2018

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

PORTLAND, MAINE, USA

12 – 15 JUNE 2018

President:	Mr Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))
Vice-President:	Ms Sylvie Lapointe (Canada)
Secretary:	Dr Emma Hatfield

CNL(18)45

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Report of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, USA

12 – 15 June 2018

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 The President of NASCO, Mr Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), opened the meeting and introduced Ms Kim Damon-Randall (USA). The Mayor of Portland, the Honourable Ethan Strimling, welcomed delegates to Portland. Video messages from the Honourable Senator Collins (Annex 1), the Honourable Senator King (Annex 2) and the Honourable Congresswoman Pingree (Annex 3), were played. The President then made an Opening Statement (Annex 4).

1.2 The representatives of Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States made Opening Statements (Annex 5).

1.3 Opening Statements were made by the following Inter-Governmental Organizations: the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC); the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO); the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Committee (EIFAAC) (Annex 6).

1.4 An Opening Statement was made on behalf of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) (Annex 7).

1.5 An Opening Statement was made on behalf of the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) attending the Annual Meeting (Annex 8).

1.6 An Opening Statement was made by the Sami Parliament (Norway) (Annex 9).

1.7 The President expressed appreciation for these statements and messages.

1.8 A list of participants at the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO is given in Annex 10.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Council adopted its Agenda, CNL(18)48 (Annex 11).

3. Election of Officers

3.1 The Council elected Mr Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)) as its President (proposed by the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), seconded by the representative of Canada) and Mr Serge Doucet (Canada) as its Vice-President (proposed by the representative of the United States, seconded by the representative of the European Union).

4. Financial and Administrative Issues

4.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker (USA), presented the report of the Committee, FAC(18)07. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Council took the following decisions:

- to accept the 2017 Audited Accounts, FAC(18)02;
- to adopt a Budget for 2019 and to note a Forecast Budget for 2020, CNL(18)40 (Annex 12);
- to confirm the 2017 Council decision to appoint Saffery Champness as auditors for the 2018, 2019, and 2020 accounts;
- to support the redesign of the NASCO website to ensure its compatibility with the IYS website, provided there is agreement from the NASC, using monies from the IYS Fund or, if necessary, monies from the Working Capital Fund;
- to establish a password protected area on the NASCO website to facilitate the sharing of documents among NASCO Parties that are either sensitive or before they have been finalised;
- to improve accessibility of FAC documents to the NASCO Parties by posting them on the public part of the NASCO website in advance of the Annual Meeting; and
- to adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee, CNL(18)05.

5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

5.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary made a report to the Council, CNL(18)06, on: the status of ratifications of, and accessions to, the Convention and membership of the regional Commissions; the receipt of contributions for 2018; applications for observer status to NASCO; applications to conduct scientific research fishing; fishing for salmon in international waters by non-NASCO Parties; NASCO's public relations work; and new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon.

The Secretary reported that there had been no changes to the status of ratifications of, and accessions to, the Convention or in the membership of the regional Commissions. All contributions for 2018 had been received, and there were no arrears. She reported that no applications had been made to conduct scientific research fishing under the NASCO Resolution during 2017.

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Downeast Salmon Federation (based in the USA), the Salmon and Sea Trout Recreational Anglers Ireland (SSTRAI) (based in Ireland) and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund US (based in the USA) had applied for, and been granted, observer status to NASCO. The Downeast Salmon Federation's mission is to conserve wild Atlantic salmon, other sea-run fish and their habitats, restore a viable recreational salmon fishery, and protect other important river, scenic, recreational and ecological resources in eastern Maine. The aims and objectives of SSTRAI include: to promote the sport of recreational salmon and sea trout angling in Ireland; to advocate for the protection and conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout and ensure their long-term survival; and to represent and promote the interests of all affiliated clubs and their members and the interests of associate members. The mission of NASF US is to return Atlantic salmon to a state of natural abundance and its objectives include:

negotiating net buy-outs with commercial net fisheries on an economic, fair and sustainable basis; assisting policy makers in responsible management of salmon fisheries; habitat protection and restoration; outreach to inform the public and policy makers about challenges to the survival of North Atlantic salmon, and options for their conservation; and encouraging co-operation between all NGOs with the same objectives as NASF US. NASCO now has 41 organizations with accredited observer status.

The Secretary reported that the Norwegian and Icelandic coastguards had again been contacted to obtain details of airborne surveillance flights over the area of international waters north of the Faroe Islands. During the period 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018, the Icelandic coastguard did not conduct any surveillance flights in the area, while the Norwegian coastguard conducted three surveillance flights and four marine surveillance vessel surveys. No vessels were observed fishing for salmon, but the surveillance flights were all conducted in the period June – November so there are long periods of the year with no surveillance. No new information has been obtained from ports or about landings and transhipments over the last year to suggest that there has been any fishing for salmon by vessels from non-NASCO Parties. The Secretary has continued to liaise with the Secretariats of NAFO and NEAFC.

The Secretary reported that three studies relating to the socio-economic values of wild Atlantic salmon had been brought to the attention of the Secretariat.

5.2 **Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2017**

In accordance with Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention, the Council adopted a Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2017, CNL(18)07.

5.3 **Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize**

The President announced that the winner of the 2018 Grand Prize in the Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Mr Ilya Sherbovich, Moscow, Russian Federation. The winning tag was of Russian origin and had been applied to autumn-run salmon which had entered the Ponoi River in autumn 2016 and overwintered there. It was tagged during fly-fishing on the Gold Beach beat of the Ponoi River on 27 June 2017, about 73 km from the river outlet. It was recaptured by fly on 27 August 2017 on the same beat. The Council offered its congratulations to the winner.

5.4 **Scientific Advice from ICES**

The representative of ICES, Dr Martha Robertson, presented the report of the Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(18)08rev. The ICES presentation is available as document CNL(18)47 (Annex 13).

5.5 **Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

The Report of the Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, CNL(18)09 (Annex 14), was presented by its Chairman, Mr Rory Saunders (USA).

5.6 **Review of the Procedures Relating to the Work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group**

In 2017, the Council asked the Secretary to prepare a review of the procedures relating to the work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB) and its Scientific Advisory Group (SAG).

The Secretary presented the review – document CNL(18)10. The IASRB had also considered this document and had recommended that the Chair of the IASRB should

propose new Rules of Procedure and clarify the Terms of Reference for the IASRB and the SAG, in consultation with the Secretary, members of the IASRB and current and past Chairs of the SAG. The representative of the EU stated that he would welcome the opportunity for the Parties to input into the drafting process. Given that the work would be undertaken inter-sessionally, Council requested that this agenda item be retained on the 2019 Council Agenda.

5.7 **Report of the Standing Scientific Committee**

The Chair of the Standing Scientific Committee (SSC), Dr Paddy Gargan (European Union), presented a draft request to ICES for scientific advice. The Council adopted a Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, CNL(18)11 (Annex 15).

6. Report of the Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of Reports

The last year of reporting under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plan cycle is in 2019. Therefore, at its 2017 Annual Meeting, the Council established a Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of these Reports with the following Terms of Reference:

(a) review the Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress, CNL(12)44, and advise on any changes required to streamline and further improve reporting in the next Implementation Plan cycle in order to ensure that reports are meaningful and that unnecessary burden is avoided;

(b) review the templates for preparation of Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports, CNL(12)42 and CNL(12)43, and advise on any changes to streamline and further improve reporting in the next Implementation Plan cycle, including options for including reporting under the Six Tenets for Effective Management of an Atlantic Salmon Fishery;

(c) propose a schedule for the development and review of Implementation Plans and submission and review of Annual Progress Reports.

The Chair of the Working Group, Mr Rory Saunders (USA) presented the Group's report, CNL(18)12. He informed the Council that the Working Group noted that the purpose of developing Implementation Plans is to demonstrate, in a clear and transparent way, the actions that are being taken to implement NASCO agreements so as to ensure fairness and balance between the measures being taken through binding regulatory measures for the salmon fisheries conducted by the Faroe Islands and Greenland and the conservation measures being taken by other Parties / jurisdictions. The goal of achieving fairness and balance was a key element of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO process and is consistent with Article 9 of the NASCO Convention. In 2013, the Council had sought to improve the reporting process in the light of shortcomings identified in the first reporting cycle, rather than considering changes to the Convention, which was one of the recommendations of the External Performance Review Panel that evaluated the work of NASCO in 2012. While the second reporting cycle showed considerable improvements over that first cycle, the Working Group noted that the Council has highlighted the need for further improvements. The Working Group agreed and believes that there must be substantial improvements in the quality, transparency, completeness and timeliness of reporting in the third cycle.

There was agreement that, although the Working Group had made significant progress in improving on the second reporting cycle, Council felt that there were still

improvements required to the Guidelines and templates before it could accept them as the basis for the third reporting cycle.

A way forward was agreed as follows:

- Parties and jurisdictions shall provide clear and explicit feedback on the improvements they feel are necessary;
- the Secretary will condense this feedback to produce a clear statement of work. This will be sent to the Parties for their confirmation;
- the Chair of the Working Group, the Secretary and the NGO co-Chair (Paul Knight) will form a small group to consider the statement and to make further refinements to the output of the Working Group. The intention is that they will be able to complete this second review by the end of July 2018, if at all possible.

The Council agreed to appoint the full complement of members to the IP / APR Review Group. The Secretary will request a nomination from Parties by correspondence.

7. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach

7.1 Special Session: Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans

The primary purpose of the Annual Progress Reports (APRs) under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans is to provide details of: any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the Implementation Plans; actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plans 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. The 2018 APRs are contained in documents CNL(18)21 to CNL(18)37 and a summary is provided in document CNL(18)14.

The 2018 APRs had been subject to a critical evaluation by the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group to ensure that jurisdictions had provided a clear account of progress in implementing and evaluating the actions detailed in their Implementation Plans, along with the information required under the Convention. In 2017, the Council agreed that, rather than developing its usual questions for response by the Parties / jurisdictions, in future it should provide details of its evaluation of progress on each action in a table at the end of its review, highlighting shortcomings. The Parties / jurisdictions would be asked to address these shortcomings in their APRs for the following year. The Chair of the Group, Mr Rory Saunders (USA), presented its report, CNL(18)13, during a Special Session of the Council. There were wide-ranging discussions during the Special Session and these are contained in CNL(18)41 (Annex 16).

The Council agreed that the Review Group should meet for two days to undertake the review of the 2019 APRs.

7.2 Special Session: Progress Reports on Planning for the International Year of the Salmon

At its Thirty-Third (2016) Annual Meeting, the Council had recognised that an International Year of the Salmon (IYS) could provide a very good opportunity to raise awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance, the environmental and anthropogenic challenges they face and the measures being taken to address these. An Outline Proposal for an IYS, entitled ‘Salmon and People in a Changing World’, which

included a proposed rationale, vision, themes and timings for the IYS, together with details of its scope, a governance model and initial budgetary considerations, was broadly accepted by the Council subject to some provisional points of clarification. In 2017, the Council recognised the considerable potential of the IYS and noted that much of the activity in implementing the IYS would be a matter for the Parties and NGOs. There will be a need for enhanced co-ordination, particularly within the North Atlantic area. The Council also accepted a proposal from Norway to hold an IYS symposium in conjunction with the 2019 Annual Meeting, which would be in addition to any event to launch the IYS.

A presentation was given highlighting progress made with planning for the IYS (document CNL(18)15). A question and answer session ensued and this is reflected in document CNL(18)42 (Annex 17).

Following the question and answer session, and after some discussion, the Council agreed:

- that the Symposium Steering Committee, originally formed to organize an international scientific symposium to launch the IYS, be re-tasked to deliver a concluding symposium in 2022 and that members of the Committee be agreed by the 2020 Annual Meeting. To enable this, £25,000 shall be ring-fenced from the IYS budget to support the delivery of the 2022 symposium;
- that Parties and jurisdictions shall support and facilitate the launch of the IYS by approaching Ministers and Community Leaders to take part in announcing the IYS across the hemisphere at the end of October 2018. The Secretariat will draft a letter from the President to be used by the Parties and jurisdictions to facilitate this;
- that, given the focus on outreach by NASCO, the NASCO website should be updated using IYS money (approximately £15,000). It is the intention that the re-development of the website would be completed by the Secretariat by the first quarter of 2019;
- that NASCO launch a twitter feed to push information out to partners, Parties, jurisdictions and NGOs so it can be shared with their established social media followings, bearing in mind that this will have a life longer than the IYS;
- that in order to support Parties, jurisdictions and NGOs with outreach, the Secretariat will develop infographics on wild Atlantic Salmon and photo stories on the topic of 'salmon and people'. In addition to these being valuable content for use with a variety of media, they will also form part of the State of Salmon report ensuring it is accessible to a wide audience. This content will also be valuable for the NASCO website redevelopment;
- that the IYS budget will cover the State of Salmon report, identified as a major NASCO output in the IYS;
- a spending plan for the IYS budget will be prepared by the NASC for agreement by the Parties;
- Parties / jurisdictions will provide reports on IYS activities to the NASC in 2017, 2018 and 2019;
- the proposed Programme for the 2019 IYS Symposium to be held in Tromsø.

The Council noted the importance of encouraging researchers to engage in research related to the five themes of the IYS, and, where appropriate, involving researchers

from the Pacific in projects and activities. The Council also recommended that the IASRB should be involved in considering any IYS research activities proposed by scientists in the Pacific region relevant to the North Atlantic area.

The Council encouraged the sharing of information on the freshwater environment, using the IYS to highlight the issues faced by wild Atlantic salmon there.

The Council noted the work that had been undertaken by the IYS Committees and Secretariat and thanked all involved for their efforts.

7.3 **Progress in Implementing the 'Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO', CNL(13)38**

In 2013, the Council had adopted an 'Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO' (CNL(13)38). The Secretary reported on progress in implementing the recommendations in the Action Plan, CNL(18)16. The recommendations in the Plan relate to:

- actions which had been implemented or planned at the time the 'Action Plan' was developed and for which there was a need to monitor progress and evaluate outcomes (section 1);
- new actions developed in response to the recommendations contained within the External Performance Review Report and the review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO (section 2); and
- actions to strengthen NASCO's work on the management of salmon fisheries (section 3).

The Secretary provided an update of progress and the Council welcomed the progress that had been made to implement the recommendations.

The Council agreed that the process to consider conducting the second External Performance review of NASCO should commence in 2019, with a view to holding the review in 2021. The Secretary will prepare a document outlining the process for the review and will present this to Council in 2019.

7.4 **Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry**

In 2013, the Council agreed that an item should be retained on its Agenda entitled 'Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry', during which a representative of the International Salmon Farmers' Association (ISFA) would be invited to participate in an exchange of information on issues concerning impacts of aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon. The regular meetings of the Liaison Group would not be continued, but, if a specific need arose, consideration could be given to convening a joint *Ad hoc* group. ISFA were invited to attend the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting and table a paper but they were unable to do either.

It was highlighted that the Guidance on Best Management Practices to address impacts of sea lice and escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon stocks (SLG(09)5), that has been agreed jointly by NASCO and ISFA is not on the ISFA website. Council asked the Secretary to approach ISFA to request respectfully that they publish the document on their website.

7.5 **New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management**

In accordance with the 'Strategic Approach for NASCO's Next Steps', this item had been included on the Council's Agenda annually and ICES had been requested to provide relevant information, which is contained in document CNL(18)08rev. Information on the following had been provided by ICES:

- an update on Red Vent Syndrome;
- updates on *G. salaris* eradication efforts, sea lice investigations and sea lice management in Norway;
- the presence of *G. salaris* in the Russian Federation;
- the continued presence of diseased salmon in rivers in Sweden;
- mortalities of salmon in Russian rivers in 2017;
- consequences of poor juvenile recruitment in UK (England and Wales) in 2016;
- interactions between striped bass and Atlantic salmon in eastern Canada;
- pink salmon observations in the North Atlantic area in 2017;
- progress with implementing the Quality Norm for Norwegian salmon populations;
- an update on opportunities for investigating salmon at sea, including the International Ecosystem Summer Survey of the Nordic Seas, by-catch of salmon in the Icelandic mackerel fishery, environmental DNA testing, PIT tag screening programmes and tracking and acoustic tagging studies;
- advances in genetic stock identification and mixed-stock fishery analysis;
- progress in stock assessment models;
- a conceptual framework for evaluating some of the key factors driving marine mortality in Atlantic salmon;
- sampling, data and archiving of biological samples; and
- progress with establishing scale archive / biochronology repositories.

Relevant information is also presented in the summary of Annual Progress Reports, CNL(18)14.

7.6 **Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management**

In 2013, the Socio-Economics Sub-Group had completed the development of the NASCO web pages concerning the socio-economic aspects of the wild salmon. The Sub-Group had also prepared tables of socio-economic information relating to rod and line and net and trap fisheries (based on information available in 2008) for possible inclusion on the NASCO website but, in 2014, it recommended that these should not be included on the website given that the data were several years old and incomplete. It was, however, recommended that Parties / jurisdictions be requested to advise the Secretariat of any new studies related to the socio-economic values of wild salmon. Any such studies are detailed in the Secretary's Report and, in addition to the studies reported from UK (England and Wales) and UK (Scotland) this year, there is a study from Ireland reported in detail under the paper CNL(18)19.

7.7 **Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

A report on the Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery, CNL(18)17, was presented by the representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon). This report had also been considered in the North American commission.

There is concern in the North American Commission about an upward trend in catches at St Pierre and Miquelon in recent years. The fishery exploits North American stocks that are considered threatened or at risk. In 2017, the President wrote to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) expressing NASCO's concerns and encouraging them to become a member of NASCO. A copy of this letter and the response received is contained in document CNL(18)17. The French authorities have responded to say that they wish to retain observer status to NASCO and have committed to providing NASCO with information on the fishery and taking NASCO recommendations on catch taken by communities dependent on fishing into account.

7.8 **Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions**

The Chairs of each of the three regional Commissions reported to the Council on the activities of their Commission. After the presentation from the Chair of the North-East Atlantic Commission, the President confirmed a small amendment to the decision agreed within the North-East Atlantic Commission which is reflected in the revised decision document NEA(18)12rev_final.

8. Other Business

8.1 The Council agreed that the President would write to the relevant authorities in Iceland to express the desire of the NASCO family to respectfully consider them to re-join the Organization. The Council stated its desire to see them re-join during 2019, the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon.

9. Date and Place of Next Meeting

9.1 The Council had previously accepted an invitation to hold its Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting in Norway. The representative of Norway advised the Council that the meeting would be held in Tromsø and looked forward to welcoming NASCO delegates in 2019. The Council confirmed that the meeting would be held during 5 – 7 June 2019.

9.2 The Council agreed to hold its Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting during 2 – 5 June 2020 in the Faroe Islands.

10. Report of the Meeting

10.1 The Council agreed the report of its Meeting.

11. Press Release

11.1 The Council agreed a Press Release, CNL(18)46 (Annex 18).

12. Close of the Meeting

12.1 The President closed the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

Note. The annexes mentioned above begin after the French translation of the report of the meeting. A list of Council papers is included in Annex 19.

CNL(18)45

Compte rendu de la trente-cinquième session annuelle du Conseil de l'Organisation pour la conservation du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, Etats-Unis

12 – 15 juin 2018

1. Ouverture de la session

1.1 Le Président de l'OCSAN, M. Jóannes Hansen (Danemark (pour les Iles Féroe et le Groenland), a ouvert la session et présenté Mme Kim Damon-Randall (Etats-Unis). Le maire de Portland, l'Honorable Ethan Strimling, a accueilli les délégués à Portland. Des messages vidéo de l'Honorable Sénatrice Collins (Annexe 1), de l'Honorable Sénateur King (Annexe 2) et de l'Honorable membre du Congrès Pingree (Annexe 3), ont été visionnées. Le Président a ensuite fait une déclaration d'ouverture (Annexe 4).

1.2 Les représentants du Canada, du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland), de l'Union européenne, de la Norvège, de la Fédération de Russie et des Etats-Unis d'Amérique ont effectué des déclarations d'ouverture (Annexe 5).

1.3 Des déclarations d'ouverture ont été effectuée par les organisations intergouvernementales suivantes: la Commission du poisson anadrome du Pacifique Nord (CPAPN); l'Organisation des pêches de l'Atlantique Nord-Ouest (OPANO); et la Commission européenne consultative pour les pêches et l'aquaculture dans les eaux intérieures (CECPAI) (Annexe 6).

1.4 Une déclaration d'ouverture a été effectuée au nom de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) (Annexe 7).

1.5 Une déclaration d'ouverture a été effectuée au nom des Organisations Non Gouvernementales (ONGs) assistant à la session annuelle (Annexe 8).

1.6 Une déclaration d'ouverture a été effectuée par le Parlement Sami (Norvège) (Annexe 9).

1.7 Le Président a exprimé son appréciation pour ces déclarations et présentations.

1.8 Une liste des participants à la trente-cinquième session annuelle du Conseil de l'OCSAN est donnée en Annexe 10.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

2.1 Le Conseil a adopté son ordre du jour, le CNL(18)48 (Annexe 11).

3. Election des Membres du Bureau

3.1 Le Conseil a élu M. Jóannes Hansen (Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland)) en tant que Président (suggéré par le représentant du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland), secondé par le représentant du Canada) et M. Serge Doucet (Canada) en tant que Vice-Président (suggéré par la représentante des Etats-Unis, secondé par le représentant de l'Union européenne).

4. Questions financières et administratives

4.1 **Rapport du Comité financier et administratif**

La Présidente du Comité financier et administratif, Mme Kimberly Blankenbeker (Etats-Unis), a présenté le rapport du comité, FAC(18)07. Sur les conseils du comité, le Conseil a pris les décisions suivantes:

- accepter les comptes vérifiés de 2017, FAC(18)02;
- adopter un budget pour 2019 et noter un budget prévisionnel pour 2020, CNL(18)40 (Annexe 12);
- confirmer la décision de 2017 du Conseil de nommer Saffery Champness en tant que commissaires aux comptes de 2018, 2019 et 2020;
- soutenir la reconception du site web de l'OCSAN pour s'assurer de sa compatibilité avec le site web de l'IYS, à condition qu'il y ait un accord du NASC, employant des sommes du Fond de l'IYS ou, si nécessaire, des sommes du Fonds de roulement;
- établir une zone protégée par un mot de passe sur le site web de l'OCSAN pour faciliter le partage de documents entre les Parties de l'OCSAN, soit lorsqu'il s'agit de document sensibles soit avant leur finalisation;
- améliorer l'accessibilité aux documents du Comité financier et administratif pour les Parties de l'OCSAN en les publiant sur la partie publique du site de l'OCSAN avant la session annuelle; et
- adopter le rapport du Comité financier et administratif, CNL(18)05.

5. Informations scientifiques, techniques, juridiques et autres

5.1 Rapport de la Secrétaire

La Secrétaire a fait un rapport au Conseil, CNL(18)06, sur: les statuts de ratification de la Convention et d'accession à celle-ci et le statut de membre des Commissions régionales; la réception des contributions pour 2018; les demandes effectuées pour le statut d'observateur de l'OCSAN; les demandes effectuées pour mener une pêche à des fins de recherches scientifiques; pêche au saumon en eaux internationales par des parties extérieures à l'OCSAN; travail de relations publiques de l'OCSAN; et des nouvelles études relatives aux valeurs socio-économiques du Saumon atlantique sauvage.

La Secrétaire a rapporté qu'il n'y avait eu aucun changement aux statuts de ratification ou aux accessions à la Convention, ou au statut de membre des Commissions régionales. Toutes les contributions pour 2018 ont été reçues, et il n'y avait pas d'arriérés. Elle a rapporté qu'il n'y avait eu aucune candidature pour exercer une pêche à des fins de recherches scientifiques en vertu de la Résolution de l'OCSAN courant 2017.

Depuis la dernière session annuelle, la Fédération du saumon du Downeast (basée aux Etats-Unis), les pêcheurs à la ligne récréatifs de saumon et truite de mer d'Irlande (SSTRAI) (basé en Irlande) et le Fonds du saumon Nord Atlantique des Etats-Unis (NASF US) (basé aux Etats-Unis) ont postulé pour le statut d'observateur de l'OCSAN, ce qui leur a été accordé. La mission de la Fédération du saumon du Downeast est de conserver le saumon Atlantique sauvage, d'autres poissons diadromes et leurs habitats, restaurer une pêcherie récréative viable au saumon, et protéger d'autres ressources importantes des rivières, des paysages, des loisirs et de l'écologie dans le Maine oriental. Les buts et objectifs du SSTRAI incluent: promouvoir la pêche récréative au saumon et à la truite de mer à la ligne en Irlande; défendre la protection et la conservation du saumon sauvage atlantique et de la truite de mer et s'assurer de leur

survie sur le long-terme; et représenter et promouvoir les intérêts de tous les clubs affiliés et leurs membres et les intérêts des membres associés. La mission du NASF Etats-Unis est de faire retrouver au saumon atlantique un état d'abondance naturelle et ses objectifs incluent: la négociation des rachats de filets avec des pêcheries au filet commerciales sur une base économique, juste, et durable; l'assistance aux décideurs pour la gestion responsable des pêcheries de saumon; la protection et la restauration de l'habitat ; l'information pour sensibiliser le public et les décideurs aux défis auxquels le saumon de l'Atlantique Nord fait face pour survivre, et des alternatives pour leur conservation; et encouragement de la coopération entre toutes les ONGs ayant les mêmes objectifs que le NASF US. Désormais 41 organisations bénéficient du statut d'observateur pour l'OCSAN.

La Secrétaire a rapporté que les garde-côtes norvégiens et islandais avaient encore été contactés pour obtenir des informations relatives aux vols de surveillance aérienne au-dessus de la zone des eaux internationales au Nord des Iles Féroé. Au cours de la période 1er avril 2017 – 31 mars 2018, les garde-côtes islandais n'ont mené aucuns vols de surveillance aérienne dans la région et les garde-côtes norvégiens avaient mené trois vols de surveillance et quatre études de surveillance marine par bateau. Aucuns bateaux n'ont été observés pêchant le saumon mais les vols de surveillance ont tous été menés sur la période de juin – novembre, il y a donc de longues périodes de l'année pendant lesquelles aucune surveillance n'est effectuée. Aucunes nouvelles informations n'ont été obtenues de la part des ports ni sur des débordements et transbordements au cours de l'année dernière suggérant qu'une quelconque pêche au saumon aurait été effectuée par des navires de parties extérieures à l'OCSAN. Le Secrétaire a maintenu un lien avec les Secrétariats de la CPANE et l'OPANO.

La Secrétaire a rapporté que trois études relatives aux valeurs socio-économiques du saumon atlantique sauvage avaient été communiquées au Secrétariat.

5.2 **Rapport sur les activités de l'Organisation en 2017**

Conformément à l'Article 5, paragraphe 6 de la Convention, le Conseil a adopté un Rapport sur les activités de l'Organisation en 2017, CNL(18)07.

5.3 **Annonce du gagnant du Grand Prix du Programme incitatif renvoi des étiquettes**

Le Président a annoncé que le gagnant du Grand Prix de 2018 du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes était M. Ilya Sherbovich, Moscou, Fédération de Russie. L'étiquette gagnante d'origine russe avait été appliquée à un saumon retourné à la rivière Ponoi en automne 2016 et y avait hiverné. Il a été étiqueté lors d'une pêche à la mouche sur la chute Gold Beach de la rivière Ponoi le 27 juin 2017, à environ 73 km de l'embouchure de la rivière. Il a été repris à la mouche le 27 août 2017 dans la même chute. Le Conseil a adressé ses félicitations au gagnant.

5.4 **Conseils scientifiques du CIEM**

La représentante du CIEM, le Dr Martha Robertson, a présenté le rapport du Comité consultatif (ACOM), CNL(18)08rev. La présentation du CIEM est disponible dans le document CNL(18)47 (Annexe 13).

5.5 **Rapport de la Commission internationale de recherche sur le saumon atlantique**

Le rapport de la session de la Commission internationale de recherche sur le saumon atlantique, CNL(18)09 (Annexe 14), a été présenté par son Président, M. Rory Saunders (Etats-Unis).

5.6 **Révision des procédures relatives au travail de la Commission internationale de**

recherche sur le saumon atlantique et de son Groupe consultatif scientifique

En 2017, le Conseil a demandé à la Secrétaire de préparer un examen des procédures relatives aux travaux de la Commission internationale de recherche sur le saumon atlantique (CIRSA) et de son Groupe consultatif scientifique (GCS).

La secrétaire a présenté l'examen – document CNL(18)10. La CIRSA avait également examiné ce document et recommandé que le Président de la CIRSA propose de nouvelles règles de procédure et clarifie les termes de référence pour la CIRSA et le GCS, en consultation avec la secrétaire, les membres de la CIRSA et les présidents actuels et passés du GCS. Le représentant de l'UE a déclaré qu'il apprécierait que les Parties puissent contribuer au processus de rédaction. Compte tenu que le travail serait entrepris entre les sessions, le Conseil a demandé que ce point de l'ordre du jour soit maintenu à l'ordre du jour du Conseil de 2019.

5.7 **Compte rendu du Comité scientifique permanent**

Le Président du Comité scientifique permanent (SSC), le Dr Paddy Gargan (Union européenne), a présenté un projet de demande de conseils scientifiques au CIEM. Le Conseil a adopté une Demande de conseil scientifique auprès du CIEM, CNL(18)11 (Annexe 15).

6. Rapport du Groupe de travail sur le Reporting futur en vertu des Programmes d'application et de l'Evaluation des rapports

La dernière année de reporting en vertu du cycle des Programmes d'application de 2013 – 2018 est 2019. Par conséquent, lors de sa session annuelle de 2017, le Conseil a créé un Groupe de travail sur le reporting futur en vertu des Programmes d'application et de l'évaluation des rapports avec les Termes de référence suivants:

(a) passage en revue des Directives pour la préparation et l'évaluation des Programmes d'application de l'OCSAN et pour les rapports sur les progrès, CNL(12)44, et conseiller sur tous changements requis pour rationaliser et améliorer le reporting dans le prochain cycle des Programmes d'application afin de s'assurer que les rapports ont du sens et qu'un fardeau inutile est évité;

(b) passage en revue des modèles pour la préparation des Programmes d'application et des Rapports de progrès annuel, CNL(12)42 et CNL(12)43, et conseiller sur tout changements requis pour rationaliser et améliorer le reporting dans le prochain cycle du Programme d'application, y compris les options pour inclure le reporting sous les Six principes pour une gestion efficace d'une pêcherie du saumon Atlantique;

(c) proposer un agenda pour le développement et le passage en revue des Programmes d'application et la soumission et le passage en revue des Rapports de progrès annuel.

Le Président du Groupe de travail, M. Rory Saunders (Etats-Unis) a présenté le rapport du Groupe, CNL(18)12. Il a informé le Conseil que le Groupe de travail a noté que l'élaboration de programmes d'application avait pour objectif de présenter, de manière claire et transparente, les mesures prises pour appliquer les accords de l'OCSAN afin d'assurer l'équité et l'équilibre entre les mesures prises à travers des mesures réglementaires contraignantes pour les pêcheries de saumon par les Iles Féroé et le Groenland et les mesures de conservation prises par d'autres Parties / juridictions. L'objectif d'équité et d'équilibre est un élément clé du processus 'prochaines étapes' de l'OCSAN et conforme à l'article 9 de la Convention de l'OCSAN. En 2013, le Conseil

s'est efforcé d'améliorer le processus de reporting en tenant compte des lacunes identifiées au cours du premier cycle de rapports, plutôt que d'envisager de modifier la Convention, comme le Groupe d'évaluation externe des performances l'a recommandé en 2012. Le deuxième cycle de rapports a révélé des améliorations considérables par rapport au premier cycle, mais le Groupe de travail a noté que le Conseil avait souligné que de nouvelles améliorations étaient nécessaires. Le Groupe de travail en convient et pense que des améliorations substantielles de la qualité, de la transparence, de l'exhaustivité et de la ponctualité des rapports doivent être effectuées pendant le troisième cycle.

Il a été convenu que, bien que le Groupe de travail a fait des progrès considérables en effectuant des améliorations par rapport au deuxième cycle de rapports, le Conseil a estimé que des améliorations devaient encore être apportées aux lignes directrices et aux modèles avant qu'il ne puisse les accepter comme base du troisième cycle.

Une marche à suivre a été convenue:

- les Parties et les juridictions doivent fournir des commentaires clairs et explicites sur les améliorations qu'ils jugent nécessaires;
- la Secrétaire condensera ces commentaires pour produire un énoncé de travail clair. Celui-ci sera envoyé aux Parties pour confirmation;
- le Président du Groupe de travail, la Secrétaire et le Coprésident des ONGs (Paul Knight) formeront un petit groupe pour examiner l'énoncé et apporter d'autres ajustements sur le rapport du Groupe de travail. L'intention est qu'ils soient en mesure de terminer ce deuxième passage en revue d'ici la fin juillet 2018, dans la mesure du possible.

Le Conseil a convenu de nommer l'effectif complet du Groupe de révision IP / APR. Le Secrétaire demandera une nomination des Parties par correspondance.

7. Conservation, restauration, accroissement et gestion rationnelle du saumon atlantique dans le cadre de l'approche préventive

7.1 Séance spéciale: évaluation des Rapports de progrès annuels réalisés dans le cadre des programmes d'application de 2013 – 2018

L'objectif principal des Rapports de progrès annuels (APRs) conformément aux Programmes d'application de 2013 – 2018 est de fournir des informations sur toutes modifications du régime de gestion du saumon et sur les changements qui en découlent pour des Programmes d'application; les mesures prises conformément aux Programmes d'application au cours de l'année précédente; les changements significatifs des statuts des stocks, et un rapport sur les prises; et les mesures prises conformément aux dispositions de la Convention. Les APRs de 2018 sont contenus dans les documents CNL(18)21 à CNL(18)37. Un résumé des rapports est présenté en CNL(18)14.

Les APRs de 2018 avaient fait l'objet d'une évaluation critique par le Comité de révision des Programmes d'application / des APRs pour s'assurer que les juridictions avaient fourni un compte rendu clair du progrès de l'application et l'évaluation des mesures détaillées dans leurs Programmes d'application, de même que les informations requises en vertu de la Convention. En 2017, le Conseil a convenu que, plutôt que de développer des questions à poser aux Parties / juridictions, à l'avenir il devrait fournir des détails de ses évaluations du progrès de chaque mesure dans un tableau à la fin de chaque évaluation, soulignant les lacunes. Il serait demandé aux Parties / juridictions de traiter ces lacunes dans leurs APRs pour l'année suivante. Le Président du Groupe,

M. Rory Saunders (Etats-Unis), a présenté son rapport, CNL(18)13, au cours d'une session spéciale du Conseil. Des discussions assez larges ont eu lieu au cours de la session spéciale et celles-ci sont incluses en CNL(18)41 (Annexe 16).

Le Conseil a accepté que le Comité de révision se rencontre pendant deux jours pour entreprendre la révision des APRs de 2019.

7.2 **Séance spéciale: Rapports de progrès sur la planification pour l'Année internationale du saumon**

Lors de sa trente-troisième session annuelle (2016), le Conseil avait reconnu qu'une Année internationale du saumon (IYS) pourrait présenter une excellente opportunité pour sensibiliser le public aux facteurs déterminant l'abondance du saumon et les défis environnementaux et anthropogéniques auxquels ils font face et les mesures entreprises pour les traiter. Une proposition succincte pour une Année internationale du saumon (intitulée 'Du saumon et des hommes dans un monde changeant'), qui comprenait une proposition de justification, une vision, des thèmes et des délais pour l'IYS, ainsi que des informations concernant sa portée, un modèle de gouvernance et des considérations budgétaires initiales, a été largement acceptée par le Conseil sous réserve de quelque points de clarification provisoires. En 2017, le Conseil a reconnu le potentiel considérable de l'IYS et a noté qu'une grande partie de l'activité de planification de l'IYS relèverait des Parties et des ONGs. Il sera nécessaire d'améliorer la coordination, en particulier dans la région de l'Atlantique Nord. Le Conseil a aussi accepté une proposition de la Norvège d'organiser un symposium sur l'IYS conjointement avec la session annuelle de 2019, qui s'ajouterait à tout événement pour lancer l'IYS.

Une présentation a été effectuée soulignant le progrès effectué concernant la planification de l'IYS (document CNL(18)15). Une session de questions et réponses a suivi et ceci est reflété dans le document CNL(18)42 (Annexe 19).

Suite à la session de questions et réponses, et après des discussions, le Conseil a convenu:

- qu'il soit à nouveau demandé au Comité de direction du Symposium, formé à l'origine pour organiser un symposium scientifique international pour inaugurer l'IYS, de réaliser un symposium concluant en 2022 et que les membres du Comité soient convenus d'ici à la session annuelle de 2020. Pour que cela soit possible, £25 000 du budget de l'IYS seront affectés pour soutenir la réalisation du symposium de 2022;
- les Parties et les juridictions soutiendront et faciliteront le lancement de l'IYS en invitant les ministres et les dirigeants de communautés à participer à l'annonce de l'IYS dans tout l'hémisphère fin d'octobre 2018. Le Secrétariat rédigera une lettre du Président à l'usage du Parties et juridictions pour faciliter cela;
- que, compte tenu de l'importance accordée à la sensibilisation par l'OCSAN, le site de l'OCSAN devrait être mis à jour en utilisant l'argent de l'IYS (environ £15,000). L'intention est que le site soit re-développé par le Secrétariat avant le premier trimestre de 2019;
- que l'OCSAN inaugure un flux twitter pour communiquer les informations aux partenaires, Parties, juridictions et ONGs pour qu'elles puissent être partagées avec leurs adeptes, en gardant à l'esprit que la vie de celle-ci dépassera celle de l'IYS;
- qu'afin de soutenir les Parties, les juridictions et les ONGs dans leurs activités de sensibilisation, le Secrétariat élaborera des infographies sur le saumon atlantique

sauvage et des reportages photos sur le sujet de ‘du Saumon et des hommes’. Ceci constituera un contenu précieux à utiliser avec différents médias, et fera également partie du rapport sur l'état du saumon, ce qui le rendra accessible à un large public. Ce contenu sera également utile pour le réaménagement du site de l'OCSAN;

- que le budget de l'IYS couvrira le rapport sur l'état du saumon, identifié comme une contribution essentielle de l'OCSAN dans l'IYS;
- un programme de dépense pour le budget de l'IYS sera préparé par le NASC et devra faire l'objet d'un accord des Parties;
- Les Parties/ juridictions fourniront des rapports sur les activités de l'IYS au NASC en 2017, 2018 et 2019;
- du Programme proposé pour le symposium de l'IYS de 2019 qui aura lieu à Tromsø.

Le Conseil a noté qu'il est important d'encourager les chercheurs à s'engager dans la recherche liée aux cinq thèmes de l'IYS et, le cas échéant, d'associer des chercheurs du Pacifique à des projets et des activités. Le Conseil a également recommandé que la CIRSA participe au passage en revue des activités de recherche de l'IYS proposées par des scientifiques de la région du Pacifique et pertinentes pour la région de l'Atlantique Nord.

Le Conseil a encouragé le partage d'informations relatives à l'environnement de l'eau douce, en utilisant l'IYS pour souligner les problèmes auxquels le saumon sauvage atlantique y est confronté.

Le Conseil a noté le travail entrepris par les Comités de l'IYS et le Secrétariat et a remercié toutes les personnes impliquées pour leurs efforts.

7.3 **Progrès effectué dans l’application du ‘Plan d’action pour mettre en œuvre les conseils de l’étude externe des performances et la révision des ‘Prochaines Etapes’ pour l’OCSAN’, CNL(13)38**

En 2013, le Conseil a adopté un ‘Plan d’action pour mettre en œuvre les conseils de l’étude externe des performances et la révision des ‘Prochaines étapes’ pour l’OCSAN’ (CNL(13)38). La Secrétaire a rendu compte des progrès de la mise en œuvre des conseils dans le Plan d’action, CNL(18)16. Les conseils figurant dans le Plan sont liés à:

- des actions planifiées ou mises en œuvre à l’époque du développement du ‘Plan d’action’ et pour lesquelles un suivi du progrès et une évaluation des résultats était nécessaire (section 1);
- nouvelles actions développées en réponse aux recommandations contenues dans le rapport de l’étude externe des performances et la révision des ‘Prochaines étapes’ de l’OCSAN (section 2); et
- actions pour renforcer le travail de gestion des pêcheries au saumon de l’OCSAN (section 3).

La Secrétaire a présenté une mise à jour du progrès et le Conseil a accueilli les progrès effectués pour mettre en œuvre les recommandations.

Le Conseil a convenu que le processus consistant à envisager de mener une deuxième étude externe des performances de l'OCSAN devrait débuter en 2019, en vue de l'examen en 2021. Le Secrétaire préparera un document décrivant le processus d'examen et le présentera au Conseil en 2019.

7.4 **Liaison avec l'industrie salmonicole**

En 2013, le Conseil a convenu qu'un point devrait être maintenu dans son ordre du jour intitulé 'Liaison avec l'industrie salmonicole', au cours duquel un représentant de l'Association des producteurs de saumons internationaux (ISFA) serait invité à participer à un échange d'informations sur des questions relatives à l'impact de l'aquaculture sur le Saumon atlantique sauvage. Les réunions régulières du Groupe de liaison ne se poursuivraient pas, mais, si un besoin particulier se présentait, on pourrait envisager de convoquer un groupe mixte Ad hoc. L'ISFA a été invitée à assister à la trente-cinquième session annuelle et à soumettre un article mais elle n'a pu faire ni l'un ni l'autre.

II a été souligné que les Lignes directrices sur les Meilleures pratiques de gestion pour traiter les impacts du pou du poisson et les fuites de saumon d'élevage sur les stocks de saumon sauvage (SLG(09)5), approuvées conjointement par l'OCSAN et l'ISFA ne se trouvent pas sur le site de l'ISFA. Le Conseil a demandé au Secrétaire d'approcher l'ISFA pour demander poliment qu'ils publient le document sur leur site web.

7.5 **Nouvelles opportunités ou opportunités naissantes pour, ou menaces contre, la conservation et la gestion du saumon**

Conformément à 'l'Approche stratégique des Prochaines étapes de l'OCSAN', ce point a été inclus dans l'ordre du jour du Conseil et il a été demandé au CIEM de fournir des informations adéquates, contenues dans le document CNL(18)08rev. Les informations suivantes ont été fournies par le CIEM:

- mise à jour sur le Syndrome inflammatoire périannal;
- mise à jour sur les efforts d'éradication du *G. salaris*, études effectuées sur les poux du poisson et gestion des poux du poisson en Norvège;
- la présence de *G. salaris* en Fédération de Russie;
- la présence constante de saumons malades dans les rivières en Suède;
- mortalités du saumon dans les rivières russes en 2017;
- conséquences du mauvais recrutement des jeunes saumons au Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles) en 2016;
- interactions entre le bar rayé et le saumon atlantique dans le Canada de l'Est;
- observations du saumon rose dans la zone Nord Atlantique en 2017;
- progrès de la mise en œuvre de la Norme qualitative pour les populations de saumon norvégiens;
- mise à jour sur les opportunités pour éxaminer le saumon en mer y compris l'Etude internationale d'été de l'écosystème des mers nordiques, les prises accessoires de saumon dans la pêcherie de maquereau islandaise, tests de l'ADN environnemental, programme de contrôle des étiquettes à transpondeur passif intégré et Etudes de suivi et de marquage acoustique;
- progrès de l'identification génétique de stock et analyse des pêcheries de stocks-mixtes;
- progrès des modèles d'évaluation de stock;
- un cadre conceptuel pour évaluer certains des facteurs clés provoquant la mortalité marine du saumon atlantique;

- prélèvement, données et archivage d'échantillons biologiques; et
- progrès dans l'établissement d'archive d'échelle/ dépôts biochronologiques.

Les informations pertinentes sont aussi présentées dans le résumé des Rapports de progrès annuel, CNL(18)14.

7.6 **Incorporation des facteurs sociaux et économiques dans la gestion du saumon**

En 2013, le Sous-groupe socio-économique a terminé l'élaboration des pages web de l'OCSAN relatives aux aspects socio-économiques du saumon sauvage. Le Sous-groupe avait également préparé des tableaux informatifs socio-économiques relatifs aux pêcheries à la ligne et aux filets et trappes (sur la base des informations disponibles en 2008) pour une éventuelle inclusion sur le site de l'OCSAN, mais en 2014, il a recommandé qu'ils n'y soient pas publiés car les données dataient de plusieurs années et qu'elles étaient incomplètes. Il a toutefois été recommandé que les Parties / juridictions soient invitées à informer le Secrétariat de toute nouvelle étude concernant les valeurs socio-économiques du saumon sauvage. Toutes ces études sont détaillées dans le rapport de la Secrétaire et, outre les études signalées cette année par le Royaume-Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles) et par le Royaume-Uni (Ecosse), une étude irlandaise présentée dans le détail se trouve dans le document CNL(18)19.

7.7 **Pêcherie de saumons à St Pierre et Miquelon - Gestion et Échantillonnage**

Un rapport sur la gestion et l'échantillonnage de la pêcherie au saumon à St Pierre et Miquelon, CNL(18)17, a été présenté par la représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon). Ce rapport a aussi été étudié par la Commission Nord-américaine.

La Commission Nord-américaine s'inquiète d'une tendance à la hausse des captures à Saint Pierre et Miquelon au cours des dernières années. La pêche exploite des stocks Nord-américains considérés comme menacés ou en péril. En 2017, le Président a écrit à la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) pour lui faire part des préoccupations de l'OCSAN et les encourager à devenir membre de l'OCSAN. Une copie de cette lettre et la réponse reçue figurent dans le document CNL(18)17. Les autorités françaises ont répondu qu'elles souhaitaient conserver le statut d'observateur à l'OCSAN et se sont engagées à fournir à l'OCSAN des informations sur la pêcherie et à prendre en compte les recommandations de l'OCSAN sur les prises des communautés dépendantes de la pêche.

7.8 **Rapports des trois Commissions régionales concernant leurs activités de conservation**

Le Président de chacune des trois Commissions régionales a présenté un rapport au Conseil sur les activités de leur Commission respective. Après la présentation du Président de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, le Président a confirmé une petite modification à la décision convenue au sein de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est qui est reflétée dans le document de décision révisé NEA(18)12rev_final.

8. Divers

8.1 Le Conseil a décidé que le Président écrirait aux autorités compétentes en Islande pour faire part du désir de la famille de l'OCSAN de leur demander respectueusement d'envisager de se joindre à nouveau à l'Organisation. Le Conseil a leur a dit souhaiter les voir rejoindre l'OCSAN en 2019, année charnière de l'Année internationale du saumon.

9. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

9.1 Le Conseil avait accepté une invitation pour tenir sa trente-sixième session annuelle en Norvège. Le représentant de la Norvège a informé le Conseil que la session aurait lieu à Tromsø et se fait un plaisir d'accueillir les délégués de l'OCSAN en 2019. Le Conseil a confirmé que la session aurait lieu entre le 5 et le 7 juin 2019.

9.2 Le Conseil a accepté de tenir sa trente-septième session annuelle du 2 au 5 juin 2020 dans les Iles Féroé.

10. Compte rendu de la session

10.1 Le Conseil a accepté le compte rendu de la session.

11. Communiqué de presse

11.1 Le Conseil a convenu d'un communiqué de presse, CNL(18)43 (Annexe 18).

12. Clôture de la session

12.1 Le Président a clos la trente-cinquième session annuelle de l'OCSAN.

Note. Une liste d'articles du Conseil est incluse en Annexe 19.

List of Annexes

Annex 1

Transcript of Welcoming Message from the Honourable Senator Collins

Good morning. It is a pleasure to welcome NASCO to Maine. Joining hands across the Atlantic, you are an outstanding model of international co-operation and science-based solutions.

NASCO's work is vital to the conservation, restoration, and management of wild Atlantic salmon, as well as to the communities that depend upon this valuable resource. Additionally, the health of Atlantic salmon populations is a crucial measure of the health of our oceans, rivers, and watersheds. As the effects of climate change become more apparent, NASCO's research will become increasingly important.

By holding your 35th Annual Meeting here in Maine, you will have the opportunity to visit two initiatives that demonstrate my state's commitment to this cause. The Gulf of Maine Research Institute is dedicated to the scientific research and public education that fosters a healthy marine environment and sustainable fisheries. The Penobscot River Restoration Project is one of the largest and most creative river restoration projects in our nation's history, benefiting wild Atlantic salmon and many other species. Like NASCO, it demonstrates the power of collaboration to bring about positive change.

Wild Atlantic salmon is more than the King of Fish. It is a powerful indicator of our dedication to environmental stewardship. Thank you for your efforts and have a great meeting.

Annex 2

Transcript of Welcoming Message from the Honourable Senator King

I'm delighted to have an opportunity to welcome NASCO to Portland! We're delighted that you're here, I hope you enjoy your week and that you get out on the water and see Maine at its very best. I also want to thank all the members, all the delegates who are here, for your work on the important work of salmon restoration, and fisheries restoration generally in the North Atlantic – but with a special emphasis on salmon. NASCO realized – the people who came together to form NASCO – realized many years ago that this was really an international problem. That no one country, one community, one state could solve it because salmon don't notice borders when they travel from Greenland to Maine to Labrador to New Brunswick. And so, it's so important for us to be working together and sharing solutions. I'm proud that in Maine, years ago, I was involved in the initiation of the Penobscot River Restoration Project where several major dams were removed, and the river has been opened up amazingly to the restoration of a number of species. I just met with some folks here in Washington this week about the success of that project and I think it indicates how we can all work together to find solutions to problems that at some points, seem insoluble.

I also want to commend you for coming together in a conference to think about and share ideas. There was a time in my life when I thought going to conferences was kind of a waste of time. I would work away in my office, I couldn't afford to leave and take the time and go someplace else for a couple of days – I don't believe that anymore. I rarely attend a conference and have time to sit down and listen to other people, that I don't come back with some good ideas – and that's exactly what you are going to be doing this week in Portland.

So, I commend you on your work, I commend you on the future of your work because it is important to the ecosystem of Maine and of New England and of the North Atlantic. Maine is a North Atlantic citizen, and we're so delighted to be hosting you this week in the wonderful city of Portland.

Have a great conference, a great set of ideas. The opportunity to work together and learn from each other, and I look forward to learning of the resolutions and the science and the data that you produce that will help us to make good policy for a successful future for the mighty Atlantic Salmon, for the State of Maine and for our entire North Atlantic region. Congratulations, have a great week in Maine.

Annex 3

Transcript of Welcoming Message from the Honourable Congresswoman Chellie Pingree

Hello, I'm Congresswoman Chellie Pingree.

As a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for Maine's 1st Congressional District, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Portland for this meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization.

While you have some important work ahead of you, I hope you get the chance to get out and enjoy a little of what Maine has to offer—at least a lobster roll or two.

Even though our state is best known for its lobster, the Atlantic salmon is another iconic Maine species. This fish fed native populations for thousands of years and is still important to their culture. And for generations of Maine anglers, fishing the spring run was a beloved tradition—as was sending the first catch of the season to the President.

But, as we have seen throughout the North Atlantic, these runs have diminished to a shadow of their former selves. Maine's Penobscot River is the largest remaining salmon run in the United States. But fewer than a thousand fish make the trip upstream annually.

It's certainly not for lack of effort on our state's part. I'm very proud of Maine's work to improve access to spawning habitat.

Over the last 10 years, a historic partnership has led to the completion of the Penobscot River Restoration Project. It has opened hundreds of miles of spawning grounds in the river and its tributaries through dam removal, improved fish passage, and other measures. Atlantic salmon and other migratory fish—such as alewife and striped bass—are going farther upriver than at any time over the last 150 years.

But Maine holds just one piece of a very large and complicated puzzle. Atlantic salmon know no borders. Managing its population and restoration takes the co-operation of many different countries. That's why I'm grateful for the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization's co-ordination of these efforts and for all of you for taking part.

I applaud your work and am optimistic about your future success. I'm extremely encouraged by the draft agreement reached with Greenland to suspend commercial salmon fishing for the next 12 years. I live on an island in Penobscot Bay and fishing is the lifeblood of our economy, so I know what a sacrifice that must be. But I have no doubt that it will benefit us all in the long run.

I hope for the day when salmon once again fill Maine's rivers and others throughout the North Atlantic. Thank you so much for your work toward that goal.

Take care.

Annex 4

Opening Statement made by the President of NASCO

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my great pleasure to open the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of NASCO and to welcome you all to Portland.

I would especially like to thank the organising team, particularly Kim Damon-Randall and Rory Saunders, for the arrangements made. I will give the floor to Kim Damon-Randall now to enable her to introduce the Mayor of Portland and our other dignitaries.

Thank you to the senior Senator from Maine, the Honourable Senator Susan Collins, the Honourable Senator Angus King, the Honourable Congresswoman Chellie Pingree and the Mayor of Portland, the Honourable Ethan Strimling, for your warm welcome to Portland and to Maine. Your presence reminds us that we are here because of our belief in the importance of wild Atlantic salmon, and of NASCO's effort to conserve and restore this valuable species.

This is the third time that NASCO has met for its Annual Meeting in the United States; our previous meetings having been held in Washington DC in 1992 and Bar Harbor in 2007. Despite the enormous efforts being made to conserve and restore the wild Atlantic salmon here in Maine the stocks remain endangered. Recent major initiatives, such as the removal of dams on the Penobscot River, are testament to the commitment to this resource. I think you will agree with me that we have to acknowledge those very serious efforts. I am sure we will leave here with a much better appreciation of the very substantial challenges facing salmon here in the United States, but more importantly the commitment to face those challenges by those involved with the wild Atlantic salmon and other co-habiting migratory species.

However, before all that, we have much to consider and a good deal of work to complete. We have a very busy week ahead of us. You will agree with me that the arrangements that have been made here in Portland are first class and should facilitate our work.

Clearly, these are challenging times for the wild Atlantic salmon both here and all around the North Atlantic. The advice from ICES is clear and indicates that abundance remains low; indeed in some areas it is critically low and this can be linked to low survival at sea. In these circumstances we have recognised that our focus must be on those factors which are under our control. With this in mind, NASCO has developed important agreements related to the Organization's three focus areas, namely the management of salmon fisheries, habitat protection and restoration; and aquaculture, introductions and transfers, and transgenics. The Council has recognised the need to improve fairness and balance in the binding regulatory measures adopted for the distant-water fisheries and those taken by States of origin. It has also highlighted the need to improve our own commitment to NASCO's agreements. In 2007, it embarked on the process of developing and evaluating Implementation Plans and it has continued with this rather than considering Convention change, which was one of the recommendations of the External Performance Review.

We have before us a report of the Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of Reports. This Working Group was charged with streamlining and, more importantly, improving the Implementation Plan process. The Group's recommendations

will need to be carefully considered during this week because they will influence NASCO's work for the next five years at least. It is clear to me from this report that the Group considers that the focus for the next cycle of Implementation Plans must be to improve our commitment to the international goals for sea lice and containment and reporting on progress towards the achievement of those goals. I would encourage you to consider the Group's findings carefully and to think about how we can ensure that the third reporting cycle, which will end almost twenty years after we started the Implementation Plan process, can be made as effective as possible and deliver real benefits for the wild Atlantic salmon, which we are committed to conserving. We were encouraged to do this in the recommendations of the External Performance Review. I therefore look forward to productive discussions on the recommendations before us. We will also need to consider the evaluation of the reporting on progress in the penultimate year of the current Implementation Plans.

This week, the Council will also be considering our progress in planning for the International Year of the Salmon. The focal year for the IYS is 2019. I would therefore ask all Parties and our colleagues in the NGOs how you can contribute to this important initiative, which will hopefully lead to greater support for initiatives to conserve and restore wild Atlantic salmon throughout their range.

This year we aim to have important discussions on new regulatory measures in both the West Greenland and North-East Atlantic Commissions. Much preparatory work has been done by the West Greenland Commission in an excellent spirit of co-operation. In the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board we will consider further the ROAM initiative, which was so well received last year. I look forward to hearing about the exciting framework initiated by the Atlantic Salmon Trust and known as the Likely Suspects Framework, which seeks to identify key geographical areas and periods where mortality factors are known or thought to operate and to provide coherent guidance as to how future research on survival can be identified and prioritised.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff of our Secretariat, and in particular our new Secretary, Emma Hatfield, for all the preparations for this meeting as well as the heavy schedule of extraordinary and inter-sessional meetings over the last seven months or so. I am certain that this new team led by Emma will support our work very well this week. As this is Emma's first Annual Meeting, I would like to give her a particularly warm welcome to the NASCO family. Through this international forum, I am convinced that we can make a real difference. I hope that at the end of this week our efforts will deliver real benefits for the wild Atlantic salmon.

That should be the prism through which we view all of our work here in Portland and when we return home.

Thank you for your attention.

Annex 5

Opening Statements submitted by the Parties

Opening Statement submitted by Canada

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

It is a pleasure for the Canadian delegation to participate at this 35th Annual NASCO Meeting in lovely Portland, Maine. My name is Serge Doucet, Head of the Canadian Delegation to NASCO, and Regional Director General for the Gulf Region of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

I would like to commend our host, the United States, for selecting this wonderful venue and the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements.

Atlantic salmon continue to be a very significant cultural, economic and environmental symbol for eastern Canada and a vital species for Indigenous food, social and ceremonial fisheries. The importance of this meeting, and NASCO in general, continues to be reinforced by the situation facing many of our salmon stocks. Despite the implementation of several important management measures to support conservation and stock rebuilding, annual counts of Atlantic salmon in southern Canadian rivers reached some of the lowest returns in recent years. For example, last year in Newfoundland low salmon returns led to a mid-season decision to not permit retention for recreational fishers, a first in that region.

Domestically, Canada has demonstrated a strong commitment to Atlantic salmon conservation both from a policy and an investments perspective. Last year we adopted a new Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy, which was developed collaboratively through a Working Group comprised of 17 indigenous, watershed, and conservation groups. A similar collaborative approach has been undertaken since then to develop a domestic implementation plan for the policy. The Joint Atlantic Salmon Research Venture just completed its second year, engaging with partners in many ways to better understand Atlantic salmon survival at sea as well as increase in-river monitoring of salmon returns in selected rivers.

The conservation and rebuilding of wild Atlantic salmon stocks is a shared responsibility. It is also a continuous and long-term process that requires the concerted efforts of all those involved. As this is a negotiating year for the West Greenland Commission, as well as the North East Atlantic Commission, Canada is committed to working with you this week to reach decisions on regulatory measures that are effective, practical, and above all work to achieve our conservation objectives for wild Atlantic salmon with mutually agreeable catch limits and effective monitoring regimes. We greatly appreciate the extensive work that Greenland has done in recent years; notably eliminating factory landings and ensuring its reported catches respect the limit in place for the last two years. Canada again offers its support to Greenland to ensure the effective implementation of the new regulatory measure and its monitoring, control and surveillance measures throughout 2018 and beyond.

Canada continues to be concerned with Saint Pierre and Miquelon's wild Atlantic salmon harvests which are from mixed-stocks produced exclusively outside its territory, noting in particular the increased number of recreational licences implemented in 2017 and the fact that there is no limit on the number of fish permitted per licence. This is particularly troubling as difficult decisions are being taken in Canada to reduce the limit per recreational licence in some

areas and not permit any retention in others. We continue to encourage France (in respect of SPM) to join NASCO as a formal member, and to implement a comprehensive approach to the management of Atlantic salmon, in accordance with the objectives of NASCO, and in particular the six tenets for effective management.

It is clear that to tackle the challenges facing salmon including climate change, we need ambitious plans, coupled with a fierce commitment to implementation. In addition to the regulatory measures that we will be working to agree on this week, we will need to augment our efforts as Parties and jurisdictions of NASCO via the next round of Implementation Plans. Further, the International Year of the Salmon will be a crucial opportunity to work as a collective of Parties within NASCO and in collaboration with other organizations, scientists and managers to address these challenges together as a global community.

In conclusion, I look forward to working closely with all of you and to a fruitful meeting this week.

Thank you.

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Opening statement submitted by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

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

On behalf of Greenland and The Faroe Islands I would like to begin by thanking our American hosts for arranging this meeting in this beautiful location of Portland, Maine.

Commercial salmon fishery at sea was once of utmost importance both to the Faroe Islands and to Greenland. It was therefore at great expense to our fishing industries that the Faroese and Greenlandic governments decided to take responsibility and refrain from all commercial fishing of wild salmon in our waters with a view to rebuilding the stocks. Still, even though we have stopped commercial salmon fishery, we retain our full rights to conduct fishery in accordance with NASCOs guidelines. Therefore the Faroe Islands have retained the right to practise scientific based catch if need be and Greenland has continued to set a small quota in order to sustain the limited fishery, that has been going on for generations in Greenland and is of high importance namely for the smaller and remote communities. It is not the limited fishery in Greenland that has prevented the recovery of the salmon. Despite the sacrifices made by our commercial salmon fishing industries, we have not seen any significant recovery of the stocks and it must thus be concluded that we need to consider other factors and measures in order to improve the stocks. It is important to focus on all aspects of the lifecycle of the salmon. The river nations must step up and keep their side of the bargain too and create the best possible conditions for rebuilding the salmon stocks. Greenland and the Faroe Islands are of the opinion that it was a step in the right direction to establish a procedure where the Parties now submit a written Annual Progress Report and we appreciate the efforts to revise for the better the format of the reports. The reports show that there is progress in the management of wild salmon, even though we also see examples of different challenges in some jurisdictions. Although there is still room for improvement in the reporting, we want to emphasise the importance of ensuring full transparency on how the Parties manage wild salmon in their rivers and waters. We would

like to take this opportunity to reiterate what we have stated at a number of previous meetings, namely that the best and fairest solution would be if NASCO could regulate fisheries for wild salmon in the home waters of all Parties and jurisdictions of NASCO. Concerning the revised Risk Assessment Framework we can in principle accept this model for the next cycle of ICES advise, though pointing out following the advise not to practise catch does not mean accepting a quota of 0. Salmon farming in the North Atlantic has increased significantly since NASCO was established. The industry has become a central part of the economies of several North Atlantic countries, including the Faroe Islands. The aquaculture industry can pose a threat to the wild salmon stocks, if the industry is not regulated carefully. The impacts of salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon is therefore of great interest to all countries in the region with aquaculture industries, as it is important to implement and maintain high regulation standards in our industry in order to safeguard wild salmon stocks. Mr President, the Faroe Islands and Greenland are looking forward to a productive week in this lovely Holiday Inn by the Bay Hotel and will assure you that we are prepared to work in a constructive way so that we collectively can contribute to a successful outcome of this 35rd Annual NASCO Meeting.

Thank you

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Opening Statement submitted by the European Union

Mr. President, Mrs Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,
The European Union is delighted to attend the 35th Annual Meeting of NASCO in the beautiful city of Portland, Maine. We would like to thank our hosts for their hospitality and for the great arrangements they have made. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for all the hard work that went into the preparation of this meeting and for its outstanding organisation.

Many references have been made before to the NASCO *family*, illustrating how NASCO is much more than just a RFMO, and how its spirit of co-operation and good will allows achieving great things. We are confident that we will once again be able to call on these special attributes to address effectively the many challenges we are facing this week.

During this meeting, NASCO must revisit the regulatory measures for the Northeast Atlantic Commission and the West Greenland Commission. The scientific advice, unfortunately, continues to confirm the declining trends in salmon abundance, observed over many years for populations in the southern part of the species range. Many of these populations are now at critically low abundance levels and in that context their exploitation at sea can have irreversible consequences.

For this reason, EU Member States have engaged, for several years now, in the gradual but regular closure of marine based mixed stocks fisheries. This is a long and arduous process with significant consequences for the coastal communities concerned, but progress continues to be made. These efforts would of course have little benefit if not for the actions taken by our NASCO friends in the Faroe Islands and West Greenland, and in other jurisdictions. We commend Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) for implementing regulatory measures which have provided a lifeline to many of the most threatened southern

stocks. In particular, we are grateful for the efforts made by Greenland to improve the management of its fishery over time and we are looking forward to work with all the parties to continue this process.

Following the assessment of the reporting process under the Implementation Plan, we are mindful that there is a scope for improvement and that the EU has a significant role to play in that process. We are looking forward to move towards adopting new and improved reporting provisions and, at the EU level, to commit additional means to meet our international obligations. We are pleased to report that several EU Member States have indeed started a process of re-organisation of their administrations with a view to enhance their contribution to the work of NASCO.

Finally, we are very pleased to see substantial progress being made on the organisation of the IYS and we are confident that this initiative will indeed have very positive impacts on our work for many years to come. We are very grateful for the hard work of the members of the various committees, and particularly of the Secretariat, for the progress being made.

In conclusion, the European Union is looking forward to work with all the Parties to make this 35th Annual Meeting successful.

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Opening Statement submitted by Norway

Mr President, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of Norway, I would like to thank the USA for hosting the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

In Norway, the pre-fishery abundance of wild Atlantic salmon runs stays reduced by more than half compared to historic levels. One of the main reasons still seems to be reduced survival at sea. However, local and regional differences indicate that adverse human impacts strongly influence the development and status of stocks.

The fishery regulations adopted over the last decade or so have - to a large extent - compensated for reduced salmon runs. Therefore, overexploitation is no longer considered a major threat to larger populations. In River Tana, angling and traditional fisheries are reduced on both sides of the border as a result of the new bilateral agreement. Previously adopted reductions in bag- and bend net fisheries to further protect Tana stocks will come in to force in Finnmark county from 2018.

The efforts to eradicate the salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* have had good results in recent years. Of a total of 50 infected rivers, 32 are treated and successfully eradicated, 11 are treated, but the result are still not confirmed and 7 river are still infected. After eradicating the parasite, the local salmon stocks are re-built from the gene bank. In 2017 ten rivers from the Lærdal region and the Vefsna region, were declared parasite free. In three more regions the eradication programs are completed, leaving just two regions still untreated. In the Driva region, a large fish barrier has been built preventing salmon from migrating upstream, and thereby reduce the infected area as a preparation for chemical treatment. In the Drammen region, an expert group has concluded that eradication is possible with known methods.

The Norwegian Government has decided to build a new live gene bank to try to rescue the remains of 15-17 stocks of salmon and sea-trout from the Hardanger region in Western Norway. Impacts from aquaculture activities are the main triggering factor for the decision.

The classification of wild salmon stocks following the Norwegian Quality Norm has continued, and now comprises 188 rivers representing 91 % of the total spawning target in Norway. Despite all the previously mentioned efforts the results show that only 20 percent of the stocks are within the norm requirements of good or very good status. A plan for improvement is in preparation.

As in previous years, we are looking forward to this year`s special sessions and are confident that they will prove valuable for our work. Furthermore we consider the final outcomes of the process regarding next period of implementation plans and reporting cycle as very important.

At last, the Norwegian delegation would like to thank USA and the whole Secretariat for the excellent preparations, and look forward to a productive and successful meeting.

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Opening Statement submitted by the Russian Federation

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen!

I am pleased on behalf of the Russian Delegation and the Federal Agency for Fisheries, representing the Russian Government in NASCO, to greet all participants of the Thirty Fifth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

First of all I would like to use this opportunity to express my appreciation of the cordial welcome and excellent arrangements for this meeting provided by our American hosts here in Portland, Maine, USA.

A lot of important work lies ahead of us, and we are confident, that decisions of this meeting will be for the benefit of our collective course with the main objective of conservation of the pearl of our rivers, the Atlantic salmon, for future generations.

Mr. President, my delegation is looking forward to a very productive meeting and to working closely with you and all the Parties during this week.

Thank you!

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U.S. Opening Statement to NASCO

Mr. President, Secretary Hatfield, Assistant Secretary Robinson, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The United States is pleased to host the 35th annual meeting of NASCO here in Portland, Maine. We sincerely hope you enjoy your time in this lovely city and wonderful State.

Atlantic salmon in the United States remain critically endangered; the only remaining native populations are here in Maine. We will be very pleased to show many of you the steps we are taking to recover these populations and protect the ecosystems they depend on later this week during the NASCO salmon study tour.

Already this week, the West Greenland Commission (WGC) held an important intersessional meeting, the third this year, to continue discussions on a potential regulatory measure for the interceptory, mixed stock fishery at West Greenland. We look forward to further collaborations with our WGC colleagues to finalize this important work. This week, we are also looking forward to discussing the management of other interceptory, mixed stock fisheries that take critically endangered populations of U.S. origin Atlantic salmon.

I am pleased to report that we have made significant progress with our Species in the Spotlight and the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiatives since we last met. These initiatives help us ensure that our message about Atlantic salmon recovery and conservation reach the widest possible audience throughout the United States. Through these efforts, we have already successfully achieved much needed visibility and support for Atlantic salmon recovery in the United States. The special session on IYS on Wednesday will be a great opportunity to exchange ideas on how to collectively move this initiative forward to achieve the greatest success.

We are also looking forward to the special session on the annual progress reports and hearing from the Working Group on future reporting. The United States remains committed to the continued improvement to this important process. It is essential for ensuring transparency and accountability in our efforts to conserve wild Atlantic salmon and to ensure we live up to our international obligations under the Convention. We urge everyone to take full advantage of the opportunity that the special session on annual progress reports presents. The current round of reporting has shown us what is working and what needs improvement. We hope we can build on those lessons to further enhance the transparency of NASCO and improve implementation of and accountability with NASCO agreements by its members.

In closing, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the work of our new Secretary, Emma Hatfield, Assistant Secretary, Sarah Robinson and the rest of the Secretariat staff. Emma and Sarah, you have done a great job of getting up to speed on the many challenging issues facing NASCO in a very short amount of time. The United States cannot say enough about the administrative and logistical support you have given us in preparing for this important meeting. Thank you for your hard work and all your contributions toward our collective efforts to conserve wild Atlantic salmon.

Thank you.

Annex 6

Opening Statements by Inter-Governmental Organizations

Opening Statement by the President of NPAFC

Distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, let me extend my gratitude to the Honorable President Mr. Jóannes Hansen and Secretary Dr. Emma Hatfield for the invitation to the 35th NASCO Annual Meeting. On behalf of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), which is the sister organization of NASCO, I congratulate you on this Annual Meeting in the beautiful city of Portland, Maine.

It is my great honor and pleasure to talk at the 35th Annual Meeting of NASCO today at what is my first official function as incoming President of the NPAFC. I came from the Pacific Ocean where many species of anadromous fish have resided for millennia. The NPAFC was founded to promote the conservation of Pacific salmon and steelhead trout in the international waters of the North Pacific Ocean and its adjacent seas north of 33° North beyond the 200-mile EEZs of the coastal States, Canada, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and United States of America.

Distinguished guests,
Since 1993, the NPAFC has greatly contributed to effective conservation and management of anadromous fish in the North Pacific. Also, the NPAFC has conducted extensive activities for scientific purposes under national and joint research programs. The member countries co-operate in collecting, reporting, and exchanging biostatistical data, biological samples, fisheries data, and organizing scientific communications, such as seminars, workshops, exchanges of scientific personnel, and publications. The members provide catch, enhancement, and other technical information and material.

Salmon are an important biological, cultural and economic resource throughout the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and the Baltic Sea (collectively referred to as the 'salmosphere'). There is a need to advance understanding and awareness of the issues facing salmon around the salmosphere, and this requires implementation of a programme of new research, collaboration and outreach. Hence, this is where the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative came into place.

I am pleased that the IYS, a long-term initiative with an overall theme of 'salmon and people in a changing world', has been implemented by our two organizations since 2016 to study salmon ecology and to raise public understanding and awareness of the challenges facing salmon under climate change. It is an international framework for a collaborative partnership in outreach and research and through our collaboration we will be able to achieve more than we could as isolated Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (RFMO). I believe the IYS will serve a model to ensure RFMO's remain relevant in a dramatically changing world.

Distinguished guests,
Recently, our two organizations have strengthened our relationship by developing greater understanding of our respective cultures and priorities through face-to-face meetings of our two Presidents, the IYS Technical Team and the IYS Coordinating Committee. As a result of this investment we have been able to make notable progress in our implementation of the IYS,

in particular in relation to the website, key messages, and planning for outreach and planning. I am particularly pleased with progress on joint effort in relation to the Likely Suspects, ROAM and Outreach Workshops that benefitted from hemispheric collaboration. I would like to flag the value in pushing forward in our efforts to collaborate on joint research planning. Mr. Saunders and I benefitted already from productive discussions on shared research priorities with the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and the Science Advisory Group who met in the days leading up to this meeting.

For the success of IYS, the prosperity of two organizations and the conservation of salmon we look for continuing and increased collaboration to ensure our relationship remains strong and able to support the IYS in the short term and joint work long into the future. Mr. Mark Saunders, the IYS Director for the Pacific, joins me this week and we look forward to much formal and informal discussion related to the IYS. I personally look forward to learning more broadly about NASCO, its issues, its procedures and most importantly its people. I wish you well in your deliberations and hope for meaningful results for the conservation of anadromous fish stocks in the Atlantic and across our planet.

Thank you.

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Opening Statement by the Executive Secretary of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO)

President, Parties, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,
It is a great pleasure for me to attend your Annual Meeting.

As you are aware, NASCO and NAFO have a lot in common. The Convention areas of NASCO and NAFO overlap; all NASCO Parties are also NAFO Contracting Parties; and both NASCO and NAFO are dedicated to the long-term conservation and sustainable use of the fishery resources for which each are responsible.

NASCO and NAFO already co-operate in many ways, including the informal sharing of information on IUU fishing, and NAFO is open to do more. This co-operation is in line with addressing growing concerns for more co-ordination amongst all the various actors on the high seas with the aim to further the conservation and sustainable use of its marine biological resources, and with calls for more international governance in this regard. In this context, I should mention the process to develop an international legally binding instrument under UNCLOS on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction – the so-called BBNJ process – on which negotiations for such an agreement have begun this year.

Again, Mr. President, I am very pleased to attend your Annual Meeting and I wish you all every success.

Thank you!

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Opening Statement by the representative of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)

Mr President, Madame Secretary, Mayor, delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide an opening statement on behalf of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) at this the 35th Annual Meeting of NASCO.

By way of background EIFAAC is a statutory, advisory fishery body under the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Established in 1957, it is an inter-governmental forum for collaboration and information exchange on inland fisheries and aquaculture across European countries. EIFAAC has currently 34 members including the European Union.

Governments, institutions and agencies, including NASCO, can benefit from international advice derived from the EIFAAC's network linking policy-makers, managers, scientists and others working on inland fisheries and aquaculture issues.

EIFAAC's mission is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities through:

- providing advice and information
- encouraging enhanced stakeholder participation and communication; and
- the delivery of effective research

EIFAAC has currently active project groups looking at a number of prioritised research areas that maybe of interest to NASCO parties, these include:

- the monitoring the performance of fish passes; developing CEN standard
- the development of advice on sustainable management actions on cormorant populations
- the welfare of fishes in aquaculture
- the downstream passage of fish at hydropower dams

Another EIFAAC project, supported by the Polish Government, last year delivered a symposium on Adapting Inland Fisheries to Climate Change. This symposium supported a discussion between stakeholders, including anglers, managers, scientists, and legislators on the future of recreational fisheries in an era of climate change.

EIFAAC and NASCO share the common goal of wild Atlantic salmon conservation while respecting the social, economic and cultural value of this unique species. EIFAAC is well positioned to offer expert advice and support to NASCO on issues affecting the Atlantic salmon in the freshwater element of its lifecycle.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hosts and facilitators for their wonderful welcome to Portland, Maine and for the facilities and hospitality provided. Finally, may I wish all of you a productive an enjoyable NASCO session.

Dr. Cathal Gallagher – EIFAAC Chair

Annex 7

Opening Statement by the delegation of France in respect of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon (SPM)

Mr President, distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen

The delegation of France in respect of SPM would like first to thank our American hosts for inviting the Annual Meeting of NASCO in the city of Portland, on the beautiful coast of Maine, and also to thank the secretariat for the preparation of the meeting. We look forward to working with the new Secretary Dr Hatfield.

After last year's meeting in Varberg, the President wrote to the French minister of agriculture with a copy to the minister of overseas territories. Careful consideration was given to this letter by the Cabinets, and it was finally proposed to answer that although France would not join NASCO as a member, efforts would be continued to improve the management of the fishery of wild salmon in concertation with the fishermen. The issue was also discussed with the new préfet of SPM.

As a result, the official response was sent ahead of the 35th Annual Meeting along with the annual report.

My delegation, which includes our scientist Herlé Goraguer for his fourth participation and deputy head of maritime affairs Marie-Lenaick Tabart, is ready for discussions in Council and in the North American Commission in an open and transparent manner.

We wish all participants good work for this week.

Thank you.

Annex 8

Opening Statement by NASCO's accredited Non-Government Organizations

Mr President, Heads of Delegation, Secretary, Delegates and Colleagues – may the NGOs begin by thanking our American hosts for arranging what we are sure will be a lively and informative meeting covering the major issues concerning the protection and conservation of wild Atlantic salmon, and also to the Secretariat for their organisation. There is much important business to discuss, not least because the abundance of wild salmon stocks is low and, in some areas, including here in the US, critically low. This deteriorating situation for the wild fish will require that stronger measures be implemented urgently by all Parties to achieve the international goals adopted unanimously by NASCO.

Mr President, the NGOs stress once again that NASCO's role is to conserve wild Atlantic salmon and its genetic diversity – it is not about protecting salmon farming or any other industry that has a significant impact on wild fish stocks. Unfortunately, there are still Parties at this table which fail to abide by that basic tenet of NASCO membership, and this has to stop now!

This meeting will discuss the current state of North Atlantic salmon stocks and then work with Greenland and the Faroe Islands to set binding regulatory measures for their fisheries for the next three years. Both countries have made considerable sacrifices recently to protect wild salmon, for which the NGOs commend them, and we look to all parties now to do likewise – that is what Article 9 of our Convention requires and the Implementation Plan process seeks to provide that fairness and balance. All Parties must share in salmon conservation, yet some at this table still continue to exploit mixed stock fisheries around their coasts, inevitably killing fish which have been saved at either Greenland or the Faroe Islands, and in some instances those salmon are migrating to natal rivers in other countries. This is unacceptable if we are to oversee a fair and transparent management policy in all jurisdictions.

This was the major concern for NGOs when we contributed to NASCO's Next Steps process, and why we now consider the Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports so important to the management and conservation of wild salmon. We should not forget, Mr President, that the 2012 External Performance Review of NASCO's work recommended Convention change, and that Council committed to an improved IP / APR process instead. We have the opportunity at this meeting to ensure that the third IP / APR cycle is significantly more effective than the previous two, and we urge Council to commit to the necessary improvements with, as the Working Group unanimously agreed, a clear focus on salmon farming and significantly improved commitment to the international goals for sea lice and containment. The NGOs believe that the current proposals for this third cycle, although improving on the first two cycles, could be even further enhanced. Failure to do so will surely mean that recommendations for Convention change would be the outcome of the next external performance review?

The NGOs are very conscious that there are issues, such as climate-change induced marine mortality, over which fishery managers have little or no influence. It is therefore vital that we prioritise those issues over which we do have influence and commit to effective management actions that target the achievement of the internationally agreed goals. This is the only transparent way in which Parties can be held to account under a revised IP / APR process.

We believe that, apart from the negotiations for new regulatory measures, a major outstanding issue which is not currently being addressed by NASCO parties but is a major threat to wild

salmon over the next 5 years, is open-net salmon farming. This is an absolute priority for NGOs but, significantly and as previously indicated, also the unanimous view of the Implementation Plan Working Group, which comprised representatives from all Parties. Mr President, the NGOs believe it is totally unacceptable that Parties at this table allow 30% wild smolt mortality attributable to sea lice, or to only invoke regulatory measures when there is an average of at least 8 female lice per farmed fish, or to approve massive new projects in areas where wild salmon are threatened, without invoking legally-mandated environmental assessment processes. Yet these are policies in place today. The Faroe Islands have not only shown great responsibility in following ICES advice in ceasing their long-line fishery for the past 18 years, but their regulatory measures for salmon farms far exceed those in any other European country and yet they have no wild salmon stocks of their own to protect. We urge all Parties with salmon farming industries to look very closely at the Faroe Island's policy and treat this as an absolute minimum.

In the longer term, the NGOs believe that the only way for salmon farming to be conducted in a truly environmentally sustainable manner is to require the use of production facilities which create a physical and biological barrier between wild and farmed fish. We do not presume to tell fish farmers how to farm, but the only conceivable way we feel that NASCO's and ISFA's jointly agreed international goals can be achieved is by moving to closed containment production, and the Parties at this table must have a role to play in incentivising such a move.

In summary, Mr President, the NGOs urge the Parties to take the major decisions necessary at this meeting that commit all of us, not just the few, to the genuine protection and conservation of wild Atlantic salmon, and to the transparent and meaningful annual reporting of actions which target the achievement of NASCO's goals. We look forward to playing a full part in the proceedings.

Annex 9

Opening statement by the Sámi Parliament of Norway

Salmon fishing is a traditional livelihood for many Sámi in the northern region of our territory, as it is for numerous other indigenous communities around the world. For the Sámi Parliament of Norway, known as the Sámediggi in northern sami, it is important to emphasise that wild salmon are a natural resource that is crucial to the cultural and economic activities of the Sámi. Our people are dependent on healthy wild salmon stocks, and we have a vital interest in protecting the wild salmon for future generations.

Sámi industries have long traditions of managing natural resources in a sustainable manner. Indigenous peoples in general often possess very useful information about rivers and the sea that could also be beneficial for salmon management. The Sámi Parliament underscores the importance of identifying and systematising such knowledge. A modern approach to salmon management involves science-based management combined with local and traditional knowledge. This should also be acknowledged by NASCO.

The Sámi Parliament strongly underscores the urgent need to implement special measures to protect sea salmon fishing. Sea salmon fishing is a small Sámi industry, but it is an important bearer of language and culture. The Sámi Parliament has noted a formidable decline in traditional sea salmon fishing in terms of both the number of fishing grounds and the number of fishermen left. The Sámi Parliament finds the current salmon regulations to be so restrictive that they threaten the very existence of sea salmon fishing. This has been the situation since 2008. In fact, the Sámi Parliament has withheld its endorsement of the current fishing regulations, insisting that the Ministry of the Environment ensures that rightsholders are involved along with the Sámi Parliament in the work to regulate salmon fishing in Nord-Troms and Finnmark Counties.

More importance must be attached to the indigenous perspective in the assessments made by NASCO. The Sámi Parliament welcomes the parties to NASCO to recognise that indigenous peoples have a need for protection of our traditional way of life, precisely because the correlation between the practice of culture and traditional salmon fishing is especially strong.

The Sámi have nevertheless largely been excluded from consultations on the new fishing agreement in the River Tana, despite the fact that the Sámi Parliament in Norway and the Saami Parliament in Finland were nominated as members of the national delegations to the negotiations. This is considered one of the gravest violations of Sámi rights in relation to salmon fisheries for decades.

Shortly before we left for this NASCO meeting, Norway's Minister of Fisheries stated that the export of Norwegian seafood, which is largely based on salmon-farming, will multiply many times over in future. This raises questions about challenges such as salmon lice, fish farm escapees and the risk of salmon diseases infecting wild salmon in rivers located near fish farms. The Sámi Parliament is of the opinion that better assessments must be made to determine which areas hold the greatest potential for industrial growth and which areas should give priority to the protection of wild salmon. Our experience is that it is no longer possible to maintain healthy stocks of wild salmon near large-scale salmon-farming operations. When permits are considered for the establishment of new fish farms, the rights to traditional salmon fishing in the areas must be taken into account, especially if the fishing grounds may be affected.

The Sámi Parliament believes that NASCO can help improve management processes in future by including the indigenous perspective in NASCO's guidelines. It is important that indigenous peoples themselves take part in the development of international law, not least with a view to understanding the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean.

Annex 10

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Annex 11

CNL(18)48

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting

2. Adoption of the Agenda

3. Election of Officers

4. Financial and Administrative Issues

4.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

5.1 Secretary's Report

5.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2017

5.3 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

5.4 Scientific Advice from ICES

5.5 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

5.6 Review of the Procedures Relating to the Work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group

5.7 Report of the Standing Scientific Committee

6. Report of the Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of Reports

7. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach

7.1 Special Session: Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 - 2018 Implementation Plans

7.2 Special Session: Progress Reports on Planning for the International Year of the Salmon

7.3 Progress in Implementing the 'Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO', CNL(13)38

7.4 Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

7.5 New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management

7.6 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

7.7 Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

7.8 Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions

8. Other Business

9. Date and Place of Next Meeting

10. Report of the Meeting

11. Press Release

12. Close of the Meeting

Annex 12

CNL(18)40

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
2019 Budget and 2020 Forecast Budget (Pounds Sterling)

		Budget 2019	Forecast 2020
	Expenditure		
1.	Staff-related costs	341,750	352,100
2.	Travel and subsistence	37,000	26,750
3.	Research and advice	69,000	71,000
4.	Contribution to Working Capital Fund	0	0
5.	Meetings	12,500	47,500
6.	Office supplies, printing and translation	29,500	29,500
7.	Communications	19,500	19,500
8.	Headquarters Property	44,250	43,000
9.	Office furniture and equipment	6,500	13,500
10.	Audit and other expenses	11,500	12,000
11.	Tag Return Incentive Scheme	4,500	4,500
12.	International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund	0	0
13.	Contribution to Contractual Obligation Fund	35,000	35,000
14.	Contribution to Recruitment Fund	5,000	5,000
15.	Contribution to IYS Fund	20,000	0
	Total Expenditure	**636,000**	**659,350**
	Income		
16.	Contributions - Contracting Parties	585,000	608,350
17.	General Fund – Interest	1,000	1,000
18.	Income from Headquarters Property	50,000	50,000
19.	Surplus or Deficit (-) from 2017	0	0
	Total Income	**636,000**	**659,350**

2019 Budget & 2020 Forecast Budget (Pounds Sterling) - Expenditure by Sub-section

		Draft 2019	Forecast 2020
1.	**Staff related costs**		
1.1	Secretariat members	227,150	234,000
1.2	Temporary and part-time staff costs	32,800	33,800
1.3	Staff Fund, allowances, insurances and other costs	81,800	84,300
	Total	**341,750**	**352,100**
2.	**Travel & subsistence**		
2.1	Travel to Annual Meeting	12,000	1,000
2.2	Official travel and subsistence	25,000	25,750
	Total	**37,000**	**26,750**
3.	**Research and advice**		
3.1	Contribution to ICES	69,000	71,000
3.2	Other research & advice	0	0
	Total	**69,000**	**71,000**
4.	**Contribution to Working Capital Fund**	0	0
5.	**Meetings**		
5.1	Costs of annual meeting	5,000	40,000
5.2	Costs of other meetings	7,500	7,500
	Total	**12,500**	**47,500**
6.	**Office supplies, printing and translation**		
6.1	Office supplies	19,000	19,000
6.2	Printing	8,000	8,000
6.3	Translations	2,500	2,500
	Total	**29,500**	**29,500**
7.	**Communications**		
7.1	Telecommunications	4,500	4,500
7.2	Postage and courier services	3,500	3,500
7.3	IT Support & Website	11,500	11,500
7.4	Communications, professional support and design	0	0
	Total	**19,500**	**19,500**
8.	**Headquarters Property**		
8.1	Capital and interest payments	0	0
8.2	Maintenance, services and other building related costs	44,250	43,000
	Total	**44,250**	**43,000**
9.	**Office furniture and equipment**		
9.1	Furniture	0	1,500
9.2	Equipment	6,500	12,000
	Total	**6,500**	**13,500**
10.	**Audit and other expenses**		
10.1	Audit and accountancy fees	6,500	7,000
10.2	Bank charges and insurances	1,000	1,000
10.3	Miscellaneous	4,000	4,000
	Total	**11,500**	**12,000**
11.	**Tag Return Incentive Scheme**	**4,500**	**4,500**
12.	**Contribution to IASRF**	**0**	**0**
13.	**Contribution to Contractual Obligation Fund**	**35,000**	**35,000**
14.	**Contribution to Recruitment Fund**	**5,000**	**5,000**
15.	**Contribution to IYS Fund**	**20,000**	**0**
	Total Expenditure	**636,000**	**659,350**

2018 Budget Contributions (Pounds Sterling) Adjusted for Confirmed rather than Provisional 2016 Catches (tonnes)

Party	2016 catch (provisional)	2016 catch (confirmed)	2018 contribution (provisional)	2018 contribution (confirmed)	Adjustment
Canada	135	135	81,169	81,169	0
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	27	26	39,930	39,548	-382
European Union	256	257	127,371	127,753	382
Norway	612	612	263,307	263,307	0
Russian Federation	56	56	51,003	51,003	0
USA	0	0	29,620	29,620	0
Total	**1,086**	**1,086**	**592,400**	**592,400**	**0**

Note: A positive adjustment represents an underpayment in 2018.

NASCO Budget Contributions for 2019 and Forecast Budget Contributions for 2020 (Pounds Sterling)

Party	2017 catch (provisional)	2019 contribution	Adjustment from 2018	2019 adjusted contribution	2020 forecast contribution
Canada	112	71,954	0	71,954	74,826
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	28	39,926	-382	39,544	41,520
European Union	223	114,277	382	114,658	118,838
Norway	664	282,423	0	282,423	293,696
Russian Federation	47	47,170	0	47,170	49,053
USA	0	29,250	0	29,250	30,418
Total	**1,074**	**585,000**	**0**	**585,000**	**608,350**

Contributions are based on the official returns.
Column totals in both tables can be in error by a few pounds due to rounding.

Five-year NASCO Budgeted Expenditure and Income Projections 2019 – 2023

		2019	Forecast 2020	Forecast 2021	Forecast 2022	Forecast 2023
	Expenditure					
1.	Staff related costs	341,750	352,100	362,663	373,543	384,749
2.	Travel & Subsistence	37,000	26,750	35,000	37,000	39,000
3.	Research & advice	69,000	71,000	72,500	74,000	76,000
4.	Contribution to Working Capital	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Meetings	12,500	47,500	13,000	13,500	14,000
6.	Office supplies, printing and translations	29,500	29,500	30,000	31,000	31,000
7.	Communications	19,500	19,500	20,500	21,500	21,500
8.	Headquarters Property	44,250	43,000	43,000	43,500	44,000
9.	Office furniture & equipment	6,500	13,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
10.	Audit & other expenses	11,500	12,000	62,500	12,500	13,000
11.	Tag return incentive scheme	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
12.	International Cooperative Research	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Contribution to Contractual Obligation Fund	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000	35,000
14.	Contribution to Recruitment Fund	5,000	5,000	0	0	0
15.	Contribution to IYS Fund	20,000	0	0	0	0
	Total	**636,000**	**659,350**	**685,163**	**652,543**	**669,249**
	Income					
16.	Contributions of Contracting Parties	585,000	608,350	634,163	601,543	618,249
17.	Interest Received on General Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
18.	Income from HQ property	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
	Total	**636,000**	**659,350**	**685,163**	**652,543**	**669,249**

sal.oth.nasco

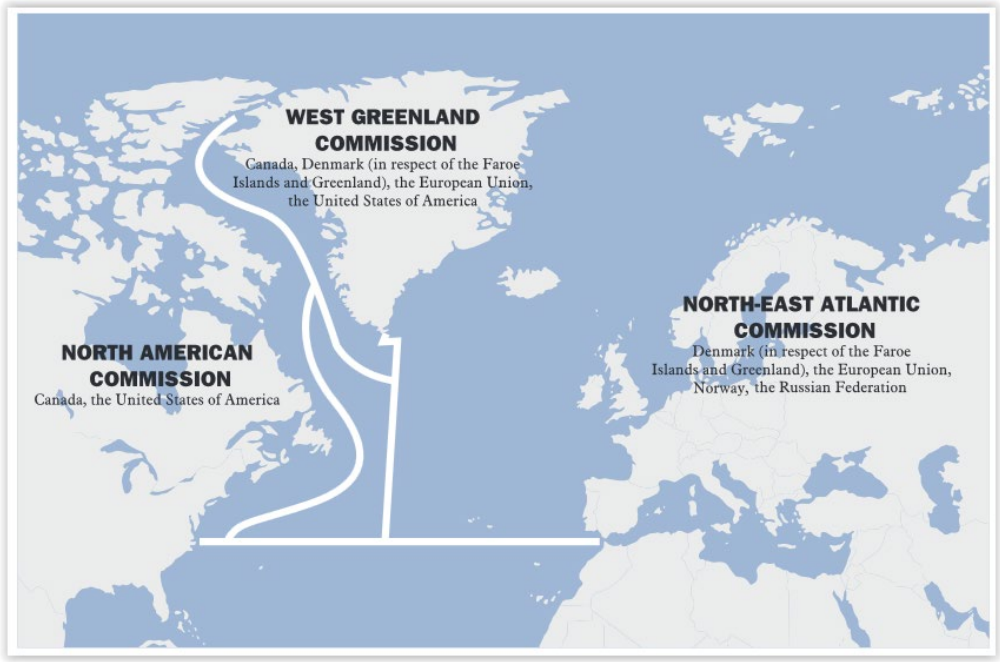
North Atlantic Salmon Stocks

ICES
CIEM
Science for sustainable seas

Background

Management framework for Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic

- NASCO's three Commission areas:
  - North American (NAC)
  - North-East Atlantic (NEAC)
  - West Greenland (WGC)



ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS)

- WGNAS: ICES working group responsible for the annual salmon assessment and formulating catch advice for NASCO
  - Woods Hole, USA, 4–13 April 2018
  - 27 participants
  - 12 countries
  - 36 working documents

Terms of Reference

1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:

1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings by country, including unreported catches and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2017;

1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management;

1.3 provide a review of examples of successes and failures in wild salmon restoration and rehabilitation and develop a classification of activities which could be recommended under various conditions or threats to the persistence of populations;

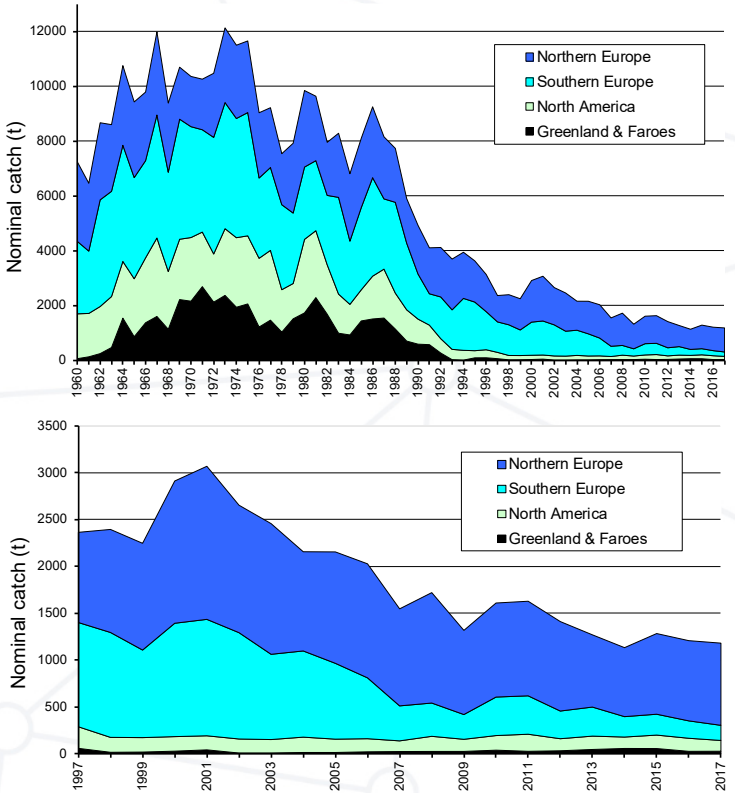
1.4 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2017; and

1.5 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

1.1 Nominal Catches

- total nominal catch for 2017: 1182 t
  - whole weight of fish caught and retained (harvest)
  - salmon caught and released are not included
  - 1960-2017 (sal.oth.nasco: Figure 1)
  - second lowest in the time-series, after 2014

Area	Catch (t)			
	2014	2015	2016	2017
NEAC	954	1083	1041	1039 (88%)
NAC	122	144	140	115 (10%)
WGC	58	57	27	28 (2%)
Total	1134	1284	1208	1182

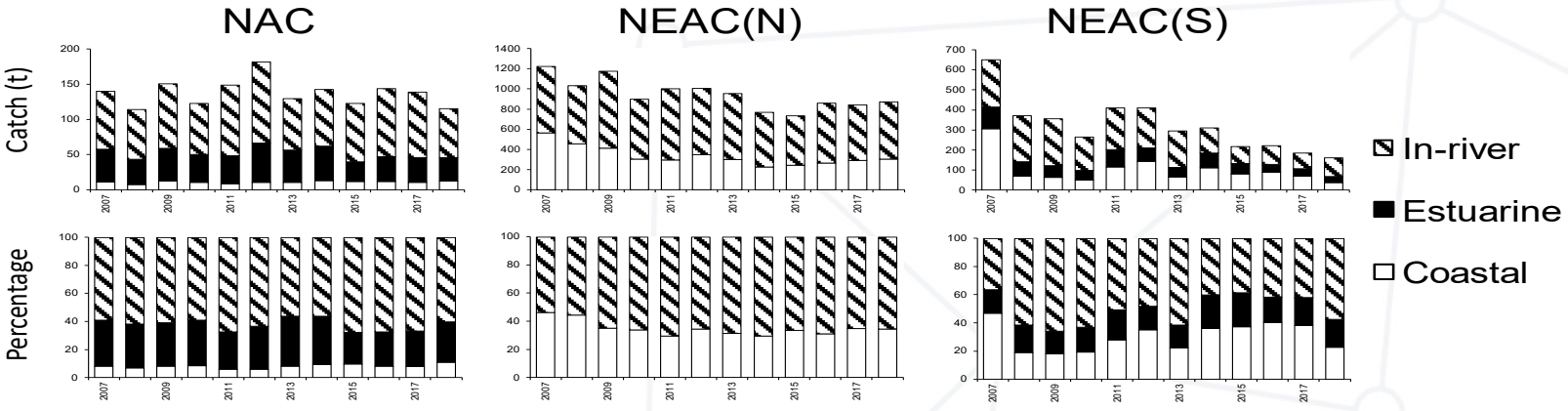


1.1 Location of Catches

Location of catches (sal.oth.nasco: Figure 2):

	% In-River	% Estuarine	% Coastal
NEAC :	64	3	33
NAC:	60	29	11
WGC:	0	0	100

- location of catches by country in sal.oth.nasco: Figure 3



1.1 Unreported Catches

- Total unreported catch in NASCO areas in 2017 was estimated at 353 t
  - 30% of total nominal catch
  - NEAC: 318 t
  - NAC: 25 t
  - WGC: 10 t
  - no estimate for Russia, France, Spain, and St. Pierre and Miquelon in 2017

sal.oth.nasco: Table 3

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
NEAC	433	317	357	382	363	272	256	298	298	318
NAC	-*	16	26	29	31	24	21	17	27	25
WGC	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Total	443	343	393	421	403	306	287	325	335	353

* Data not available for Canada in 2008

1.1 Catch and Release (C&R)

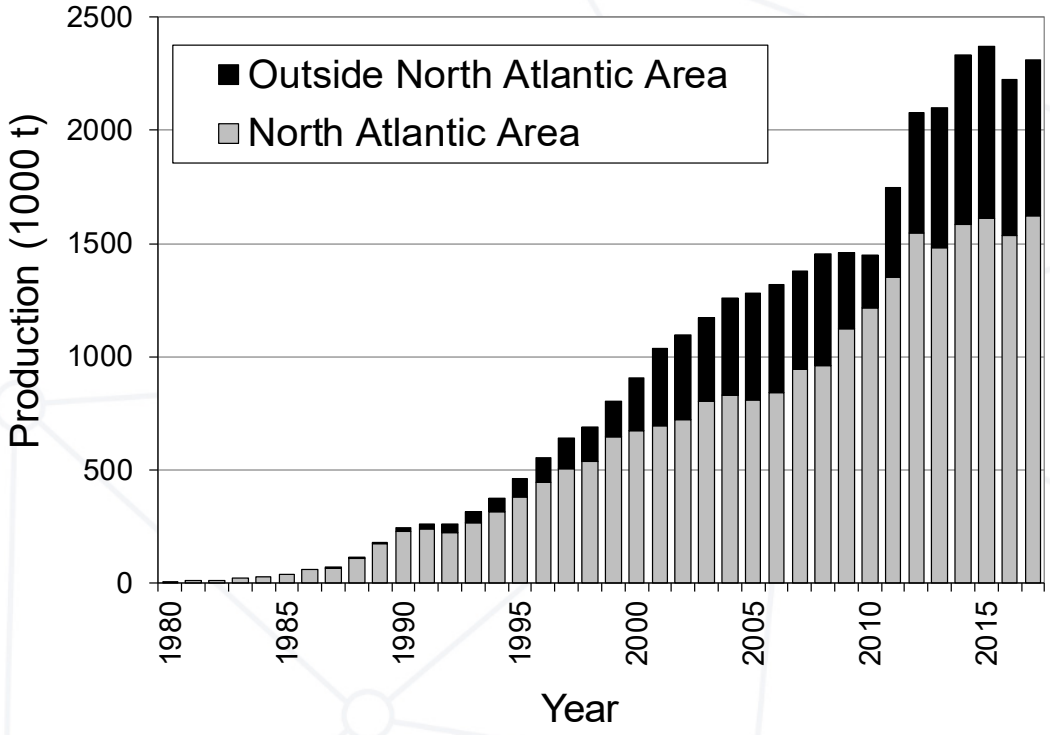
- 2017 C&R reported: 179 000 salmon (sal.oth.nasco Table 9)
  - Percentage of handled fish released ranged from 15% in Sweden to 90% in UK (Scotland)
  - Reflects varying management practices and angler attitudes
  - Practice of C&R generally increasing over time
- No catch and release restrictions in most countries
- C&R mortality used in some national assessments (WGNAS 2009 Section 2.6)

1.1 Production Farmed Salmon

- North Atlantic
  - 2017: 1624 kt (2016: 1535 kt)
  - Norway (80%)
  - UK (Scotland) (11%)

- Worldwide
  - 2017: 2310 kt
  - > 2 million t since 2012
  - Chile (78%)

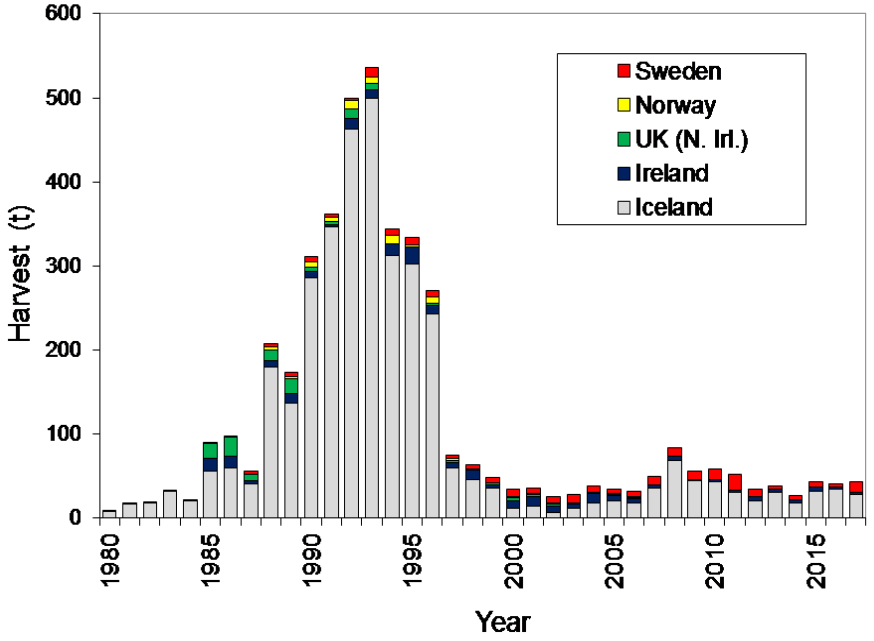
sal.oth.nasco: Figure 4



1.1 Production Ranched Salmon

- Ranched
  - 2017: 42 t

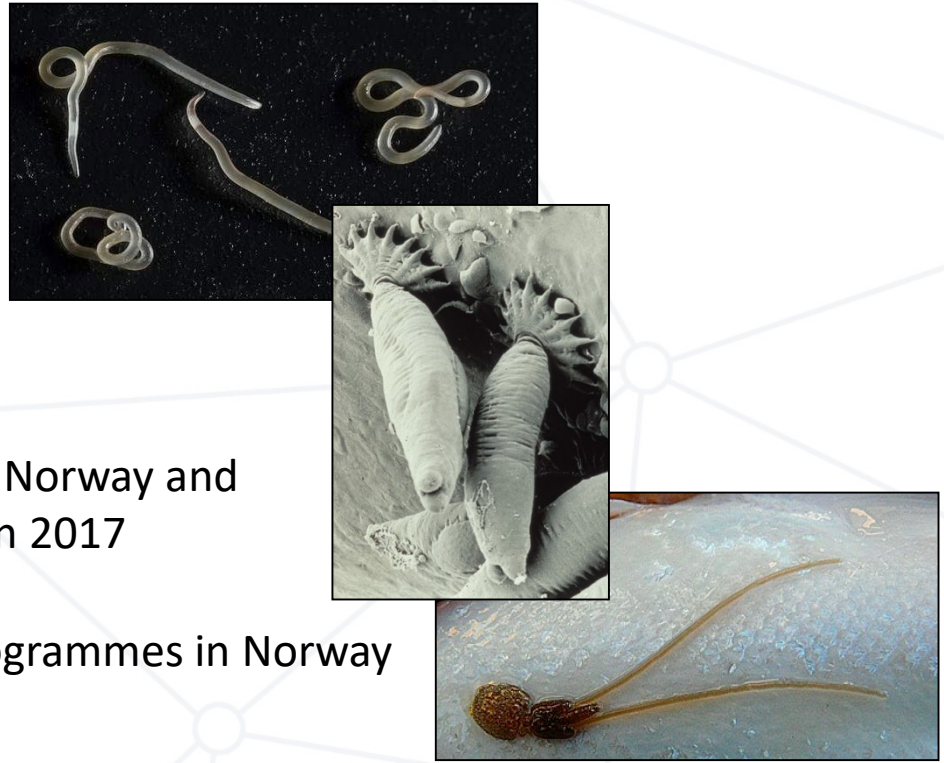
    (Iceland 67%, Sweden 29%, and Ireland 4%)
- No estimate for Norway, generally < 1 t
- UK (N. Ireland) not assessed since 2008



1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Diseases and Parasites - Updates

- Red vent syndrome (RVS, *Anisakiasis*) monitoring UK (England and Wales)
- Continued presence (since 2014) of undiagnosed diseased salmon in Sweden
- *Gyrodactylus salaris* eradication program in Norway and confirmed presence in two rivers in Russia in 2017
- Sea lice investigations and management programmes in Norway



1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Environmental and ecosystem interactions with Atlantic salmon

Information provided on:

- Consequences of poor juvenile recruitment in UK (England & Wales) observed in 2016
  - poor one-year old smolt run in 2017 and may result in lower two-year-old smolt run in 2018
  - juvenile recruitment in 2017 better than 2016
- Interaction with striped bass in eastern Canada
  - 5000 spawners in mid-1990s to one million in 2017
  - expansion beyond historical range in 2017
  - predation rate on salmon smolt estimated at 2.6% to 19.9% (Daniels et. al., in press)

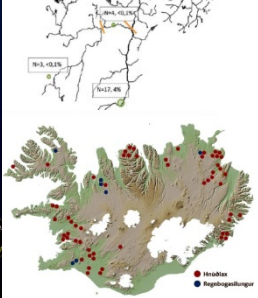
1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Environmental and ecosystem interactions with Atlantic salmon

- Pink salmon observations in the North Atlantic area in 2017 at previously unrecorded levels

- many countries around North Atlantic on wide geographic scale

- Developing risk assessment in some countries (e.g. UK, Norway, Ireland)

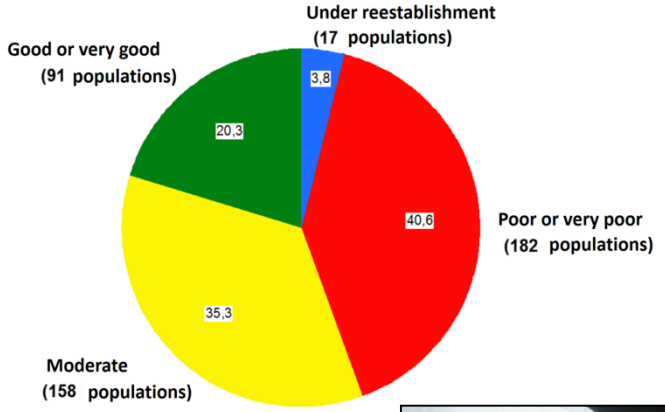


1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

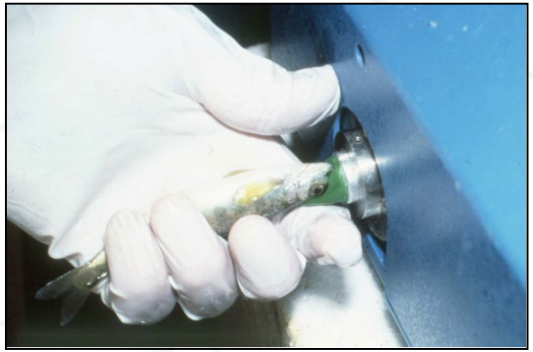
Opportunities for salmon conservation and management

Project updates

- Progress with implementing the Quality Norm for Norwegian salmon populations
  - classified all salmon rivers in 2018 (n=448)



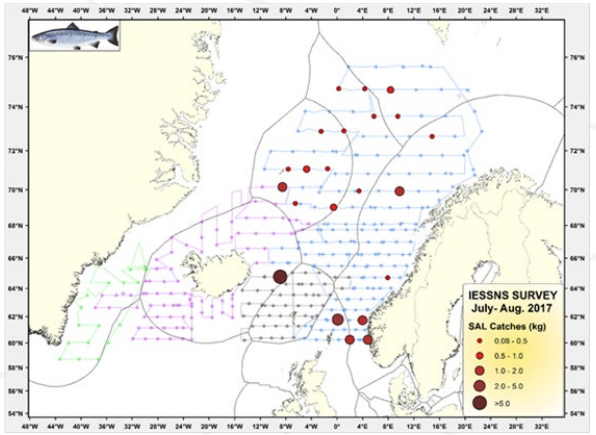
- Impact of capture and tagging smolt
  - recent investigations on the River Frome (UK) provided evidence that the impact of smolt tagging was negligible in many years, and the results support ongoing investigations to derive marine return rates in support of national and international stock assessments



1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Opportunities for salmon conservation and management

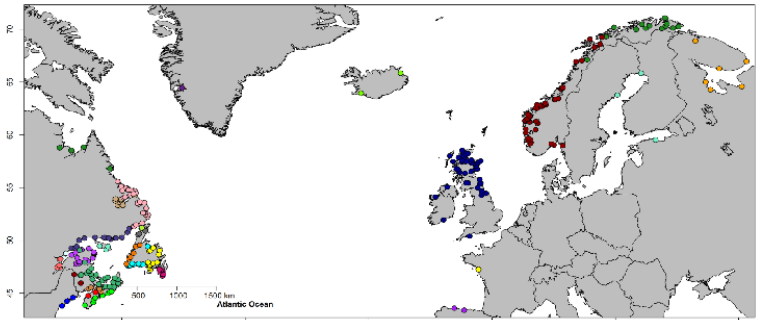
- Update on opportunities for investigating salmon at sea
  - International Ecosystem Summer Survey of the Nordic Seas (IESSNS): 36 salmon in 2017
  - Screening program for bycatch in the Icelandic mackerel fishery: 847 salmon since 2010
  - Environmental DNA (eDNA): information on bycatch in pelagic fisheries by testing for salmon DNA in water from commercial landings of pelagic fish
  - PIT tag screening programs: detect bycatch in pelagic fisheries
  - Tracking and acoustic tagging studies: continued monitoring of salmon smolt and kelt survival through the Gulf of St Lawrence (Canada)



1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Opportunities for salmon conservation and management

- Advances in genetic stock identification and mixed stock fishery analysis: baseline for 29 groups in NAC and NEAC
- Progress in stock assessment models: extended to N-NEAC with future development of a single model
- A conceptual framework for evaluating marine mortality in Atlantic salmon: guide future research on marine survival (2017 workshop report Atlantic Salmon Trust website)
- Sampling, data, and archiving of historical samples: 2017 workshop concerning West Greenland fishery sampling database and sample archive
- Establishing permanent and secure scale archive repositories: common issues and solutions discussed



1.3 Wild salmon restoration and rehabilitation

Working Group on the Effectiveness of Recovery Actions for Atlantic Salmon (WGERAAS)

Database on Effectiveness of Recovery Actions for Atlantic Salmon (DBERAAS)

15 case studies from 568 individual river stocks

- Three improvements with most benefit:
  - river connectivity
  - water quality
  - habitat restoration
- Most success on stocks with relatively high marine survival
- ICES report currently being finalized

1.4 Tag Releases

- Data on tagged or marked salmon in 2017 are compiled as a separate report (ICES, 2018b)
- Summary sal.oth.nasco Table 5
  - 2.8 million salmon were marked in 2017 (3.2 million in 2016)
  - adipose clip (2.19 million) and coded wire microtags (CWT) (0.332 million)
  - 33 873 external tags
  - hatchery-origin juveniles (2.70 million), 76 712 wild juveniles (76 712) and 10 625 adults (10 625)
  - Increase in use of PIT tags, data storage tags (DSTs), and radio and/or sonic transmitting tags (pingers): 132 725 salmon in 2017 (more than double 2016 rate of 64 669 salmon)

1.5 Data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements

- Scale archive workshop
- PIT tag database
- Complete and timely reporting of catch statistics from all fisheries of eastern Canada
- Improved catch statistics and sampling of the Labrador and Saint Pierre and Miquelon fisheries
- Additional monitoring be considered in Labrador to estimate stock status for that region
- Improve the reporting system of catch in the Greenland fishery
- Continuation of Greenland fishery phone survey (include non-licensed fishers)
- Broader geographic sampling programme of Greenland fishery (including Nuuk)
- In preparation for the next FWI update, a full suite of all potential input datasets for Southern-NEAC be evaluated against country-specific management objectives

Annex 14

CNL(18)09

Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, USA

11 June 2018

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 The Chair, Mr Rory Saunders (USA), opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Board, their scientific advisers and observers to Portland. In light of the recent paper, CNL(18)10, reviewing the rules of procedure, he highlighted the need for clarity in communication. He updated the attendees on the current nominated Board members.

1.2 A list of participants is contained in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Board adopted its Agenda, ICR(18)04 (Annex 2).

3. Finance and Administrative Issues

3.1 The Secretary introduced document ICR(18)02 presenting the Board's audited accounts for 2017. At the end of 2017, the balance of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund was £472,784. Of this, approximately £463,693 is ring-fenced for the EU funded projects. For the Board's general account, the year-end balance was £9,091 after the sum of £5,000 was paid to the Atlantic Salmon Trust to support the workshop for the Likely Suspects Framework and £2,000 for the costs of the audit. The Board had previously agreed that it was desirable to retain a reserve of £4,000 - £5,000.

3.2 At its 2006 Annual Meeting, the Board recognised that it was not necessary to have the accounts audited annually and agreed that, in future, the Board's accounts should be audited as required in relation to the grants held. For years in which an audit is not conducted, details of the Board's income and expenditure statements would be circulated to the members of the Board and discussed at its Annual Meeting. In accordance with this decision, the Board decided not to have its 2018 accounts audited. The Secretary was asked to provide income and expenditure statements.

3.3 At its 2017 Annual Meeting, the Council asked the Secretary to prepare a review of the procedures relating to the work of the Board. The Secretary provided a summary of the review CNL(18)10, including the history of the establishment of the Board, its rules of procedure and past and current membership. In conducting the review, the Secretary identified some issues that remain somewhat unclear, including the clarification of the role of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for which there are no Terms of Reference currently. The Secretary's review did not make any recommendations, rather it simply highlights some issues that may require some clarification. The Chair thanked the Secretary for the review and requested any comments from the members of the Board.

3.4 The Board discussed the process of revising its Rules of Procedure in light of the Secretary's review and the independent status of the Board. The Board agreed that the Chair should propose new rules of procedure and clarify the Terms of Reference for the Board and the SAG, in consultation with the Secretary, members of the Board, and current and past Chairs of the SAG. These recommendations would then be discussed at an inter-sessional meeting of the Board to be conducted by conference call.

4. Report of the Scientific Advisory Group

4.1 The Chair of the Board's Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), Dr Niall Ó Maoiléidigh, presented a report on the Group's meeting, SAG(18)07 (Annex 3). During its meeting the SAG had:

- elected Mr Gérald Chaput (Canada) as the Chair of the SAG and clarified its nominated members;
- discussed the Updated Inventory of Marine Research. Ten new projects have been included since last year, some of which have been ongoing for some time and one of which is completed. One of these new projects involves tracking individual fish;
- agreed not to review the Inventory of Marine Research until 2020 at the earliest;
- been informed that there was no update in the metadatabase of salmon survey data and sample collections;
- received an update on the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) with respect to research links with the NPAFC. It was noted that the Terms of Reference for the IYS North Atlantic Steering Committee (NASC) state 'through the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, identify research priorities, review research proposals and coordinate any research programmes implemented' concerning activities relating to Atlantic salmon. While outreach is the agreed focus of the IYS in the North Atlantic, it had also been previously agreed that there could be benefits from improved exchanges between scientists working around the salmosphere. Two Atlantic led projects have already engaged with Pacific researchers and involved them in the Likely Suspects Framework workshop (November 2017) and in the ROAM project. In the Pacific, the focus for the IYS is on developing a programme of research and gaining funding to deliver it by 2022. The NPAFC IYS Secretariat has produced a Draft Research Prospectus proposing various projects and activities against each of the IYS themes. In developing this document, the NPAFC IYS Secretariat reviewed the IASRB inventory of research and included projects of interest in the draft prospectus. Both the Chair of the IASRB and SAG had been involved in correspondence with the NPAFC IYS Secretariat in relation to this document. The SAG had considered this document (contained in paper SAG(18)03) in which they were asked to make recommendations to the Board on how NASCO should engage with the NPAFC prospectus. The SAG participants were very positive about collaborations to take forward the stated signature projects, but were unable to make a recommendation on whether a hemispheric research study group was required to develop, enable and deliver IYS research;
- discussed developments in relation to SALSEA – Track (see item 5 below);
- received an update on the project entitled 'Enhancement of a North American Atlantic salmon genetic baseline for individual and stock identification and application of the baseline to historical scales collected at West Greenland' which had been funded through the Board. This project is now complete;

- received an update on the AST's Likely Suspects Framework. Following the Board's 2017 Annual Meeting, it had been agreed that the Board would provide £5,000 of funding to support this framework being developed by the AST; and
- received an update on the telemetry programme being conducted by the Atlantic Salmon Federation.

4.2 The Chair of the Board thanked Dr Niall Ó Maoiléidigh for the report and his work as Chair of the SAG over the last four years. The Board then discussed several items relating to the SAG report.

4.3 The Board discussed the ROAM project at length. Mr Tim Sheehan (USA) gave a brief verbal update on the recent workshop held on 7 – 8 June outlining that the approach was utilising developing telemetry technology and therefore advised that there were a number of caveats and risks to take into account concerning delivery. The EU member of the Board recognised that whist the technology was in its infancy, there were advantages to future salmon research. The EU Board member also provided a brief overview of the draft project proposal SalmoQuest, which seeks to support the development, testing and use of ROAM technology in EU and Norwegian waters. By investing in the development of technologies, they would be tailored to the needs of salmon research. The member of the Board from Norway indicated that he would like to see a ROAM project initiated in 2019 as part of the IYS and that he would consider making an approach to Norway for funding if a more detailed project proposal could be provided. The EU Board member was supportive of the inclusion of a ROAM initiative as part of IYS and indicated a willingness to also explore funding opportunities for 2019. A workshop was discussed to facilitate the further development of a detailed ROAM research plan which would then be presented at the next IASRB Annual Meeting. The members of the Board were supportive of this approach and decided to make a sum of up to £4,000 of the Board's funds available towards a second ROAM workshop, if needed. Mr Mark Saunders from the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) IYS Secretariat highlighted the relevance of the ROAM initiative to the Pacific basin and indicated that he would welcome the opportunity for Pacific researchers to take part in any development of it.

4.4 A mechanism to support the Likely Suspects Framework was discussed. The NGO representative to the Board had identified a number of activities that could take forward the conclusions from the November 2017 workshop. The Board agreed the following action: the Chair of the Board will request that the Secretary liaise with ICES about the possibility of organizing a data workshop to clearly identify and prioritise data gaps in relation to candidate mortality factors. It is anticipated that cost associated with such a workshop would be minimal as attendees would cover their own expenses.

4.5 The Board noted that the SAG saw great value in the IYS signature projects identified in the SAG(18)03 document. However, there was no clear recommendation from the SAG with regards to how NASCO should engage with the NPAFC Draft Research Prospectus and therefore IYS hemispheric research. The Board discussed the proposal from Mr Saunders that a hemispheric research study group could be the mechanism for dealing with research that crossed both basins. Members of the Board were reluctant to create another group due to the potential challenges in people having the capacity and resources to engage with it. Mr Saunders raised that whilst informal communication was welcomed, the Pacific IYS team were seeking a contact point or group with which to pursue the many IYS research ideas. The Board determined that IYS research projects should be considered in the same way as all NASCO research and were

therefore not prepared to commit to an IYS Research Study Group at this time. The Board agreed that informal communication among the NPAFC Secretariat, the Board Chair and the SAG Chair should continue.

5. Developments in relation to SALSEA – Track

5.1 In 2014, the Board had endorsed the need for an international acoustic tracking programme and adopted a Resolution (ICR(14)10) encouraging Parties to continue the development of local collaborative telemetry projects, encouraging the development of large international collaborative projects building on local efforts and encouraging Parties to make efforts to identify funding sources. The Board had noted that the telemetry programme should build on the success and identity of the SALSEA Programme.

5.2 In 2015, the Board received a report from its Telemetry Workshop that had, *inter alia*, developed 12 outline project proposals. The Board had recognised that it would be important to liaise with the outline project leaders with a view to following progress and, where appropriate, to provide support to assist with their implementation. The Board also recognised the high value of the SALSEA brand and the strong impact of NASCO as the international forum for consultation and cooperation on wild Atlantic salmon. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to an international telemetry project under the SALSEA brand, named 'SALSEA – Track' by making funds available to prepare a vision statement for SALSEA – Track and other mechanisms as resources allow.

5.3 The Chair introduced document ICR(18)03 (Annex 4) providing an update on developments in relation to SALSEA – Track. Since the Board's 2016 Annual Meeting, applications for funding from the European Union were successfully completed and funding has been granted for three projects. The progress on each is detailed in the document (ICR(18)03) and a brief update was provided verbally by the EU member of the Board. Briefly, two projects involving smolt telemetry that have recently shown great progress were highlighted. First, the Smoltrack I project was initiated on January 1 2017, involving partners from Northern Ireland, England, Ireland, Spain and Denmark. The purpose of the project is to determine the mortality of salmon smolts / post-smolts during their migration through the lower parts of rivers, estuaries / fjords, and nearshore areas through case studies using telemetry in rivers of five areas: Denmark, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Spain. Additionally, mortality of kelts migrating on the same route will also be investigated in Denmark. Salmon will be tagged with acoustic transmitters and their subsequent migration will be followed via acoustic listening stations. This will provide novel data on lower-river and estuarine / coastal behaviour and mortality, as well as to evaluate the method's applicability in a broader context. Beside the scientific aims, the project is intended to bring together a group of experts to provide advice on best practices and Standard Operating Procedures for this type of study. Second, the Smoltrack II project was initiated on January 1 2018, involving partners from Northern Ireland, England, Ireland, Spain, Sweden and Denmark. The project aims at expanding the platform and collaboration of Smoltrack I by including more partners (Sweden is included now, taking the total number of study sites to eight). The geographical span of the project now ranges over most of the salmon distribution area in the EU from north to south and east to west. The project specifically aims to identify specific predators causing the documented loss of smolts from the Smoltrack I project and make comparisons between survival of wild and hatchery-reared salmon smolts. Blood sampling will be used to evaluate smolt quality and sex as

they exit rivers to test if gender and physiological background affects the chance of survival. Lastly, the project will do a pilot study to test the feasibility to tag genetically assigned large salmon at the Faroe Islands or Greenland and track the return migration.

5.4 Progress reports were received for 6 of the 12 outline projects developed at the Telemetry Workshop. Lack of funding or resources remains an issue hindering implementation of some of these projects.

6. Other Business

6.1 There was no other business.

7. Report of the Meeting

7.1 The Board agreed a report of its meeting.

8. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

8.1 The Board agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO and ahead of the IYS Symposium preceding the meeting. The meeting would therefore be held on Saturday 1 June 2019.

9. Close of the Meeting

9.1 The Chair thanked participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

List of Participants

Canada
**Tony Blanchard
Doug Bliss
Gérald Chaput
Patricia Edwards

Denmark (in respect of Greenland and the Faroe Islands)
**Birita i Dali
**Tommy Petersen

European Union
Bernard Blazkiewicz
Dennis Ensing
Jaakko Erkinaro
**Cathal Gallagher
John McCartney
Michael Millane
Niall Ó Maoiléidigh
Arnaud Peyronnet
Lawrence Talks

Norway
**Raoul Bierach
*Helge Dyrnedal
Peder Fiske

Russian Federation
**Alexander Khatuntsov
Alina Nikolaeva
Sergey Prusov

United States
Julie Crocker
Rory Saunders (Chair)
**Tim Sheehan

ICES
Martha Robertson

IGOs
Suam Kim
Mark Saunders

NGOs
David Meerburg
Nigel Milner

Robert Otto
Ken Whelan (NGO Member)

Secretariat
Emma Hatfield
Sarah Robinson

** Nominated Board Member
* Nominated Board Advisor

ICR(18)04

Seventeenth Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, USA

11 June 2018

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Finance and Administrative Issues
4. Report of the Scientific Advisory Group
5. Developments in relation to SALSEA – Track
6. Other Business
7. Report of the Meeting
8. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
9. Close of the Meeting

SAG(18)07

Report of the Sixteenth Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, USA

11 June 2018

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 The Chair of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), Dr Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Portland.

1.2 A list of participants is contained in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The SAG adopted its Agenda, SAG(18)05 (Annex 2).

3. Election of Officers

3.1 The Secretary gave an overview of the protocol concerning the election of Chair.

3.2 Tim Sheehan (USA) proposed Gérald Chaput (Canada) for the Chair of the SAG and Jaakko Erkinaro (EU) seconded the nomination. The SAG elected Gérald Chaput as its Chair, to serve for period of two years.

4. Review of the Updated Inventory of Research and the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections

Research Inventory

4.1 The Chair presented an overview of the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea, SAG(18)02. For 2018, the total annual expenditure on the 63 ongoing projects (5 of which are uncosted) is approximately £8.5 million. Approximately 47% of the expenditure is associated with long-term monitoring programmes. He indicated that there are ten new projects, some of which have been ongoing for some time and one of which is completed. One new project involving tracking individual fish has been included since last year. The new projects are as follows:

Canada

- Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture – Life History Modelling Project for Wild Atlantic
- Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture – Atlantic Salmon Post-smolt Trawl and Troll Survey in the Strait of Belle Isle
- Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture – Current status of knowledge, data, and research efforts on Atlantic salmon at Greenland: what do we have, what do we need, and what should we do moving forward?

- Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture – Development of Acoustic Tracking Capabilities for Drifter Buoys

European Union – Denmark

- Salmon Rehabilitation Plan: monitoring numbers of spawners, spawning and nursery areas in four Atlantic salmon rivers and the achievement of the objective of self-reproduction
- SMOLTRACK

European Union – UK (England and Wales)

- Salmonid Management Round the Channel project (SAMARCH)

European Union - UK (Northern Ireland)

- The marine survival of Atlantic salmon from the River Bush, Northern Ireland

European Union – Sweden

- Monitoring of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in salmon rivers, with focus on the Swedish west coast

Norway

- ATLANTIC SALMON AT SEA - factors affecting their growth and survival (SeaSalar)

4.2 The SAG has previously recognised that, as there is insufficient time available to review the inventory thoroughly at its meetings or at the meetings of the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon, the Board had agreed that review of the inventory should be conducted by a SAG Sub-Group every 3 or 4 years. The inventory was last reviewed in 2012 by the Sub-Group on the Future Direction of Research on Marine Survival of Salmon and, if the agreed schedule is followed, the next review of the inventory would be due in 2017. However, the SAG noted that one of the purposes of the review is to identify research needs and it recognised that the Board has agreed that its current priority is to partition mortality of salmon along their migration routes through telemetry studies (SALSEA – Track). The SAG also considered that it might be appropriate to wait until after the IYS to conduct the next review of the inventory. The SAG, therefore, recommends to the Board that the need for a further review of the inventory should be reconsidered at earliest in 2020 and that the Board may need to be consulted should it be later than this.

4.3 In the context of any review, the Chair stressed the need to only include projects relating to marine survival in the inventory. The SAG agreed that marine survival could be linked to the freshwater environment and projects addressing the characteristics of smolts heading out to sea, including laboratory-based studies, would be a valuable addition to the database. Long-term monitoring programmes should include smolt and adult counts to provide estimates of marine survival in order to be relevant to the inventory. The Chair suggested that the categories on the inventory return template could be clarified in this regard and proposed that the Secretariat could address this suggestion. Further clarifications to the template were also proposed by SAG i.e. to ensure the annual costs were detailed for each year of the project, rather than the estimated cost of the research project, to link each project to the relevant NASCO research themes and to link each project to the relevant SALSEA research heading.

Metadatabase

4.4 In 2015, the SAG discussed the high value of archival scale collections which, as a result of advances in analytical methods, can now be used for genetic, stable isotope and further growth studies. Additional information may be obtained in the future in response to further advances in analytical methods. The SAG had noted that these collections may be lost when individual scientists retire unless appropriate arrangements are in place to archive them and ensure their safe storage so that they may be available for analysis. Even if the scales themselves are not lost, the information accompanying them could be or they could be damaged while in storage. It was recognised that the Board could play a role in identifying such scale collections, raising their profile with a view to safeguarding them for future use. The IASRB agreed that information on these scale collections should, as a first step, be included in the IASRB metadatabase. Accordingly, Parties / jurisdictions were requested to provide details to the Secretariat of any archival scale collections. The Board had also agreed that information on the West Greenland Sampling Programme Biological Characteristics database should be included in the metadatabase. The following new datasets have been included in the metadatabase since 2016:

- Kolarctic Coastal samples;
- PINRO Atlantic salmon scales collection;
- USA origin juvenile and adult scale samples;
- West Greenland Sampling Database.

4.5 There are no further updates on the metadatabase for this year and the Chair encouraged Parties / jurisdictions to contribute details of scale collections for inclusion in the metadatabase. The Chair highlighted that an Irish metadatabase was in preparation as part of the Nationally funded 'Unlocking the Archive Project' 2017 to 2020.

5. Update on the International Year of the Salmon with respect to Research Links with the NPAFC

5.1 At its Thirty-Third (2016) Annual Meeting, the Council had recognised that an International Year of the Salmon (IYS) could provide a very good opportunity to raise awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance, the environmental and anthropogenic challenges they face and the measures being taken to address these. An Outline Proposal for an IYS, entitled 'Salmon and People in a Changing World', which included a proposed rationale, vision, themes and timings for the IYS, together with details of its scope, a governance model and initial budgetary considerations, was broadly accepted by the Council subject to some provisional points of clarification. The focal year of the IYS is 2019 with the intention that research will continue through to 2022.

5.2 The Terms of Reference for the North Atlantic Steering Committee (NASC) state 'through the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, identify research priorities, review research proposals and coordinate any research programmes implemented' concerning activities relating to Atlantic salmon. While outreach is the agreed focus of the IYS in the North Atlantic, it has also been previously agreed that there could be benefits from improved exchanges between scientists working around the salmosphere.

5.3 In the Pacific, the focus for the IYS is on developing a programme of research and gaining funding to complete it by 2022. The NPAFC IYS Secretariat has produced a

Draft Research Prospectus proposing various projects and activities against each of the IYS themes. In developing this document, the NPAFC IYS Secretariat reviewed the 2017 IASRB inventory of research and included projects of interest in the draft prospectus. Both the Chair of the IASRB and of the SAG were involved in correspondence with the NPAFC IYS Secretariat in relation to this document.

5.4 The Chairman invited Mr Mark Saunders (NPAFC) to present document SAG(18)03, containing the NPAFC Draft Research Prospectus. Mr Saunders highlighted that there are numerous research opportunities in the context of the IYS research themes / outcomes that, over the course of the IYS, will lead to a situation where salmon and people are resilient in a changing world. Using climate as a driver of change as a key example of a hemispheric challenge that requires research, Mr Saunders detailed possible signature projects of interest to both the Pacific and Atlantic which could be progressed through potential collaborations. The NPAFC IYS Draft Research Prospectus and these potential and planned projects highlighted common research requirements with the North Atlantic. He suggested that a Research Study Group comprising scientific representatives from the Pacific and Atlantic would progress the proposed signature projects further.

5.5 The Chair thanked Mr Saunders for his presentation and asked Members of the SAG to consider how the SAG and the Board should engage with hemispheric research projects and what mechanism should be used to manage this engagement. Mr Saunders outlined the role of the Study Group which would be to: facilitate collaboration of researchers at a hemispheric scale; develop an inventory of relevant researchers and projects and report results relative to IYS objectives; and co-ordinate symposia and workshops to ensure communication of results and to facilitate collaboration. He further suggested that other expected outcomes would be in identifying overlapping initiatives and providing appropriate fora to allow scientists from each hemisphere to spend more time with each other and learn from science being carried out in area. He reiterated that there is a high degree of overlap in research interests in the two basins and that he was looking for endorsement from the SAG that there should be a joint way forward for hemispheric research. The Chair noted the prospectus was a good document which clearly highlighted the areas where collaborations would be advantageous. However, he suggested that the key issue was to consider how projects are progressed and undertaken at the hemispheric scale and asked the SAG to consider whether a Research Study Group as proposed was the best approach.

5.6 Professor Whelan (NGOs) cited the 'Likely Suspects Framework' as an example of what was required, although at a smaller scale, as there were common issues to overcome such as the commitment, resources and finances individuals have to dedicate to the co-ordination work and development of projects. Focusing on one or two key signature projects was suggested as a possible way forward. The Chair proposed that he would report to the Board that the SAG acknowledge the great benefits that engaging at the hemispheric level for IYS research would bring, but that consideration needs to be given to how this could be progressed given the need for extra commitments, resources and finance requirements for some individuals and Parties.

6. Developments in relation to SALSEA – Track

6.1 In 2014, the IASRB had endorsed the need for an international telemetry programme and adopted a Resolution (ICR(14)10) encouraging Parties to continue the development of local collaborative telemetry projects, encouraging the development of large international collaborative projects building on local efforts and encouraging Parties to

make efforts to identify funding sources. The Board had noted that the telemetry programme should build on the success and identity of the SALSEA Programme and had recognised that there may be a role for the Board in co-ordinating efforts and supporting fund raising initiatives. In 2014, a Telemetry Workshop organized by the Board had developed 12 outline project proposals utilising telemetry. The Board had recognised that if the international telemetry programme is to proceed, it would be important to liaise with the project leaders with a view to following progress and, where appropriate, to provide support to assist with their implementation. In 2015, the Board had recognised the high value of the SALSEA brand and the strong impact of NASCO as the international forum for consultation and co-operation on wild Atlantic salmon. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to an international telemetry project under the SALSEA brand, namely SALSEA – Track. Specifically, the Board agreed to support SALSEA – Track as a continuing commitment to understanding the factors affecting the mortality of salmon at sea, to make funds available to prepare a vision statement for SALSEA – Track and to advance existing initiatives towards an integrated collaborative telemetry programme. In 2016, the Board had confirmed that it endorsed the twelve projects but noted that, if they changed substantially, they should be referred to the SAG. It was recognised that there might be scope to combine some of these projects into larger projects within the North American and North-East Atlantic Commission areas.

6.2 In 2017, the SAG was advised that funding had been provided to the IASRB for two projects through an EU 'grant for action' award. These projects were 'Understanding and comparing early migration of European salmon populations at sea' and 'Sea lice model for the sustainable development of Atlantic salmon and fisheries'.

6.3 The Chair referred participants to paper ICR(18)03. There are three parts to the paper updating on the SALSEA – Track initiative; the SAG participants were reminded that this will be talked about at the Board meeting and asked if they had any questions but none were forthcoming.

6.4 In 2017, the SAG received a report on a new approach to tracking, 'ROAM', based on a technique for sub-surface oceanographic monitoring. This technique may offer potential for fine scale positioning of salmon at sea obtained with satellite tags and related archival tag technologies. The Council had recognised that it would be important for the Board to be kept informed of developments in relation to this technology.

6.5 Mr Tim Sheehan provided an update on a workshop entitled 'Introduction and overview of the ROAM (RAFOS Ocean Acoustic Monitoring) approach to marine tracking' which was held at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, USA. A total of 27 scientists and managers from both the North Atlantic and Pacific basins attended. Representatives from different tag manufacture companies also attended. The workshop had a number of different objectives which focused on sharing the technical details of the approach and providing a forum for discussion on the appropriateness of the ROAM approach to tracking Atlantic and Pacific salmonids during their entire marine phase.

6.6 ROAM technology is still in the development phase. The workshop provided a lot of details describing the sound sources, the fish tags, and how the system worked. There was also some information presented describing preliminary field trials conducted in 2017 and descriptions of field trials planned for 2018. It was noted numerous times during the workshop that this approach to marine tracking would be applicable to a wide array of different species.

6.7 Mr Sheehan also provided a brief summary of planned future efforts related to the further development of the ROAM approach. In addition to the field trials, preparations will continue for the implementation of the SALSEA – Track outlined Labrador Sea tracking project utilising Atlantic salmon caught and released at Greenland. Tagging is set to begin in 2018 and will use traditional Pop-off Satellite Archival Tags (PSAT) with an expectation to transition to ROAM PSAT tags in 2019. Preliminary discussions between researchers from the United States, Canada, the EU and Norway about a potential new collaborative telemetry effort were initiated. The project would focus on evaluating and testing the ROAM system in the Northeastern Atlantic, working to develop floating ROAM archive tags, and tracking of marine-phase Atlantic salmon with ROAM. Workshop attendees from the Pacific Ocean committed to engage in further discussion with their Pacific colleagues about the applicability of the ROAM approach for Pacific-based research.

6.8 Mr Dave Meerburg (ASF Canada) briefly updated the SAG on its smolt and kelt tracking studies in the Gulf of St Lawrence, stating that the programmes are continuing and expanding.

7. Progress Reports on Projects Funded by the IASRB

7.1 Mr Tim Sheehan indicated that the United States had previously made a contribution of £16,900 (US$26,000) to the IASRB to support an extension of a study undertaken in 2014 / 15 (SAG(15)4). The extension study was led by Dr Ian Bradbury, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, and was entitled 'Enhancement of a North American Atlantic Salmon genetic baseline for individual and stock identification'. The funds were used to support the genetic processing and analysis of approximately 670 individual scale samples collected from the West Greenland fishery to obtain region of origin assignments for North American origin fish. The target years were 1970, 1971, 1972, 1976, 1980, 1981 and 1982. These years were selected to increase the sample size of North American region of origin assignments prior to 1990. Previous work supported by the Board (SAG(15)4) presented a time-series of North American region of origin contributions to the West Greenland fishery (1968 - 2014); however, sample size prior to 1990 was low. Mr Sheehan advised the SAG that the study had now finished, however, edits are still needed to the report and once complete it will be emailed to the Board.

7.2 Following its 2017 Annual Meeting, the Board had agreed to make £5,000 available to support a 'likely suspects' model being developed by the Atlantic Salmon Trust (AST). Professor Ken Whelan presented document SAG(18)04, which contained a progress report on the development of the model. Professor Whelan began by thanking the Board for the seed funding it had provided, noting that this money leveraged further financial support for the project. In addition to the recommendations from the workshop, actions as a consequence of these recommendations were suggested. Thanks were given to Mr Mark Saunders for enabling Pacific input to the workshop. Pacific attendees were open to sharing their expertise and experience making an excellent addition to the meeting. A PDF of the Likely Suspects Framework will be sent out with the papers of the Annual Meeting and Professor Whelan welcomed any comments.

7.2 The Chair commented that it was impressive to note how far the initiative had come in one year. He also noted how endorsement and seed funding from the Board had benefitted the project and was an example of how the Board could facilitate linking great ideas to funding and resources.

8. Review of Project Applications for Potential Funding by the IASRB

8.1 Under the Board's Guidelines for Submitting Proposals for Research, Workshops, Symposia and Other Activities for Support by the IASRB, ICR(09)10, applications seeking either only endorsement by the Board or funding support from the Board may be considered. Applications are reviewed by the SAG which makes its recommendations to the Board. There had been no applications for funding or support since the 2017 Annual Meeting.

8.2 The Board had previously agreed that it would be important to have reserves available to it so that it could continue to support initiatives such as the Greenland and Faroes GSI projects, where the Board's support had assisted in securing additional funding from other sources. These projects had resulted in new information of value to management with limited financial support from the Board. The Sub-Group on the Future Direction of Research on Marine Survival of Salmon had noted in 2012 that the Board had very limited resources and recognised that if it is to continue to play a role in supporting research on salmon at sea, it should consider how it can address this situation.

8.3 It was pointed out in relation to the lack of projects being submitted that this was not due to the availability of projects seeking funding, but due to the lack of money available from the Board to contribute to them.

8.4 The SAG agreed that a workshop to identify and obtain data to define specific salmon domains which was proposed by the Likely Suspects Workshop would be brought to the attention of the Board. This would require communication with ICES to provide support for the workshop.

9. Other Business

9.1 The Chair took the opportunity to provide some reflections given that the meeting was his last as Chair of the Group. Concerning the future of the group he raised the current structure and time limitations, suggesting that this may be addressed as the part of the Board review and any recommendations that may result from it. He also discussed the possibility of an extra working group meeting.

9.2 The SAG noted several suggestions which could alleviate some of the current limitations with the current meeting arrangements including: the IASRB meeting could be scheduled for the day following the SAG meeting to allow more time to be allocated and enabling more opportunity for discussion; noting that as many of the SAG participants are on the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon, an additional SAG meeting before or after the Working Group meeting could be possible; an additional virtual meeting could be organized easily before the NASCO Annual Meeting; scheduling an additional meeting could be kept open and scheduled if required.

10. Report of the Meeting

10.1 The SAG agreed the report of the meeting.

11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

11.1 The SAG agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO (5 - 7 June 2019) and in advance of the IYS Symposium. The date of the next meeting of the SAG will therefore be Saturday 1 June.

12. Close of the Meeting

12.1 The Chair of the SAG thanked the participants for their contributions. He wished the incoming Chair best wishes for his appointment and closed the meeting.

Annex 1 of SAG(18)07

List of Participants

Canada
Tony Blanchard
Doug Bliss
**Gérald Chaput
Patricia Edwards

European Union
Bernard Blazkiewicz
**Jaako Erkinaro
Cathal Gallagher
Denis Maher
John McCartney
Michael Millane
**Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (Chair)
Lawrence Talks

Norway
**Peder Fiske

Russian Federation
Alina Nikolaeva
**Sergey Prusov

United States
Rory Saunders
**Tim Sheehan

ICES
Martha Robertson

IGOs
Suam Kim (NPAFC)
Mark Saunders (NPAFC)

NGOs
David Meerburg (NGO Member)
Nigel Milner
Robert Otto
Andy Walker
Ken Whelan

Secretariat
Emma Hatfield
Sarah Robinson

** Nominated SAG Member

SAG(18)05

Sixteenth Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, USA

11 June 2018

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Review of the Updated Inventory of Research and the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections
5. Update on the International Year of the Salmon with respect to Research Links with the NPAFC
6. Developments in relation to SALSEA – Track
7. Progress Reports on Projects Funded by the IASRB
8. Review of Project Applications for Potential Funding by the IASRB
9. Other Business
10. Report of the Meeting
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
12. Close of the Meeting

ICR(18)03

Progress Report on SALSEA - Track

1. At its 2013 meeting, the Board had agreed that a particular focus of its work should be studies to partition mortality of salmon among the phases of its marine migration. In 2014, the Board adopted a Resolution on Research on Salmon at Sea, ICR(14)6, which, among other things:

   - encourages NASCO Parties to continue the development of local collaborative telemetry projects;

   - encourages the development of large international collaborative telemetry projects that together build upon and expand local efforts; and

   - requests NASCO Parties to make efforts to identify funding sources to support telemetry projects.

2. To support an integrated collaborative telemetry programme, the Board organised a Telemetry Workshop in December 2014. At this Workshop, twelve outline project proposals for telemetry-based research were developed. In 2015, the Board recognised the high value of the SALSEA brand and the strong impact of NASCO as the international forum for consultation and co-operation on wild Atlantic salmon. The Board had re-affirmed its commitment to an international telemetry project under the SALSEA brand, named SALSEA - Track. Specifically, in 2015 the Board agreed that it would support SALSEA - Track as a continuing commitment to understanding the factors affecting mortality of salmon at sea, to make funds available to prepare a vision statement for SALSEA - Track and to advance existing initiatives towards an integrated collaborative telemetry programme.

3. The Board recognised that if the international telemetry programme is to proceed, it would be important to follow progress in taking forward the twelve outline projects and, where appropriate, provide support to assist with their implementation. Last year, the Board had confirmed that it endorsed these twelve projects but noted that, if they changed substantially, they should be referred to the Board's Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). It was recognised that there might be scope to combine some of these projects into larger projects within the NAC and NEAC areas. The SALSEA - Track brochure had been developed, in consultation with members of the Board / SAG and a professional fund-raiser, prior to the Board's 2016 meeting and has been widely distributed and well received. In 2017 and early 2018, funding was made available through a European Union funding mechanism to support three projects relating to marine mortality.

4. This paper provides an update on progress with the twelve outline projects and on the funding from the EU and details new telemetry projects reported through the inventory of research relating to salmon mortality at sea.

Progress on the twelve outline projects

5. In accordance with the Board's request that progress in taking forward the twelve outline projects be followed, the contact for each project was requested to provide an update on progress to date, identifying any challenges in progressing the projects and advising of any assistance the Board may be able to offer to support implementation of the projects and in disseminating information relating to them. The responses received are summarised below:

Drifters and BioProbes: Options for detecting acoustically tagged fish in large geographic areas (NAC and/or NEAC)	**Progress report (John Kocik and Fred Whoriskey):** The Ocean Tracking Network has contracted MetOcean and Vemco to produce a cost-effective, real-time recording drifter buoy. Three initial units have been received and are undergoing modifications to prepare them for field testing in autumn 2018.
New Receiver Lines/Arrays/Grids (NAC)	**Progress report (Tim Sheehan, John Kocik, Jon Carr and Fred Whoriskey and Martha Robertson):** Some progress has been made on this project in 2016. With regards to adding acoustic receiver capacity of/to marine autonomous vehicles, OTN has ordered two new Slocum Gliders and intends to order two SV3 Wave Gliders within calendar year 2018 to increase its fleet and add North Atlantic Ocean coverage. OTN is also working within the nascent Ocean Gliders Canada to arrange to place acoustic receivers on gliders operating within marine areas used by salmon during their marine migration, including the Labrador Sea. OTN has also been working through the Horizon 2020 AtlantOS program to partner with a variety of agencies and programs (DFO, OSNAP, OceanSITES, University of Washington, others) that have established fixed moorings in the North Atlantic Ocean and Labrador Sea to add acoustic receivers to the moorings. An inventory of potential buoys has been developed, maintenance schedules for them have been identified, possible gear conflicts (i.e. notably the presence and cycling of ADCPs (acoustic Doppler current profilers) co-deployed on the buoys) are being evaluated, and we hope to begin some deployments in 2018. We are also working with teams from the University of Windsor interested in tracking Greenland halibut in the Norwegian Sea, and with a team from Dalhousie University, Memorial University of Newfoundland and the Groundfish Enterprise Allocation Council that plans to deploy additional receivers in 2018 on the continental shelf off of Newfoundland. These deployments will complement our ability to track the marine movements of salmon with acoustic telemetry. Starting in 2015, ASF deployed a second line of receivers (N=28) in the Strait of Belle Isle (SoBI) to measure the efficiency of the existing line and calibrate stage specific survival estimates for post-smolt traveling through the Gulf of St Lawrence. ASF and DFO deployed a new receiver array along the Labrador coast about 80km north of SoBI (near Port Hope Simpson) in 2017. Twenty acoustic release VR2AR receivers were deployed extending 16 km from the shore towards the shelf. This array will be expanded in 2018 with the addition of 20 new receivers. With this developing capacity, what is now needed is a solid plan/idea for the science that needs to be done, identification of critical new infrastructure that might need to be added, and identification of how the science and infrastructure will be sustained for the necessary time period. In support of this, a telemetry workshop took place in Halifax Nova Scotia in December 2017 designed to build upon a workshop held in December 2014 by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization's (NASCO) International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB). Partners and invited experts were assembled to develop a collaborative and coordinated telemetry program in North America within which would be

	nested individual telemetry projects occurring across the species range in the Northwest Atlantic. The scope of the workshop was to review past and ongoing studies in the North Atlantic to help inform future research based on data needs/gaps, to further discussions related to North American and Greenland related SALSEA-Track components, and to develop a path forward for research programs to estimate and partition marine mortality of wild Atlantic salmon by improving our knowledge of salmon migration and distribution patterns. The workshop was support by the Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture and a final report will be available in autumn 2018.
Platforms of Opportunity in the NAC area: Stationary Platforms of Opportunity Receiver Exchange (SPORE)	**Progress report (John Kocik):** The NOAA team maintained extant opportunistic arrays in 2017 and continued working with the whale passive acoustic group. Due to expanded work in the Narraguagus Bay area and overall telemetry workload and funding issues, the telemetry monitoring on lobster traps (t-MOLT) and coastal rivers projects were suspended for 2017-2018. These platforms were often deployed after post-smolts left US waters or in river systems without tagged smolts so impacts to salmon monitoring are minimal. With expanded availability of acoustic releases, NOAA is considering again partnering with lobstermen to evaluate this platform for 12 month monitoring. Expansion of opportunities in the northwest GoM and associated waters of the Bay of Fundy remains a mutual NOAA, ASF, and DFO goal.
NAC kelt satellite tagging	**Progress report (Tim Sheehan and Jon Carr):** No significant progress has been made to date due to resource needs, and current commitments. Tentative conversations within the US and with ASF as to possibly pursuing this type of effort have been conducted, but if this project were to be conducted it would not be until 2019/2020 at the earliest. However, ASF has continued their kelt tagging efforts in the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Miramichi and Restigouche rivers, and Cascapedia), but no new efforts outside of the Gulf have been initiated.
Generic Index River Sites in the NEAC area	No progress report received.
Malin Head to Islay Receiver Array (NEAC)	**Progress report (Paddy Boylan):** SeaMonitor is an EU INTERREG V application which aims to investigate the migration of mobile marine species (Atlantic salmon, sea trout, basking shark and common skate) through the use of acoustic tracking technology on the north coast of the island of Ireland and the west coast of Scotland. The project proposes setting up a network of acoustic receivers in conjunction with two Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUV's) (Figure 1). In addition hydrophones would be deployed to investigate cetacean presence / distribution and common seals satellite tagged (on the east coast of Ireland - also potentially used as bioprobes for acoustically tagged fish). A decision on funding is expected in July 2018.
North Sea Loose Array (NEAC)	No progress report received.
West-coast Scottish arrays (NEAC)	No progress report received.
Studies of migration along the European shelf edge and into the Norwegian Sea using drifters/AUVs etc (NEAC)	No progress report received.
NEAC kelt satellite tagging	No progress report received.
Sub-adult satellite tagging at Faroes	No progress report received.
Adult satellite/acoustic tagging at Greenland	**Progress report (Tim Sheehan and Jon Carr):** Planning (ASF, NOAA) continues in preparation of a multi-year satellite/acoustic tagging effort at West Greenland starting in 2018. Field activities in 2017 focused on exploring the feasibility of capturing study animals via trolling with rod

	and reel. Trolling was conducted for a total of 10 hours, 11 salmon were hooked, and 7 were landed. The landed fish ranged in size from 66-74 cm total length; all within the size range for consideration for tagging. Tagging activities will be initiated in 2018 and are expected to continue through 2021 at a minimum. Tagging in 2018 will utilize traditional pop-off satellite tags (PSAT, Microwave Telemetry Inc. X-tags). Tagging in 2019 will utilize traditional pop-off satellite tags (Microwave X-tags) and the new ROAM pop-off satellite tags. Tagging in 2020 and beyond will utilize ROAM PSAT tags only. Opportunities for increased acoustic tagging are being considered. Preliminary funding for the project is expected to come from NOAA, ASF, and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and external funding opportunities will also be pursued. Discussions with potential collaborators with interests in European origin salmon, other species that also utilize the coast of Greenland and or the Labrador Sea, and other researchers interested in acoustic telemetry methods in the Labrador Sea are continuing.

6. The response to our request for progress reports and identification of factors hindering implementation for the twelve outline projects has not resulted in information for all projects. However, for those that have responded, some have indicated that lack of resources remains an issue. In the first phase of the SALSEA Programme, the Board had sought support from professional fund-raisers, Brakeley Consultants and we have maintained contact with one of those involved in the earlier work (Anne Conner) who remains very keen on the work of the Board. She volunteered to review the SALSEA - Track brochure and believes that together with the companion 'Salmon at Sea' brochure, which was developed following the Salmon Summit in 2011, the information available is informative and should be attractive to potential funders including corporates, foundations and high-worth individuals.

7. Identifying potential funders and attracting their interest in SALSEA - Track is a considerable undertaking that requires specialist skills. It would also require a clear description of the planned research and the funding required before funders could be identified and approached. The process would require professional support and Anne Conner's minimum contract would be for around £12,000 (for around 20 days of her time). However, this would only be feasible if we had planned and costed projects that could be presented to potential funders.

8. The Resolution on Research on Salmon at Sea, ICR(14)10, which encourages NASCO Parties to continue the development of local collaborative telemetry projects, should also be supportive of applications for funding and the Board can also support telemetry projects through endorsements as it has for the twelve outline projects.

EU funding to the IASRB

9. Following the Board's 2016 meeting, applications for funding through EU 'Grants for an action' were completed for two projects and these were approved for funding (up to 80% of eligible costs). A further application, under the same funding mechanism, for a third project was made and approved in late 2017. A summary of the projects and a brief report on their progress is provided below.

Understanding and comparing early mortality of European salmon populations at sea

10. *Summary:* Over recent decades, the abundance of wild Atlantic salmon stocks has been in decline throughout their migratory range despite the significant management measures put in place both domestically and at an international level. There is evidence that the initial mortality, immediately after smolts enter salt water, is very high and that this 'point mortality' may explain most of the variation seen in return rates of salmon. Estuarine and near shore mortalities may also be occurring in the part of the marine life cycle where management intervention is feasible. This project will determine the mortality of salmon smolts and post-smolts during their migration through the lower parts of rivers, estuaries/fjords and near-shore areas through case studies using telemetry in rivers in five areas: Denmark, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Spain. Mortality of kelts migrating on the same route will also be investigated in Denmark. In combination with other published results, the research will provide crucial input on marine mortality to existing models used for assessment purposes and test if the measured initial mortality can explain observed variation in return rates. If causality between post-smolt mortality and run size can be established, the findings may inform future management and conservation of (some) Atlantic salmon stocks.

    Total project cost (including in-kind contributions): €918,300
    EU contribution to the IASRB: €299,800
    Partners: DTU Aqua (National Institute of Aquatic Resources), Denmark; Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas), UK; Xunta de Galicia, Spain; Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), UK. In-kind contribution from Inland Fisheries Ireland.

11. *Progress to date:* The Smoltrack project was initiated on January 1 2017, involving partners from Northern Ireland, England, Ireland, Spain and Denmark. The purpose of the project is to determine the mortality of salmon smolts/postsmolts during their migration through the lower parts of rivers, estuaries/fjords, and nearshore areas through case studies using telemetry in rivers of five areas: Denmark, England, Ireland, Northern Ireland and Spain. Additionally, mortality of kelts migrating on the same route will also be investigated in Denmark. Salmon will be tagged with acoustic transmitters and their subsequent migration will be followed via acoustic listening stations. This will provide novel data on lower-river and estuarine/coastal behavior and mortality, as well as to evaluate the method's applicability in a broader context. Beside the scientific aims, the project is intended to bring together a group of experts to provide advice on best practices and SOP for this type of studies.

    The project tagging has now been completed including the second season that was enabled due to the good central purchase agreement made on Telemetry equipment. A second workshop was held in Pontevedra, Spain in March 2018, where the progress was evaluated and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) updated. All partners managed to tag the necessary fish. At all places there is a loss of smolt during the initial migration through the lower river and estuary. The specific regions differ, with some having the largest mortality in Freshwater, while others have the largest loss in the estuary (Table 1). Predation is suspected to be the main reason.

	Tagged	Lost FW (%)	Lost Estuary (%)	Survived (%)
Ulla, Spain	100	92	3	5
Minho, Spain	50	44	2	54
Bush, Northern Ireland	99	62	13	62
Eeriff, Ireland	40	70	0	30
Tamar, England	100	29	13	58
Skjern, Denmark	265	25	33	42

The results are being processed, but some site specific papers are expected to be produced, as well as an overall paper on the results.

Comparing mortality of European salmon populations at sea using multiple -method telemetry studies

12. *Summary:* The Smoltrack II project was initiated on January 1 2018, involving partners from Northern Ireland, England, Ireland, Spain, Sweden and Denmark. The project aims to expand the platform and collaboration of Smoltrack I by including more partners (Sweden is included now, taking the total number of study sites to eight). The geographical span of the project now ranges over all of the salmon distribution area in the EU from north to south and east to west. The project specifically aims to identify specific predators causing the documented loss of smolts from the Smoltrack I project and make comparisons between survival of wild and hatchery-reared salmon smolts. Blood sampling will be used to evaluate smolt quality and sex as they exit rivers to test if gender and physiological background affects the chance of survival. Lastly, the project will do a pilot study to test the feasibility to tag genetically assigned large salmon at the Faroe Islands or Greenland and track the return migration.

Total project cost (including in-kind contributions): €539,000
EU contribution to the IASRB: €260,000
Partners: DTU Aqua (National Institute of Aquatic Resources), Denmark; Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas), UK; University of Göteborg, Sweden, Xunta de Galicia, Spain; Agri-Food and Biosciences Institute (AFBI), UK and Inland Fisheries Ireland, Ireland.

13. *Progress to date:* The first project tagging (smolts) in 2018 has been completed. The data are not yet finally compiled (Automatic listening station and manual tracking has to be completed first). A workshop was held in Pontevedra, Spain in March 2018 (in prolongation of the Smoltrack I workshop), where studies and analysis were discussed and agreed and the Standard Operating Procedures for Smoltrack I were adapted for the present project, including procedures for bloodsampling and genetic analyses. The pilot study on salmon at sea is still in the planning phase and awaits discussion with North American colleagues in mid-June 2018.

Sea lice model for the sustainable development of Atlantic salmon fisheries and aquaculture

14. *Summary*: This project proposes to develop a sea lice integrative model developing and refining hydrodynamic modelling, environmental variables, sea lice production on salmon farms and other data requirements to support sustainable development of aquaculture and

wild salmon stocks. Existing modelling tools have been developed in Norway and Scotland. These models simulate dispersal of larval sea lice based on farm production, hydrodynamics, water temperature and salinity, and have been used to identify the role of specific salmon farming sites as recipients or sources of sea lice. In order to make directly comparable estimations of lice dispersal, and hence larval concentrations and infection pressure, the models need to be standardised. The work carried out in each country can also benefit from the exchange of ideas to ensure optimal solutions are arrived at. For this reason, we will seek to form a network that will meet with the objective of developing a standard model that can be plugged into any hydrodynamic model of local currents to generate sea lice dispersal patterns. This project will contribute to developing best management practice for sea lice control and define a range of production strategies aiming at reducing the presence of sea lice and their negative impacts, both on farmed and wild Atlantic salmon.

Total project cost (including in-kind contributions): €618,604
EU contribution to the IASRB: €239,994
Partners: Inland Fisheries Ireland. In-kind contributions from Norwegian Institute for Nature Research; Institute of Marine Research, Norway; Marine Science Scotland; National University of Ireland, Galway

15. *Progress to date:* A project workshop took place in Dublin on March 2nd 2017. Partners gave an overview of the use of sentinel cages for monitoring sea lice distribution in Norway and Scotland and possible sampling strategies were discussed. Discussion took place on hydrodynamic model development and the "Dispersal Model for Sea Lice" used in Norway was discussed. The model estimates abundance and distribution of infective salmon lice copepodids with a high resolution in time and space. It uses real values of current, temperature, salinity from numerical current models. Coastal, wind and freshwater runoff models feed into a fjord model and the pathogen model is generated based on hatched eggs (farmed fish only), vertical behaviour, development / growth and mortality. Uncertainties in the model include hatching success (mortality) and no. of eggs in egg strings, reported lice counts and sources of lice from wild fish. Results of the model are validated from field observations.

    An overview of sea lice hydrodynamic modelling in Scotland (POLCOMS hydrodynamic modelling) was also presented. The hydrodynamic model is based on surface currents and tracking of biological particles informed by knowledge of sea lice biology and behaviour (this has been validated against historic datasets). Additional overview was given on the Scottish Shelf Model (FVCOM) which is climate-based integrated with passive particle tracking (four seasons, model yet to be fully validated). This model shows connectivity of lice emanating from aquaculture installations over substantial areas of the Scottish coast. It was stated that POLCOMS is more relevant to the present project.

    Data requirements for the development of an Irish model was also discussed. An EFDC model will be used for Ireland (*c*. 70 m resolution). Data on bathymetry; tides; horizontal currents (will be monitored under sentinel cages); vertical current structure; determination of haloclines and thermoclines; and salinity/ temperature structure will be collected. Quantification of river inflows (salinity and temperature etc.; diffuse runoff) will also be undertaken. Temperature and salinity sensors will be deployed in the study area, Killary Harbour. Accounting for significance of upwelling / down-welling was discussed. Initial horizontal and spatial distributions of lice and data on life cycle durations and

characteristics are required. Data on mortality effects, light, temperature, salinity, density, current speed, vertical migration etc. as well as data on mortality and decay rates are required.

Based on the workshop discussions, the sampling strategy for use of bag nets and sentinel cages to provide data for model development was finalised. Discussions also progressed on development of a standard model that can be used with any hydrodynamic model of local currents to generate sea lice dispersal patterns.

Scottish type sentinel cage used in Killary harbor

Deploying sentinel cages in Killary harbour

16. The funding provided by the European Commission of approximately €800,000 is very much appreciated and has contributed to projects costing approximately €2 million in total being implemented.

Inventory of research

17. The inventory of research relating to salmon mortality at sea, SAG(18)02, includes 22 ongoing projects related to the migratory behaviour of individual fish (C16, C18, C25, C27, C29, C30, C31, C32, C33, De4, De5, De7, Ir12, Ir13, Ir14, Ni4, N18, U4, U5, U10, U13, U16). One new project involving tracking individual fish has been included since last year as follows:

De7: SMOLTRACK – Exploring the mortality of smolts and post-smolts during their migration through the lower rivers, estuaries/fiords and near-shore areas.

In summary

18. SALSEA - Track is a novel and exciting project proposal that has the potential to answer key questions relating to the conservation and management of Atlantic salmon. The success of the project is entirely dependent upon extensive international co-operation and partnerships between scientists, public sector funders, private sector foundations, NGO groups and industry. If the necessary co-ordination and funding come together, it will undoubtedly have a high profile. Given that the Board has committed to support SALSEA - Track as a continuing effort to understanding mortality of salmon at sea, there are a number of measures it may wish to consider in order to further its goal of advancing an integrated, collaborative telemetry programme. The Board has previously recognised that

it could play an important role by: supporting fund-raising initiatives; providing funds as resources permit; endorsing projects; serving as a forum for information exchange and collaboration among research groups; and facilitating co-ordination of the research programme.

19. The Board has, of course, already played a significant role in support of this initiative by funding the Telemetry Workshop that brought together the key scientists who may collaborate in future telemetry studies on salmon and at which the outline project proposals, subsequently endorsed by the Board, were developed. It has adopted a Resolution and it has prepared a brochure which should be supportive of telemetry studies. The Board's inventory indicates that one new telemetry study has been initiated since last year. The NASCO / IASRB have now successfully applied for EU funding to support three projects related to mortality of salmon at sea. The International Year of the Salmon, although focused on outreach activities in the North Atlantic, may be supportive of research relevant to SALSEA - Track. If the Board is to engage in fund-raising to support the twelve outline projects, it will need professional advice and that will need clarification of the research to be conducted and its cost. The Board will need to consider its further role in taking forward SALSEA - Track and we look forward to discussing this further at the Annual Meeting.

Chairman and Secretary of the IASRB
Edinburgh
6 June 2018

Annex 15

CNL(18)11

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:

1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings by country, including unreported catches and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2018[1];

1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management[2];

1.3 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2018; and

1.4 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:

2.1 describe the key events of the 2018 fisheries[3];

2.2 review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;

2.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;

*In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:** (The aim should be for NASCO to inform ICES by 31 January of the outcome of utilising the FWI).

2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2019 / 2020 - 2021 / 2022 fishing seasons, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding[4]; and

2.5 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice.

3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:

3.1 describe the key events of the 2018 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)[3];

3.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;

3.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;

*In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:** (The aim should be for NASCO to inform ICES by 31 January of the outcome of utilising the FWI).

3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2019-2022 with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or

pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding[4]; and

3.5 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice.

4. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:

4.1 describe the key events of the 2018 fisheries[3];

4.2 describe the status of the stocks[5];

*In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:** (The aim should be for NASCO to inform ICES by 31 January of the outcome of utilising the FWI).

4.3 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2019-2021 with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding[4];

4.4 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice.

Notes:

1. *With regard to question 1.1, for the estimates of unreported catch the information provided should, where possible, indicate the location of the unreported catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Numbers of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries should be provided.*
2. *With regard to question 1.2, ICES is requested to include reports on any significant advances in understanding of the biology of Atlantic salmon that is pertinent to NASCO, including information on any new research into the migration and distribution of salmon at sea and the potential implications of climate change for salmon management.*
3. *In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Information on any other sources of fishing mortality for salmon is also requested.* **(***For 4.1, if any new phone surveys are conducted, ICES should review the results and advise on the appropriateness for incorporating resulting estimates of unreported catch into the assessment process).*
4. *In response to questions 2.4, 3.4 and 4.3, provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice and report on any developments in relation to incorporating environmental variables in these models.*
5. *In response to question 4.2, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.3 and 3.3.*

Attendees:

Sergey Prusov (NEAC, manager representative)
Peder Fiske (NEAC, scientist representative)
Tony Blanchard (NAC, manager representative)
Tim Sheehan (NAC, scientist representative)
Birita í Dali (WGC, manager representative)
Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)
Martha Robertson (ICES representative, Observer)
Patrick Gargan (Coordinator)

Annex 16

CNL(18)41

Summary of Discussions during the Special Session on the Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports (APRs) under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans

Bill Hicks (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): stated that he had two points to make regarding the very important tables that form part of Annex 2 of the Review Group's report. He hoped that his comments might make the tables more 'user-friendly' for those not familiar with the IP process. Firstly, he noted that the first column referred to an 'Action' number, such as F1 or F2, but there was no description of the Action and the table must be read in conjunction with the IP to find out what the Action referred to. He suggested that a short 'tag' description be added so that it was immediately obvious what the Action referred to and whether it was of interest to the reader. Secondly, he stated that it might be helpful to highlight in the second column whether or not progress was evaluated as being satisfactory. He recognised that the third column explains why progress is unsatisfactory but felt that it may be more transparent to highlight whether or not it was satisfactory in the second column.

Rory Saunders (United States of America / Chair of the Review Group): thanked Mr Hicks for his suggestions and stated that it would be worthwhile to keep a note of them for future Review Groups.

Kim Damon-Randall (United States of America): congratulated EU – UK (Northern Ireland) for their updated IP and the new actions in their APR. She noted that this is an important step as it helps to ensure that the IP process really attains the objective of being transparent.

Torfinn Evensen (Norske Lakseelver): referred to Action A1 of the Norwegian APR regarding how sea lice affect wild salmonids. He asked what options there are for growth in fish farms if the sea lice are impacting negatively on wild salmonids and whether the limit values for effects are in accordance with the National Quality Norm for Wild Salmonids?

Heidi Hansen (Norway): replied that, according to the traffic light system, if estimated mortality related to sea lice is below 10%, a 6% increase in production will be allowed. If the estimate of mortality is between 10% and 30%, no general increase in production is allowed. If estimated mortality is higher than 30%, a mandatory reduction of 6% of the production is enforced. While the mandatory reduction was not enforced in the first round, the intention is that it will be enforced from 2019 and onwards where estimated mortality is over 30%. Both the Quality Norm and traffic light systems are quite new and are being implemented for the first time. She recognised that there does appear to be a discrepancy between the two systems, but the issues need to be worked on and resolved for the two systems to function well together.

Andrew Graham-Stewart (Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland: stated that it was clear that the Review Group was not impressed by EU – UK (Scotland)'s APR. The Group had used the wording 'it is not clear how this Action furthers NASCO's goals specifically in the protection of wild salmon' on no less than 12 occasions. He indicated that his question related to what he saw as a bizarre and important omission from Scotland's APR: there was no mention of the new sea lice policy announced by the Scottish Government at NASCO's 2016 Annual Meeting. That policy had been agreed without consulting wild fish interests. The policy's extremely high upper limit of 8 lice per farmed fish, which is intended to trigger an Enforcement Notice, is considerably higher than those used in other countries, including

countries with no wild salmon stocks. He further noted that this limit is frequently exceeded, by as high as 29 lice, yet only one Enforcement Notice has been issued to-date and there have been no enforced harvests. He felt that the new policy undermines the considerably lower limit in the industry's own Code of Good Practice, yet in 2016 it was launched with great fanfare as progress towards the international goal for sea lice. The recent Scottish Parliamentary Inquiry concluded that the *status quo* was not an option and that new and effective regulations are required. He asked if the Scottish Government could therefore confirm that the Scottish Government is committed to the international goals agreed by NASCO and the International Salmon Farmers Association of 'no increase in sea lice loads or lice induced mortality of wild salmonids attributable to the farms' and that, consistent with the findings in the Parliamentary Inquiry and in order to meet its international obligations, the Scottish Government will immediately implement strong actions to protect wild salmonids from the impacts of sea lice and escapes from salmon farms, including Actions in its 2019 Implementation Plan?

Jeff Gibbons (European Union – UK (Scotland)): thanked Mr Graham-Stewart for his wide-ranging question. He clarified that the Scottish Parliamentary Inquiries had not yet concluded and noted that the Scottish Government was awaiting the outcome of the second part of the process before determining how to respond to emerging recommendations. He indicated that the Cabinet Secretary had made it abundantly clear that the challenges facing the sector in Scotland are not acceptable and the *status quo* cannot remain in place. He has put in place various actions, not least a recently published 10-year Farmed Fish Health Strategy which will begin to push the sector to address the number of emerging and future issues that they face. This includes a commitment to review the sea lice compliance policy in July 2018 when it will have reached its annual birthday. The concerns being raised both by the Parliamentary process and by some of the NGOs, including Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland, regarding not only the intent of that policy but also the measures that are taken when there are breaches, will be considered at that point. He also noted that eleven warning letters, one advisory letter and one Enforcement Notice have been issued and stated that this can be measured in two ways: either there are significant issues or the policy has enforced some radical change in the sector. He further indicated that the policy was designed for the management of the health and well-being of fish on the farm, and not for wild salmon and that the Code of Good Practice was a different piece of policy, purely related to treatments for farmed fish. He noted that the Scottish Government is clearly committed to its international goals and reiterated that the Cabinet Secretary has clearly stated that the *status quo* is not acceptable. He further stated that a number of additional measures will be undertaken once the Parliamentary Inquiries are concluded and the recommendations are known.

Michael Stinson (Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers): noted from Action A1 of the Irish APR that 20,000 salmon escaped from an aquaculture facility in 2017. The following paragraph of the APR notes that in August 2017, anglers in the west of Ireland began to catch salmon of presumed farm origin. Later genetic analysis of 34 of these fish revealed they were of Norwegian genetic ancestry, not from Irish wild populations or ranched or mitigation strains. He asked if the authorities had identified the source of the fish that were captured in the west of Ireland and whether they were from the 20,000 which escaped in the 2017 incident, or another separate escape. He further noted that the APR states that the Action is on-going but asked what exactly was being done by the authorities with regard to the escapes in 2017.

Cathal Gallagher (European Union – Ireland): thanked Mr Stinson for his question. He noted that, in relation to the origin of the escaped farmed salmon that were captured in the Western River Basin District in 2017, it had not been possible to identify the individual farms involved genetically. However, the reported average weight of the escapees from the large

escape event was significantly less than the fish recovered in the Western River Basin District. This indicates that they were at a different stage in the production cycle and were therefore not the same fish. The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine is the competent authority for the regulation of aquaculture and would be best placed to offer views on what measures have been taken or can be taken, and this will be pursued with them.

Liss-Ellen Ramstad (Sami Parliament Norway): referred to the progress report regarding the River Tana in which it was reported that the revised regulatory regime (as agreed by Norway and EU – Finland), which was designed to reduce exploitation by 30%, was implemented in 2017. She wished to draw attention to some socio-economic issues and stated that the States had failed to report that the agreement will restrict traditional family fishing in the river by as much as 80%. She asked if Norway and Finland would consider also reporting on how regulatory measures affect traditional Sami fishing and also asked NASCO Parties to consider implementing the principles of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Tapio Hakaste (European Union – Finland): replied that the APR states that the aim of the measure is to reduce fishing mortality by 30%, and they have tried to focus the timing of the reduction very precisely so that it will protect the weakest of the approximately 30 salmon stocks in the Tana. He noted that the Tana main stem is actually a mixed-stock fishery, and there is very precise knowledge of when each of the different stocks migrate through the main stem and this is combined with catch data. He indicated that the regulatory measures have been established in such a way that they are effective for the weaker stocks. This means that they are mostly targeted at the beginning of the fishing season, which in turn means they are also targeted at the traditional fishery which occurs at the beginning of the fishing season. During the negotiation process, the aim at all times was to ensure that any new regulations would help the recovery of fish stocks while at the same time enabling the continuation of the traditional fishing methods, albeit with limited fishing times. This was one way of reducing the effect on the traditional fishery. He further noted that there is strong evidence that there should be large-scale reductions in the fishery, yet the regulations have been established to allow recovery of the weakest stocks over 2 salmon generations, which is about 15 years. This decision was also made to reduce the effect on the traditional fishery and to ensure that the traditional fishery could continue during the recovery period. Other options may have allowed a more rapid recovery, but it was important to the traditional fishery to have this long recovery period and this is another way in which a lot of concern has been shown for the traditional fishery. Finally, he referred to the comment that the traditional fishery had been reduced by up to 80% during the recovery period and he indicated that this was not correct. The reductions were made using knowledge and data held on the actual fishery, and the actual effect of different fisheries on mortality. While there have been rather long times when the traditional fishery has been possible, fishing times have been shortened for different gears and this reduction is based on actual fishery data and not on certain dates in the calendar each year.

Raoul Bierach (Norway): stated that Norway has a similar view to that expressed by EU – Finland. He added that as a NASCO Party, Norway is committed to basing its management on the best science available as he hoped everyone in the room would do. With regards to the discrepancy in the figures, the catch must be reduced. He indicated that to reduce the catch, it is necessary to consider how the fishery should be reduced in order to reach the goal of catch reduction. It is the catch reduction that is the focus, and sometimes it may be necessary to reduce the effort by more than 20% in order to achieve a 20% reduction in catch, as the catch is distributed differently throughout the season. During some parts of the season, when catch is low, the nets or days allowed must be reduced by more than 20% in order to achieve a 20% reduction in catch. He stated that the policy in Norway is, foremost, to try to conserve and

restore the resource basis for Sami culture and, without the resource, it would not be possible to fish either. It is necessary to ensure carefully that the traditional ways of fishing can go on, while at the same time rebuilding the stocks. He noted that overfishing for many years has caused this situation and we are now paying the price.

Steve Sutton (Atlantic Salmon Federation): indicated that he had a question for Norway regarding Action A2 of their Implementation Plan. The Action concerns identifying methods for immediately identifying escaped salmon as a basis for action against 'leaky' sites. The progress report provided in the APR indicates that work is being done towards using rare earth elements and DNA testing to identify escaped salmon. Mr Sutton stated that he believed neither of those methods would provide immediate results and that there are other potential methods, such as external marking of fish or fin clipping, and asked whether other, more immediate, methods are being investigated and, if not, why not.

Heidi Hansen (Norway): thanked Mr Sutton for his question. She noted that Norway is not evaluating other methods. The industry is working on a system based on genetic identification methods. She stated that the Norwegian Environment Agency is aware that other methods such as fin clipping or Coded Wire Tags exist and agreed that this could simplify the removal of escapees from the rivers. She thanked Mr Sutton for his suggestions and agreed to pass the information on to the proper authorities.

Steve Sutton (Atlantic Salmon Federation): indicated that he had a question for Canada regarding Action F2. He referred to an action describing a 3-year containment and eradication plan for invasive small mouth bass in Miramichi Lake. The APR indicates that the original plan was from 2010 – 2012, but 8 years into the plan bass are still in the lake and have not been eradicated. He noted that the progress report this year indicated that the government was working with stakeholders to develop a plan, but his understanding was that a plan had been developed and was more or less ready to go. It had been hoped that the plan would be put into place this summer but it is now too late so it is hoped it can be done in 2019. He indicated that he understood the delay was with Fisheries and Oceans. He asked what was causing the delay and what needs to be done to get the eradication plan in place for next summer?

Serge Doucet (Canada): thanked Mr Sutton for his question. He agreed that the efforts to date had not eradicated small mouth bass from Miramichi Lake, but they had contained it. He indicated that the current plan being been proposed for eradication is being evaluated. It is hoped that a decision can be made very soon and stakeholders will be advised of the anticipated plan of action.

Noel Carr (Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers): noted that there are many applications for aquaculture licenses pending and appeals processes underway in Ireland, many from an applicant called Marine Harvest. In their opposition to these licenses, the Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers cited the new technology and approach discussed at the Hardanger fjord Conference where Norsk Industri and Marine Harvest agreed a road map in May 2017 which had very clear specific goals. He asked Norway what the schedule was, and were they currently on schedule.

Raoul Bierach (Norway): agreed that Marine Harvest had presented a very ambitious road map about one year ago. However, it was not something that the authorities have been involved in specifically. He indicated that this is an industry-driven initiative, by one of the big players: the biggest in Norway and probably in the world. He stated that he did not have any detailed information on how the plan was proceeding, as it is not something that is implemented in official Norwegian policies from either the authorities or the Parliament. He noted that it is a very good initiative and, from a wild fish perspective, it would be very good if they were able

to reach the goals. However, he indicated that as he represented the wild fish management side, he did not have direct contact with the industry on a daily basis, so he is not very well informed about how the plan is going. On a more general basis, he was aware that Marine Harvest is trying out both sterile fish in larger-scale production and have several technical trials of closed-containment concepts. As the road map is a private initiative and not something enforced by the authorities, it is not something that the authorities follow closely on a daily basis.

Dwayne Shaw (Downeast Salmon Federation): asked the United States how the prescriptions for fishways on the Union River are scheduled over a 15-year period for additional upstream passage in a situation involving an endangered species - a 'Species in the Spotlight' - and the International Year of the Salmon going forward. He asked if 15 years is considered adequate for the recovery of the species and how these fit into the APR.

Kim Damon-Randall (United States of America): noted that existing authorities are being used. The Endangered Species Act allows only specific things to be done. The authorities are being used to look at the impacts of all projects on wild Atlantic salmon and are trying to ensure that recovery is being worked towards at all times. She indicated that while this is not spelled out specifically in the APR, the APR does address fish passage improvements and the work that is being done across the entire Distinct Population Segment of Atlantic Salmon.

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): stated, having been involved in the APR Review Group for a few years, he had observed that quite a few of the APRs just do not provide the information required. He felt that the challenge is now to ensure that the Implementation Plans for the third cycle are correct so that they contain 'SMART' measures. He stated that the most important aspect of these measures would be that they are measurable and that their time is restricted. Then each APR could be used as a milestone along a general strategy towards an objective in 5 years' time, which would be much easier for the Review Group. Most importantly, the whole process would be open and transparent. He continued by referring to what was said in his Opening Statement to the Council: this not about the few, i.e. Greenland and the Faroe Islands, needing to show how they are protecting fish; it is about everybody. He stated that some Parties are not doing this and reiterated that aquaculture is one of the major issues for the next five years. He stated that those Parties and jurisdictions with aquaculture industries must show that they have a responsibility and a genuine commitment, which they signed up to at the NASCO table, to regulating those industries so that they do not impact upon wild fish. He urged the Parties to keep that in mind when discussing the third cycle of Implementation Plans.

Arnaud Peyronnet (European Union): apologised to the Review Group for the late submission of APRs from some EU jurisdictions which meant it was not possible for the Group to complete its work in reviewing these. He indicated that there had been issues with EU – Spain in particular. The information from the devolved regional administrations was not provided to Madrid in time for it to be sent to the Group. He reassured the Parties that this would be followed very closely in future to ensure that there would be timely submission. He also referred to the lack of submission of information from EU – France on aquaculture. In 2017, EU – France had clarified that there was no aquaculture taking place in France and this would be better defined in the next IP cycle.

Rory Saunders (United States of America / Chair of the Review Group): referred to the comment regarding aquaculture in EU – France and noted that the third theme area is aquaculture, introductions and transfers, and transgenics. not just fish farming. Therefore, jurisdictions with hatcheries, even conservation hatcheries, should have actions related to those issues.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): thanked the Review Group for its work and noted that the reports have a very important function in NASCO.

Annex 17

CNL(18)42

Summary of Discussions during the Special Session on Progress Reports on Planning for the International Year of the Salmon

Arnaud Peyronnet (European Union): noted that when the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) was being discussed in 2017, it was difficult to see if it could be as successful as hoped. However, there are now concrete elements which are the result of some very hard work. He expressed the European Union's appreciation for this work, and that which lies ahead, to all involved in the process, particularly the Secretariat.

Serge Doucet (Canada): thanked the Committees and the Secretariat for the hard work that has been put into preparing for the IYS. He noted that Canada was looking forward to the IYS and supported the activities of the Parties as well.

Steve Sutton (Atlantic Salmon Federation): indicated that he had understood that one of the products coming out of the workshop held in Edinburgh on communication outreach was going to be an Engagement Plan. He asked if that was correct and, if so, what was the status of that Plan.

Emma Hatfield (NASCO Secretary): replied that it was on the list of things which need to be done. The workshop was held at the end of March and both April and May were busy with preparations for the Annual Meeting. There are a number of things which the Secretariat hopes to do, such as issuing briefing documents to Heads of Delegations for information for the ministerial launch, however, these have had to wait while preparations for the Annual Meeting have been ongoing.

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): reported on NGO activities in planning for the IYS. He noted that planning is much more advanced in Norway than most of the other jurisdictions and the NGOs have been heavily involved with the various departments there. In the UK, a meeting is planned at which it is hoped that they can expand the ideas on the table into action points and Lawrence Talks, from the EU delegation, is involved in that. They also hope to employ, possibly on a part-time basis, a co-ordinator to co-ordinate the work within the NGOs and have been discussing this with the EU delegation. The NGOs have some plans and hope to be able to report to the Secretariat soon as to how those plans are developing.

Don Sprangers (Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network): directed delegates' attention to a slide on the screen showing a map of an international school's network working on salmon, and encouraged participants to talk to their local schools about their potential involvement in this expanding programme. He referred to the programmes the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network has planned as part of the IYS, and noted his excitement that a lot of the work the network would be undertaking would be featured on social media and the websites of others present at the session.

Schools involved in the network can participate in four different programmes: a genetics study looking at the origin of the species; scale sample analyses and the life-cycle of the salmon; stream studies, looking at both biological and chemical water quality; and film projects where students will put together short films about different aspects of their rivers, the history of their rivers and the status of salmon in these rivers. The primary goal of the organization is to get students involved in their local rivers, looking at what the status of the salmon is and what

conservation efforts are being undertaken. He stated that students are the next generation of stewards on our rivers and we need to reach out to them and the organization was a great way to do this. Funding was available in Europe through the ERASMUS programme and funding in the USA had been provided by NOAA Fisheries and the Maine Community Foundation. He indicated that colleagues in Canada lacked funding and needed help with that.

Mark Saunders (NPAFC): noted that Dr Suam Kim, the President of NPAFC, had to leave and regretted not being able to attend the session. Mr Saunders congratulated NASCO on the very significant progress made on the implementation of, and working towards, the focal year of the IYS. He noted that it had been a very exciting year, which started with NPAFC and NASCO working more closely together and building the relationship between the two organizations, setting the foundations for the governance and the ability to work together. He stated that now it is time to do the 'fun stuff': making things happen in this International Year of the Salmon. He was interested to see the ideas coming out of the different countries and encouraged organizers to consider whether any new activity being planned would be of interest at the hemispheric scale.

With regards to the State of the Salmon report, Mr Saunders indicated that there was increasing interest in the Pacific in building stories from local areas from indigenous peoples and in understanding the situation elsewhere in the hemisphere and connecting through these stories. He referred to some excellent projects in Alaska, which have spent three years collating stories related to subsistence fishing and the cultural importance of salmon in Alaska. Some of those involved had been represented at the outreach workshop in Edinburgh and he felt that there could be interest on the Pacific side in similar projects. A photo competition to get more stock photos was under consideration, which could be linked to the website and the respective basins. He felt that stories and maps of what was taking place would be very interesting for people, allowing them to see the events and salmon issues plotted on maps. NPAFC was certainly considering the State of the Salmon report at the hemispheric level, and the rivers database and presentation by Sarah Robinson, the NASCO Assistant Secretary, shows the power of video representations of the state of salmon rivers. There will always be challenges for scientists when it comes to categorising rivers. While NASCO has been through a process to standardise categories, he hoped that this could be broadened to the hemisphere as there is a lot of interest in the Pacific in finding a standardised approach to representing the state of salmon.

Mr Saunders stated that NPAFC have a lot to share with NASCO. Lots of activities have been arranged related to an opening event taking place in Vancouver on 11 October. The Presidents of NPAFC and NASCO had recently met to discuss how representatives from both organizations could participate together in events taking place over the next year to support and facilitate exchange. Mr Saunders also indicated that he had had a very productive interaction with the IASRB and SAG. He believed that there is a basis for some research in each of the research themes and outcomes that could be developed over the next year.

Part of the IYS will be setting up both organizations to be relevant and nimble in the future as we try to respond to the ongoing declines. When looking at catches, it may seem that the Pacific is not suffering, but the declines in a lot of Pacific species are masked by a large tonnage of catch in several species that are doing well under climate change. He said that we share the same timeline of decline and productivity, and interest in both solving it and engaging our people. Mr Saunders stated that in working together we can show how the organizations can do something which no other organizations can, in bringing these communities of salmon people together. He noted that he was very excited to take home what he has learned and to start to figure out how to more actively connect with some of the projects being developed, and this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of activities.

Noel Carr (Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Anglers): noted that one of the events included under the IYS is a forum in St. Petersburg in September 2018, organized by the Russian Federal Agency for Fisheries, with a chapter devoted to mixed-stock fishing. He asked if Russia would be inviting foreign participants to that event.

Sergey Prusov (Russian Federation): indicated that there would be a small meeting conference on mixed- stock fisheries. The Russian Delegation, on behalf of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, invited all Parties to participate in this forum in St. Petersburg. He advised that detailed information would be provided to the NASCO Secretariat at a later date, to be forwarded to the Parties.

Rory Saunders (United States of America / Chair of the IASRB): referred back to some of the points raised by Mark Saunders. He stated that there had been some very useful discussions at both the IASRB and SAG meetings regarding projects that would be of relevance at the salmospheric level. Two projects in particular were the 'ROAM' project and the 'Likely Suspects' project, which had received some IASRB funding over the past year. Both projects fit within the context of NASCO's existing research priorities. He indicated that more information would be provided under the Agenda item related to the work of the IASRB, and that he looked forward to further informal collaboration on research.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): read a list of decisions to be taken in the light of this Special Session. This list, and subsequent discussion and agreement, is included in the Report of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO, CNL(18)45.

Annex 18

CNL(18)46

Press Release

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)
Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting, Portland, Maine, USA
12-15 June 2018

Many Wild Atlantic Salmon Populations Imperiled:
New International Regulatory Measures Adopted to Enhance Protections

On the shores of the State of Maine, the last bastion for endangered populations of wild Atlantic salmon in the United States, an inter-governmental organization met to discuss the fate of this iconic species. Countries bordering the North Atlantic Ocean gather each year to review the newest scientific information and consider actions being taken and those still needed to ensure the conservation of this important species.

This year, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), adopted two important measures to regulate fisheries - one around the Faroe Islands and the other off West Greenland. The decision applicable to the Faroe Islands acknowledges that the fishery will be managed from 2019-2022 taking into account scientific advice. The three-year measure adopted for the internal use fishery at West Greenland strengthens monitoring and control and sets a total catch of 30 t. The return by NASCO to setting a total catch as part of the multi-year measure is essential to the effective management of the fishery, and the agreed level is well below the quota set by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) in each of the last three years.

"I am pleased that these two important regulatory measures were reached in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration," observed NASCO President Jóannes V. Hansen of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland). "The mutual respect shown by all Parties during negotiations bodes well for the future of this organization and for wild Atlantic salmon."

Factors that affect the health of Atlantic salmon extend well beyond fisheries, and NASCO and its scientists are engaged in cutting edge work to identify and address those causes. Determining why salmon are dying at sea before they can come back to their natal rivers to spawn is a key area of research. A new innovative approach to oceanic acoustic monitoring, ROAM, will allow salmon to be tracked through the marine environment. The approach will overcome many of the significant challenges associated with tracking Atlantic salmon throughout their extensive marine migration. Another area of critical international research is the "Likely Suspects" project, which aims to identify ocean areas where salmon are disappearing to help prioritize and effectively target additional scientific work. A data workshop is currently in the planning stages with the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea to advance this project.

NASCO is a key partner in the International Year of the Salmon (IYS). IYS is a bold multi-year effort undertaken in cooperation with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission that is intended to create a hemispheric partnership to facilitate an intense burst of outreach and

research that will fill knowledge gaps and catalyse new ways to generate and share knowledge necessary for the resilience of salmon and people in a changing world. The focal year for the initiative is 2019, and a number of IYS-related activities and projects are already underway. Two signature projects previously mentioned are ROAM and "Likely Suspects" Given the importance of IYS, NASCO held a workshop to progress the planning of this important initiative. In addition, an IYS symposium entitled *Salmon in a Changing World* will be held just prior to the 2019 NASCO Annual Meeting in Tromsø, Norway.

Harvests of endangered and threatened populations of North American origin salmon in the St. Pierre and Miquelon mixed stock fishery were also discussed, and NASCO continued to urge France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) to cooperate in the management of, and research on, its fishery. While France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) explained it was not in a position to join NASCO, it expressed its commitment to take NASCO recommendations on catch by its communities into account.

Finally, NASCO continues to look for ways to improve implementation of its agreements on fisheries management, habitat protection, and aquaculture and related activities. A workshop was held again this year to review critically and publicly how well NASCO members are meeting their commitments. Holding members accountable in this way is essential to the effectiveness and credibility of the organization. A new reporting cycle will begin in 2019 and possible improvements to the review and evaluation process are under consideration. The President of NASCO underscored the important progress made in the area of reporting by the NASCO Parties over the last 15 years and looked forward to concluding the current work that will further enhance the transparency of reporting over the next five years.

The Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of NASCO was held during 12-15 June in Portland, Maine, USA.

Notes for Editors:

NASCO is an intergovernmental organization formed by a treaty in 1984 and is based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Its objectives are the conservation, restoration and rational management of wild Atlantic salmon stocks, which do not recognise national boundaries. It is the only inter-governmental organisation with this mandate which it implements through international consultation, negotiation, and co-operation.

The Parties to the Convention are: Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation, and the USA. There are 41 non-governmental observers accredited to the Organization.

The 2018 Annual Meeting included 101 participants, including scientists, policy makers and representatives of inter-governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations who met to discuss the status of wild Atlantic salmon and to consider management issues. The Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting will be held in Tromsø, Norway, and will be preceded by the IYS Symposium. The Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting will be held in the Faroe Islands.

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Annex 19

CNL(18)00

List of Papers

CNL(18)01	Provisional Agenda (English and French)
CNL(18)02	Draft Agenda (English and French)
CNL(18)03	Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda
CNL(18)04	Draft Schedule of Meetings
CNL(18)05	Report of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee **(issued at meeting)**
CNL(18)06	Secretary's Report
CNL(18)07	Report on the Activities of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization in 2017
CNL(18)08rev	Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM)
CNL(18)09	Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board **(issued at meeting)**
CNL(18)10	Review of the Procedures Relating to the Work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group
CNL(18)11	Request for Scientific Advice from ICES **(issued at meeting)**
CNL(18)12	Report of the Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of Reports
CNL(18)13	Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group
CNL(18)14	Summary of Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 - 2018 Implementation Plans
CNL(18)15	Progress Reports on Planning for the International Year of the Salmon
CNL(18)16	Report on Progress in Implementing the 'Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO', CNL(13)38
CNL(18)17	Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery
CNL(18)18	Summary of Council Decisions
CNL(18)19	Update on Irish studies on Socio-Economic Values of Atlantic Salmon in 2018 / 2019
CNL(18)20	2018 update on the NGO perspective on salmon farming (Tabled by the NGOs)

Annual Progress Reports on Actions taken under the Implementation Plans:

CNL(18)21	Annual Progress Report: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland): Faroe Islands
CNL(18)22	Annual Progress Report: Norway
CNL(18)23	Annual Progress Report: United States
CNL(18)24	Annual Progress Report: European Union – Germany
CNL(18)25	Annual Progress Report: European Union – Sweden
CNL(18)26	Annual Progress Report: Russian Federation
CNL(18)27	Annual Progress Report: European Union – UK (Scotland)
CNL(18)27rev	Annual Progress Report: European Union – UK (Scotland)
CNL(18)28	Annual Progress Report: Canada
CNL(18)28rev	Annual Progress Report: Canada
CNL(18)29	Annual Progress Report: European Union – UK (England and Wales)
CNL(18)30	Annual Progress Report: European Union – UK (Northern Ireland)
CNL(18)31	Annual Progress Report: European Union – Ireland
CNL(18)32	Annual Progress Report: European Union – Finland
CNL(18)33	Annual Progress Report: European Union – Spain (Galicia)
CNL(18)34	Annual Progress Report: European Union – Denmark
CNL(18)35	Annual Progress Report: European Union – Spain (Navarra)
CNL(18)36	Annual Progress Report: European Union – Spain (Asturias)
CNL(18)37	Annual Progress Report: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland
CNL(18)38	Annual Progress Report: European Union – France
CNL(18)39	Report to NASCO from EU – Portugal on their Salmon Management
CNL(18)40	2019 Budget and 2020 Forecast Budget
CNL(18)41	Questions at APR Special Session 2018
CNL(18)42	Questions at IYS Special Session 2018
CNL(18)43	Draft Press Release
CNL(18)44	Draft Report of the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Council
CNL(18)45	Report of the Thirty-Fifth Meeting of the Council
CNL(18)46	Press Release
CNL(18)47	Presentation of the ICES Advice for the North Atlantic Salmon Stocks to Council
CNL(18)48	Agenda