



Agenda item 7.1
For information

Council

CNL(18)27rev

***Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2017***

EU-UK (Scotland)

(Revised 27 April to include catch statistics)

CNL(18)27

Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2017

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 29 March 2018**.

Party:	European Union
Jurisdiction/Region:	UK (Scotland)

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 made	
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.	
<p>In 2016 the Scottish Government introduced a range of legislative measures designed to improve the conservation status of salmon by managing the pressure of exploitation through fishing within Scotland’s domestic waters. The killing of Atlantic salmon in inland waters is managed on an annual basis, with mandatory catch and release in place for those districts rivers or assessment groups where stocks are below their conservation limits. In 2017 significant progress has been made to develop and improve the assessment process and the robustness of the data used in the assessment: for example, Marine Scotland has processed more than 3,000 proposed changes to the “wetted areas” maps of rivers across Scotland, using data provided by local Trusts and biologists. In addition, the number of fish counter sites used in the assessment has increased, allowing the model to incorporate greater regional variation in the relation between counts and rod catches data.</p> <p>Further development of the model is planned for 2018. This includes the continuing development of juvenile assessment tools for Atlantic salmon to inform Conservation Regulations. These tools would complement the existing adult based assessments. Work to date has focussed on two main areas (1) development of a national juvenile salmon density model from which an expectation of “healthy” salmon numbers can be obtained, and (2) development of a national juvenile sampling programme from which assessments can be made. Following trialling in summer 2017, a work stream has been established to produce a national sampling design for electrofishing across Scotland that could be delivered through regional sampling.</p>	

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 conservation status of Scottish salmon stocks is assessed as the probability of that stock meeting its conservation limit over a five-year period. Stocks are allocated to one of three categories; 1 (greater than 80% chance of meeting CL), 2 (between 60% and 80%), 3 (less than 60%). Status of stocks in 2017 was assessed using data for the return years 2012 to 2016, and has been used to develop management measures for these stocks for the 2018 season.

Assessable stocks comprised those associated with SACs and individual river stocks where reported fishery data supported identification of catch to the river level. Where this was not possible, groups of rivers were assessed together although improvements to the reporting system have been put in place to improve future assessment by river stock.

Of the 171 stocks assessed in 2018, 28 (16%) were categorised as grade 1; 21 (12%) as grade 2 and the remaining 122 (71%) as grade 3. Corresponding proportions for 2017 were 28%, 29% and 43% respectively.

Weighting these data by reported catch in the areas assessed, 78% of the Scottish salmon stock was associated with grade 1 areas, 10% with grade 2 areas and 12% with areas categorised as grade 3. Corresponding proportions for 2017 were 76%, 19% and 5% respectively

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 2017 (tonnes)	17.1	7.0	0.2	24.3
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2016 (tonnes)	16.5	9.8	0.2	26.5
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2017 (tonnes)				2.9 Unreported catch estimates are not disaggregated by method
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2017	44,257 ; 90%			

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

<i>websites) may assist those seeking more detailed information, this will not be evaluated by the Review Group.</i>		
Action F1:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	(a) Instigate an independent review of the management of salmon and freshwater fisheries in Scotland with the aim of creating a management system which is robust, sustainable and fit for purpose in the 21 st century. (b) Commission independent research to provide an overview of the economic and financial contribution of wild fisheries in Scotland.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	(a) Modernised management system which has greater alignment of responsibility with accountability and facilitates management of fisheries in context of modern requirements and challenges. (b) Updated baseline information covering the economic value of salmon and freshwater fisheries, including rod and line fisheries and salmon netting, which can be used to inform future policy development.
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	a) A public consultation on draft legislation to take forward Wild Fisheries Reform took place in 2016. A full analysis of that consultation can be found in this report http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/billanalysis b) An analysis of the value of wild fisheries in Scotland was published in March 2017 http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Salmon-Trout-Coarse/fishreform/sectorvalue
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action F2:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	(a) Implementation of local fishery management plans with agreed actions to monitor, mitigate and improve conditions for salmon. (b) Develop Scottish salmon counter network to improve assessment of salmon stocks.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	(a) Determination of the need for changes to regulatory controls or other measures on salmon fishing by nets and rods and implementation of changes. (b) The project should provide the information required to plan a strategic counter network. It is anticipated that data gathered from a future counter network, together with local biological information, would allow local stock recruitment relationships to be

		derived (from which CLs can be estimated) and measures of spawning escapement to be obtained
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	<p>(a) We are currently working with the sector to introduce a new Fisheries Management Plan (FMP) - an efficient and effective tool which helps District Salmon Fishery Boards (DSFBs) to deliver locally and nationally coherent, evidence-based management of fisheries. The FMP will give DSFBs a common tool through which they can highlight and explain the limiting factors or pressures, within each catchment, to achieving the goal of producing the optimum number of wild, healthy juveniles which are subsequently able to reach spawning grounds and successfully reproduce, thereby supporting viable and sustainable fisheries. The FMP will also detail the actions required and the planned activity to address them. We are currently developing the pressures mapping component of the FMP, which will allow each DSFB to illustrate, in their catchment areas, which of the pressures are evident, where (by highlighting river lengths) and how severe they think they are. This will hopefully be available by the end of 2018.</p> <p>(b) The first phase of work at Marine Scotland Science has been to aggregate and analyse all available data from across Scotland, particularly from existing fish counters, to derive salmon stock-recruitment relationships. This process will determine whether egg targets vary regionally and determine whether variation can be explained by broad-scale habitat covariates and/or geographic trends. Initial output has been discussed with the Salmon Liaison Group and will be reported in due course. A post is being recruited to the Montrose staff with responsibilities for exploring options for developing counters by supporting private initiatives. Plans are also in place to recruit further administrative support for counter development work.</p>
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action F3:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>(a) Develop Scottish salmon counter network to improve assessment of salmon stocks and aid development of meaningful CLs and assessment of spawning escapement (see F2).</p> <p>(b) Develop methods to aid assessment of the precise nature of MSFs.</p> <p>(c) Scoping work on better understanding marine migration routes.</p>

	<p>Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i></p>	<p>(a-c) Improved data on salmon stocks and populations facilitates fisheries management planning, including management of MSFs.</p>
	<p>Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i></p>	<p>a) Please see F2 b.</p> <p>b) Marine Scotland has undertaken a review of historical salmon tagging data to increase our understanding of the range over which coastal net fisheries may impact river populations. Additionally, a sample of salmon captured in the coastal nets at Armadale on the North Coast of Scotland in summer 2017 was tracked using miniature acoustic tags and a network of receivers throughout major rivers on the north and east coasts. Genetic samples were also taken from fish to assess likely regions of origin. Results are due to be reported in March 2018.</p> <p>c). Models have been produced to predict movements of salmon smolts emerging from rivers around Scotland across a range of swimming directions. These will be published in 2018. Complementary empirical work is tracking movements of salmon smolts from Loch Linnhe, around Mull, from River Applecross (west Coast) and Aberdeenshire River Dee (east coast). Data are also becoming available regarding emigration of salmon in the Moray Firth rivers. In addition, experimental work near Applecross is testing swimming vectors of salmon from each and west coast under controlled conditions. The output will be predictions of dispersal of salmon smolts under a range of environmental conditions. Trawling methods have been developed and will be used to test model output in due course</p>
	<p>Current Status of Action</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
	<p>If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?</p>	<p></p>

Action F4:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>(a) On going DSFB fulfilment of obligations to enhance and protect salmon fisheries (including enforcement of legislation). Activities will vary depending on nature of problems but focus on disruption and intervention of illegal fishing, including intelligence-led enforcement in partnership with Police Scotland Wildlife Crime Officers and the Partnership Against Wildlife Crime. Work with DSFBs and IFM in developing tools and training for enforcement, including improving national coordination of enforcement.</p> <p>(b) Scottish Government currently considering proposals around carcass tagging along with the recommendations detailed within the Report from the Independent review of wild fisheries. A full consultation would take place to inform the development of any scheme.</p>
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>(a) Improve professionalism and national coordination in salmon fisheries enforcement.</p> <p>(b) Reduced illegal fishing and corresponding response in salmon stocks.</p>
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	<p>(a) We continue to work with the wild sector's bailiff development group to try to improve the effectiveness of enforcement against illegal exploitation (wildlife crime). We have agreed that illegal gill netting, very close to the shore, remains a recurrent issue, because the existing regulation allows illegal operators to claim that they are targeting species other than salmon and sea trout. We hope to consult on replacing the existing regulation later in 2018.</p> <p>b) Carcass tagging for net caught fish in category 1 and 2 areas came into force on 1 April 2016. A review of its first year of operation was published in March 2017 revised guidance was published in April for the 2017 season.</p>
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	

Action F5:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>(a) Development and implementation of monitoring/research strategy for potential marine renewable and salmonid interactions.</p> <p>(b) Through the Ministerial Group for Sustainable Aquaculture(MGSA) machinery and its working groups, helping to ensure that any growth of aquaculture in Scotland is sustainable within the wider Marine environment.</p> <p>(c) Scottish Government and salmon farming industry match-funded research through the Scottish Aquaculture Research forum (SARF) into any measurable impact from sea lice in a Scottish context.</p> <p>(d) enhanced industry-led voluntary sea lice reporting over 30 river catchment areas.</p> <p>(e) Marine Scotland is undertaking a 3-year project to identify areas of opportunity and restriction for aquaculture which will include consideration of the risk to wild salmonids.</p> <p>(f) Scottish Government and SEPA funded work to improve auto DEPOMOD modelling tool to further enhance the sensitivity of the tool for SEPA discharge consents.</p> <p>(g) Scottish Government funded research to develop shelf modelling and sea lice dispersal modelling.</p> <p>(h) Scotland’s Aquaculture Database and Website was developed in partnership by Marine Scotland, The Crown Estate, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, and The Food Standards Agency in Scotland. This brings together data collected by regulators about Aquaculture in Scotland and makes it accessible through a data search tool and an interactive map. The website went live in October 2013.</p> <p>(i) Marine Scotland’s FHI have proactively published operational activity since October 2013.</p>
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>(a) Investigation of potential impacts of marine renewable energy generation on Atlantic salmon.</p> <p>(b - h) framework to enable delivery of industry sustainable aquaculture growth targets by 2020 with due regard to the marine environment.</p>

<p>Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i></p>	<p>(a) Studies advanced in 2017 in the strategy included the finalisation of a report on the acoustic tracking of smolts from the River Conon through the Cromarty and inner Moray Firths, acoustic tracking of smolts in the vicinity of the mouth of the Aberdeenshire Dee, satellite tagging of Aberdeenshire Dee kelts, surface trawling of smolts combined with genetic stock identification in and just outside the Moray Firth, and studies relevant to assessing the extent to which tidal turbines pose a collision risk.</p> <p>(b) The Independent Consenting Review of Scottish Aquaculture published in July 2016. SG’s response was published in 2017. It commits to prioritising the quick win recommendations, alongside improvements to Permitted Development Rights (PDR) and guidance, in advance of any long-term structural changes. Consultation on amendments to PDR for finfish and shellfish developments took place in 2017. SG’s response was published on 1 December 2017; an amending Order will be laid shortly.</p> <p>The Aquaculture Industry Leadership Group (AILG) was established in February 2017 and includes regulators among its members. The AILG will chart how the sector can grow in a sustainable and balanced way over the long-term to 2030.</p> <p>To support sustainable growth, SG has committed to the delivery of a strategic framework for farmed fish health, to be co-owned with industry.</p> <p>(c) The SARF funded project is on-going (2015-2018)</p> <p>(d) The voluntary industry-led publication of quarterly sea lice figures across 30 regions continues.</p> <p>(e) SG are currently producing draft maps of sensitivity for aquaculture sites based on conservation status of rivers and the potential distance of influence of sea lice.</p> <p>(f) The NewDEPOMOD model was released in 2017 and will be used to predict the impact of fish farms on the environment, setting legally enforceable limits on farm scales, and will ensure more environmentally sound future consenting.</p> <p>(g) Dispersal modelling is being refined in co-operation with other groups and MSS is supporting a NASCO project on sea lice dispersal modelling in Killary harbour, Ireland.</p> <p>(h) Available http://aquaculture.scotland.gov.uk/default.aspx since October 2013.</p> <p>(i) MS FHI have proactively published operational activity since October 2013.</p>
<p>Current Status of Action</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>

If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
--	--

<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 <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>Implement Climate Change Adaptation Plans (produced by both government and private sector).</p> <p>a) MSS to implement a national river temperature monitoring strategy for salmon rivers in collaboration with CAMERAS (co-ordinated agenda for marine, environment and rural affairs science) partners and local fishery trusts.</p> <p>b) National temperature monitoring network to be used to identify areas of the river network that will be (1) sensitive to climate induced temperature change and (2) appropriate for management action.</p> <p>c) Riparian shade to be increased in sensitive and appropriate water bodies, through collaborative projects undertaken by DSFBs and/or fisheries trusts.</p> <p>d) Influence decisions in the next round of Scottish Water investment plans to ensure climate resilience for both water abstractions and wastewater management, and ensure that due regard is given to their impact on the environment.</p> <p>e) Ensure climate change is considered within strategic environment planning frameworks (eg RBMPs, Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) reform).</p> <p>f) Support the development and regulation of scientifically justifiable and robust thermal standards for freshwater, transitional and coastal (TraC) waters to manage the impact of industries including power generation.</p>
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	The overall aim is to moderate the effects of climate change in waterbodies through landscape, landuse and discharge management.
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	<p>(a) Marine Scotland has established the Scotland River Temperature Monitoring Network. It is the first ever strategically designed, quality controlled temperature monitoring network. See</p> <p>(b) Marine Scotland has produced statistical models to</p>

		<p>identify the hottest rivers, those most sensitive to climate change and the likely effects of tree planting. The statistical models developed under SRTMN have been turned into online decision support tools through the National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi) platform to inform riparian planting and management by fisheries and river managers. In addition, materials have been produced to help people use the tools and determine where to plant trees for climate change mitigation – see http://www.gov.scot/Topics/marine/Publications/TopicSheets/tlist/treeplant</p> <p>Process based modelling has been undertaken to complement the statistical modelling in making decisions on planting at smaller spatial scales.</p> <p>(c) A number of planting schemes have been undertaken by Fisheries Trusts as part of various initiatives including the Pearls in Peril EU Life project (2012-2016) where > 7 hectares of riparian area were planted in the upper Aberdeenshire Dee</p> <p>(d) Scottish Water continues to make progress with the delivery of its investment programme for 2015-21. This includes a wide range of measures to reduce the impact of water and sewerage services on the environment. For example, in 2017, it completed its first peat restoration project in Shetland. Working with SNH and local communities, this project reduced the amount of peat in water being abstracted but also provided significant benefits to the environment. Scottish Water’s investment is set by Scottish Ministers in Directions: https://beta.gov.scot/publications/scottish-water-directions-2014/ Delivery is monitored by the Output Monitoring Group. Details about the Group and quarterly monitoring reports are published at: https://beta.gov.scot/groups/output-monitoring-group/</p> <p>(e) Climate change continues to be considered within strategic environment planning frameworks.</p> <p>(f) no further progress in 2017 on thermal standards, beyond what is included in WFD. Future work aims to incorporate river temperature into a national juvenile Atlantic salmon density model to identify critical thresholds for production.</p>
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H2:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Improve river connectivity through the identification and easing / removal of barriers.

		<p>a) A joint dataset has been developed by SEPA, MSS and local fisheries trusts that builds on previous barrier mapping exercises by MSS. This dataset is used to identify where there are currently barriers to migration. In combination with the MSS salmon distribution map and local fisheries management plans, barriers can be prioritised for easement or removal. Fish passage is also a requirement of Good Ecological Potential (GEP) under WFD, so there is a general expectation that those activities causing a barrier to migration will be required to fund appropriate solutions (subject to cost and benefits see above). Funding for barrier removal can come from a variety of local, national and EU sources. The SEPA restoration fund has some guaranteed resources for habitat improvement over the period 2013-2018 and barrier removal is associated with high priority subject to assessment of costs and benefits.</p> <p>b) Wider Scottish Government support for the RAFTS Barrier Easement Programme including funding for a central coordination and support to project development role.</p>
	<p>Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i></p>	<p>a) Improvements to fish movement allowing greater access throughout rivers, and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential.</p>
	<p>Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i></p>	<p>The fish barrier removal programme is progressing well with works to ease fish passage on a further 4 barriers (Tarff, Kirkton Weir, River Garry, Broad Burn) completed in 2017 opening up a total of approx. 98km of river length. In terms of the pipeline of projects, we now have 86 barriers that have completed scoping and will be taken forward to design and build. £2m of additional funding for this work in 2018-19 has been secured.</p> <p>As set out in the River Basin Management Plan, Scottish Water continues to assess its assets to ensure that barriers to migratory fish are removed where necessary.</p> <p>In addition, Marine Scotland, in collaboration with the University of Aberdeen, has been developing tools that integrate the national juvenile salmon density model with latest developments in river network connectivity modelling to identify the impact of barriers on Atlantic salmon. The next stage of this work, will roll the tool out nationally to allow local managers to determine the effect of barriers on Atlantic salmon in their management areas and to further bids for resources to make improvements or remove barriers. The results of this assessment will be</p>

		made available through newly developed Fisheries Management Plans.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H3:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	<p>Ensure appropriate provision of river flows.</p> <p>a) Providing an evidence base from which to assess the flow requirements of salmon. MSS has a project investigating the hydraulic requirements of salmon and the transferability of hydraulic suitability data among catchments. This type of information is important for objectively identifying the likely effects of changing flow regime. In addition projects are under way within SEPA to assess the discharge conditions associated with poor and bad ecological status / potential in order to prioritise future management action.</p> <p>b) Implementing RBMP process and issue of CAR licenses for abstraction and impoundment where the objective is to maintain / achieve Good Ecological Status / Potential, which will consider salmon as part of the overall process. In addition there will be consideration of salmon flow requirements in the revision of discharge standards under WFD and improvements to WFD fish tools to try and improve detection of ecological problems associated with discharge regime.</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved scientific understanding of habitat requirements for salmon to underpin decision making; • Water bodies do not deteriorate from their current status; and • Revision of discharge regimes to support GES / GEP or any other alternative WFD objective set within the overall context of affordability and benefits to society.
	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.)	<p>Marine Scotland has undertaken significant research to improve understanding the effects of flow regime on Atlantic salmon. These studies reveal the limitation of historical approaches such as PHABSIM for decision making and have the potential to improve understanding of the relationships between discharge and salmon in managed systems and inform scientifically defensible adjustments to flow regime in the future.</p> <p>On 30 October 2017 the improvements on the River Garry opened access to around 17km of important</p>

		<p>salmon habitat. All other hydropower measures (33 water bodies at Poor / Bad Ecological Potential for flows and levels) are currently being scoped. This includes technical assessment, site visits and discussions with operators.</p> <p>RBMP2 reviews for irrigation are also on track.</p> <p>Variations to CAR licences can now be issued at a catchment level. A new licence condition will link to water scarcity levels and will better reflect the current pressure on individual catchments and ecology. Initial discussions have taken place about issuing such Variations for the top 15 High Risk Agricultural catchments. This will be progressed further during 2018.</p> <p>Scottish Water is investing, in the current investment programme 2015-21, to improve abstraction regimes in 9 water resource zones to ensure that there is sufficient water remaining in the water bodies during periods of low rainfall.</p>
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action H4:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>Taking an integrated catchment management approach to reduce the impact of land use.</p> <p>Reductions in diffuse pollution and morphological impacts will be achieved through the controlled activity regulations (CAR) and associated “General Binding Rules” and adherence to other guidelines such as the forest and water guidelines. GBRs include requirements for buffer strips to reduce fine sediment and nutrient delivery and encourage the growth of riparian vegetation.</p> <p>a) Working with partners to extend range of activities for which SRDP (Scottish Rural Development Programme) funding can be obtained to further reduce morphological and diffuse pollution pressures beyond that prescribed by CAR.</p>
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>Improvements to land management practices and more water bodies meeting Good Ecological Status/Potential, as well as Natura 2000 Protected Area objectives with associated benefits to salmon. Benefits would be obtained within the overall context of affordability and benefits to society.</p>
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	<p>SEPA’s work to ensure compliance with GBR requirements to reduce diffuse pollution from agriculture is being scaled up, with visits to more catchments undertaken in the last year.</p>

	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)	Continue to regulate salmonid and freshwater fish stocking in Scottish rivers by implementing and enforcing existing introductions legislation under the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries (Consolidation)(Scotland) Act 2003, Wildlife and Countryside Act (Scotland) 1981 and Wildlife and Natural Environment (Scotland) Act 2011.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Greater transparency in stocking operations and hatchery management
	Progress on Action to Date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)	A licensing regime is in place to manage stocking of freshwater fishes. A total of 349 licenses were issued by Marine Scotland to introduce fish into Scottish inland waters in 2017. Of these 349 licences, 2 were for the introduction of Atlantic salmon, one of which was part of a mitigation project transporting smolts past a perceived barrier to migration. Further licences may have been issued by district salmon fishery boards, or by the River Tweed Commission. Information on such licences is not held centrally by the Scottish Government.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action A2:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	<p>a) Implementing European Council Regulation No. 708/2007 concerning Use of Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture.</p> <p>b) Encouraging anglers and other water users to remain vigilant to the risk of non-native species and pathogens, to report sightings and to take biosecurity measures (the 'Check, Clean, Dry' campaign).</p>
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Containment and/or eradication of undesirable non-native fish species. • Regulation of other fish species. • Prevention of <i>G. salaris</i> and other parasites and diseases occurring in Scotland.
	Progress on Action to Date	(a) Under the Alien and Locally Absent Species in Aquaculture (Scotland) Regulations 2015, 2

<p><i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i></p>	<p>applications were received in 2017. One application involved the stocking and holding (including for experimental work) of Pink salmon (<i>Oncorhynchus gorboscha</i>) the second application concerned the stocking of Pink spiny lobster (<i>Palinurus mauritanicus</i>) for farming purposes. As both applications related to closed facilities, which were inspected as being satisfactory, then the facilities are exempt from the regulations and neither application required a permit.</p> <p>b) The Scottish Government's 'Home and Dry' campaign poster was updated during 2017 and featured as part of a 2 page spread in 'Fish in Scotland 2017'. The updated poster is available here; http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0049/00494586.pdf .</p> <p>The Scottish Government Contingency Plan for dealing with an outbreak <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in Scotland, the plan is still to be updated. Contingency procedures were subjected to further testing in relation to Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia virus through Exercise Galatea in January 2018. The Contingency Plan will be revised in the light of lessons learned from Exercise Galatea.</p> <p>A representative from Marine Scotland attended the NASCO Gs Working Group Meeting in March 2017. Further representation will be made at the meeting to be held in April 2018.</p>
<p>Current Status of Action</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>
<p>If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?</p>	<p> </p>

Action A3:	Description of Action <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>The Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Act 2013 aims to ensure that farmed and wild fisheries – and their interactions with each other – are managed effectively, maximising their combined contribution to supporting sustainable economic growth with due regard to the wider marine environment.</p> <p>The Act includes an enabling power for the Scottish Ministers to make regulations prescribing technical requirements for equipment used for and in connection with fish farming; and which make provision to ensure the requirements are complied with. Work on developing a Technical Standard for equipment is at an advanced stage and regulations will be made in 2015.</p> <p>The Ministerial Group on Aquaculture (MGA) was refocused in 2013 to work alongside the Aquaculture and Fisheries (Scotland) Bill to secure the sustainability of aquaculture growth, principally with regards to salmon farming, and managing its interactions with the wildfish sector, to enable both sectors to flourish in Scotland. Membership includes aquaculture industry, wild fish interests, Environment NGO and regulators. The main body will be supported by the more focussed and project-based working groups including on Interactions; on Science and Research; an Interactions Working Group and an Improved Containment Working Group. Chairs will provide an update on progress of their groups at the next meeting of MGSA.</p>
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	<p>The technical requirements will further improve containment, minimise the risk of escapes occurring, and ensure installation and deployment of fish farming equipment that is well maintained and appropriate for the site conditions at which the farm operates and minimise the potential for adverse impact on wild salmonids.</p> <p>MGSA will provide a framework to secure the sustainability of salmon aquaculture growth whilst managing its interactions with the wildfish sector, to enable both sectors to flourish in Scotland. The interactions group will facilitate improvements in the current relationship between the wild and farmed fishing sectors, with a view to establishing closer, productive, cooperative working relationships for the overall benefit of the people of Scotland and the environment.</p>

	<p>Progress on Action to Date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</p>	<p>A Technical Standard for Scottish Finfish Aquaculture was published in June 2015. The purpose of the standard is to help prevent escapes of finfish as a result of technical failure and related issues at Scottish finfish farms. In 2018, a small working group has been established with the aim of updating the technical standard where necessary to ensure it remains relevant and fit for purpose, also with a view to potentially developing secondary legislation.</p> <p>The Aquaculture Industry Leadership Group (AILG) was established in 2017. The AILG meets bimonthly with the objective of delivering the industry's growth strategy 2030. The AILG is also responsible for implementing strategic level alignment, collaboration and communication across the industry, public sector and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>Through the AILG machinery, helping to ensure that any growth of aquaculture in Scotland is sustainable within the wider Marine environment.</p>
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	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.
	The Conservation of Salmon (Amendment) (Scotland) Regulations 2018 have been laid in parliament and will come into force on 1 April 2018.
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.
	Nil
4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
	Nil
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.
	Nil
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.
	Nil