



Agenda item 6.1
For information

Council

CNL(16)34

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

***Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
Faroe Islands***

CNL(16)34

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**.

Party:	Denmark
Jurisdiction/Region:	Faroe Islands

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan
1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan <i>(Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 December).</i>
No revisions to the Implementation Plan are planned.
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
No major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management but consistent with the scientific advice no salmon fishery was conducted in the waters around the Faroe Islands in 2015 (see action F1). There is interest in conducting a research fishery for salmon in the Faroes not least because of the findings of the genetic study reported to the IASRB in 2014 (see SAG(14)6) and the implications of this for the development of a Risk Framework and the provision of catch advice. Any proposal for research fishing will be conducted according NASCO's guidelines and resolution on the matter.

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.

The 2015 ICES Advisory Committee report, CNL(15)8 indicates that the Pre-fishery Abundance (PFA) of both maturing 1SW and non-maturing 1SW salmon for Northern NEAC show a general decline over the time period (since 1983), with the decline being more marked in the maturing 1SW stock. Both stock complexes have, however, been at full reproductive capacity prior to the commencement of distant-water fisheries (i.e. meeting the SER with at least 95% probability) throughout the time-series. PFA of maturing 1SW and of non-maturing 1SW salmon for Southern NEAC demonstrate broadly similar declining trends over the time period (since 1971). Both stock complexes were at full reproductive capacity prior to the commencement of distant-water fisheries throughout the early part of the time-series. However, in approximately 50% of the years since the mid-1990s, the non-maturing 1SW stock has been at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity before any fisheries took place. The maturing 1SW stock, on the other hand, was first assessed as being at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity in 2009, and has been at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity or suffering reduced reproductive capacity in around half of the years since then.

There are no new factors in Faroese waters which may significantly affect the abundance of salmon stocks.

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)	0	0	0	0
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2014 (tonnes)	0	0	0	0
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2015 (tonnes)	0	0	0	0
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2015.	0			

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 F1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	The Faroe Islands will continue to manage any salmon fishery through international cooperation and on the basis of the advice from ICES regarding the stocks contributing to the Faroese salmon fishery in a precautionary manner and with a view to sustainability.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	0A new multi-annual decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters in 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 was adopted at the Thirty-Second (2015) Annual Meeting of NASCO's North-East Atlantic Commission, NEA(15)10. Under this decision Faroese management decisions will be made with due consideration to the advice of ICES concerning the biological situation and the status of the stocks contributing to the salmon fishery. The 2015 ICES advice (CNL(15)8) states that in the absence of any fisheries in the fishing seasons 2015/2016 to 2017/2018, there is a less than 95% probability of meeting the conservation limits (CLs) for the two age groups (potential 1-sea-winter (1SW) and multi-sea-winter (MSW) spawners) of the Southern NEAC stock complex. Therefore, in the absence of specific management objectives, ICES advises that there are no mixed-stock fisheries options on the NEAC complexes at the Faroes in the fishing seasons 2015/2016 to 2017/2018. Consistent with the 2015 advice from ICES, no salmon fishery was conducted by the Faroe Islands in 2015 in order to contribute to the conservation and rebuilding of the Atlantic salmon stocks.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing (completed for 2015)
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Achieved for 2015.

<p>3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (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>		
Action H1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	
	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?	

<p>3.3 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics (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>		
Action A1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Continue to apply NASCO’s ‘Williamsburg Resolution’ and ‘Guidance on Best Management Practices to Address Impacts of Sea Lice and Escaped Farmed Salmon on Wild Salmon Stocks’ in order to minimise the risk of impacts from salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Continuing progress in reducing sea lice and escapees.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Monitoring and enforcement by the Faroese Veterinary Authority continued during 2015 and had there been issue with regards to sea lice and containment, these matters would have been dealt with in accordance with the regulatory procedures. Comprehensive measures have been taken to improve the methods for treatment of sea lice in the Faroese aquaculture industry. Executive Order no. 163 from 2009 on monitoring of sea lice requires counting every second week in the summer and once a month in the winter. The purpose of these regulations is to reduce the occurrence of sea lice in farmed fish and to impair resistance to preventative treatment. The Executive Order requires regular sampling for, and reporting of, sea lice in farmed fish and sets out the required procedures for treatment,

		<p>which can also require coordinated efforts between different fish farming facilities.</p> <p>All fish farms must have a contingency plan which describes potential risks and preparedness e.g. escapes and outbreak of diseases. The contingency plans must be approved by the Food and Veterinary Agency (Executive Order no. 134 from 2009). The contingency plan shall describe procedures regarding sea lice counting and treatment and must document that the farm is capable of following the procedures defined in the Executive Order. The executive order states that the FVA can demand prompt treatment. If the treatment fails, the companies are required to report to the FVA. The FVA can demand simultaneous treatment in all farms situated in the same fjord or in several fjords if necessary.</p> <p>Since 2009, the Aquaculture Research Station (<i>P/F Fiskaaling</i>) has, in close cooperation with the aquaculture industry and the Food and Veterinary Agency, initiated several research projects regarding the challenges with sea lice e.g. refractoriness, genes and countings. In order to develop natural methods to combat sea lice, the Research Station has initiated research on the lumpfish, <i>Cyclopterus lumpus</i>, as a cleaner-fish.</p> <p>There are thus strict regulatory measures in place in the Faroes to combat sea lice in salmon farms based on treatment threshold levels, fallowing, single year class stocking. As well as this a database is kept of sea lice level in all aquaculture plants, and in case levels sea lice would exceed threshold level swift and decisive measures would immediately been taken. For reasons of confidentiality and competition the information in database are not available to the public at the level of each single aquaculture plant.</p> <p>Transgenic salmon farming is not allowed according to Veterinary Law regulating salmon farming, and therefore this practise does not occur in the Faroe Islands.</p> <p>Attached is a table illustrating the level of sea lice.</p>
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	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing (completed for 2015)
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes

4: Additional information required under the Convention	
4.1	Details of any laws, regulations and programmes that have been adopted or repealed since the last notification.
No new laws, regulations and programmes have been adopted or repealed since the last notification.	
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.
There have been no 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.
There has been no salmon fishery at the Faroe Islands for many years.	
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 new actions taken.	
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
In accordance with the NASCO multi-annual decision, no salmon fishery was conducted by the Faroe Islands in 2015.	

Lepeophtheirus salmonis – number of adult females pr. salmon

