

CNL_IS(20)27
(duplicated as CNL(20)58)

***Report of the December 2020 Inter-Sessional Meeting of the
Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization***

By Video Conference

10 December 2020

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The President, Serge Doucet (Canada), opened the meeting. He thanked participants for attending and for all their work engaging so constructively with NASCO in this extraordinary year.
- 1.2 The President noted that on 27 November 2020, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) became a Contracting Party to NASCO. He welcomed the UK as NASCO's newest Contracting Party and looked forward to the contribution the UK would make.
- 1.3 A written Opening Statement was tabled by the United Kingdom (Annex 1).
- 1.4 A list of participants at the December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council is given in Annex 2.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Council adopted its Agenda, [CNL IS\(20\)26](#) (Annex 3).

3. Adoption by the Council of the Terms of Reference for the Third Performance Review

- 3.1 The President noted that in 2018, Council agreed that the process to consider conducting the third performance review of NASCO should begin in 2019, with a view to holding the review in 2021 ([CNL\(18\)45](#)). At its Annual Meeting in 2020, Council agreed to delay the performance review by one or more years. The Council also agreed to postpone discussion of the process and decisions needed to arrange the third performance review, including a decision on the length of the delay, until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.
- 3.2 The President reminded Council that initial discussion of the Terms of Reference for the performance review had taken place during the September Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council, guided by a Strawman document drawn up by the United States. The President noted that, since then, Parties and the Secretariat had worked to refine the draft Terms of Reference. Additionally, paper [CNL IS\(20\)23](#) had been circulated, regarding further decisions that were needed to plan the third performance review.
- 3.3 Council agreed that:
 - due to the impacts of Covid-19 the third performance review will be deferred, with reporting in 2023 for consideration at the 2023 NASCO Annual Meeting;
 - the Review Panel will be composed of three external experts who are ‘not directly

affiliated' with NASCO, and who, together, have expertise in the three categories: fisheries science, salmon management and conservation, and marine / fisheries law;

- 'not directly affiliated' generally means – not a current or former NASCO officer, not members of NASCO delegations or accredited NGOs, and not working in an industry related to salmon;
- 'officer' means - individuals who have held an office such as President, Vice-President, Chair, Vice-Chair etc.
- the following process and timeline for agreeing the Review Panel was adopted¹:
 - Parties and the NGO Co-Chairs may nominate up to three candidates for the Review Panel, in the categories stated above, to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2021;
 - the Secretariat will compile and circulate the list of proposed Review Panel candidates as quickly as possible;
 - Parties will rank the experts, by 28 February 2021;
 - the proposed Review Panel candidates with the highest rankings in each category of expertise will be contacted by the Secretariat for their availability, in March 2021. Alternatives to be contacted if necessary;
 - the final Review Panel members will be agreed by Council, by April 2021, by correspondence.
- the maximum length of time allocated to Panel members to conduct the review will be 30 working days, which may be reviewed by Council if necessary; and
- the daily consulting fee for any Panel member requiring one will be £650, with a maximum of £750, if requested. All Panel members will receive the same fee. The maximum daily fee may be reviewed by Council if necessary.

3.4 Council also discussed the Terms of Reference for the performance review and agreed that:

- a small Working Group will be convened quickly to finalise the Terms of Reference, including the review criteria;
- the Secretariat will work with Heads of Delegations from the EU, the Russian Federation, the UK, the US, and the NGO Co-Chairs to identify the members of the Working Group and agree on meeting dates before 18 December 2020. The Heads of Delegations of the European Union, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the NGO Co-Chairs all indicated they intended to nominate a member;
- the Working Group will finalise the Terms of Reference, including the review criteria, by the end of January 2021;
- the Council will approve the draft Terms of Reference, including the review criteria, by correspondence by the end of February 2021.

3.5 The President asked the Secretariat to take forward the arrangements for the third performance review based on the decisions taken at the Meeting. He requested that an

¹ N.B. This process was not Norway's preferred alternative for agreeing the Review Panel. However, Norway accepted this as the view of the majority of Parties.

update of progress be provided to Council at the Annual Meeting in June 2021.

4. Adoption of the 2019 Audited Accounts

4.1 Council agreed to adopt the 2019 Audited Accounts, [FAC\(20\)04](#).

5. Decisions by the Council on the Proposals for the IYS Concluding Symposium

5.1 The President reminded Parties that in 2019 Council agreed that ‘NASCO IYS activities going forward for further investigation beyond the end of the focal year include... the 2022 closing Symposium (in conjunction with the NPAFC).’ Additionally, he said that in 2020 Council agreed ‘*that the Secretary continue to work with the NPAFC informally with a view to holding the IYS concluding Symposium after the 2022 Annual Meeting, with a view to agreeing the Terms of Reference and establishing a Symposium Steering Committee once the timeline for the Symposium is clearer*’..

5.2 Council agreed:

- that, although NASCO and NPAFC had different objectives for the IYS, a joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium should be held in Vancouver, Canada, in September 2022, if possible, or October 2022 at the latest;
- to accept the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium (Annex 4), modified to reflect the change in preferred date and venue;

5.3 Canada, the EU and the NGOs offered to nominate individuals to serve on the Steering Committee, who would ensure that the NASCO contributions and priorities were part of the Symposium programme. It was also agreed that the scale of the Symposium should remain commensurate with the budget allocated by NASCO, and that its preparation should not have a disproportionate impact on the Secretariat resources. Parties also agreed that the possibility of recording parts of the Symposium should be explored so that it might have as wide a reach as possible. The EU (supported by Norway) expressed the view that it was unfortunate that this Symposium could not take place in the North-East Atlantic and that this would restrict the participation of the NASCO Parties as well as the impact of the Symposium.

6. Other Business

6.1 Two items of other business were raised.

6.2 First, the President raised the matter of the UK’s application for membership of the West Greenland Commission and the North-East Atlantic Commission. He referred to the letter to NASCO from Minister Prentis (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) ([CNL IS\(20\)24rev](#)).

6.3 The President noted that the UK meets one of the conditions set out in Article 10(3) of the NASCO Convention.

6.4 Council agreed unanimously that the UK may become a member of the West Greenland Commission and the North-East Atlantic Commission.

6.5 Second, the President raised the issue of the format of the 2021 Annual Meeting. He noted that restrictions due to the global pandemic were likely to remain for some time. In light of the ongoing uncertainty, he proposed that the 2021 Annual Meeting be held virtually.

6.6 Council agreed that the 2021 Annual Meeting be held virtually and that the Secretariat will explore the best technological option for the meeting.

7. Report of the Meeting

7.1 The Council agreed the report of its Meeting by correspondence.

8. Close of the Meeting

8.1 The President closed the December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council of NASCO.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1 Opening Statement from the United Kingdom
- Annex 2 List of Participants
- Annex 3 Agenda, CNL_IS(20)26
- Annex 4 Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the Joint NASCO / NPAFC
IYS Concluding Symposium, IYS(20)02

Opening Statement to Council submitted by the United Kingdom to the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen;

The UK is delighted to have joined NASCO as an independent Contracting Party and the delegation is very pleased to be attending this intersessional meeting. I would like to thank the Council for having approved the UK's application and the Secretariat for their patience and support through the application process.

The UK will seek to contribute fully to the important work carried out by NASCO. Our aim will be to ensure NASCO can act as a best-in-class RFMO, to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon.

As NASCO's 2019 'state of North Atlantic Salmon' report showed, despite major reductions in fisheries exploitation salmon numbers have declined significantly over the past four decades and UK picture mirrors this overall trend. We welcome the rigour that NASCO bring to domestic salmon management and recognise the opportunities it presents for co-ordinated international action.

We look forward to a productive meeting, and to playing our full part in a bright future for this valuable organisation.

Ruth Allin
Head of Delegation, U.K.
10 December 2020

**2020 List of Participants
for the December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council**

* Denotes Head of Delegation

CANADA

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NORWAY

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**Denotes NGO Co-Chairs

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SECRETARIAT

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CNL_IS(20)26

December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council

By Video Conference

10 December 2020

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption by the Council of the Terms of Reference for the Third Performance Review
4. Adoption of the 2019 Audited Accounts
5. Decisions by the Council on the Proposals for the IYS Concluding Symposium
6. Other Business
7. Report of the Meeting
8. Close of the Meeting

IYS(20)02

**Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the Joint NASCO /
NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium**

NASCO and the NPAFC establish the Steering Committee for the joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium with the following Terms of Reference:

1. The Joint Symposium Steering Committee (hereinafter ‘the SSC’) shall consist of:
 - (a) not more than three representatives from each lead organization, including one representative of the Secretariats of each lead organization, and one representative from any co-convening organization. It would be desirable to have both managers and scientists involved with subject matter for each theme. The SSC will appoint one Co-Chair from among the representatives of each of the two lead organizations; and
 - (b) the SSC may co-opt additional representatives with specific expertise to serve on the SSC as required.
2. The SSC’s mandate is to convene a world class Symposium to report on and synthesise the accomplishments of the IYS and consider its legacy and recommendations for the future. The SSC will work virtually, using an agreed video-conferencing platform, to undertake the following activities:
 - identify the exact Symposium dates in autumn 2022, as soon as possible, subject to approval by both NASCO and the NPAFC;
 - identify an appropriate venue for the Symposium;
 - develop objectives and the programme, including identifying and inviting keynote (invited) speakers and soliciting contributed papers;
 - develop a Communications Plan including a social media strategy to engage target audiences including scientists, managers, industry, NGOs, fishers, youth and the general public;
 - consider arrangements for, and editing of, scientific and popular publications as well as an on-line (and possibly streamed) video record of the proceedings; and
 - other tasks to ensure a well-run, prestigious and well reported Symposium.
3. The Co-Chairs of the SSC, or their designee, will report to their respective designated points of contact within NASCO and NPAFC on the work of the Symposium Steering Committee.
4. The SSC will operate by consensus of the lead organizations.
5. The costs incurred by each SSC member in participating in the Committee’s work, including any fees for service, should be borne by the Party appointing the Committee member.
6. The Symposium Steering Committee may incur costs, including engaging professional support, in accordance with budgetary provision and spending plans made by the lead organizations or funds raised from other sources and made available to the Symposium Steering Committee through the lead organizations. The Executive Director / Secretary of

each lead organization shall ensure that the receipt and expenditure of funds are consistent with that lead organization's Financial Rules.