



Council

CNL(20)35

***Annual Progress Report
on Actions Taken Under the Implementation Plan for the Calendar Year 2019***

EU – France

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The Annual Progress Reports allow NASCO to evaluate progress on actions taken by Parties / jurisdictions to implement its internationally agreed Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and consequently the achievement of their objectives and actions taken in accordance with the Convention. The following information should be provided through the Annual Progress Reports:

- 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.

*In completing this Annual Progress Report please refer to the **Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress, CNL(18)49.***

These reports will be reviewed by the Council. Please complete this form and return it to the Secretariat **no later than 1 April 2020.**

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 November.</i>)
<p>IMPORTANT PRELIMINARY NOTE ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT: The content of this 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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>

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.

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

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

2: Stock status and 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 (200 word max) summary of these changes.

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 2019 (tonnes)	5	6.6 round fresh weight	0.3 round fresh weight	11.9
(b) confirmed nominal catch of salmon for 2018 (tonnes)	4	5.8 round fresh weight	0.4 round fresh weight	10.2
(c) estimated unreported catch for 2019 (tonnes)	NA	NA	NA	NA
(d) number and percentage of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries in 2019	NA			

3: Implementation Plan Actions.

3.1 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to the Management of Salmon Fisheries (section 2.9 of the Implementation Plan). Note: the reports under ‘Progress on action to date’ should provide a brief overview of each action. For all actions, provide clear and concise quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. 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	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	
F1:		<p>The Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) 2008/56/EC of 17 June 2008 obliges each Member State to set up a strategy to achieve or maintain Good Ecological Status (GES) of marine environments. The first management cycle ran from 2012 to 2018 and the second cycle (2019-2025) is now in progress. Each cycle consists of objectives and the relevant indicators that are revised every six years. Success is ensured by a monitoring programme and a programmes of measures that are built into the strategic plans for maritime zones. Two “diadromous GES” indicators in the second management cycle concern marine catches of diadromous fish, including salmon, and are presented below.</p> <p>The objectives of the indicators used for the second management cycle (2019-2025) of the MSFD are to:</p> <p>a) report on data collection for the indicators during the first cycle, set up new monitoring measures and new actions for the second cycle.</p>
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Management adapted to the resource and MSFD objectives achieved.

	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	The plan has not started being implemented yet
	Current status of action:	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action F2:	Description of action <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	Set conservation limits for all French rivers that are fished, establish management objectives and create an assessment tool.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	Conservation limits and management targets set.
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	This work has been initiated on the rivers of Brittany and will have to be the subject of regional work via COGEPOMI on the other watersheds
	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>	- Updating of regulations concerning straight baselines and limits between fresh and sea water based on salt content, where the limits do not exist, are imprecise or poorly suited to salmon, and are of particular importance for salmon management. - Mapping of the various limits and implementation of the corresponding regulations.
	Expected outcome <i>(as submitted in the IP):</i>	2020-2021: Necessary decrees published and maps updated. 2024: Improvement of 50% of the identified limits.
	Progress on action to date <i>(Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	The plan has not started being implemented yet
	Current status of action:	Not started

	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action F4:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Launch scientific studies to determine the origin of salmon caught in estuaries and rivers.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Enhanced knowledge on the use of stocks.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	The otoliths of juveniles and adults of Atlantic salmon collected in several French and Spanish basins began to be photographed in order to then be able to analyze shape parameters.
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	

<p>3.2 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Habitat Protection and Restoration (section 3.5 of the Implementation Plan). <i>Note: the reports under 'Progress on action to date' should provide a brief overview of each action. For all actions, provide clear and concise quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. 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 (as submitted in the IP):	Improve movement (upstream and downstream migration) by reducing the impacts of obstacles along the main rivers colonised by salmon (removal or lowering of obstacles, modifications).
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	2020: Report on the situation in France indicating a) the number of obstacles in each river where salmon are present and b) the number of projects undertaken in rivers where salmon are present. 2020-2024: Progress reports in the annual reports. 2024: Report on the period covered by the action plan indicating a) the number of obstacles removed, lowered or modified and b) the number of kilometres opened to migration and/or the surface area of habitats made accessible.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	The plan has not started being implemented yet

	<i>website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	
	Current status of action:	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H2:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Identify and protect functional habitats.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	A national map of the regulatory tools for habitat protection, if possible in conjunction with the national map of strategic habitats for the species.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	The plan has not started being implemented yet
	Current status of action:	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H3:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Improve functioning of "fragile" habitats. a) Improve sediment conditions in strategic sectors for the species, particularly downstream of certain large dams. b) Improve discharge management downstream of certain large dams during different phases of the biological cycle (migration, reproduction, growth) of salmon. c) Ensure the supply of sufficient discharges in certain river sections and/or strategic reaches (in particular side channels) for the species.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	a) Identify the concerned territories on the national level and set up action plans (dam management, mechanical injection of sediment) targeting an improvement in the survival rate of eggs and juveniles. b) Identify the concerned territories on the national level and set up the necessary management criteria (minimum and maximum discharges, gradients for changes in water levels, etc.). c) Identify the concerned territories on the national level, particularly for side channels, then calculate and implement the discharge levels required for reproduction, movement and general living conditions of the species.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g.	The plan has not started being implemented yet

	<i>website links) will not be evaluated):</i>	
	Current status of action:	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action H4:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Create synergy between planning tools by coordinating salmon action plans with the various existing planning and management documents.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Integration of salmon issues in the new versions of plans.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	The recruitment of an agent to think about the national plan for diadromous fishes and write the document is done. This action therefore begins from the start of Q2 2020
	Current status of action:	Ongoing
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	

3.3 Provide an update on progress on actions relating to Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics (section 4.11 of the Implementation Plan). Note: the reports under 'Progress on action to date' should provide a brief overview of each action. For all actions, provide clear and concise quantitative information to demonstrate progress. In circumstances where quantitative information cannot be provided for a particular action because of its nature, a clear rationale must be given for not providing quantitative information and other information should be provided to enable progress with that action to be evaluated. 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):	A study on restocking practices (genetics, influence of different ages when released, etc.) in the various French river basins.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	A national report with proposals for management measures.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	The plan has not started being implemented yet
	Current status of action:	Not started

	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action A2:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Set up special monitoring and reporting requirements concerning sea lice.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	Monitoring of the end-of-presence/absence of sea lice in French commercial farms.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	The plan has not started being implemented yet
	Current status of action:	Not started
	If 'Completed', has the action achieved its objective?	
Action A3:	Description of action (as submitted in the IP):	Monitoring of escapes from commercial marine salmon farms.
	Expected outcome (as submitted in the IP):	System to monitor the number of escapes per year.
	Progress on action to date (Provide a brief overview with a quantitative measure, or other justified evaluation, of progress. Other material (e.g. website links) will not be evaluated):	The plan has not started being implemented yet
	Current status of action:	Not started
	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.
NA
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.
NA
4.3 Details of any new actions to prohibit fishing for salmon beyond 12 nautical miles.

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