Council

CNL(20)19

Summary of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans

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The Annual Progress Reports (APRs) summarised here are the first APRs to be provided under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans (IPs) using the agreed template as contained in document CNL(18)51. The following information is requested:

- 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;
- any significant changes to the status of stocks, and a report on catches; and
- any actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

In this paper, the Secretariat has presented the information provided in section 1 (changes to Implementation Plans and new initiatives / achievements relating to salmon conservation and management), section 2 (stock status and catches) and section 4 (additional information required under the Convention) of those APRs received. Section 3 of the APRs covers the progress made over the last year on each of the actions detailed in the IPs. These are usually evaluated and summarised in the Review Group's report. However, this year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Review Group has not met to review the APRs. Instead, a table showing the status of each Party / jurisdiction's actions has been included in section 3 of this report. At the time of preparation of this report, no APR has been received for Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Faroe Islands.

1. Changes to the Implementation Plans

1.1 Describe any proposed revisions to the Implementation Plan

European Union

***France*:** IMPORTANT PRELIMINARY NOTE ABOUT THE FRENCH APR:

The content of the 2019 annual report, in particular the formulation of actions and the list of actions in this annual report, does not bind the French authorities at this stage as to the final content of the 2019 – 2024 salmon plan. The transmission of this annual report is thus WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE FINAL PLAN 2019 – 2024, which will be transmitted as soon as possible in the current context of covid-19.

The final salmon plan 2019 – 2024 will be sent to the European Commission and to NASCO, as soon as possible, most probably by the end of Spring 2020, due to COVID-19.

Since the French authorities drafted the action plan until late 2019 (and are still currently finalising the plan at the request of NASCO), nearly all the actions will actually start in 2020.

All actions in fisheries and habitats areas were considered by the Review Group to be SMART. Some actions (mostly in aquaculture area actions relating to aquaculture) are undergoing modification.

***Spain (Galicia)*:** A new version of the IP has been sent to the Secretariat.

***Spain (Navarra)*:** The new Implementation Plan for the period 2019 – 2024 submitted to NASCO in 2019 is being reviewed at the moment, following the feedback received in the Evaluation of the Revised Implementation Plan under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024) from the Review Group to EU – Spain (Navarra) IP(19)36_EU – Spain (Navarra), which was declared 'acceptable subject to revision'. No major changes are expected during the review that will particularly focus on the provision of SMART actions that the Review Group considered not to be acceptable.

***UK (England and Wales)*:** The draft Implementation Plan for England and Wales is being revised according to the findings of the latest Review, but these revisions are deemed minor and therefore not described in further detail here.

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

Canada

The Government of Canada continued to implement a series of management measures aimed at restoring and maintaining wild Atlantic salmon populations, such as: mandatory catch and release in nearly all of the southern ranges of the Atlantic coast; and a combination of measures in northern ranges, including limits to catch, catch and release, and even the closing of rivers where sustainability targets were not being met.

To inform decision-making, Canada continued to engage with Indigenous groups, other levels of government, and non-governmental stakeholders, to bolster science assessment data. Through the Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture (ASRJV), the Government of Canada continued to partner and collaborate with all interested experts to develop a comprehensive understanding of the causes of the global decline of Atlantic Salmon. The Joint Venture was very active in the 2019 focal year of the International Year of the Salmon, and hosted the first Canadian Atlantic Salmon Ecosystem Forum examining "salmon and people in a changing world" in Quebec City in March 2019.

Lastly, in May 2019, the Government of Canada announced a three-year domestic plan, the Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation: Implementation Plan 2019-2021. The Plan was developed in close collaboration with interested stakeholders, provincial governments, and Indigenous communities, and contains 18 action items which form a multi-pronged program of work that guides the collective efforts of all stakeholders for the conservation and sustainability of wild Atlantic salmon stocks. A key example is the work DFO has initiated, in partnership with provincial and Indigenous governments, to adopt a "river-by-river" model for the management of Atlantic salmon in the Miramichi River system. The new initiative seeks to expand the scope of managing Atlantic salmon and its habitat towards an ecosystem-based and multi-species approach

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Greenland*:** A study on the effect of reminding license holders to report catches by SMS-notifications have had positive outcome, while a salmon fishing survey were developed, both under the guidance of scientist Hunter T. Snyder. Results from the survey will be ready during 2020 as well as the final analysis of the impact of SMS-notifications, both is expected to lead to further initiatives and improvements in reporting and regulation.

From 2018 to 2019, license holders reporting catches has increased by 10%, suggesting that the implementation of the new regulatory measure and executive order has improved further.

European Union

***Finland*:** Reduction of the fishing mortality by 30%, as planned in the Tana-fishing rule.

***France*:** Salmon management is organized in France by various systems which have been or will be subject to revision:

- the migratory fish or 'Plagepomi' management plans, where regional management actions and methods are referenced, will be revised at the same time as the SDAGE before December 2021; In fact, 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;
- the facade strategic documents (FSD) were adopted for 6 years at the end of 2019, their action plans and the monitoring system will have to be developed by the end of 2021 (environmental indicators linked to salmon conservation and management are followed up in that framework).

In addition, France adopted the Biodiversity plan in 2018 which provides, amongst others, for the development of multi-species action plans for the most endangered species, in order to identify actions that simultaneously contribute to the preservation of several species, and several spaces (action 42).

Moreover, in 2019, the French Ministry of ecology convened a national summit about freshwater management ("Assises de l'eau"), which concluded notably that river continuity should be regained, with an objective of restoring 25,000 km of rivers by 2022.

Finally, in 2019, first steps were carried out so as to set up a national mobilisation plan for diadromous fishes (PNMA) in order to have a overall vision of the state and management practices of all these species, to work from the existing devices (SDAGE, FSD, Plagepomi, Nasco IP…) and promote their synergy, by activating the biodiversity-freshwater-sea link. This plan is to be integrated into the upcoming French Biodiversity Strategy 2021.

The PNMA's actions will be defined at the national level, to support the implementation of existing devices in France. They aim for concrete and achievable results within fixed deadlines with identified managers and resources: they will have to be SMART.

The development of the PNMA must result from consultation with stakeholders, including users sitting in Cogepomis (recreational fishermen, professional freshwater fishermen, professional sea fishing, fish farming, hydroelectricity, agriculture, etc.), with a steering involving the administrations concerned and under the joint authority of the ministries of fisheries and ecology.

***Germany*:** The 16th Conference of Rhine Ministers took place in Amsterdam in 2020. They mentioned that important progress has been made in restoring the ecological passability of the Rhine and its catchment area since 2013. In 2019, a new large Upper Rhine fish pass in Gerstheim 2019 was commissioned.

Moreover, the new forward-looking 'Rhine 2040 Programme' was adopted with ambitious goals. It is aiming among others at reaching ecological passability for migratory fish upstream and downstream in the Rhine main stream from the mouth to the Rhine Falls and within the programme waters of the master plan for migratory fish (ICPR Technical Report No. 247 (2018): Master Plan Migratory Fish Rhine 2018).

To restore ecological passability, the fish pass at Rhinau will be operational in 2024. The fish pass near Marckolsheim will be operational in 2026. The fish pass for the complex area Vogelgrün will be operational as soon as possible to ensure compliance with the relevant EU legislation, so that migratory fish can reach the Old(-Rest-)Rhine and Basel again.

The restoration of fish passability in the High Rhine up to the Rhine Falls and in the Swiss programme waters (Aare, Reuss, Limmat) will be implemented.

Long-distance migratory fish resettlement programmes have been running in tributaries of the River Elbe for many years. These programmes are supported by regional fishing associations or the federal states themselves and are accompanied by the federal states fisheries research institutes. For the stakeholders on the Elbe was the 'International Year of the Salmon' an opportunity to move the whole Elbe river basin into focus. The efforts of all local stakeholders to protect long-distance migratory salmonids are to be co-ordinated under the umbrella brand '*Salmo albis*'. The kick-off event for the transnational programme took place on June 6, 2019 in the Saxon Switzerland National Park Center in Bad Schandau. As part of the well-attended event, 1,000 salmon parr were symbolically released into the Elbe.

***Spain (Asturias)*:** Some wild specimens in fishing season have been donated by fishermen for artificial spawning. This measure will continue to be promoted.

***Spain (Navarra)*:**

1) This year three more dams have been demolished in the Bidasoa River basin: two dams of the Oronoz Hydropower station ('Presa de la Central de Oronoz' coded BI-10 in the Obstacles Data Base and located in the main Bidasoa River and 'Presa del túnel de la Central de Oronoz' coded BI-AR-05 and located in Artesiaga stream, a tributary of Bidasoa River) and dam of 'Molino de Elgorriaga' (code BI-EZ-10, in Ezkurra River, one of the main tributaries of the Bidasoa River).

2) Under the framework of the LIFE IREKIBAI project (LIFE14 NAT/ES/000186), a salmon radiotracking scheme was started in 2018 and followed during 2019. This year 24 adult salmon have been marked in the lower parts of the Bidasoa river basin when they entered from the sea and were tracked during the upstream migration and return to the sea of the surviving kelts. Although the analysis of the data gathered in 2019 is still ongoing, the results of the monitoring of the 28 salmon marked in 2018 are available and published in the webpage of the LIFE IREKIBAI project (http://www.irekibai.eu/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/D9_Radioseguimiento-de-salm%C3%B3n_Migraci%C3%B3n-2018-19_compressed.pdf). It was possible to identify important aspects as the passability of the 10 fishways built in the main Bidasoa River for salmon migration; timing, water flow and temperature during the upstream and downstream migrations; the natural mortality during summer (that reached 75% of the marked fish, with water temperatures above 20ºC); the location of the most used pools for summer survival; degree of colonization of the basin; spawning areas; kelt's surviving rate (14% of the marked fish), etc. As soon as the data of the 2019 monitoring are analysed, a report will be published in the same LIFE IREKIBAI project webpage.

All the information gathered through these monitoring schemes will be used by the Government of Navarra in the management of the species with the objective of improving its population size and conservation status.

3) Besides, in 2019 a new programme of voluntary donations has been implemented with anglers. Under this programme, on a voluntary basis anglers can donate each captured alive salmon to the Department of Environment to be marked with a transmitter and released for its monitoring in the river or to be brought to the fish farm of the Government and used as breeder. Five salmon out of the 47 salmon caught in the 2019 angling season (11%), were donated (four females and a male, all of them 2SW) and anglers in all cases decided to bring them to the fish farm. All of them survived until the spawning season, and produced 30,000 eggs. At the moment the new born fries are growing to be released in spring in the river under the restocking scheme that the Government of Navarra carries out in Bidasoa River yearly since the 90's. The main objective of this programme is to change the anglers' way of thinking towards a more sustainable angling practice that should lead in the future to the normalization of the 'catch and release' angling (no practiced by anglers in the Bidasoa River at the moment), while anglers are involved in the conservation tasks of the species that the Regional Government carries out in Bidasoa River. This results are considered as an important success as the media impact has been quite important and the general public acceptance big, which would certainly encourage more anglers to join the initiative in the coming seasons.

4) Finally, after the 'Bidasoa Salmon Management Plan for the period 2013-2018' came to an end, a new document was drafted and discussed with the angling associations, universities and conservationists in the 'Fishing Advisory Commission' before the 'Bidasoa Salmon Management Plan for the period 2019-2024' was proposed for a broader public consultation. After the consultation process, the document was finally adopted by the Government of Navarra.

***Sweden*:** Local engagement in the river organizations has resulted in local fishing rules in order to complement national legislation and reach a higher protection of weak stocks. There is also a rapid increase in catch and release in sport fishing.

***UK (England and Wales)*:** To reduce exploitation of salmon, in 2019, all the major salmon net fisheries around the English coast were closed and mandatory catch and release (C&R) was introduced on rod fisheries exploiting those river-stocks of salmon most at risk. In 2019, no salmon were reported taken by the remaining net fisheries in England, which principally target sea trout (in 2018, 10,328 salmon were caught by net fisheries in England). In 2019, 189 salmon were caught by net fisheries in Wales (in 2018, 317 salmon were caught by net fisheries in Wales). In response to the poor status of individual river stocks of salmon in Wales, from 1 January 2020, new measures were brought in requiring mandatory C&R of salmon on all rod fisheries, along with additional method controls to help maximise the survival of released fish. These measures included the cross-border rivers Dee and Wye. Mandatory C&R of salmon was also introduced on all net fisheries in Wales, with arrangements for the last very small fishery under negotiation. The River Severn emergency byelaws (England) were introduced in 2019 requiring compulsory rod and line C&R and no netting of salmon. Concomitant emergency byelaws were introduced in Wales in September 2019.

Alongside the new fishery byelaws introduced in Wales in 2020, Welsh Government have asked Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to produce a 'Plan of Action' for salmon (and sea trout) in Wales. This is in development and identifies a number of measures

aimed at stock protection and environmental improvement to be addressed (with partners) in the next ~5 years (many of those actions follow those already identified in the progress report).

***UK (Northern Ireland)*:** A number of successful IYS events were held in the DAERA area including an open day for the public at the River Bush Salmon Station in June. As part of the IYS Loughs Agency held a successful, salmon conference in Omagh Co. Tyrone, the Agency has also run a Foyle Ambassadors program which introduced young people to environmental and fisheries management as a component.

***UK (Scotland)*:** The Scottish Government Programme for Government 2019 / 2020 includes a commitment to develop a Wild Salmon Strategy by September 2020. The Salmon Conservation Regulations for 2020 were laid in the Scottish Parliament in December 2019. First introduced in 2016, we believe this approach strikes the right balance between conservation of the species for future generations and those fishing for salmon today.

In October 2019 Marine Scotland Science published an information leaflet illustrating river temperatures in Scotland during the hottest and driest June-July period on record (2018). Such conditions are expected to become more common under climate change, unless mitigations can be put in place, and the implications for salmonid populations are serious. This is the first time we have made Scotland-wide predictions of river temperature and related these to potential impacts on fish. Marine Scotland has developed this new tool to help fisheries managers target priority areas for riparian tree planting.

A Salmon Interactions Workstream has been launched to look, in part, at the reasons behind the decline in Scottish Atlantic salmon. The first stage of the Workstream is the creation of an initial Working Group (established June 2018), independently chaired by John Goodlad and comprises of representatives from both the farmed and wild salmon sectors, Scottish Government and its agencies, and eNGOs. The Group will provide advice on how we move forward the dialogue on the interaction between wild and farmed salmon, its conclusions will help inform our Wild Salmon Strategy. The Group also works in parallel with a regulator's (SNH, SEPA, Marine Scotland and Local Authority representation) Technical Working Group which has been established to develop a practical framework for assessing the level of risk posed to wild salmonids (from sea lice). The framework will take account of the best available science, and is intended to underpin future planning advice.

In the interim, as part of any request for planning advice Marine Scotland will expect a condition requiring an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to be delivered for any consents for marine aquaculture planning applications (when there is / or there is potential for wild fish / farmed fish interaction). An EMP will initiate collection of environmental data which can be useful for monitoring sea lice levels in the areas around farms. The information can be used to highlight where impacts may be occurring and where there may be a need for remedial action. Marine Scotland provided advice in July 2019, with regards to the minimum criteria it expects within an interim EMP.

Scotland's Farmed Fish Health Framework commits industry, government, professional vets, trade associations and Scotland's Aquaculture Innovation Centre to work together to provide a strategic approach to improving farmed fish health in Scotland. We strengthened Scotland's farmed fish sea lice compliance regime by

reducing the reporting and intervention thresholds and in June 2019 announced the introduction of sea lice reporting legislation in 2020, which will support a transparent and responsible farming industry. The introduction of legislation in 2020 will require all marine farms to report the weekly sea lice infestation levels to Scottish Government, one week in arrears. To accept and handle such information we are developing a fit-for-purpose IT system that will be available in sufficient time to support the upcoming legislation. We are working on the basis that reporting legislation will be introduced in Q4 2020. Intervention thresholds will be further reduced in 2021, unless there is compelling evidence to the contrary.

A draft Sectoral Marine Plan was issued by Scottish Government for consultation in December 2019. This suggested potential new areas for marine renewables development, mainly further offshore, and flagged up any potential interactions with receptors, including migrating salmon, and provided an opportunity for all stakeholders to provide comment.

Russian Federation

The Federal Law on Recreational Fishery comes in force from January 2020. Some items of it came in force in 2019. The Law introduces regulations of recreational fisheries at fishing sites for valuable fish species such as Atlantic salmon and make it possible to established new fishing sites. Russia focuses on recreational catch-and-release salmon fisheries in order to conserve Atlantic salmon and other valuable fish species.

United States of America

In 2019, the Final Recovery Plan for the Gulf of Maine distinct population of endangered Atlantic salmon was published. The recovery plan details recovery goals, criteria, and site-specific actions needed for recovery of the species.

In 2019, we estimate between 30 to 40 events and media campaigns were held throughout the northeastern United States in support of International Year of the Salmon (IYS) reaching approximately 30,000 people. Events and activities included: An IYS celebration event at the Maine Discovery Museum in Bangor Maine; an event called ‘Sea-Run-Go!’ at the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum in Vermont aimed to educate the public about history, ecology and conservation of Atlantic salmon; and, the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network (ASCSN) brought students together from New Brunswick and Maine to work with hatchery managers, field biologists and civil engineers to improve salmon habitat in the Miramichi and Machias Rivers.

In September 2019, the agencies that co-manage Atlantic salmon (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, NOAA’s – National Marine Fisheries Service, Maine Department of Marine Resources, and Penobscot Indian Nation) began implementation of a one-year pilot of a new governance structure referred to as the Collaborative Management Strategy (CMS). The CMS is designed to improve collaboration, communication and transparency across agencies and among stakeholders. The foundation of the CMS is three Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit (SHRU) teams. These teams are in place to plan, prioritize, and implement conservation efforts that facilitate Atlantic salmon recovery. An oversight group, referred to as the Implementation Team includes SHRU Team chairs, the management board, a science advisor and an administrative co-ordinator. The Implementation Team is in place to make decisions on issues that cross-cut across SHRUs, including resource allocation, and to provide for conflict resolution.

In 2019, the Atlantic Salmon Federation removed a 23-foot section of the lower-most dam on the Sheepscot River, the Head Tide Dam. The completion of this project will allow for unimpeded upstream and downstream movement of endangered Atlantic salmon and other sea-run fish including American shad, alewives, and American eel. The Sheepscot River has the only remaining locally-adapted stock in the Merrymeeting Bay Salmon Habitat Recovery Unit.

2. Changes in Stock Status and Catch Statistics

The catch statistics and information on unreported catches and on catch and release are presented in Annex 1 using the information provided in the APRs and from ICES data where no APR has been received. The provisional catch in 2019 (819 t) is lower than the catch in 2018 (971 t). Incomplete information is available on the extent of catch and release fishing and unreported catches.

2.1 Provide a description of any new factors that 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 summary of these changes

The following information was provided:

European Union

***Denmark*:** Our stocks are still thriving and there is still a significant increase in salmon numbers. Due to the draught in 2018, we expect negative development the next two years, because of low smolt production.

***Germany*:** As already in 2018, the registered numbers of returning adult salmon in 2019 was very low compared to the previous years. In total 213 salmon were registered in the Rhine catchment area in 2019 compared to more than twice as much (541) in 2017. 2018 had similarly low numbers of returning salmon with 229. Both 2019 and 2018 were years of severe low water situation in the Rhine lasting from early summer until autumn and probably hindering upstream migration of salmon into the tributaries. The number of registered adult salmon returning from the sea and observations of natural reproduction of salmon in the Rhine tributaries are documented and can be supplied if required.

In 2019, 1,944,098 young salmon have been introduced in suitable tributaries by stocking measures in the whole catchment area of the Rhine. An important step for the ecological restoration of the Rhine is the completion of the fish pass at Gerstheim in the Upper Rhine in 2019 making a further section of the main stream of the Rhine accessible for migratory fish.

The first evidence of the non-native pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) in the Rhine catchment area was made in the Dhünn river where a single pink salmon was detected in an automatic fish counter in December 2019.

Just like in the Rhine catchment area, the salmon return rates in the Weser and Elbe were very low due to the extreme low water levels during the salmon run period.

The closure of the fishway situated at the southern riverside of the Elbe weir in Geesthacht caused a severe impairment in fish migration in the main stem of the Elbe river. It can be assumed that the considerably impaired passability of the Geesthacht weir will continue to have a negative impact on the further development of salmon

projects in the Elbe for the next two years. (More on this topic under Action H1 of the German APR).

Further local impacts, among others due to sediment loads, pollutant discharges and beaver lodges, were reported from the catchment area of the middle Elbe. At the same time, however, there have been many positive activities in this area, such as weir dismantling and habitat improvement measures.

***Ireland*:** The catch advice for the 2019 fishery was that 40 rivers had an advised harvestable surplus as they were exceeding their conservation limits (CL). A further 40 rivers could open for catch and release-only (C&R-only) fishing based on exceeding a minimum fry threshold (≥15 salmon fry/5 minute electro-fishing average) in catchment-wide electrofishing surveys or based on Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) management criteria that they met 50% or over of their CL but did not exceed their CL. 63 river systems were advised to be closed for fishing as they did not exceed the management criteria, minimum fry threshold or there was insufficient information for full stock assessment. In recent years, this represents a progressive decline in the number of systems open as a harvest fishery, an increase in fisheries open solely for C&R and a marginal decline in closed fisheries.

A separate assessment was made for 16 rivers with significant multi-sea-winter (MSW) salmon stocks. Of these, 11 had an advised harvestable surplus as they were exceeding their CL and five were advised to open for C&R-only fishing. In addition, four river systems used for hydropower were assessed as being below their CL as in preceding years.

The catch advice for the 2020 fishery which is based on stock status in the preceding five-year period including 2019 is that 39 rivers have a harvestable surplus, 42 rivers should be C&R-only fisheries and 63 rivers should be closed to fishing based on the same criteria outlined above.

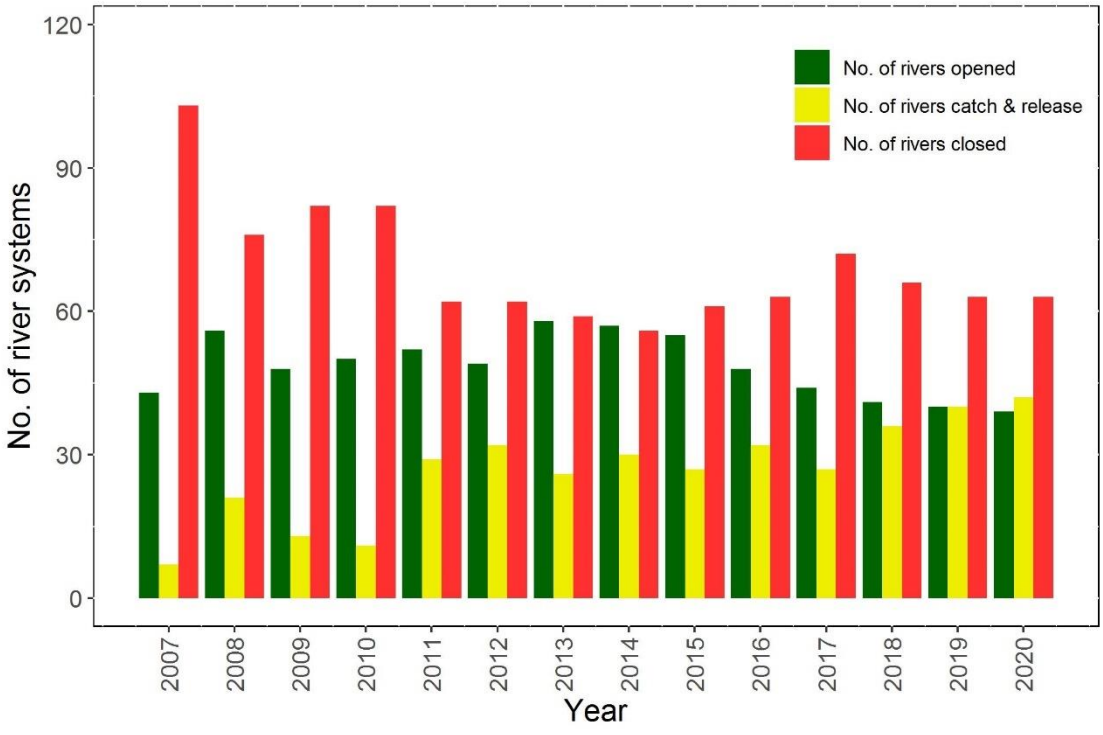


Figure 1. *Scientific stock assessments for catch advice in Irish salmon fisheries (2007 to 2020).*

Portugal: There are no changes, either perceived or expected, as the residual fishery continues to operate under the same conditions.

***Spain (Asturias)*:** No important changes. Catches have increased slightly.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Catch number	**356**	**247**	**1045**	**1301**	**837**	**1210**	**1094**	**1138**	**498**	**601**	**834**

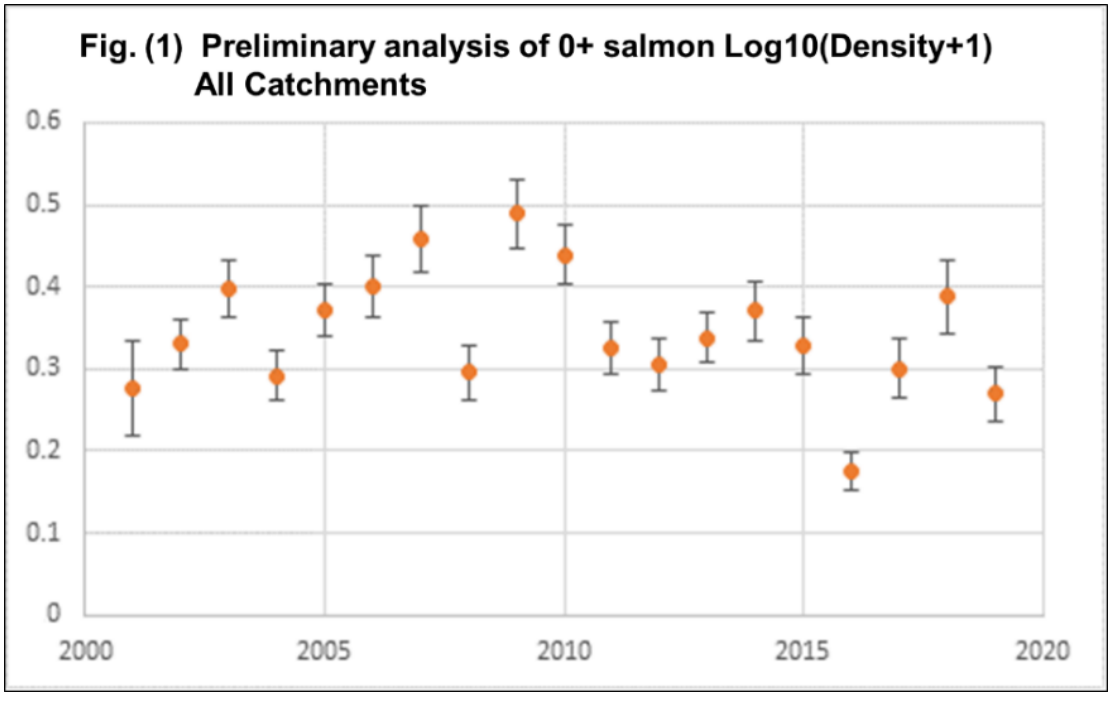
***Spain (Navarra)*:** There have not been new factors which may affect the abundance of salmon stocks since last year. Since the development of the Implementation Plan, several barriers have been removed and as a result, there seems to be an improvement on the colonisation rate of the basin by the migrating spawners, as they seem to reach further, faster and in greater numbers to the upper areas of the Bidasoa River basin, where they were seldom seen in the past. The size of the stock varies among years, but on average it seems to remain around 420 spawners. In 2019, a minimum of 441 adult salmon entered the Bidasoa River.

***Sweden*:** Stock status remained unchanged, but no catch was recorded from commercial fishing on the coast (fifth year in a row), i.e. mixed-stock fishing on the coast has ceased.

Catch and release in wild salmon rivers has increased from 9% in 2011 to 36% in 2019. Out of 24 rivers with salmon 14 rivers reported no harvest of salmon in 2019.

***UK (England and Wales)*:** In 2019, alongside poor adult returns, juvenile recruitment continues to be a concern (Figure 1.), although there appears to be some improvement on 2016, which was a notably poor year across many rivers in England and Wales, linked to storm Desmond. Poor recruitment of juveniles in 2016 could have suppressed adult returns in 2019 and may still have repercussions for the 2020 return, in particular.

Despite the above, on the recovering rivers a salmon was recorded above Sheffield on the River Don for the first time in 150 years and an adult salmon was recorded on the River Thames during the Environment Agency's annual Thames fish survey in 2019.



Pink salmon did not materialise in any great numbers in 2019 with only three confirmed reports across England and Wales.

A new salmon skin condition, informally termed 'red skin disease' to describe ventral haemorrhaging in fresh run salmon, was reported in Norway, Sweden, Ireland and parts of the UK on a small number of wild salmon. No cases were confirmed in England and Wales. The origins and implications of this are unclear at present.

***UK (Scotland)*:** In common with salmon throughout their range there has been a long term reduction in the number of salmon returning to Scotland's coastal waters. Previously managers could counteract these declines by reducing the number of net fisheries operating on the coast. For example, in 2016 in response to concerns about the state of stocks, Scottish Government introduced a prohibition on the retention of salmon in coastal waters and allowed salmon to be removed by fishermen only in rivers where stocks had been shown to be meeting conservation targets. However, with cessation of coastal netting this buffering capacity has now been fully used. Furthermore, additional protection for stocks through release of salmon caught in the rod fishery is now at 93% with little further scope to compensate for the decline in numbers of returning fish by restricting retention.

Currently Scottish Government is examining a number of high level pressures impacting on salmon to identify the potential for further management actions.

Norway

The number of salmon returning from the ocean to Norway each year is less than half of the level in the 1980s, and has been relatively stable since the late 1990s. There are, however, significant regional differences in the development of the salmon stocks over the last 30 years. Despite the decline in the amounts of returning salmon, the number of salmon spawning in the rivers has increased. The increased number of spawners despite reduced numbers returning from the ocean is due to reduced fisheries in the sea and rivers. Reduced exploitation has more than compensated for the decline. Escaped farmed salmon, salmon lice and infections related to salmon farming are the greatest anthropogenic threats to Norwegian wild salmon. The present level of mitigation measures is too low to stabilize and reduce these threats. Hydropower production, other habitat alterations and introduced pink salmon are also considered major threats to wild salmon. Hydropower production and other habitat alterations significantly reduce salmon populations, and there is large potential for further mitigation measures. Pink salmon is a new threat, and there is need for national and international measures to reduce the risk of negative impacts on native salmonids, including Atlantic salmon. The management targets for the period 2015-2018 were attained, or likely attained, for 93% of the populations. This is the best results regarding attainment of the management targets since the first evaluation was done in 2009.

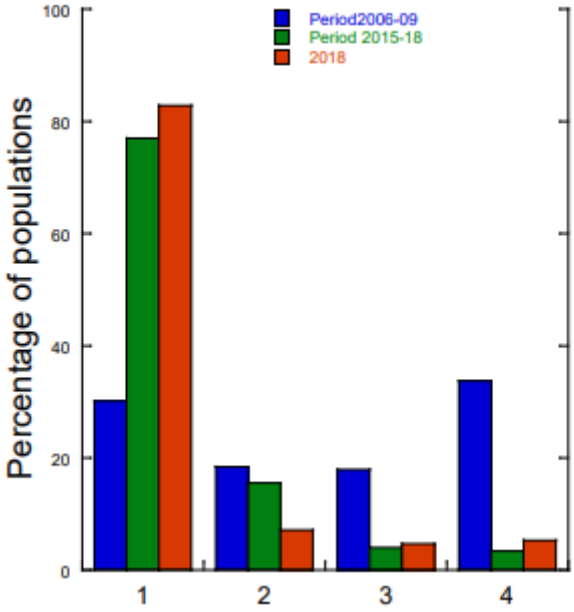


Figure 1. *Proportion (%) of the evaluated salmon rivers in category 1: the management target is attained, category 2: there is a risk that the management target is not attained, category 3: the management target is likely not attained, and category 4: the management target is far from being attained. Data are given for the periods 2006-2009 and 2015- 2018, as well as for 2018 only (SACAS).*

Russian Federation

In 2019 adult Atlantic salmon in the Kola and the Tuloma rivers continued to show signs of disease, diagnosed in 2015 as Ulcerative Dermal Necrosis (UDN). Sick salmon were also found in other rivers draining both in the Barents and in the White seas. The mortality rate of salmon broodstock in the Kola River, the Umba River (Murmansk region) and the Keret River (Republic of Karelia) was 100% due to UDN disease.

United States of America

Provisionally, there were 1,535 adult returns to U.S. waters in 2019. This count includes 1,528 returns to the GOM DPS; four to the Central New England complex; and three to the Long Island Sound complex.

3. Implementation Plan Actions

Details of progress against the actions included in individual Implementation Plans is reported in the Annual Progress Reports for each jurisdiction. As per the decision taken by Heads of Delegations and confirmed on 2 April 2020, there will be no review of the Annual Progress Reports this year as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The table below shows the breakdown of the current status of actions in each Annual Progress Report received.

Party / jurisdiction	Not Started	Ongoing	Completed	Total
Canada	0	11	0	11
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)				
Greenland	0	5	0	5
European Union				
Denmark	0	34	0	34
Finland	0	5	0	5
France	8	3	0	11
Germany	0	7	0	7
Ireland	0	9	0	9
Portugal[1]	1	6	0	7
Spain (Asturias)	0	0	6	6
Spain (Cantabria	4	6	0	10
Spain (Galicia)	0	3	0	3
Spain (Navarra)	2	4	3	9
Sweden	2	14	1	17
UK (England and Wales)	0	16	0	16
UK (Northern Ireland)	1	12	2	15
UK (Scotland)	0	19	0	19
Norway	0	21	0	21
Russian Federation	0	7	0	7
USA	0	11	0	11
Total	**18**	**193**	**12**	**223**

[1]Incomplete information on the Status of Actions was provided by EU – Portugal

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

Canada

The modernized Fisheries Act (Act) came into force on August 28, 2019. Upon the Act coming into force, the Fisheries Protection Program (FPP) became the Fish and Fish Habitat Protection Program (FFHPP). FFHPP also released a policy statement that summarized its interpretation of the key provisions in the modernized Act, as well as guidance for proponents applying for Fisheries Act authorizations, and two interim codes of practice.

European Union

***Finland*:** A new section (119 §) about forfeiture payments (conservation value of endangered species) was included to the Finnish Fisheries Act. Fisher who has kept an illegally caught fish may be charged with a forfeiture. Forfeitures have been defined for a range of species and the values vary. Forfeiture value for Atlantic Salmon is among the highest, 3420 € / individual. This amendment was added to strengthen sanctions of fisheries law offences.

Portugal: Adoption of the Edital n.º 836/2019, of the 11th July, allowing a fishery to take place in the 2019 – 2020 season, subject to change depending on results.

***Spain (Galicia)*:** Fishing for salmon in river Lérez has been banned for the 2020 season, due to poor population status (few returns to the trap; low parr densities). Underwards, fishing is allowed only in 5 rivers, instead of the 6 noticed in the original IP.

***Spain (Navarra)*:** Annually, a regional law (Orden Foral de Vedas) regulates salmon fishing: defines the Authorized Total Catch (TAC) in the season, the closing date (if the TAC has not been reached before), MSW protection measures, fishing calendar, minimum size, baits, hooks, etc.

Besides, the 'Bidasoa Salmon Management Plan for the period 2019-2024' has been finally adopted by the Government of Navarra. In 2019 it was OF 32/2019.

As explained before, the radiotracking monitoring programme started in 2018, continued in 2019 and it is expected to continue at least in 2020.

***UK (England and Wales)*:** In England, new National Salmon and Sea Trout Protection Byelaws came into force 1 January 2019. In Wales, new All Wales Fishing Byelaws came into force 1 January 2020 and Cross-Border (Wye and Dee) angling byelaws came into force on the 31 January 2020. Details are provided in 1.2 and F3 of the UK (England and Wales) APR.

***UK (Scotland)*:** The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016 were amended with effect from 1 April 2019. The regulations set out, amongst other things, those inland waters where mandatory catch and release arrangements were to apply in the 2019 season.

Russian Federation

The Federal Law on Recreational Fishery was adopted in 2018. It comes in force in 2020 but some items came in force in 2019. The Federal Law is the basis for regulation of recreational fisheries at fishing sites for valuable fish species such as Atlantic salmon

United States of America

Changes were made to the ESA section 7 regulations that, in part, provide for a consultation process that can result in the authorization of the incidental take of endangered salmon from certain federal activities (e.g., licensing and operation of a

hydroelectric facility); however, these changes were designed to clarify policies and procedures and are not anticipated to change the outcomes of consultations

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

European Union

***Spain (Navarra)*:** The recently re-established Salmon Working Group in Spain is expected to enable the exchange of information between all competent authorities and the establishment of synergies that may lead to further improvements in species management in the country.

4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

***Greenland*:** Fishery for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles are prohibited in Greenland.

European Union

***UK (Scotland)*:** The Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2016 introduced a prohibition on taking Atlantic salmon in coastal fisheries. This prohibition continues in force.

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

European Union

***Portugal*:** None allowed.

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 reported.

North American Commission Members only

4.6 Details of any new measures to minimise by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member

None reported.

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

No details reported.

Secretary
Edinburgh
13 May 2020

Annex 1

Table 1. Official Catch Statistics[1]

	Provisional 2019 catch[1]				Confirmed 2018 catch[1]			
	In-River	**Estuarine**	**Coastal**	**Total**	**In-River**	**Estuarine**	**Coastal**	**Total**
Canada	49	38	7	**94**	37	35	7	**79**
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)								
Faroe Islands	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
Greenland	-	-	28.8	**28.8**	-	-	40.4	**40.4**
European Union	104.3	24.6	0.4	**129.3**	105.8	36.6	36.0	**178.5**
Norway	291.0	-	219.0	**510.0**	271.0	-	323.0	**594.0**
Russian Federation	35.3	0	21.7	**57.0**	44.0	0	35.9	**79.9**
USA	0	0	0	**0**	0	0	0	**0**
TOTAL	479.6	62.8	276.5	**818.9**	457.3	71.8	442.1	**971.3**

[1]Where no return to NASCO has been made, ICES data have been used.

Table 2. Catches of Atlantic Salmon by the Parties to the NASCO Convention[1]

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)[2]	European Union[3]	Finland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
1960	1636	60	2641		1576	1100	40	1
1961	1583	127	2276		1456	790	27	1
1962	1719	244	3894		1838	710	45	1
1963	1861	466	3842		1697	480	23	1
1964	2069	1539	4242		2040	590	36	1
1965	2116	861	3693		1900	590	40	1
1966	2369	1338	3549		1823	570	36	1
1967	2863	1600	4492		2058	883	25	1
1968	2111	1167	3623		1752	827	150	1
1969	2202	2350	4407		2083	360	76	1
1970	2323	2354	4069		1861	448	52	1
1971	1992	2511	3745		1847	417	35	1
1972	1759	2146	4261	32	1986	462	38	1
1973	2434	2402	4604	50	2126	772	73	3
1974	2539	1945	4432	76	1973	709	57	1
1975	2485	2086	4500	76	1754	811	56	2
1976	2506	1479	2931	66	1530	542	45	1
1977	2545	1652	3025	59	1488	497	10	2
1978	1545	1159	3102	37	1050	476	10	4
1979	1287	1694	2572	26	1831	455	12	3
1980	2680	2052	2640	34	1830	664	17	6
1981	2437	2602	2557	44	1656	463	26	6
1982	1798	2350	2533	83	1348	364	25	6
1983	1424	1433	3532	79	1550	507	28	1
1984	1112	997	2308	75	1623	593	40	2
1985	1133	1430	3002	49	1561	659	45	2
1986[3]	1559	1490	3524	38	1597	608	53	2
1987	1784	1539	2593	49	1385	559	47	1
1988	1311	1136	2833	34	1076	419	40	1
1989	1139	701	2450	52	905	359	29	2
1990	912	542	1645	59	930	316	33	2
1991	711	533	1139	69	877	215	38	1
1992	520	260	1506	77	867	166	49	1
1993	373	35	1483	70	923	140	56	1
1994	355	18	1919	48	996	141	44	0

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)[2]	European Union[3]	Finland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
1995	259	86	1852	-	839	130	-	0
1996	290	92	1474	-	787	131	-	0
1997	229	59	1179	-	630	111	-	0
1998	157	17	1183	-	740	130	-	0
1999	152	19	1016	-	811	102	-	0
2000	153	29	1336	-	1176	124	-	0
2001	148	42	1407	-	1267	114	-	0
2002	148	9	1245	-	1019	118	-	0
2003	141	9	1012	-	1071	107	-	0
2004	161	15	978	-	784	82	-	0
2005	139	14	884	-	888	82	-	0
2006	132	23	703	-	931	91	-	0
2007	112	25	453	-	767	63		0
2008	158	26	444	-	807	73	-	0
2009	126	26	327	-	595	71	-	0
2010	146	38	496	-	642	88	-	0
2011	179	28	510	-	696	89	-	0
2012	126	33	403	-	695	82	-	0
2013	137	47	382	-	476	78	-	0
2014	118	58	313	-	490	81	-	0
2015	140	58	289	-	585	80	-	0
2016	135	27	257	-	612	56	-	0
2017	110	28	223	-	667	47	-	0
2018	79	40	178	-	594	80	-	0
2019	94	29	129	-	510	57	-	0

[1]Figures since 1986 are the official catch returns to NASCO. Where no return to NASCO has been made ICES data have been used.[2]The catch for Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) includes the catch for Greenland when it was a member of the European Union and the catches up to 1983 by Denmark. [3]The European Union catch from 1995 includes the catches by Finland and Sweden.

Table 3. Catch and release[1]

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Canada	49,279	42,820	58,000	47,892	58,300	77,641	50,811	59,207	39,534	64,159	69,950	49,513	50,184	46,335
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	-
European Union[2]	62,812	82,977	81,301	71,133	115,065	99,086	97,499	74,445	53,985	68,986	74,504	73,155	61,648	69,409
Norway	0	0	5,512	6,696	15,041	14,303	18,611	15,912	20,229	25,433	25,206	25,876	22,024	20,675
Russian Federation[3]	33,380	44,341	41,881	-	14,585	-	4,743	3,732	8,479	7,028	10,793	10,110	10,799	12,762
United States[4]	424	-	61	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Notes. For Catch and Release figures for the years 2000 – 2005, please see Table 3 in document CNL(19)13 [1] Where no return to NASCO has been made ICES data have been used. [2]Not all EU Member States provide complete information on catch and release. [3]Since 2009, there has been no obligation to report fish caught and released in the Russian Federation. [4]In the U.S., no sea-run salmon are subject to recreational fishing but small recreational fisheries occur on domestic broodstock in the Naugatuck and Shetucket Rivers in Southern New England (and on the Merrimack until the close of the 2018 season); these rivers are outside the geographic range of endangered Atlantic salmon.

Table 4. Unreported catches

Year	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Canada	124	81	84	118	101	101	56	-	21	-	18	29	31	24	21	25	27	27	24	12
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	10	10	11	10	11	11	11	12	10	5	12.3	10	10	10	10	10	10	-	-	6
European Union	240	169	165	125	116	114	95	72	54	47	70	71	59	57	38	41	22	23	17	
Norway	440-760	500-860	410-690	320-600	252-420	285-475	299-499	247-411	260-432	166-338	206-344	298	298	204	210	250	262	285	263	219
Russian Federation	249-309	200-252	166-206	99-152	110	70-103	70-103	25-77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Notes. The information for Canada in 2010 is incomplete, as only 3 of 4 administrative regions reported. Not all EU Member States provide an estimate of unreported catch. No estimate has been provided by the Russian Federation since 2008.