



CNL(19)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 2019¹;
 - 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management²;
 - 1.3 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2019;
 - 1.4 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements;
 - 1.5 provide an overview of the methods used by jurisdictions to calculate conservation limits, including assumptions, benefits and short comings of each method, and advise on next steps to improve methodologies and include how conservation limits are used for setting catch advice;
 - 1.6 provide an update on the distribution and abundance of pink salmon across the North Atlantic and advise on potential threats to wild Atlantic salmon.
- 2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:**
 - 2.1 describe the key events of the 2019 fisheries³;
 - 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 2020 / 2021 – 2022 / 2023 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 rebuilding⁴; 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 2019 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 2020-2023 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 rebuilding⁴; 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 2019 fisheries³;
- 4.2 describe the status of the stocks⁵;

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 2020-2022 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 rebuilding⁴;
- 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)
John Biilmann (WGC, manager representative)
Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)
Martha Robertson (ICES representative, Observer)
Patrick Gargan (Co-ordinator)

New questions, originator:

- 1.5 Standing Scientific Committee
- 1.6 European Union