm licenses.</li> <li>3. The national program for monitoring escaped salmon will finish the second year's report in april. This will be continued on a yearly basis.</li> </ol>

		4. At the moment the institute of Marine Research is continuing, and funding, the works on two traps in Hardanger for research purposes.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	1. Ongoing 2. Ongoing, but are in a period of field testing on a commercial scale 3. Ongoing 4. Ongoing 5. Ongoing for at least another year
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Proposal for a new action plan for the control of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> is being developed.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	To combat the parasite in two regions, Rauma region consisting of 5 infected rivers, and Skibotn region consisting of two infected rivers. In addition, there are plans to build a long-term fish barrier in the River Driva.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Treatment against <i>G. salaris</i> was finalized in the Rana region. The first rotenone treatment in Skibotn region (two infected rivers) has been completed. A second treatment in this region will be implemented in 2016. All preparations for the building of fish barrier in River Driva was completed, and construction will start in January 2016.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	1. Treatment against <i>G. salaris</i> in Rana: "Completed" 2. Treatment against <i>G. salaris</i> in Skibotn: "Ongoing" 3. Fish barrier in Driva: "Ongoing"
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	The parasite is eradicated from the River Rana and the salmon population will now be rebuilt from the gene bank
<b>Action A4:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	It is prepared an action plan to reduce the impact of pink salmon in the rivers in the county of Finnmark, the northernmost county in Norway. The plan includes monitoring and removal of pink salmon in rivers. There is also a plan to reduce minnow impact on native fish populations in the river Namsen in the middle part of Norway. Currently, minnow are not spread to the Atlantic salmon distribution area. Monitoring is therefore the most important action so far.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	The aim is to reduce the breeding population of pink salmon to a minimum.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	A monitoring program is implemented to register the prevalence of pink salmon in Finnmark county. There is also a monitoring program to follow the spread of the minnow downstream to the salmon area of river Namsen.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing

	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
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<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. Fishing regulations for the sea and river fisheries are adjusted according to population specific advice from SACAS. The new regulation regime is in force for 2016 and onwards, and is mainly a continuation of the previous regime with adjustments in several rivers and some coastal areas.
4.2	Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures.
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
4.4	Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not Party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention.
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.