Agenda item 6.3
For information

Council

CNL(17)33

Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2016

EU - Denmark

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Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2016

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 **no later than 24 March 2017**.

Party:	**European Union**
Jurisdiction/Region:	**Denmark**

1: Changes to the Implementation Plan

1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan
(*Where changes are proposed, the revised Implementation Plans should be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 December).*

No changes

1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.

The population size in River Storå has been evaluated large enough to stop any stocking, so from 2017 no stocking will be done in this system

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 steady increase in all 4 rivers seems to have stopped, and despite expectations of continued increase, stagnation or decrease was the trend over the last years. Research in 2016 showed a very low recruitment in Skjern Å, where only 20,000 smolts left the river. This is much less than expected, given a run size of 3000- 5000 adults. Density of fry was very low at the spawning areas, so we can expect a drastic decrease in the runs the coming years. The only factor that can explain this trend is the increased presence of cormorants in the river.

Studies in 2016 documented that less than 50 % of the few smolts from Skjern Å passed the estuary, and that cormorant predation was responsible for most of the loss				
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').*				
(a) provisional nominal catch (which may be subject to revision) for 2016 (tonnes)	In-river	Estuarine	Coastal	Total
	7.5	None	Negligible	7.5
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2015 (tonnes)	As reported			
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2016 (tonnes)				
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2016.	3500, 75 %			

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*)	In several areas bird predation from especially cormorants (*Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis*) is a considerable and well documented problem (Denmark has at present the largest cormorant populations in Europe). Denmark has a national cormorant plan that regulates recruitment where problems with predation on salmonids i.e. salmon and sea trout have been documented.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Reducing the mortality on salmon and trout parr in rivers and during their smolt migration from rivers through estuaries to the North Sea
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	This action is ongoing with an escalated number of measures as shooting, removal of colonies and organized efforts to regulate the number of birds so to keep them away from rivers. One person is hired to organise this in the Skjern River cooperating with anglers, hunters, managers and landowners.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	No, the situation is worse now than ever. The results from the monitoring in Skjern River show a devastating effect of cormorant predation

Action F2:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	By-catch of salmon and sea trout is currently being evaluated in a research project in the Ringkøbing Fjord.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Identification of the by-catch size. If it is a problem an even more restricted fishery (other species than salmonid) in the fjords will be suggested. If it not a problem the present restriction will be continued.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	The study showed a very high by-catch of sea-trout, but very little of salmon
	Current Status of Action	Completed
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	Yes, partly
Action F3:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	As described in paragraph 1.2 there is at present no reliable reference point for salmon in the four rivers with wild salmon, and the present at least 1000 spawners annually is more considered as an objective within the present management plan from 2004, but as described in paragraph 1.2 the new management plan 2013/2014 will assess whether there can be made reliable reference points; at least in the four rivers with wild salmon and based on monitoring results.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	Reliable reference points
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	Studies of the potential run size (wild fish only) in the rivers are initiated and the numbers found here are considerable higher than the present runs. If the cormorant problem can be addressed, realistic reference points may be issued for each river
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	

3.2 Provide an update on progress against actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (Section 3.4 of the Implementation Plan).
Note: *The reports under 'Progress on Action to Date' should provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress made. While referring to additional material (e.g. via links to websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.*

Action H1:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	There have been thousands of obstacles and weirs in connection with fish farms, irrigation, factories, hydropower stations, culverts etc. Many man made obstructions have been removed during the last twenty years but there are still many obstacles for migrating salmon and sea trout in Danish rivers. For example, in 2010 the hydropower station in River Varde Å was closed providing both access to upper parts of the river and about 16 km of the original main stem of the river was reopened and is now used for spawning by salmon and sea trout. In contact with local authorities, anglers and stakeholders river restorations projects are selected and evaluated in relation to maximise the effect of the input of financial resources. These activities are also initiated and a follow up of EU's Water Plans (Water Frame Directive) that has as results an improvement of the environmental conditions in river, lakes and coastal areas.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	It is expected that about 1500 migratory obstructions (most of them small in small streams) shall be removed, but it is expected that both salmon and sea trout benefit from this.
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	Obstacles are being removed. For direct importance for the salmon, the main barrier on the river Kongeå, situated in the lowermost part is being removed in 2017, giving access to more than 100 km free flowing river with spawning and rearing sites. However, there is still no plans for removal of the two most important barriers, Tangeværket in Gudenå and Holstebro værket in Storå
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H2:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	About 1000 km river streams, mostly smaller streams, will be restored from earlier canalization, pipelaying and dredging. This mostly benefits sea trout populations, but it is expected that also salmon populations to a minor degree will benefit from this and use these streams as spawning and growth up areas.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	New spawning and nursery areas for mainly sea trout but also to a certain degree salmon.

	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	River restoration is being done in most watersheds around the country with considerable involvement from the municipalities and volunteers. Evaluation of the projects demonstrates great benefits for both trout and salmon
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H3:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	As described in paragraphs 1.2 and 1.5 the original spawning and rearing areas for salmon before human activities is estimated in 2006 in river Skjern Å but not known in the other seven rivers going to the North Sea, but monitoring results and identification of spawning areas since 2004 (see paragraph 1.2) have identified present and potential habitats for salmon in Danish rivers. The present spawning and growth up areas at present are below the total (i.e. present and potential) habitats for salmon and as described in paragraph 1.5 it is expected that the total habitats for salmon shall be reached within a foreseeable time period.
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	More habitats are opened up for spawning and growth up for salmon and these areas will be identified and quantified
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)*	Present and potential salmon production has been estimated for Skjern, Ribe, Storå and Varde river will also be evaluated
	Current Status of Action	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.*

Action A1:	Description of Action (*as submitted in the IP*)	
	Expected Outcome (*as submitted in the IP*)	
	Progress on Action to Date *(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g.*	

	website links) will not be evaluated.)	
	Current Status of Action	
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	

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.
A new cormorant plan has been issued, with more measures to protect salmon
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.
Catch quotas for each river are revised annually and time for start and end of fishing season is also up for revision if a need is identified.
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.
NA
4.5 Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
NA