



Agenda Item 5.3

Council

CNL(19)15

Report on Progress During the International Year of the Salmon

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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 (IYS(16)2).
2. In planning for the focal year of the IYS and during the first months of 2019, there has been a significant effort by the lead organizations (NASCO and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, NPAFC), the core partners, Parties / jurisdictions, NGOs and others to ensure the IYS is a success. This paper provides a brief overview of the planning and initial stages of delivery of the IYS.
3. Since last year, the North Atlantic component of the Co-ordinating Committee, the Technical Team of the Co-ordinating Committee, the North Atlantic Steering Committee (NASC) and the 2019 NASCO IYS Symposium Steering Committee have met most often by conference call or video link (Annex 1). In addition, the State of Salmon Working Group was formed to support the delivery of the State of North Atlantic Salmon report. The Working Group had one meeting in Edinburgh, in January 2019, and conducted additional business by correspondence. NASCO representation on these Committees and Working Groups is as follows:

Co-ordinating Committee: Raoul Bierach (Norway), Kim Damon-Randall (USA, Co-Chair), Emma Hatfield (Secretariat), and Arnaud Peyronnet (EU).

Technical Team: Kim Damon-Randall (USA, Co-Chair) and Emma Hatfield (Secretariat).

North Atlantic Steering Committee: Raoul Bierach (Norway), Doug Bliss (Canada), Ciaran Byrne (EU), Anne Cooper (ICES), Kim Damon-Randall (USA, Chair), Cathal Gallagher (EIFAAC), Hugo Hansen / Svein Magnason (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), Emma Hatfield (Secretary), Paul Knight (NGOs), Susana Salvador (OSPAR), and Representative (Russian Federation).

2019 IYS Symposium Steering Committee: Doug Bliss (Canada), Kim Damon-Randall (USA), Heidi Hansen (Norway), Grant Horsburgh (EU), Steve Sutton (NGO), Eva B. Thorstad (Norway, Chair), Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (EU).

State of Salmon Working Group: Julien April (Canada), Raoul Bierach (Norway), Julie Crocker (USA), Patricia Edwards (Canada), Dennis Ensing (EU), Cathal Gallagher (EU), Svein Magnason (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), Dave Meerburg (NGOs), Martha Robertson (ICES), Sarah Robinson (NASCO Secretariat, Chair), Emanuel Rosing / Katrine Kærgaard (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), and Sergej Prusov (Russian Federation).
4. The NASCO Secretary, Emma Hatfield and NPAFC Executive Director, Vladimir Radchenko, introduced the IYS at a side event of the meeting of the Committee on

Fisheries (COFI), a subsidiary body of the UN's Food and Agricultural Organization Council, in Rome, Italy in July 2018. This was an opportunity to highlight the initiative at a global inter-governmental forum.

5. The NASCO and NPAFC Presidents met in Scotland on 24 and 25 October 2018. This was a reciprocal visit hosted by the NASCO President and timed to coincide with the launch of the IYS in Scotland. The IYS Director for the Pacific Region, Mark Saunders, also participated in the meeting. The Presidents met with the Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform in addition to meetings and associated visits to fisheries and scientific sites throughout Scotland. The formal and informal exchange of information between the two Presidents was a very positive precursor to the focal year of the IYS.

Co-ordinating Committee and Technical Team

6. The Technical Team of the Co-ordinating Committee met in October 2018 to take forward joint initiatives such as the website and to discuss the exchange of scientists and research collaborations. This meeting occurred in connection with the NPAFC's IYS launch event in Vancouver, Canada, which enabled NASCO participation in that event. The planned meeting of the Co-ordinating Committee, due to take place in Boston, USA, in January 2019, was cancelled due to the United States' partial Government shutdown. The NASCO members of the Co-ordinating Committee held a meeting by conference call in February 2019.
7. The IYS website (<https://yearofthesalmon.org/>) was launched in October 2018. The site is the initial landing point for those seeking IYS information. It contains basic information about the initiative and provides several ways for the website users to reach information related to their country of residence or interest. Parties and jurisdictions were, therefore, invited to provide relevant links to 'local' sites that can be signposted via flags or logos on the home page of the IYS site. Events and projects can also be registered on the website. The location of registered events and projects appears on maps on the IYS site and further details are also shown for each activity. The NPAFC IYS team continue to manage the site, and their on-going work on this aspect of the IYS is very much appreciated.
8. Ministers and leaders from across the Northern Hemisphere announced 2019 as the International Year of the Salmon. The Heads of Delegations for the NASCO Parties and NPAFC (North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission) liaised with the relevant regional representatives to bring this to fruition. A total of 13 NASCO launch events were held around the North Atlantic, details of which can be seen in Annex 2.
9. The joint request for IYS funding by NPAFC and NASCO to the Fisheries and Oceans Canada Partnership Fund was successful. This resulted in CAN\$75,000 per lead organization per year for the financial years 2017 / 18 and 2018 / 19. This support from Canada is very much appreciated. The final report on activities was submitted to Fisheries and Oceans Canada in May 2019.

North Atlantic Steering Committee

10. The North Atlantic Steering Committee (NASC) met via teleconference in June 2018, in Dublin in September 2018 and in Edinburgh in March 2019. Reports of the meetings are available at www.nasco.int/iys.html. Representatives of all NASCO Parties except the Russian Federation have attended most meetings together with a representative from NASCO's accredited NGOs. Core partners EIFAAC and ICES have attended meetings. The input from, and expertise of, the participants was very much appreciated.

11. The NASC delivered a Special Session on the IYS held during the 2018 Annual Meeting. The Special Session provided NASCO Parties and jurisdictions and NGOs with an update on the progress and preparations being made for the IYS and provided a forum for discussion. The Council agreed a number of points in relation to IYS budgetary spend and activities to be delivered in support of the IYS (CNL(18)45).
12. The money currently residing in the NASCO IYS account is £143,348. A spending plan for the IYS budget was prepared by the NASC and agreed by correspondence by the Heads of Delegation in September 2018. Included in the proposed spend is £25,000 which has been ring fenced to support the IYS Symposium in 2022, the event being scheduled as a concluding symposium for IYS, and approximately £15,000 for the redesign of the NASCO website. These two items of spend were proposed and agreed by Council at the 2018 Annual Meeting.
13. A contribution of US\$50,000 was received from the United States for the delivery of the IYS, and this support is very much appreciated. Norway has agreed to cover any shortfall needed for the technical report on the value of wild North Atlantic Salmon that is being used as the basis for the value section of the State of Salmon Report, this support is gratefully received. The EU recently informed NASCO that it would be making a voluntary contribution of €200,000 to support the delivery of the IYS. It is anticipated that this money will be made available to NASCO Parties / jurisdictions and accredited NGOs to support outreach activities. The details of the grant and how it is awarded are currently being finalised.
14. Outreach is the agreed focus of the IYS in the North Atlantic to raise NASCO's profile and awareness of the challenges facing salmon, the measures being taken to conserve them and to foster support for research. Four audiences have been identified as the focus for outreach: decision makers; general public; children and youth; and the knowledgeable public. Several initiatives and resources were identified by the NASC to support and deliver outreach. The following paragraphs provide details of these initiatives and resources:
 - in addition to the IYS logo and key messages being made available to download from the IYS website by organizations and individuals undertaking IYS outreach, several other resources have been designed. T-shirts, badges, banners, a life-cycle colouring sheet, caps, hats and beach-flag designs can be downloaded to be printed / created locally in support of IYS activities and events;
 - NASCO set up an IYS twitter account @IYS_Atlantic in October 2018 and has, to date, 489 followers. The account has proved a useful mechanism to promote the launches of the IYS around the North Atlantic and resources such as the short video mentioned below;
 - a short video featuring Sir David Attenborough was funded by NASCO (£2851) and facilitated by Salmon and Trout Conservation. It was released on 21 March 2019 and can be found on the NASCO website (http://www.nasco.int/iys_video.html). We are grateful for the generous in-kind support that may people provided to make this possible;
 - a photo competition was launched via the NASCO IYS twitter account and closed on 25 April. The winning entry will be selected and informed following the 2019 Annual Meeting;

- a budget allocation of £20,000 was agreed by the NASC to support a small grants scheme to aid the exchange of ideas and experience to enable IYS activities and projects to be developed around the North Atlantic (IYS(18)27). This budget allocation was agreed by the Heads of Delegation, by correspondence, in 2018. The paperwork for a small grants scheme has been developed and will be promoted to NASCO Parties, jurisdictions and NASCO NGOs in the second half of 2019;
- a website design company, RedPaint, has been selected through a tendering process and has been engaged to undertake the redesign of the NASCO website. The redesign includes a member's area where draft meeting papers will be held and a searchable document archive where all agreed papers will be available to all browsers. The initial design has been developed, and the website will be finalised in the second half of 2019.

The State of Salmon Report

15. NASCO compiling and promoting an annual State of Salmon report was first proposed in the Strategic Approach for NASCO's 'Next Steps' (CNL(05)49). It was highlighted by the Public Relations Group (PR(06)07) as a document that would form the centrepiece of a PR strategy. In 2016, Council requested that information for all fields in the Rivers Database should be updated or completed and provided to the Secretariat by 31 December 2017, CNL(16)68, and that once the NASCO Rivers database had been updated, a 'State of the Salmon' report would be prepared. At that time, it stated that the report could then be prepared for consideration at the 2018 Annual Meeting.
16. The final contribution of data for the NASCO Rivers Database was confirmed in late January 2019. Analysis of the NASCO Rivers Database information began in February 2019 once all the data had been received. The original analysis of the data and the contribution it could make to the State of Salmon report had to be reconsidered as not all fields in the Rivers Database were completed.
17. The content of the report was discussed and agreed by the NASC. The members of this Committee also expressed the preference for the document not to exceed 20 pages, using graphics and pictures to present information rather than extensive articles using the written word. At the meeting of the State of Salmon Working Group, in January 2019, members of the Group offered their suggestions and recommendations regarding the detailed content of the report. What data should be used and how it should be presented was discussed in detail. Information relating to the value, culture and importance of wild Atlantic Salmon has been included in the publication to put into context the data presented and ensure the publication embraces the IYS theme; 'Salmon and People in a Changing World'.
18. To facilitate a section on the value of wild North Atlantic salmon and on the recommendation of the NASC, the Secretariat contacted Øystein Aas regarding the work of the NASCO Socio-Economic Sub Group and the development of any future value assessment. He put forward a proposal to produce a technical report on the value of wild North Atlantic Salmon that could be used as the basis for the value section of the State of Salmon Report and also be a valuable piece of work in its own right. The funds allocated within the agreed IYS budget to deliver this section of the report were not sufficient to cover the contract for the technical report. Norway has kindly offered to cover the shortfall of the costs of the contract as a voluntary contribution to the IYS.

19. The final draft of the State of Salmon report is being prepared, incorporating the feedback received and to ensure the finished document is acceptable to all Parties and will have the desired impact.

IYS Symposium Steering Committee

20. As agreed by Council in 2017, an IYS Symposium Steering Committee was formed to develop the two-day symposium that will precede the 2019 Annual Meeting of NASCO. A draft programme for the Symposium was presented and accepted by the NASCO Council at the 2018 meeting in Portland, Maine.
21. Since June 2018, the IYS Symposium Steering Committee has held three video / telephone conference calls (Annex 1) and conducted the remainder of its business by correspondence. To date, 165 participants have registered for the Symposium held on 3 and 4 June.
22. 26 talks and 21 posters will be presented over the two days. The programme concludes with a discussion session to ensure delegates at the Symposium have the opportunity to contribute to the conclusions and recommendations from the Symposium that will be presented at the NASCO Annual Meeting by the Chair of the Committee, Eva B. Thorstad.

Exchange of Scientists and Research Collaborations

23. In 2018, 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 importance of developing aspirational research was discussed by the NASC and mechanisms to support this were considered, given the limited capacity of NASCO-affiliated scientists. In response to this, the NASCO Secretariat has offered to disseminate the stated expertise required for planned workshops to the greater North Atlantic research community, to ensure the widest possible participation in the development of research projects. Therefore, the IYS NPAFC team was asked to provide details of the planned workshops and research meetings with information about the expertise desired at each to the NASCO Secretariat.

Progress Report on Actions taken to implement the IYS

24. The Parties and jurisdictions of NASCO agreed to provide reports on IYS activities to the NASC in 2017, 2018 and 2019 (CNL(18)45). 11 reports were submitted for 2019 out of a possible 16. The reports detailed a total of 143 activities that had taken place or that were planned to start in the IYS focal year. Parties and jurisdictions were asked to indicate which of the four identified audiences (decision makers, public, children / youth or knowledgeable public) the activities were targeting. In addition, Parties and jurisdictions were asked to indicate whether any of the five themes or outreach and communication would be delivered. The five themes and outreach and communication aim are:

Theme 1: *Status of Salmon*: to understand the present status of salmon and their environments.

Theme 2: *Salmon in a changing salmosphere*: to understand and quantify the effects of natural environmental variability and anthropogenic factors affecting salmon distribution and abundance and to make projections of their future changes.

Theme 3: *New Frontiers*: to develop new technologies and analytical methods to advance salmon science and to explore the uncharted regions of the salmosphere.

Theme 4: *Human Dimension*: to improve the resilience of people and salmon through the connection and collaboration of salmon-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, youth, harvesters and resource managers across the salmosphere.

Theme 5: *Information Systems*: to develop an integrated archive of accessible electronic data collected during the IYS and tools to support future research.

Outreach and communication: improving public and political awareness of salmon’s cultural, social, and economic importance; and the challenges salmon face from major environmental changes and human impacts.

25. Many of the activities reported on indicated that they were associated with more than one theme and that they were targeting more than one of the identified audiences. The majority of the activities (118) aim to deliver outreach and communication. More than half of the activities (74) are identified as delivering on the Status of Salmon, Theme 1. The pie chart below shows the proportion of each of the identified audiences the activities were targeting, the public being the audience most of the activities focused on.

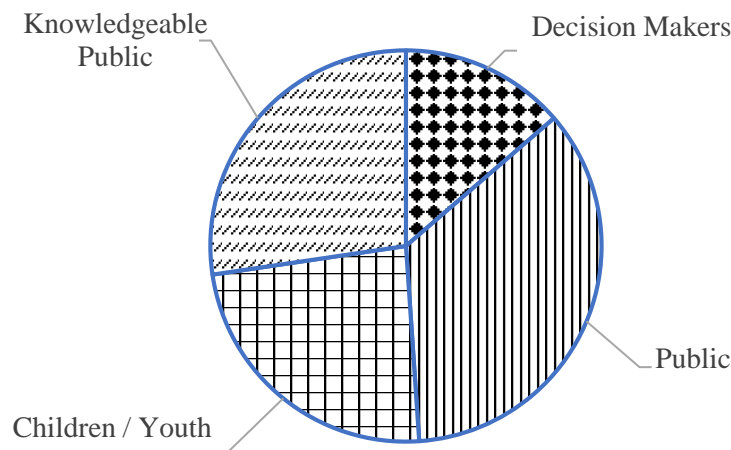


Figure 1: For each of the identified audiences (Decision makers, Public, Children / Youth and Knowledgeable Public) the pie chart shows the proportion of reported activities that targeted each audience.

IYS meetings between January 2018 and March 2019

The following meetings have taken place, in part or entirely, related to the development of the International Year of the Salmon (COFI = The Committee of Fisheries, a subsidiary body of the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations):

Meeting	2018	2019
The IYS Co-ordinating Committee (CC)	February (London, UK)	January (Boston, United States) CANCELLED due to U.S. partial Government shutdown
North Atlantic component of the IYS Co-ordinating Committee (CC)		February (conference call)
The IYS Technical Team of the Co-ordinating Committee	March (conference call) April (conference call) June (conference call) October (Vancouver, Canada)	
The North Atlantic Steering Committee (NASC)	January/February (London, UK) April (conference call) May (conference call) June (conference call) September (Dublin, Ireland)	March (Edinburgh, UK)
The IYS Special Session at the NASCO Annual Meeting	June (Portland, Maine, United States)	
The 2019 NASCO IYS Symposium Steering Committee	January (conference call) October (conference call)	January (conference call) February (conference call)
A meeting of the NPAFC and NASCO Presidents	June (Portland, Maine, United States) October (Scotland)	
NASCO attendance at the NPAFC IYS Working Group Meetings and the North Pacific Steering Committee NPSC	February (Vancouver, Canada)	
NASC IYS Outreach Workshop	March (Edinburgh, UK)	
COFI Meeting	July (Rome, Italy)	
NASCO attendance at the launch of the IYS in the Russian Federation	September (St Petersburg, Russian Federation)	
NASCO attendance at the NPAFC IYS launch	October (Vancouver, Canada)	

NASCO attendance at the launch of the IYS in Scotland	October (Perthshire, Scotland)	
Likely Suspects Framework project		<i>Planned for June and October</i>
ROAM Workshop	March (Woods Hole, MA) POSTPONED June (Woods Hole, MA)	

IYS launch events between 15 September and 4 December 2018

The Minister / Community leader and the date the IYS launch took place for each Party / jurisdiction is detailed.

Party / jurisdiction	Minister / Community Leader	IYS Launch event
Canada	The Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard	November 15, in Saint John, New Brunswick
European Union (EU)	Karmenu Vella EU Commissioner for Environment, Maritime Affairs and Fisheries	24 October
EU – UK (England)	George Eustice Minister of State of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	Tuesday 16 October at the Institute of Fisheries Management 49th Annual Conference
EU – UK (Wales)	Lesley Griffiths AM, Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs, The National Assembly for Wales	6 November
EU - Finland	Jari Leppä Minister of Agriculture and Forestry of Finland	26 October
EU - Germany	Michael Stübgen and Ursula Heinen-Esser State Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture and Minister for the Environment, Agriculture, Nature Conservation and Consumer Protection, respectively.	12 October
EU – Ireland	Sean Canney T.D. Minister of State at Department of Rural & Community Development and Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment.	4 December
Norway	Ola Elvestuen Ministry of Climate and Environment	13 November. River Drammen
EU – Portugal	Ana Paula Vitorino Minister of the Sea	9 – 10 November at the Minho River Aquamuseum
Russian Federation	Shestakov Ilya Vasilyevich Deputy Minister of Agriculture - Head of the Federal Agency for Fisheries and Fisheries	15 September at the Global Fisheries Forum II, St Petersburg
EU – Sweden	Director general Jakob Granit Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management	29 November

EU – UK (Scotland)	Roseanna Cunningham Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform	25 October on the River Earn, Scotland
USA	Donna Wieting Head of the Office of Protected Resources)	30 October at New England Aquarium