



Agenda item 6.1  
For information

**Council**

**CNL(16)38**

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

***Canada***



## CNL(16)38

### ***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>Canada</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>
No changes are proposed for 2016.
<b>1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.</b>
<p><u>Canada's Ministerial Advisory Committee on Atlantic Salmon</u> Canada's Ministerial Advisory Committee on Atlantic Salmon, constituted to help chart a course of action to reverse the recent trend of declining returns, issued its final report on July 31, 2015. The report contains 61 recommendations on issues ranging from conservation and enforcement to working internationally within NASCO (and partners such as Greenland and France / St. Pierre and Miquelon) to address fisheries which target Atlantic salmon of Canadian origin. Many of the recommendations have been addressed already while others are targeted for implementation in 2016-17. One recommendation of note that will be undertaken in 2016 is the review and revision of Canada's Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy (see below).</p> <p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) has initiated a process to update its Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy. This process will update the policy's existing goals, approach to resource management and overall framework for conservation of the resource. DFO expects to hold stakeholder consultations in 2016 which would contribute to the Department's policy drafting and publication.</p> <p><u>Quebec's Atlantic Salmon Management Plan</u> Quebec recently announced the implementation of its new Atlantic salmon management plan. (<a href="http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/peche/plan-gestion-saumon.jsp">http://www.mffp.gouv.qc.ca/faune/peche/plan-gestion-saumon.jsp</a>)</p>

**Background:**

Two thirds of the overall salmon run in Quebec are composed of large individuals (multi-sea-winter) while one third of the returning adults are grilse (1-sea-winter). Adult salmon abundance in Quebec is monitored annually in approximately 40 rivers. Those rivers support around 80% of the total fishing days held in the province. It is mandatory in Quebec to formally record all salmon retained by fishermen. In order of priority, the practices for which salmon fishing can be open are the following: Aboriginal subsistence fishing, sport fishing and commercial fishing, which has not been permitted since 2000.

**New river specific measures:**

Reference points have been reviewed and will again be used in a precautionary approach. An upper and a lower reference point have been established for each river using a Bayesian hierarchical analysis of stock–recruitment data. An additional lower reference point has been developed based on population genetic parameters. Most sport fishing rules are set individually for each river before the season opening so as to maintain a maximum number of rivers above their upper reference point and a minimum of rivers below the lower reference points. Release of large salmon is compulsory during the first half of the fishing season. From mid-summer, retention of large salmon can be allowed in rivers that reached the upper reference point during the last five years, but only if mid-summer assessments indicate that these particular populations are about to surpass a management target set above the upper reference point during the ongoing season. Release of large salmon is mandatory on rivers that do not reach the upper reference points. Fishing is closed in rivers below the lower reference points.

**New general measures:**

The daily catch limit is reduced from 1, 2 or 3 salmon to 1 or 2 salmon, depending of the river’s status. A daily limit for catch and release has been introduced and set to 3 salmon. All the above regulatory changes will come into force on April 1, 2016. The annual limit will be reduced from 7 salmon, large or small, to 4 salmon, including a single large salmon, as soon as the procedure for this particular regulatory change allow. Some exceptions to those general and river specific measures may apply.

**Newfoundland and Labrador Baitfish Fishery**

Changes have been made to the Newfoundland and Labrador baitfish fishery to reduce salmon by-catch. As of 2016, all bait nets must be set parallel to shore to help avoid incidentally caught salmon

**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.**

**Nothing to report.**

<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
	90.9	34.6	8.2	133.6
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2014 (tonnes)	82.5	28.4	7.1	118.0
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2015 (tonnes)				<i>Provisional</i> 25
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2015.	Total estimated catch and release: - 64,159 fish - Percentage of all catch (retained plus released) which was released = 64% (93% of large salmon catch, 54% of small salmon 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.*

<b>Action F1:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Fisheries management measures introduced to compensate for low marine survival include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced daily and season bag limits;</li> <li>• Mandatory catch and release fishing, especially of large salmon;</li> <li>• Salmon fishing closures in areas where the CSRs are not being met; and,</li> <li>• Restrictions on commercial pelagic fisheries to stop or minimize salmon by-catch, including moving these fisheries in time and space and modifying the fishing gear to avoid migrating salmon.</li> </ul> <p>In addition, Canada’s fisheries managers have asked for a science-led review of reference points for Atlantic salmon which conforms to the Precautionary Approach (PA) for all areas of eastern Canada.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Fisheries management measures are designed to maintain or improve numbers of salmon returning to Canadian rivers.</p> <p>A consistent approach to Atlantic salmon reference points which conform to the PA will improve management of Atlantic salmon fisheries and overall conservation of the species.</p>

<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>Canada's Policy for the Conservation of Wild Atlantic Salmon, adopted in 2009, continues to guide the Department in maintaining and restoring healthy and diverse salmon populations and their habitats. DFO has initiated a process to update its Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy. This process will update the policy's existing goals, approach to resource management and overall framework for conservation of the resource. DFO expects to hold stakeholder consultations in 2016 which would contribute to the Department's policy drafting and publication.</p> <p>As part of its move towards implementing the Precautionary Approach in the management of Atlantic salmon, the Department undertook, in February 2014, a Scientific Peer Review of limit reference points and approaches for establishing the other reference points (e.g. upper stock reference, maximum removal rate). The final science advisory report was released in 2015 titled "Considerations for defining reference points for Atlantic Salmon that conform to the precautionary approach". (<a href="http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/publications/sar-as/2015/2015_058-eng.pdf">http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/csas-sccs/publications/sar-as/2015/2015_058-eng.pdf</a>)</p> <p>The development of the Precautionary Approach, including harvest decision rules, is being implemented regionally.</p> <p>Management Actions:</p> <p>In 2015 stricter management measures continued to be put in place in the southern portion of the Atlantic salmon's range in Canada. These will significantly reduce the number of Atlantic salmon which can be retained in the recreational fisheries in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and gear changes will reduce impacts to salmon related to the recreational fisheries in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and P.E.I. These changes are further to those changes made in 2014. <a href="http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries/2015-Salmon-Angling-Gulf-Region">http://www.glf.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/Gulf/FAM/Recreational-Fisheries/2015-Salmon-Angling-Gulf-Region</a></p> <p>New Brunswick</p> <p>The yearly fishing quota for small salmon (grilse) was reduced from four to zero in the Atlantic salmon recreational fishery. It was mandatory to release all Atlantic salmon during the angling season.</p>
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	<p>The use of an artificial fly with single barbless hook was required in rivers and streams where it was already mandatory to use an artificial fly to angle.</p> <p>Nova Scotia</p> <p>The yearly fishing quota for small salmon (grilse) was reduced from two to zero in the Atlantic salmon recreational fishery. It was mandatory to release all Atlantic salmon during the angling season. The use of an artificial fly with single barbless hook was required in rivers and streams where it was already mandatory to use an artificial fly to angle.</p> <p>In the Maritimes, recreational fishing was restricted to cold water periods to avoid additional stress to salmon.</p> <p>Prince Edward Island</p> <p>The use of an artificial fly with single barbless hook was required in rivers and streams where it was already mandatory to use an artificial fly to angle.</p> <p>Aboriginal harvests in the Maritimes were minimal and well below allocations.</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador is in the third year of a multi-year management approach for the recreational salmon fishery. The latest science advice is that there should be no increase in harvest/allocations on Newfoundland and Labrador salmon populations, except for areas which have in-season special management plans and where conservation requirements are being met. No changes to management measures are being considered at this time.</p> <p>Quebec</p> <p>In 2015, to address concerns over low returns of large salmon, 16 rivers were subject to regulatory changes. Catch and release of large salmon was mandatory throughout the fishing season on the Rivière Ouelle. For the Mitis, Laval, Pigou, au Bouleau, aux Rochers, Jupitagon, Magpie, Saint-Jean (Côte-Nord), de la Corneille, Piashti,</p>
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		<p>Watshishou, Petite rivière Watshishou, Nabisipi, Aguanish et Natashquan rivers, catch and release of large salmon was mandatory in the early season and was re-evaluated through the season according to the abundance levels measured. (Note – In Quebec the Department of Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks is responsible for salmon management).</p> <p>These changes are in line with the Department’s move towards implementing the Precautionary Approach in the management of Atlantic salmon.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	Completed
	If ‘Completed’, has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes
<b>Action F2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Canadian fisheries scientists and managers are already dealing with aquatic invasive species (AIS) using whatever tools are currently available. In some cases, these tools may not be adequate, and it is becoming more difficult to find resources to address all AIS issues. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is working with provincial and territorial partners to develop a national framework and regulations to manage the threat of AIS. The regulations will complement existing authorities and bridge gaps to enable a broad range of AIS management activities. This initiative will accommodate localized AIS issues, as well as provide a national framework for managing and controlling AIS in Canada. Biological risk assessments will identify those species that pose a risk based on probability of arrival, survival and establishment with ecological impacts. The proposed regulation will list AIS by geographical area, prohibit the live import, transport and possession of listed AIS, provide management authorities with a wide range of AIS control and eradication activities, including the use of deleterious substances, and enhance the ability to direct activities (including enforcement) to high risk areas. Along with these regulations, education and public awareness are considered key to achieving success.</p> <p>With respect to the increasing presence of rainbow trout in Quebec waters, at Canada’s request in 2012, NASCO added a question for ICES advice on the impact of this “exotic salmonid’s” expansion outside of its natural habitat through human intervention.</p>

		<p>This advice will guide actions, where necessary, to control this invasive species.</p> <p>In Nova Scotia, the provincial government enacted <i>Live Fish Possession Regulations</i> in 2012 to prohibit possession of live fish unless authorized, and has closed fishing for smallmouth bass where they are not found, to remove the incentive for illegal introductions.</p> <p>A three-year (2010-2012) containment and eradication plan is in place to control the spread of smallmouth bass in the Miramichi Lake and to eventually eradicate them from the watershed. The plan includes the use of barriers to contain the smallmouth bass, physical removal by intensive fishing and electrofishing, and location and removal of nests.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	The national framework and regulations are being designed to support management activities aimed at preventing the introduction of AIS into Canada and controlling the spread of AIS if they are introduced.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Canada's federal Aquatic Invasive Species Regulations came into force May 29th, 2015. As described above, the Regulations provide managers with a suite of tools that can be used to prevent the introduction of AIS into Canadian waters, and to control and manage the spread of existing AIS. The Regulations are available at <a href="http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2015-121/">http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2015-121/</a> .
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	AIS Regulations Completed
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes
<b>Action F3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	Reduction and elimination of acid rain-causing emissions are the ideal goals to mitigate losses of wild Atlantic salmon due to acidification. In the meanwhile, liming of watercourses is recognized as an acidification mitigation technique that provides benefits to salmon. In Nova Scotia, the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) has been very involved with liming projects e.g. in West River, Sheet Harbour. The ASF and others have operated an automated lime doser for approximately 6 years.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	The liming project in West River has had very positive results. Parr numbers have increased by more than 300% and new sections of the river are being recolonized. Liming can be fairly expensive

		and must be done repeatedly as long as the source of acidity remains.
	Progress on Action to Date ( <i>see note above</i> ):	This Nova Scotia Salmon Association project is in its 11th consecutive year. Over \$1M has been spent on the project to date with over 18,500 volunteer hours. The objective of increasing the pH (target pH of 5.5) and increasing production has been achieved. Biological monitoring occurred through 2014 and increased smolt production was seen on the main branch – from 3000 smolts to 10,000-12,000 smolts. Abnormally harsh late winter and early spring conditions prevented the smolt traps from operating in 2015. An adult assessment facility was installed on the limed main branch and an unlimed tributary in July 2015. The main branch site uses a resistance weir board design; the first of its kind on the east coast of Canada.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	A full time research scientist has been hired (start April 2015) for a three year period to expand the project and lead strategic research projects. Funding has been submitted to install a second doser on the largest tributary and early feedback has been favourable. A moderate scale (70-100 ha) catchment liming project is planned for late 2016 with funding for the helicopter time committed.
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes
<b>Action F4:</b>	Description of Action ( <i>as submitted in the IP</i> ):	Education of the public about the importance of Atlantic salmon conservation is considered very important, as those with a stake in the resource will assist in deterring poaching.  Regular patrols by federal fishery officers and provincial conservation officers, as well as undercover work and tips from the public are all used to detect and catch poachers. Fisheries and Oceans Canada has worked with its lawyers in recent years to educate the court system and judges about the seriousness of salmon poaching and its effects on Atlantic salmon populations. As a result, heftier fines and other penalties are now being imposed by the courts, which is a further deterrent.
	Expected Outcome ( <i>as submitted in the IP</i> ):	Decreased incidence of poaching
	Progress on Action to Date ( <i>see note above</i> ):	C&P is currently transitioning its operations to become an Intelligence-led enforcement program. With the creation of the National Fisheries Intelligence Service (NFIS) the department will be enhancing its ability to direct resource toward the

greatest conservation concerns. NFIS will provide intelligence products to operational personnel, augmenting traditional operational knowledge, and thereby increase the focus of staff who are targeting areas of greatest risk to the resource.

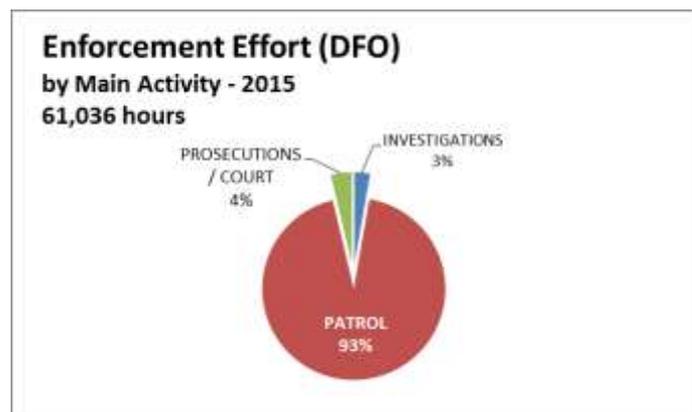
It is anticipated that these program changes will result in enhanced enforcement outcomes and increased compliance.

C&P continues to work closely with user groups, creating partnerships with Provincial counterparts and First Nations on enhancing compliance and enforcement efforts in the salmon fishery.

### **Enforcement 2015 – Atlantic Salmon**

(Note: Statistics are broken down by DFO Region. For a map of Regional boundaries refer to <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/regions/index-eng.htm> ).

DFO Region	Hours	Fishers checked	Fishing Sites
GULF	7,341	1,360	6,557
MARITIMES	4,510	525	4,967
NEWF & LAB	49,185	4,137	8,711
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>61,036</b>	<b>6,022</b>	<b>20,235</b>



### **2015 Detected Violations**

Region	Total
GULF / GOLFE	39
MARITIMES	1
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR	119
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>159</b>

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<b>Action F5:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>Current Integrated Fisheries Management Plans (IFMP) for Atlantic salmon and commercial pelagic fisheries provide information on measures that are being taken to reduce salmon by-catch. As a general rule, wild Atlantic salmon that are caught incidentally in any fishery cannot be retained and must be returned to the water in a manner that causes the least harm to the salmon.</p> <p>In addition, Canada is moving towards a more rigorous catch monitoring and reporting regime that will encompass all catches, including by-catch and discards, as set out in Fisheries and Oceans Canada's <i>Policy on Managing By-catch</i>.</p>																																										
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Implementation of the policy, with ongoing monitoring of salmon by-catch and further improvements in management measures to avoid such by-catch, will enhance Atlantic salmon conservation.																																										

	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Implementation of the Policy continues. Measures already in place to support the Policy include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restrictions on the use of monofilament herring and mackerel gill nets when salmon are present.</li> <li>• Depth requirements for groundfish gill nets.</li> <li>• Mandatory reporting of bycatch in certain commercial fishing logbooks (gaspereau, shad, eels, smelt, etc.).</li> <li>• Areas closed to the use of gill nets.</li> <li>• Delayed season openings in many salmon producing rivers to prevent the bycatch of salmon under the guise of trout angling.</li> <li>• Complete angling closures to all species in areas where salmon are vulnerable and stocks are at such low levels that they can't support an open salmon angling season.</li> </ul>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	NA

<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><b>Focused Legal Protection</b></p> <p>The Fisheries Act was amended in 2012 to focus on providing for the sustainability and ongoing productivity of recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fisheries. This will require updated policy and decision-making frameworks.</p> <p>Fisheries and Oceans Canada's new Fisheries Protection Program will administer provisions of the Fisheries Act related to managing effects on fish and fish habitat, i.e., the fisheries protection provisions. Fisheries Protection Program staff will focus on managing specific activity and development types. Staff has been organized into teams that will focus on, among other areas: linear development including transportation infrastructure; marine and coastal development including coastal land use such as agriculture and forestry; and mining. These teams will develop specialized expertise to effectively address threats to important fisheries listed in section 3.3: transportation infrastructure, agriculture,</p>

		<p>forestry, and mining. To address these threats to fisheries, teams will complete several types of actions: development of standards for protection (to be enshrined in policy and regulation); implementation of regulatory requirements including regulatory reviews of development projects and activities under the Fisheries Act and the Species at Risk Act; and identification and protection of important habitats.</p> <p>In addition, a recovery strategy has been developed for the Inner Bay of Fundy Atlantic Salmon populations, under the Species at Risk Act. This document is intended to provide a strategy for the planning and implementation of recovery for Inner Bay of Fundy Salmon. It defines the goal for recovery of the species and outlines objectives to achieve this goal. It identifies activities to be undertaken as well as areas where knowledge is lacking and further information is required. It also includes a description of the species and its needs, and identifies the threats to its survival and recovery.</p> <p>Activities planned for 2013-2018 to implement the recovery strategy include: progress towards identification of critical habitat in the marine environment which is currently a knowledge gap, and protection of critical habitat identified for the population. As well, three federal funding programs provide ongoing support to conservation and enhancement activities for this population: the Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund (ASEF), Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP), and the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSAR) program.</p>
	<p>Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i></p>	<p>Enhanced protection of recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fisheries, improved information sharing between Fisheries Protection officials, and clear, focused risk based decision making processes.</p>
	<p>Progress on Action to Date <i>(see note above):</i></p>	<p>FPP's specialized review teams have been established and are conducting regulatory activities within their respective industry sectors, as required. Decision making processes have been enhanced.</p> <p>DFO has been working with its many partners to implement the Recovery Strategy for the Atlantic Salmon, Inner Bay of Fundy (iBoF) population. (<a href="http://sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1917">http://sararegistry.gc.ca/document/default_e.cfm?documentID=1917</a>). First published in 2010, the Recovery Strategy provides lead federal departments, DFO and Parks Canada Agency, and all</p>

		<p>other partners with strategic direction for the planning and implementation of recovery. The Recovery Strategy includes a recovery goal for the species and outlines objectives to achieve this goal. It describes the species and its needs, identifies threats, and identifies areas of freshwater critical habitat required for survival and recovery. Amendments to the published Recovery Strategy are underway some of which include the identification of estuarine and marine critical habitat, the addition of the Petitcodiac River as critical habitat, and a description of residence (i.e., redds).</p> <p>In conjunction with the Recovery Strategy, a proposed Action Plan for the iBoF Atlantic Salmon has also been prepared and published to the Registry. This Action Plan outlines the specific recovery measures needed to address all five of the Recovery Strategy objectives. For each recovery measure, it also outlines who will be involved and the associated timeline for completion.</p> <p>Some of the activities planned to implement the Recovery Strategy and Action Plan during 2016-2020 include: establishing a Critical Habitat Order to protect the identified critical habitat, continuation of the Live Gene Bank program to conserve genetic characteristics and help re-establish self-sustaining populations, marine rearing of wild Fundy National Park salmon, continuation of river specific monitoring and recovery activities, and examining the relationship between marine survival and identified marine threats.</p> <p>Overall there has been a positive contribution to the protection of species at risk, facilitating Aboriginal participation in SARA processes including the provision to support consideration of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in SARA processes.</p> <p>Three federal funding programs provide ongoing support to conservation and recovery activities for this population and its habitat: the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP), and the Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSAR) program and the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program (RFCPP).</p> <p>In 2015-16, the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) allocated \$236,060.00 to six (6) projects for the</p>
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		<p>conservation and recovery of Atlantic Salmon populations.</p> <p>In addition to federal funding, program Recipients and their partner organizations contributed \$586,510.00 of cash or in-kind support to these projects, bringing the total value of work to approximately \$822,570.00.</p> <p>Regionally speaking, projects were carried out in Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, and focused on salmon populations found on Eastern Prince Edward Island; Inner Bay of Fundy; in the Morell River; in the Bartibog River; and in the Stewiacke Watershed.</p> <p>In 2015-16, the AFSAR program allocated \$393,346.00 to eight (8) projects involving Atlantic Salmon. Five (5) of these projects directly targeted Atlantic Salmon populations and included activities such as population assessment and monitoring, habitat stewardship and enhancement, and outreach and education.</p> <p>In addition to federal funding, program Recipients and their partner organizations contributed \$420,749.00 of cash or in-kind support to these projects, bringing the total value of work to approximately \$814,095.00.</p> <p>Projects were carried out in Quebec and the Atlantic Provinces, and focused on salmon populations found on the Western and Eastern North Shores of Quebec; the Inner Bay of Fundy; in the Midgell River; and in Middle River and other Cape Breton salmon streams.</p> <p>Through the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program, \$2.7 million was contributed to 50 projects in Atlantic Canada in 2015 that restored Atlantic Salmon habitat. Projects were funded in Québec (8 projects at \$1,369,785), New Brunswick (19 projects at \$616,242), Prince Edward Island (4 projects at \$174,724), Nova Scotia (14 projects at \$512,307) and Newfoundland and Labrador (5 projects at \$74,300).</p>
	<p>Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):</p>	<p>FPP teams – Completed</p> <p>Others in progress.</p>

	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	FPP teams - Yes, this measure has been effective in achieving better regulatory consistency, and ensuring that the appropriate expertise is included in key regulatory decisions.
<b>Action H2:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p><u>Enforcement and Standards</u></p> <p>The Fisheries Act was revised in 2012 and now includes a number of provisions that will enable enhanced compliance and protection of commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries.</p> <p>A number of provisions enable enhanced protection of these fisheries by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aligning the Fisheries Act with the Environmental Enforcement Act (increased fines and penalties for offences);</li> <li>• Creating more easily enforceable conditions for Ministerial authorizations;</li> <li>• Modernizing inspector powers to assist them in ensuring compliance with section 35 (dealing with harm to fish and their habitat); and</li> <li>• Establishing a “duty to notify” provision to establish obligations on persons whose actions result in harm to fish habitat to report and to take corrective measures.</li> </ul> <p>These changes support the action of enforcing the fisheries protection provisions of the Fisheries Act, through activities aimed at both deterring activities that may harm fish and fish habitat, and at compelling compliance with the Act. Enforcement actions will help address the threats to fish and fish habitat listed in section 3.3 (H1).</p> <p>In addition, clear standards and guidelines for routine projects will be set in order to increase protection of commercial, recreation and Aboriginal fisheries.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Enhanced protection of recreational, commercial and Aboriginal fisheries from works, undertakings and activities that represent the greatest threats.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	FPP has identified four pilot guidelines projects. These projects will support the development of performance-based standards in key areas, and provide guidance, in the form of guidelines, on how to achieve the standards. The guidelines are being prepared for the following activities: Pipelines watercourse crossings, transportation watercourse crossings, large and medium water intakes, and marine and coastal infrastructure.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	Ongoing

	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	NA
<b>Action H3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<p>The amended Fisheries Act provides Canada's Minister with the ability to develop regulations in order to enter into agreements with other federal departments, provinces and others for the effective management of fisheries resources, including wild Atlantic salmon habitat.</p> <p>Threat H2 related to the presence of multiple jurisdictions, will be addressed through current and future partnerships.</p> <p>Reporting will be done by various means, including regular reports to Parliament and under the Multi-Agency Wild Atlantic Salmon Habitat Reporting Working Group.</p> <p>As well, jurisdictions within Atlantic Canada continue to work through informal arrangements and under the Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy to increase coordination on all key areas of management for Atlantic salmon.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Increased agreements, partnerships and collaboration among jurisdictions in Atlantic Canada.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	Inter-jurisdictional discussions and collaborative activities are ongoing - no new agreements have been struck.
	Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	NA

**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>Implementation and improvement of current sea lice management tools (legislation, regulation, policy, standards, monitoring and reporting on sea lice management) and the development of new tools, where required.</p> <p>A range of tools is possible, including the development of proposed <i>Aquaculture Activities Regulations</i> under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>; the Bay Area Management approach; Integrated Pest Management; complimentary Provincial policies</p>
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		<p>and regulations; monitoring; and aquaculture public reporting, including the use of sea-lice performance indicators.</p> <p>The five-year renewal of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Sustainable Aquaculture Program (SAP) (from 2013 to 2018) was announced in Canada's 2013 Budget. The Aquaculture Sustainability Reporting Initiative was renewed as Aquaculture Public Reporting and is focused on providing timely, accurate, relevant and coherent information within the Department's regulatory framework under the <i>Fisheries Act</i>, both on a periodic and ongoing basis, to the public, markets and investors about the regulatory management of the sector as well as its economic and environmental performance.</p> <p>The combined objective of these tools is to ensure that all participants in the management of farmed fish health in general, and sea lice management in particular, throughout the NASCO Commission area in Canada do so in a coordinated manner, using a risk and evidenced based approach, addresses impacts to fish populations that support commercial, recreational, and Aboriginal fisheries as well as the habitats that support them.</p>
	<p>Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):</p>	<p>Improved implementation and coordination of sea lice management through new agreements, regulations and policies.</p> <p>Adoption of new standards, research, improved monitoring and dissemination of information on sea lice management.</p>
	<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>The Aquaculture Activities Regulations (AAR) (<a href="http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/management-gestion/aar-raa-eng.htm">http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/management-gestion/aar-raa-eng.htm</a>) came into force on June 29, 2015. These are Canada's first national regulations for aquaculture, developed to increase coherence between the federal and provincial/territorial regulation of aquaculture activities related to the control of disease, pests and biofouling, and the feeding and cultivation of fish. These regulations are intended to minimize harm to fish and fish habitat while permitting essential aquaculture activities. Licence holders are required to report on their activities each year; individual reports will be aggregated and published annually on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) web site.</p>

		<p>With specific reference to sea lice management, licence holders, under the AAR, are required to notify DFO of their intent to deposit pest control products into fish-bearing waters. The notification must include the species treated, treatment reason, product type/name, amount to be deposited, and expected date of deposit. GIS coordinates also must be provided in order to enable fishery officers or other government representatives to be present. Annual reporting must include the same information for drugs as well as pest control products, as well as verification that drugs were administered under supervision of a licensed veterinarian and that pest control products were used according to label conditions.</p> <p>The AAR also contain stringent notification and reporting requirements for any morbidity/mortality events that are observed within 96 hours of deposits of a drug or pest control product. If directed, licence holders must take water, sediment and tissue samples that would be analysed under laboratory conditions to determine the cause of the event.</p> <p>Under the AAR, licence holders are required to record their consideration of alternatives to using drugs or pest control products, to describe mitigation measures they have taken to reduce accidental releases of drugs into the marine environment, and to describe measures taken to minimize detriment to fish and fish habitat from the deposit of drugs and pest control products.</p> <p>The first AAR public report on aquaculture activities occurring in the period July-December 2015, is expected to be released on the DFO web site in early 2017.</p> <p>In October 2015, Nova Scotia released new Aquaculture Management Regulations (<a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/fcra-quamgmt.htm%20-%20TOC2_13">http://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/fcra-quamgmt.htm%20-%20TOC2_13</a>) setting out the requirements to operate aquaculture farms. The new Regulations allow for the appointment of a Chief Aquatic Animal Health Veterinarian, the establishment of Aquaculture Management Areas, and (amongst others) increased reporting of elevated on-farm mortalities and use of treatment products. The fish health section of the Farm Management Plan must include procedures for managing sea lice.</p>
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		<p>New Brunswick (NB) completed its review of the Integrated Pest Management Program for Sea Lice in New Brunswick and has made minor modifications to the document. New Brunswick’s Department of Agriculture, Aquaculture, and Fisheries and DFO continue to issue a Performance Measures Report each calendar year, in addition to the aquaculture industry’s weekly treatment report to stakeholders and an annual sea-lice management report (<a href="http://0101.nccdn.net/1_5/0c2/078/334/2015-Sea-Lice-Mgt-Final-Report.pdf">http://0101.nccdn.net/1_5/0c2/078/334/2015-Sea-Lice-Mgt-Final-Report.pdf</a> ) provided on the industry’s web site.</p> <p>Newfoundland and Labrador has adopted and implemented a Bay Management Area plan for salmon aquaculture in the Coast of Bays region. In 2015, the Province announced an investment by the Province for oceanographic research to support further development of Bay Management Areas to enhance fish health management and biosecurity for marine aquaculture sites. A Decision Support System (FishiTrends) was funded in the Province and implementation of the system is anticipated in 2016.</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>NA</p>
<p><b>Action A2:</b></p>	<p>Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):</p>	<p>Implementation and improvement of current management tools (legislation, regulation, policy, standards and public dissemination of information on the management of farmed fish which have breached containment) and the development of new tools, where required.</p> <p>A range of tools is possible, including the development of legislative authority to enforce requirements; adoption of containment standards; and aquaculture public reporting, including the use of containment performance indicators.</p> <p>The combined objective of these tools is to ensure that all participants in the containment of farmed fish throughout the NASCO Commission area in Canada do so in a manner that minimizes impacts to fish populations that support commercial, recreational and Aboriginal fisheries as well as the habitats that support them.</p>

	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Improved implementation and coordination of farmed fish containment through new agreements, regulations and policies, adoption of new standards, research, improved monitoring and dissemination of information on farmed fish containment
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	<p>New Brunswick has revised its Governance Framework for Containment and is working on changes to its Aquaculture Act and General Regulations that could be in place by the end of 2016 early 2017. Discussions will continue on a Pan-Atlantic approach to containment, where possible.</p> <p>The Government of Nova Scotia’s new Aquaculture Management Regulations (<a href="http://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/fcracquamgmt.htm%20-%20TOC2_13">http://www.novascotia.ca/just/regulations/regs/fcracquamgmt.htm%20-%20TOC2_13</a>) require finfish licence holders to include containment management in their Farm Management Plans. Plans must include information and procedures related to a variety of containment issues such as (amongst others) processes for installing and maintaining infrastructure to limit risk of a breach, responses to breaches, and inventory levels during production. The containment management sections of the Farm Management Plans must be audited by a third party annually and immediately following a reported breach. Marine cage site designs must also be approved by a qualified engineer before deployment.</p> <p>The Newfoundland and Labrador Code of Containment (<a href="http://www.fishaq.gov.nl.ca/aquaculture/public%20reporting/Salmonid%20Code%20of%20Containment%202014.pdf">http://www.fishaq.gov.nl.ca/aquaculture/public%20reporting/Salmonid%20Code%20of%20Containment%202014.pdf</a>) continues to be implemented as a condition of the aquaculture licence. It was last updated in February 2014. The Province is currently evaluating a proposal to grow triploid (sterile) salmon as a means of growing European-strain fish in Newfoundland and Labrador without the potential for genetic interactions between farmed and wild stocks.</p>
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	NA

<b>Action A3:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<b>Renewal of Canada’s National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms</b>  The objective of this action is to complete the review and update Canada’s National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	A renewed Code accounting for changes in federal authority over the management of aquatic animal disease risks and potential refinements.
	Progress on Action to Date (see note above):	The renewed National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms ( <a href="http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/management-gestion/2013-IT-Code-Aug-26-eng.pdf">http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/aquaculture/management-gestion/2013-IT-Code-Aug-26-eng.pdf</a> ) was endorsed by the Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers in September 2013, and was implemented on December 31, 2015, to coincide with the full implementation of the National Aquatic Animal Health Program (NAAHP) ( <a href="http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/eng/1299155892122/1320536294234">http://www.inspection.gc.ca/animals/aquatic-animals/eng/1299155892122/1320536294234</a> ) by DFO and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency. The NAAHP is the Government of Canada’s primary instrument to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic animal diseases in Canada. The NAAHP is consistent with the international standards set by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE).
	Current Status of Action (e.g. ‘Not started’; ‘Ongoing’; ‘Completed’):	Completed – National Code and NAAHP
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes
<b>Action A4:</b>	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP):	<b>Process to Assess Potential Commercial Production of Transgenics</b>  Canada plans to continue to rigorously implement and enforce our risk-based legislative and regulatory process for living organism products of biotechnology, including transgenic salmonids.  Canada plans to continue to invest in contained, land-based laboratory research involving transgenic fish to generate scientific knowledge to inform risk assessment, risk management and regulatory approaches aimed at protecting the aquatic environment including wild salmon populations.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Government of Canada decision makers have access to scientific knowledge for the risk assessment and regulation of fish products of biotechnology (immediate outcome).

	<p>Fish products of biotechnology do not harm the environment or wild salmon populations (long-term outcome).</p>
<p>Progress on Action to Date (see note above):</p>	<p>In 2013, Canada decided to permit the commercial production of transgenic Atlantic salmon (AquAdvantage® salmon), in contained facilities as prescribed in Section 3 of Significant New Activity Notice 16528, published in Vol. 147, No. 47 of the Canada Gazette, Part I on November 23, 2013 (see <a href="http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d106">http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d106</a>).</p> <p>In 2015, there were no known violations of the New Substances Regulations (Organisms) in respect of Atlantic salmon, and there were no known violations of the Significant New Activity Notice 16528.</p> <p>In 2015, there were no regulatory submissions under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 for a transgenic salmonid, or any other novel aquatic organism that is a fish product of biotechnology.</p>
<p>Current Status of Action (e.g. 'Not started'; 'Ongoing'; 'Completed'):</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Canada continues to invest in contained, land-based laboratory research involving transgenic fish, to generate scientific knowledge that informs risk assessment, risk management, and regulatory approaches aimed at protecting the aquatic environment, including wild Atlantic salmon (see <a href="http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/coe-cde/cabrr-crrba/index-eng.asp">http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/coe-cde/cabrr-crrba/index-eng.asp</a>).</p> <p>Canada continues to enforce mandatory control measures implemented under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, and the New Substances Notification Regulations (Organisms) as prescribed in the Significant new Activity Notice No. 16528, published in Vol. 147, No. 47 of the Canada Gazette, Part I on November 23, 2013 (see <a href="http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d106">http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p1/2013/2013-11-23/html/notice-avis-eng.html#d106</a>).</p> <p>Canada continues to inspect all facilities that rear transgenic Atlantic salmon in Canada, and enforce compliance under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999, and Significant New Activity Notice No. 16528.</p>

	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	Canada continues to achieve our objective to protect the environment, including wild Atlantic salmon, from potential risks associated with transgenic salmonids, through implementation and enforcement of a strong regulatory program.
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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.
The Aquaculture Activities Regulations under the Fisheries Act came into force in June 2015.	
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.
See above for details.	
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
NA	
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.
Canada met with France (in respect of Saint Pierre and Miquelon) in 2015 and discussed potential membership in NASCO. France will continue as an observer and participate at NASCO annual meetings as it has in the past despite expressing interest in acceding to NASCO at the 2015 NASCO annual meeting.	
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	
<b>North American Commission Members only:</b>	
4.6	Details of any new measures to minimise by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member.
None	
4.7	Details of any alteration to fishing patterns that result in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party except with the consent of the latter.
None.	