



Agenda item 5.1
For information

Council

CNL(19)30

***Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2018***

EU – France

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Annual Progress Report on Actions taken under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2018

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 28 March 2019**.

Party:	European Union
Jurisdiction/Region:	France

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>
We have sent the version of the new plan on time. The actions presented in are SMART and will be better monitored, because they have been the subject of consultations with stakeholders.
1.2 Describe any major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and management that you wish to highlight.
Most of the regional management actions are referenced in the PLAGEPOMIs. They consider management methods that must be applied locally in order to preserve the species. The strategic elements of PLAGEPOMIs must be integrated into the Master plans for development and water management (SDAGE) so that the two documents are coherent on measures relating to aquatic environments. SDAGE should be updated for the third cycle 2022 - 2027 and published in December 2021. In France, the link with the action plans for the marine environment is based on the compatibility of the SDAGE with the environmental objectives of these plans, so the actions on the salmon are well focused on the ecological continuum. The 2 nd cycle of the French implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, adopted in 2019, addresses salmon conservation and management. Environmental indicators linked to salmon conservation and management are followed up in that framework.

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.

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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 2018 (tonnes)	3,5T	5,33 T		
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2017 (tonnes)	4,1 T	10,19 T		
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2018 (tonnes)				
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2018.	1025 salmon caught (+292 by professional fishermen)			

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 <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Conduct annual assessments in order to obtain more information on by-catch in other fisheries
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Determination of the need for emergency regulatory controls or other new measures (including voluntary) on salmon fishing by nets and rods in all fisheries
	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>	Professional fisheries Between 2014 and 2018, 900 professional fishing trips by year were monitored at sea each year by OBSMER Program (scientific observers on professional fishing boats): salmons accessory catches are too rare to be considered and scientifically estimated.
	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>	Development and implementation of specific fishing rules, criteria or management strategies in order to eliminate unreported catches.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Minimizing adverse effects on populations and unreported catch.
	Progress on Action to Date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure of</i>	Professional salmon at sea catches have to be reported by the fishermen to the local State Administrations (DDTM - Directions départementales des territoires et

	<i>progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated.)</i>	de la mer). DDTM are in charge of controlling those declarations and correcting abnormalities. The Inter-régional Sea Directions (Directions interrégionales de la mer / DIRM) oversee State fishing rules implementation at sea.
	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>	Setting of CLs should be completed at least for all French salmon rivers.
	Expected Outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP)</i>	Development of a reliable management system to fix catch quota.
	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>The NASCO precautionary approach uses a benchmark reference point, i.e. a conservation limit (CL), defined as the spawning stock size that maximizes the long term average of potential catch. This definition implicitly considers that ensuring conservation is equivalent to maximizing exploitation potential. Under this premise, CLs should be revised downward when the generation renewal of populations weakens. Maximising exploitation and conservation are not necessarily incompatible, but they must be separated because maximizing catches can be conflicting with conservation.</p> <p>Following NASCO clear priority for conservation over exploitation, a new CL definition has been proposed. It is based on the premise that conservation should aim at avoiding, i.e. controlling the risk of, low recruitment. This definition has now been adopted by the COGEPOMI (management committee) of Brittany.</p> <p>The implementation of this new CL definition has been undertaken for the salmon populations (18) of Brittany. For each population, the CL is derived from river-specific stock-recruitment (SR) relationships, relating the number of eggs produced by pre-spawning females (stock) to the abundance of the resulting young-of-the-year juveniles (recruitment). Stock estimates are derived by combining rod catch statistics, partial adult counts on 3 rivers, and precise returns estimates from an index river, the Scorff. Recruitment estimates are derived from a comprehensive regional survey by electrofishing. A hierarchical SR model is used for the joint analysis of all populations. The risk associated to the new CLs fully integrates the major sources of uncertainty: recruitment stochasticity, measurement errors of the stock and the recruitment, estimation of the SR relationship.</p> <p>This development of new CLs has been conducted in close dialogue with management agencies and user groups within the COGEPOMI of Brittany. The next</p>

		steps will be to explore and agree on new regulatory measures for in-river fisheries. The new CLs will be used to assess the performance of various management options with regards to conservation.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the Action achieved its objective?	
Action F4:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Conduct annual assessments of the status of salmon stocks.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Determination of the need for emergency regulatory controls or other new measures (including voluntary) on salmon fishing by nets and rods and implementation of changes.
	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.)	No emergency measure had to be taken on this subject.
	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). <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>		
Action H1:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Update a French rivers classification table and monitoring implementation of the WFD and other ongoing plans of similar nature
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Monitoring ongoing work and trying to analyse levels of importance
	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 63 French salmon rivers were identified and analyzed. They are categorized according to NASCO's classification
	Current Status of Action	Completed
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	It is planned to complete "id cards" of these rivers in the future IP

Action H2:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Restoration of up- and downstream river continuity and development of the quantitative and qualitative aspects of spawning and juvenile habitats. Priority measures will be chosen based on aspects of efficiency (proportionality), technical feasibility and financing possibilities (Removal of obstacles, construction of fishways. improvement of accessibility, etc.)
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Increased quality and quantity of spawning and juvenile habitats and decreased mortality due to barrages and hydropower plants.
	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	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	we have put this goal into a smart objective in the new IP (action H1) for better management
Action H3:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Update of the salmonid mesohabitat maps.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	An updated GIS database and maps. This information will be used to report locations of spawning and nursery habitats, etc.
	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 plan for an appealed policy for the restauration of ecological continuity was set in 2018. One of its actions consists in harmonizing methods of selection ecological continuity restoration actions between the different bassins. 600 obstacles are treated each year.
	Current Status of Action	Ongoing
	If Completed, has the Action achieved its objective?	we have put this goal into a smart objective in the new IP (action H2) for better management
Action H4:	Description of Action (as submitted in the IP)	Increase awareness of the problem of climate-change effects, to which there are no easy answers.
	Expected Outcome (as submitted in the IP)	Heightened awareness helping to increase conservation, bearing in mind the fragility of salmon in the south of France
	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.)	Understanding the response of Atlantic salmon populations to climate change is a prerequisite for predicting populations' response to ongoing and future climate change and for getting scientific basis to support science-based management. A major challenge in understanding the response of salmon populations to climate change is to separate out the effects of local drivers acting independently on specific populations, from the effects of global drivers that are susceptible to

		<p>impact multiple populations simultaneously and synchronize their dynamics.</p> <p>A modelling approach was developed to investigate the drivers of the widespread decline of <i>A. salmon</i> populations in the North Atlantic Ocean over the last four decades. A hierarchical Bayesian life cycle model was developed to quantify the spatial covariation of marine life history traits of multiple populations at the basin scale of the North Atlantic. The model is based on a collective analysis of the dynamics of 24 stock units (SUs) from three continental stock groups (CSGs) in North America, Northern Europe and Southern Europe in a single hierarchical model over the period 1971–2014. It also provides a framework to investigate the drivers of changes in population dynamics including disentangling the effects of fisheries from those of environmental factors in a hierarchy of spatial scales.</p> <p>Results show strong coherence in the temporal variations of two key parameters associated with the early marine phase of the life cycle. The results provide evidence of a decline in the marine survival together with an increase in the proportion of fish that mature after the first winter at sea, common to all SUs. Results show an increased coherence in the covariations of trends in these two marine life history traits related to geographic proximity of SUs which support the hypothesis of a coherent response of geographically proximate populations that likely share similar migration routes. Temporal variations in the post-smolt marine survival are best explained by the temporal variations of Sea Surface Temperature (negative correlation) and Primary Production (positive correlation) encountered by salmon in space-time domains corresponding to late summer/early autumn foraging areas.</p> <p>Finally our findings support the hypothesis of a response of salmon populations to large scale bottom-up environmentally driven changes in the North Atlantic susceptible to simultaneously impact several populations reproducing in distant continental habitats, but also that drivers and/or mechanisms could be different between CSGs in relation to partially different migration routes at sea.</p> <p>The model is also a benchmark for Atlantic salmon stock assessment in the North Atlantic. The new life cycle model is a new tool for management strategy evaluation that can be used to evaluate the probability that returns of spawners in all SUs fall below management objectives for different catch options in</p>
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		both the Western Greenland and Faroes mixed stock fisheries.
	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.

Unveiled on 4 July 2018, the Biodiversity Plan aims to strengthen France's action to preserve biodiversity or to restore it when it is degraded. The aim is to improve the lives of French people in the short term and to guarantee that of future generations. Some actions are connected with our IP. For example :

Action 39 : we will launch an operational study aimed at absorbing 20 main black spots in ecological coherence regional schemes and will restore the aquatic continuity over 50 000 km of watercourses in 2030. It is about selecting obstacles of ecological continuities (road and rail infrastructures, dams, etc.) and work towards their removal. This work will contribute in an exemplary way to the ecological continuities restoration and accelerate the implementation of the green and blue weft.

Action 42 : By 2020, national multi-species or habitats action plans will be developed for the most endangered species, particularly in overseas territories. These action plans make it possible to synthesize available knowledge and threats and identify the priorities that will be brought by the plan partners. The interest of multi-species plans and habitats is to be able to identify the actions that contribute to the preservation of several species, simultaneously, and thus multiply the action

The 2nd cycle of the French implementation of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, adopted in 2019, addresses salmon conservation and management. Environmental indicators linked to salmon conservation and management are followed up in that framework.

4.2 Details of any new commitments concerning the adoption or maintenance in force for specified periods of time of conservation, restoration and other management measures.

4.3	Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.
4.4	Details of any new actions to invite the attention of States not Party to the Convention to matters relating to the activities of its vessels which could adversely affect salmon stocks subject to the Convention.
4.5	Details of any actions taken to implement regulatory measures under Article 13 of the Convention including imposition of adequate penalties for violations.