



**REPORT OF THE
THIRTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL
TROMSØ, NORWAY**

5 – 7 JUNE 2019

President: Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the
Faroe Islands and Greenland))

Vice-President: Serge Doucet (Canada)

Secretary: Emma Hatfield

CNL(19)46

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

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway

5 – 7 June 2019

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President of NASCO, Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), opened the meeting and introduced State Secretary Atle Hamar of the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment who welcomed delegates to Tromsø (Annex 1). The President then made an Opening Statement (Annex 2).

Written Opening Statements were tabled by Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States (Annex 3).

Written Opening Statements were tabled by the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Committee (EIFAAC), the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission (NAMMCO) and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) (Annex 4).

A written Opening Statement was tabled on behalf of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) (Annex 5).

A written Opening Statement was tabled on behalf of the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) attending the Annual Meeting (Annex 6).

The President expressed appreciation for these statements and messages.

A list of participants at the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO is given in Annex 7.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The Council adopted its Agenda, CNL(19)48 (Annex 8).

3. Financial and Administrative Issues

3.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), Kimberly Blankenbeker (USA), presented the report of the Committee, CNL(19)05. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Council took the following decisions:

- to accept the 2018 Audited Accounts, FAC(19)02;
- to extend the MoU with ICES for one additional year (i.e. through 2020) to ensure there is no gap in the provision of scientific advice and that the Secretary will confirm this arrangement with ICES through appropriate means;

- that the Secretary will continue to liaise with ICES during the 2019 – 2020 inter-sessional period to develop a longer term MoU that fully protects NASCO's interests and to keep the FAC informed of progress;
- to adopt a Budget for 2020 and to note a Forecast Budget for 2021, CNL(19)54 (Annex 9);
- to confirm the 2017 Council decision to appoint Saffery Champness as auditors for the 2018, 2019 and 2020 accounts;
- to adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee, CNL(19)05rev.

4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

4.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary's report to the Council, CNL(19)06, contained information on: the status of ratifications of, and accessions to, the Convention and membership of the regional Commissions; the receipt of contributions for 2019; 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; UN and FAO related activities; and new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon.

4.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2018

In accordance with Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention, the Council adopted a Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2018, CNL(19)07.

4.3 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

The President announced that the winner of the 2019 Grand Prize in the Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Juan Eulogio Renedo Sedano, from Spain. The winning tag was applied to a fall-run salmon which entered the Ponoï River in the Russian Federation in autumn 2017 and overwintered in the river. It was tagged on 30 May 2018 during catch-and-release fly fishing at the Clough Creek beat about 70 km from the river outlet. It was recaptured on 10 July 2018 at the Gold Beach beat, a few kilometres upstream. The Council offered its congratulations to the winner.

4.4 Scientific Advice from ICES

A representative of ICES, Martha Robertson, presented the report of the Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(19)08. The ICES presentation is available as document CNL(19)52 (Annex 10).

4.5 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

The Report of the Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB), CNL(19)09 (Annex 11), was presented by its Chair, Tony Blanchard (Canada). He noted in particular two pieces of work to be conducted inter-sessionally through the IASRB: a review of the Research Inventory and SALSEA – Track programme and a workshop in 2020 to further the development of the 'ROAM' initiative, dependent on the success of the 2019 field season.

4.6 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 review (CNL(18)10) was considered by the

Council and the IASRB at their respective 2018 Annual Meetings and the then Chair of the IASRB, in consultation with the Secretary, members of the IASRB and current and past Chairs of the SAG, was asked to work inter-sessionally to propose new Rules of Procedure and clarify the Terms of Reference for the IASRB and SAG.

The Chair of the IASRB, Tony Blanchard (Canada), introduced document CNL(19)09. He noted that the draft proposal was not yet ready for adoption by the IASRB in light of a request from the United States to clarify further a number of points. The IASRB therefore resolved to consider and revise further the proposal inter-sessionally, given the wish to operate in 2020 under the new rules proposed such that a meeting of the SAG would not then automatically occur.

The representative of the United States noted that it was not clear in the IASRB Report that the proposal would be adopted inter-sessionally by Council. The Chair explained that was the intention. The representative of Norway stated that he considered that the new way of working in 2019 was an improvement and that it would help to have the revised document in place in advance of the 2020 Annual Meeting. Council agreed to work inter-sessionally with the IASRB to agree the new document.

4.7 Report of the Standing Scientific Committee

The Chair of the Standing Scientific Committee (SSC), Paddy Gargan (European Union), presented a draft request to ICES for scientific advice. The Council adopted the Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, CNL(19)11 (Annex 12).

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

5.1 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 2019 APRs are contained in documents CNL(19)22 to CNL(19)40 and a summary is provided in document CNL(19)13.

The 2019 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. Cathal Gallagher (European Union) presented the report of the Review Group, CNL(19)14, during a Special Session of the Council. There was some discussion during the Special Session and this is contained in CNL(19)49 (Annex 13).

The APRs submitted in 2020 will be the first APRs under the third reporting cycle. Given the extra work involved in reviewing these APRs, and the increased number of IPs submitted for the third round, Council agreed that the Review Group should meet in April 2020 and determine, in the near future, the appropriate length of meeting required to undertake the review of the 2020 APRs.

5.2 Special Session: Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)

Reporting under the second round of Implementation Plans (IPs) is now complete. In

2017, the Council established a Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of Reports. This Group was tasked with reviewing the guidelines and templates for the preparation and evaluation of IPs and APRs and advising on any necessary changes for the third round of reporting, including options for reporting under the Six Tenets for Effective Management of an Atlantic Salmon Fishery. The Working Group presented its report to the Council at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Following discussions at that meeting, it was agreed that: Parties and jurisdictions would provide clear and explicit feedback on any improvements they felt were necessary to the Guidelines proposed by the Working Group; the Secretary would condense this feedback to produce a clear statement of work which would be sent to the Parties for their confirmation; and a small group comprising the Chair of the Working Group, the Secretary and the NGO Co-Chair would consider this statement and make further refinements to the output of the Working Group. This work was undertaken inter-sessionally and the Council has now agreed Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress (CNL(18)49) and templates for the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans (CNL(18)50) and Annual Progress Reports (CNL(18)51). The Guidelines and IP templates were issued to Parties and jurisdictions in October 2018 with the request for Implementation Plans to be submitted by 1 February 2019.

The Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group met in February 2019 to undertake its initial evaluations of the 2019 – 2024 IPs. However, due to the more stringent review process, and an increased number of reporting jurisdictions, the Group was unable to complete the review of all IPs received within the time allocated to the meeting. It therefore met over a number of further days, through several conference calls and an extra one-day meeting, to complete the IP reviews and feed back to Parties / jurisdictions by 30 April, as was agreed by the Heads of Delegations immediately following the February Review Group meeting. There had, therefore, been some delay to the review process.

Cathal Gallagher (European Union) presented the interim report of the Review Group, CNL(19)14. There were wide-ranging discussions during the Special Session and these are contained in CNL(19)50 (Annex 14). He noted that Council had agreed to a revised schedule out to 30 November 2019, with submission of the revised IPs by 1 November 2019, for review by the Review Group in mid-November.

In addition, the Council agreed that a revised schedule setting out the calendar beyond November 2019 would be reviewed by the IP / APR Review Group before being referred back to the Heads of Delegations for approval and distribution to Parties and jurisdictions.

Following the Annual Meeting structure as agreed by the Council in 2013, there should be a Theme-based Special Session in 2020. The Council agreed that a process would be developed by the President of NASCO whereby the topic for the 2020 Theme-based Special Session to be held during its 2020 Annual Meeting would be discussed and agreed by the Parties inter-sessionally.

5.3 Special Session: Report on Progress during the International Year of the Salmon

2019 is the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS). At its Thirty-Third (2016) Annual Meeting, the Council had recognised that an 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.

A presentation was given highlighting IYS progress made in the North Atlantic since June 2018 (CNL(19)15) and updating the Council on the State of Salmon report. There was an additional presentation given by Mark Saunders from the NPAFC on the IYS in the Pacific. Following the presentations there was a discussion during the Special Session and this is contained in CNL(19)51 (Annex 15).

The Council agreed the following decisions:

- with regard to the legacy of the IYS, a periodic Symposium and State of Salmon Report should be delivered by the Secretariat. The other work of the Secretariat needs to be considered when determining when to hold the Symposium and update the State of Salmon report. The State of Salmon report statistics should be populated with data from sources including the Rivers Database and ICES data. To this end, Parties / jurisdictions should be encouraged to update their data in the Rivers Database on a regular basis. To enable this, the Secretariat will explore working towards a database that can be updated by Parties and jurisdictions;
- NASCO IYS activities going forward for further investigation beyond the end of the focal year include: the research projects the Likely Suspects Framework and ‘ROAM’ initiative; and the 2022 closing Symposium (in conjunction with the NPAFC). Any other ‘IYS-labelled’ activities would have to be decided by Council prior to any commitment being made;
- that the effective duration of the IYS for NASCO’s focused activity is to the end of 2019;
- that the co-operation engendered between NASCO and the NPAFC may be fostered through science co-operation. This could be served by encouraging any of the members of the IASRB to attend NPAFC science meetings and reporting back to Council and by encouraging the NPAFC to attend the IASRB and Council meetings as an observer;
- that the structures supporting the IYS, i.e. the North Atlantic Steering Committee and the Co-ordinating Committee, will no longer need to exist after the focal year;
- that a final activity report should be delivered by the Parties in early 2020 to capture a full record of the activities delivered during the focal year of the IYS. On the basis of the activity reports, a final report on the IYS will be delivered at the 2020 NASCO Annual Meeting;
- that the Parties will sign off on the final draft of the State of Salmon Report via conference call; and
- that the NASC prepare a spending plan against the previously agreed areas of the IYS budget out to the end of 2019 for agreement by the Parties, i.e. following the same process as in 2018. If available, surplus funds remaining in the IYS budget should be used to cover the costs of the IYS Symposium and the State of Salmon Report.

5.4 Report from the Tromsø Symposium on the Recommendations to Address Future Management Challenges

As part of the IYS, a two-day international Symposium entitled ‘Managing the Atlantic Salmon in a Rapidly Changing Environment’ was held in Tromsø during 3 – 4 June, immediately prior to the 2019 Annual Meeting of NASCO. The Symposium focused on the challenges facing the Atlantic salmon and possible responses that can help conserve the resource in a rapidly changing environment. The Symposium was structured around two main themes: climate change and state of the salmon, with scientific overviews being provided on these subjects; and management challenges and solutions. Perspectives were provided from a number of different viewpoints, including managers, scientists, NGOs and Indigenous Peoples. In addition to the presentations and discussions surrounding those, a poster session was also held.

Eva Thorstad presented the report from the Symposium on the Symposium Steering Committee’s recommendations to address future management challenges, CNL(19)16.

The representatives of the European Union, Norway and the United States all noted the success of the Symposium resulting in many recommendations. Prioritisation of the recommendations was recognised as a challenge and various mechanisms were discussed. The representative of the NGOs suggested that swift take-up of the Symposium’s recommendations would stand NASCO in good stead for the forthcoming Performance Review.

The representative of the NPAFC highlighted that many of the recommendations would resonate in the Pacific and that there is much to be gained from cross-basin collaboration on considering the recommendations.

The Council agreed that the President of NASCO would develop a process for Parties to discuss and agree inter-sessionally how to consider the recommendations from the Symposium presented to the Council by Dr Thorstad.

5.5 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 President referred to the report on progress in implementing the recommendations in the Action Plan, CNL(19)17. The recommendations in the Plan relate to:

- actions that 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 Council welcomed the progress that had been made to implement the recommendations.

5.6 Consideration of the Process for Arranging a Second External Performance Review in 2021

At its 2018 Annual Meeting, the Council agreed that the process to consider conducting the third Performance Review of NASCO should commence in 2019, with a view to holding the review in 2021. The Secretary was asked to prepare a document outlining the process for the review.

The Secretary provided document CNL(19)16 to the Parties, entitled ‘Consideration of the Process for Arranging a Third Performance Review in 2021’. It was noted in this document that there were four main areas in which decisions would need to be made by the Council as follows:

- the panel (fully internal, fully external, or a hybrid);
- the criteria for a review;
- the Terms of Reference (ToRs) for a review; and
- the recommendations, including follow-up mechanisms.

The Council agreed that the President would develop a process for arranging NASCO’s next Performance Review in 2021 that can be discussed and agreed by the Parties inter-sessionally.

5.7 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 was represented at the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting by Sebastian Belle who gave a statement to the Council (Annex 16).

It had been highlighted at the 2018 Annual Meeting that the Guidance on Best Management Practices to address impacts of sea lice and escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon stocks (SLG(09)5), agreed jointly by NASCO and ISFA, is not on the ISFA website. Council had asked the Secretary to approach ISFA to request respectfully that they publish the document on their website. The Secretary had exchanged correspondence with ISFA regarding this request.

Sebastian Belle highlighted the intergovernmental reference organization, the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and encouraged NASCO to engage with them should further work on pathogens be undertaken.

The representative of the NGOs thanked Sebastian Belle for giving a statement and welcomed the research and development being undertaken by the Association and its members. However, he highlighted that there are problems for wild Atlantic salmon across the range of the species due to the industry’s current practices and that until a physical and biological barrier exists between farmed and wild fish these problems would continue.

5.8 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(19)08. 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;
- diseased salmon in Russian rivers in 2018;
- an update on sea lice investigations and sea lice management programmes in Norway;
- two projects reported on monitoring programmes for pathogens and parasites from wild salmon sampled from the marine environment at West Greenland;
- environmental and ecosystem interactions with Atlantic salmon;
- update on the Atlantic salmon stock situation in Germany;
- research on links between smolt size and marine survival;
- updates on opportunities for investigating salmon at sea, including the International Ecosystem Summer Survey of the Nordic Seas, the ‘SeaSalar’ project, PIT tag screening programmes, tracking and acoustic tagging studies and pop-up satellite tagging at Greenland; and
- progress in stock assessment models.

Relevant information is also presented in the summary of Annual Progress Reports, CNL(19)13.

A representative of ICES, Martha Robertson, presented an overview of the information provided to NASCO. The ICES presentation is available as document CNL(19)52 (Annex 10). The representative of the United States asked whether the new stock assessment model would change the catch advice for 2021. Dr Robertson responded that the advice would be the same. The representative of Norway informed Council about similar observations of diseased salmon in Norway in 2019. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) cited a number of examples of predators and proposed that they were becoming an increasing threat.

5.9 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

In 2014, the Socio-economics Sub-Group 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.

5.10 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 was presented by the representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) (CNL(19)19). This report had also been considered in the North American

Commission.

5.11 Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions

The Vice-Chair of the North American Commission and the Chairs of both the North-East Atlantic and West Greenland Commissions reported to the Council on the activities of their Commissions.

6. Other Business

There was no other business.

7. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Council had previously accepted an invitation to hold its Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting in the Faroe Islands. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) advised the Council that the meeting would be held in Tórshavn and looked forward to welcoming NASCO delegates in 2020. The Council confirmed that the meeting would be held during 2 – 5 June 2020.

The Council confirmed the dates for its Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting as 1 – 4 June 2021.

8. Report of the Meeting

The Council agreed the report of its Meeting.

9. Press Release

The Council agreed a Press Release, CNL(19)47 (Annex 17).

10. Close of the Meeting

The President closed the Thirty-Sixth 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 18.

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

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norvège

5 – 7 juin 2019

1. Ouverture de la session

Le Président de l'OCSAN, Jóannes Hansen (Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland)), a ouvert la session et présenté le Secrétaire d'Etat Atle Hamar du Ministère norvégien du Climat et de l'environnement qui a accueilli les délégués à Tromsø (Annexe 1). Le Président a ensuite fait une déclaration d'ouverture (Annexe 2).

Le Canada, le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland), l'Union européenne, la Norvège, la Fédération de Russie et les Etats-Unis ont déposé des déclarations d'ouverture écrites (Annexe 3).

Des déclarations d'ouverture écrites ont été déposées par la Commission européenne consultative pour les pêches et l'aquaculture dans les eaux intérieures (CECPAI), le Conseil international pour l'exploration de la mer (CIEM), la Commission pour les mammifères marins de l'Atlantique nord (NAMMCO) et la Commission du poisson anadrome du Pacifique Nord (CPAPN) (Annexe 4).

Une déclaration d'ouverture écrite a été déposée au nom de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) (Annexe 5).

Une déclaration d'ouverture écrite a été déposée au nom des Organisations Non Gouvernementales (ONGs) assistant à la session annuelle (Annexe 6).

Le Président a exprimé son appréciation pour ces déclarations et messages.

Une liste des participants à la trente-sixième session annuelle du Conseil de l'OCSAN est donnée en Annexe 7.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

Le Conseil a adopté son ordre du jour, le CNL(19)48 (Annexe 8).

3. Questions financières et administratives

3.1 Rapport du Comité financier et administratif

La Présidente du Comité financier et administratif, Kimberly Blankenbeker (Etats-Unis), a présenté le rapport du comité, le CNL(19)05. Sur les conseils du comité, le Conseil a pris les décisions suivantes:

- accepter les comptes vérifiés de 2018, FAC(19)02;
- prolonger le Protocole d'entente avec le CIEM pour une année supplémentaire (i.e. jusqu'en 2020) afin d'éviter toute lacune dans la fourniture des conseils scientifiques et que la Secrétaire confirme cette disposition avec le CIEM par des moyens appropriés;

- la Secrétaire continuera à assurer la liaison avec le CIEM au cours de la période inter-sessions 2019 – 2020 afin d'élaborer un protocole d'entente à plus long terme qui protège pleinement les intérêts de l'OCSAN et de tenir le Comité financier administratif (CFA) informé des progrès;
- adopter un Budget pour 2020 et noter un Budget prévisionnel pour 2021, CNL(19)54;
- confirmer la décision du Conseil de 2017 de nommer Saffery Champness en tant que commissaires aux comptes 2018, 2019 et 2020;
- adopter le rapport du Comité financier et administratif, CNL(19)05rev (Annexe 9).

4. Informations scientifiques, techniques, juridiques et autres

4.1 Rapport de la Secrétaire

La Secrétaire a fait un rapport au Conseil, CNL(19)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 2019; 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; activités liées à l'ONU et à la FAO; et des nouvelles études relatives aux valeurs socio-économiques du Saumon atlantique sauvage.

4.2 Rapport sur les activités de l'Organisation en 2018

Conformément à l'Article 5, paragraphe 6 de la Convention, le Conseil a adopté un Rapport sur les activités de l'Organisation en 2018, CNL(19)07.

4.3 Annonce du gagnant du Grand Prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes

Le Président a annoncé que le gagnant du Grand Prix de 2019 du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes était Juan Eulogio Renedo Sedano, d'Espagne. L'étiquette gagnante a été appliquée sur un saumon qui était entré dans la rivière Ponoï en Fédération de Russie à l'automne 2017 et y a hiverné. Il a été étiqueté le 30 mai 2018 lors d'une pêche à la mouche et remise à l'eau sur la chute de Clough Creek près de 70 km de l'embouchure de la rivière. Il a été repris le 10 juillet 2018 dans la chute de Gold Beach, quelques kilomètres en amont. Le Conseil a adressé ses félicitations au gagnant.

4.4 Conseils scientifiques du CIEM

Une représentante du CIEM, Martha Robertson, a présenté le rapport du Comité consultatif (ACOM), CNL(19)08. La présentation du CIEM est disponible dans le document CNL(19)52 (Annexe 10).

4.5 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 (CIRSA), CNL(19)09 (Annexe 11), a été présenté par son Président, Tony Blanchard (Canada). Il a notamment évoqué deux travaux devant être menés en inter-sessions dans le cadre de la CIRSA: un examen de l'Inventaire de recherche et du Programme SALSEA – Track; et un atelier en 2020 pour poursuivre le développement de l'initiative 'ROAM', en fonction du succès de la saison sur le terrain 2019.

4.6 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 révision (CNL(18)10) a été étudiée par le Conseil et la CIRSA lors de leurs sessions annuelles respectives de 2018 et il a été demandé au Président d'alors de la CIRSA en consultation avec la Secrétaire, les membres de la CIRSA et les Présidents actuels et passés du GCS, de travailler en inter-session pour suggérer de nouvelles Règles de procédure et clarifier les Termes de référence pour la CIRSA et le GCS.

Le Président de la CIRSA, Tony Blanchard (Canada), a présenté le document CNL(19)09. Il a souligné que le projet de proposition n'était pas encore prêt à être adopté par la CIRSA compte tenu de la demande de clarification par les Etats-Unis d'un certain nombre de points. La CIRSA a par conséquent envisagé de considérer et de réviser davantage la proposition en inter-session, le souhait étant d'opérer en 2020 conformément aux nouvelles règles proposées en sorte qu'une réunion du GCS n'aurait alors pas automatiquement lieu.

La représentante des Etats Unis a souligné qu'il n'était pas clair dans le rapport de la CIRSA que la proposition serait adoptée en inter-session par le Conseil. Le Président de la CIRSA a expliqué que c'était ce qu'il était prévu que l'on fasse. Le représentant de la Norvège a déclaré qu'il considérait que la nouvelle façon de travailler en 2019 représentait une amélioration et qu'il serait utile de mettre en place le document révisé préalablement à la session annuelle de 2020. Le Conseil a accepté de travailler en inter-session avec la CIRSA pour convenir du nouveau document.

4.7 Compte rendu du Comité scientifique permanent

Le Président du Comité scientifique permanent (CSP), Paddy Gargan (Union européenne), a présenté un projet de demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM. Le Conseil a adopté une Demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM, CNL(19)11 (Annexe 12).

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

5.1 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) en vertu des programmes d'application de 2013 – 2018 est de fournir des informations relatives à toute modification du régime de gestion du saumon et des modifications des Programmes d'application en découlant; actions entreprises dans le cadre des Programmes d'application au cours de l'année précédente; modifications importantes du statut des stocks et un rapport des prises; et les mesures prises en vertu des dispositions de la Convention. Les APRs de 2019 sont présentés dans les documents CNL(19)22 à CNL(19)40 et un résumé est présenté en CNL(19)13.

Les APRs de 2019 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. Cathal Gallagher (Union européenne) a présenté le rapport du Comité de révision, CNL(19)14, au cours d'une session spéciale du Conseil.

Des discussions ont eu lieu au cours de la session spéciale et celles-ci sont incluses en CNL(19)49 (Annexe 13).

Les APRs soumis en 2020 seront les premiers APRs dans le cadre du troisième cycle de rapports. Compte tenu du travail supplémentaire qu'implique la révision de ces APRs, et le nombre croissant d'IPs soumis pour ce troisième cycle, le Conseil a convenu que le Comité de révision devrait se réunir en avril 2020 et déterminer, dans un futur proche, la durée de réunion appropriée requise pour entreprendre la révision des APRs de 2020.

5.2 Séance spéciale: évaluation des programmes d'application dans le cadre du troisième cycle de reporting (2019 – 2024)

Les rapports dans le cadre de la deuxième série de programmes d'application (IP) sont maintenant terminés. En 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. Ce groupe a été chargé d'examiner les lignes directrices et les modèles de préparation et d'évaluation des IP et des APRs, ainsi que de conseiller sur les modifications nécessaires pour la troisième série de rapports, y compris sur les alternatives possibles pour les rapports au titre des Six principes pour une gestion efficace pour une pêcherie du saumon atlantique. Le Groupe de travail a présenté son rapport au Conseil lors de la session annuelle de 2018. À la suite des discussions qui ont eu lieu lors de ladite session, il a été convenu que: les Parties et les juridictions fourniraient un retour d'information clair et explicite sur toute amélioration jugée nécessaire concernant les directives proposées par le Groupe de travail; la Secrétaire condenserait ces commentaires pour produire un énoncé de travail clair qui serait envoyé aux Parties pour confirmation; et un petit groupe comprenant le président du Groupe de travail, la Secrétaire et le Coprésident des ONGs examinerait cette déclaration et affinerait encore le travail du Groupe de travail. Ce travail a été entrepris entre les sessions et le Conseil a maintenant approuvé les lignes directrices pour la préparation et l'évaluation des programmes d'application de l'OCSAN et pour les rapports sur le progrès (CNL(18)49) ainsi que des modèles pour les programmes d'application de 2019 – 2024 (CNL(18)50) et les rapports de progrès annuels (CNL(18)51). Les lignes directrices et les modèles pour les programmes d'application ont été distribués aux Parties et aux juridictions en octobre 2018, la demande de programmes d'application devant être soumise le 1er février 2019 au plus tard.

Le Comité de révision des Programmes d'application / des Rapports de progrès annuels s'est réuni en février 2019 pour procéder à ses premières évaluations des programmes d'application de 2019 – 2024. Toutefois, en raison du processus d'évaluation plus strict et du nombre croissant de pays soumettant des rapports, le groupe n'a pas été en mesure de mener à bien l'examen de tous les IPs reçus dans les délais impartis pour la session. Il s'est donc réuni pendant plusieurs jours supplémentaires, par le biais de plusieurs téléconférences et d'une session supplémentaire d'une journée, pour compléter les évaluations des programmes d'application et informer les Parties / juridictions avant le 30 avril, comme convenu par les chefs de délégation immédiatement après la réunion de février du Groupe de révision. Le processus d'évaluation a donc pris un certain retard.

Cathal Gallagher (Union européenne) a présenté le rapport intermédiaire du Comité de révision, CNL(19)14. Des discussions assez larges ont eu lieu pendant la séance spéciale. Celles-ci figurent dans le document CNL(19)50 (Annexe 14). Il a noté que le Conseil avait convenu d'un calendrier révisé jusqu'au 30 novembre 2019, les IPs révisés devant être présentés au plus tard le 1er novembre 2019, pour être examinés par le

Groupe de révision à la mi-novembre.

En outre, le Conseil a décidé qu'un calendrier révisé fixant le calendrier au-delà de novembre 2019 serait examiné par le Comité de révision des IPs / APRs avant d'être renvoyé aux chefs de délégation pour approbation et distribution aux Parties et aux juridictions.

Conformément à la structure de la session annuelle approuvée par le Conseil en 2013, une séance spéciale thématique devrait avoir lieu en 2020. Le Conseil a décidé qu'un processus serait mis au point par le président de l'OCSAN afin que le sujet de la séance spéciale thématique de 2020 qui se tiendra lors de sa session annuelle 2020 sera discuté et approuvé par les Parties en inter-session.

5.3 Séance spéciale: rapport de progrès pendant l'Année internationale du saumon

2019 est l'année centrale pour l'Année internationale du saumon (IYS). Lors de sa trente-troisième session annuelle (2016), le Conseil avait reconnu qu'une Année internationale du saumon 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.

Une présentation a été effectuée soulignant le progrès effectué dans l'Atlantique Nord depuis juin 2018 (CNL(19)15) et mettant le Conseil à jour sur le rapport sur l'état du saumon. Mark Saunders de la CPAPN a également présenté un exposé sur l'IYS dans le Pacifique. Suite aux exposés, une discussion a eu lieu pendant la session spéciale et figure dans le document CNL(19)51 (Annexe 15).

Le Conseil a convenu des décisions suivantes:

- en ce qui concerne l'héritage de l'IYS, le Secrétariat devrait présenter périodiquement un colloque et un rapport sur l'état du saumon. Les autres travaux du Secrétariat doivent être pris en compte pour déterminer le moment opportun pour tenir le symposium et mettre à jour le rapport sur l'état du saumon. Les statistiques du rapport sur l'état du saumon doivent être renseignées avec des données provenant de sources telles que la base de données des rivières et les données du CIEM. À cette fin, les Parties / juridictions devraient être encouragées à mettre régulièrement à jour leurs données dans la base de données des rivières. Pour ce faire, le Secrétariat étudiera la possibilité de créer une base de données pouvant être mise à jour par les Parties et les juridictions;
- Les activités de l'OCSAN relatives à l'IYS à l'avenir au-delà de la fin de l'année centrale comprennent: le modèle de causes potentielles de mortalité intitulé *the Likely Suspects Framework* et l'initiative 'ROAM'; et le Symposium de clôture de 2022 (conjointement avec la CPAPN). Toute autres activités marquées 'IYS' devrait être décidée par le Conseil avant tout engagement;
- la durée effective de l'IYS pour l'activité ciblée de l'OCSAN est jusqu'à fin 2019;
- que la coopération entre l'OCSAN et la CPAPN peut être améliorée via une coopération scientifique. Cela pourrait être effectué en encourageant les membres

de la CIRSA à assister aux réunions scientifiques de la CPAPN et à en faire rapport au Conseil et en encourageant la CPAPN à assister aux réunions de la CIRSA et du Conseil en tant qu'observateur;

- que les structures soutenant l'IYS, à savoir le Comité de direction de l'Atlantique Nord (NASC) et le comité de coordination, n'auront plus besoin d'exister après l'année de centrale;
- qu'un rapport d'activité final devrait être remis par les Parties au début de 2020 afin de rendre compte de manière exhaustive des activités réalisées au cours de l'année centrale de l'IYS. Sur la base des rapports d'activité, un rapport final sur l'IYS sera présenté à la session annuelle de 2020 de l'OCSAN;
- que les Parties signent le projet final du rapport sur l'état du saumon par conférence téléphonique; et
- que la NASC prépare un plan de dépenses par rapport aux domaines précédemment convenus du budget de l'IYS jusqu'à la fin 2019 et que les Parties y consentent, c'est-à-dire selon le même processus qu'en 2018. Le cas échéant, les fonds excédentaires restant dans le budget de l'IYS doivent être utilisés pour couvrir les coûts du symposium de l'IYS et du rapport sur l'état du saumon.

5.4 Rapport du symposium de Tromsø sur les recommandations visant à relever les défis de gestion futurs

Dans le cadre de l'IYS, un symposium international de deux jours intitulé 'Gérer le saumon atlantique dans un environnement qui change rapidement' s'est tenu à Tromsø du 3 au 4 juin, juste avant la session annuelle de l'OCSAN en 2019. Le symposium s'est concentré sur les défis auxquels fait face le saumon atlantique et sur les réponses possibles pouvant aider à conserver la ressource dans un environnement en mutation rapide. Le symposium était structuré autour de deux thèmes principaux: le changement climatique et l'état du saumon, avec des aperçus scientifiques sur ces sujets; et défis en matière de gestion et solutions. Les perspectives ont été présentées à partir de différents points de vue, y compris ceux des gestionnaires, des scientifiques, des ONGs et des peuples autochtones. En plus des présentations et des discussions y afférant, une séance poster a également eu lieu.

Eva Thorstad a présenté le rapport du Symposium sur les recommandations du Comité de direction du Symposium pour traiter des défis à venir en matière de gestion, CNL(19)16.

Les représentants de l'Union européenne, de la Norvège et des Etats-Unis ont tous souligné le succès du Symposium, qui a donné lieu à de nombreuses recommandations. Il a été reconnu que la hiérarchisation des recommandations représentait un défi et divers mécanismes ont été discutés. Le représentant des ONGs a estimé que l'adoption rapide des recommandations du Symposium serait un atout précieux pour l'OCSAN lors de la prochaine évaluation des performances.

Le représentant de la CPAPN a souligné que bon nombre des recommandations auraient des échos dans le Pacifique et que la collaboration entre les bassins aurait beaucoup à gagner de l'examen des recommandations.

Le Conseil a convenu que le Président de l'OCSAN élaborerait un processus permettant aux Parties de discuter et de se mettre d'accord entre avant la prochaine session annuelle du Conseil de la manière d'examiner les recommandations du Symposium présentées au Conseil par le Dr Thorstad.

5.5 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 Étapes' 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). Le Président a fait référence au rapport des progrès de la mise en œuvre des conseils dans le Plan d'action, CNL(19)17. 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).

Le Conseil s'est félicité des progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre des recommandations.

5.6 Examen du processus en vue de l'organisation d'une deuxième étude externe des performances en 2021

Lors de sa session annuelle de 2018, le Conseil a décidé que le processus visant à envisager de mener le troisième examen des performances de l'OCSAN devrait commencer en 2019, en vue de tenir la révision en 2021. Il a été demandé à la Secrétaire de préparer un document décrivant le processus de révision.

La Secrétaire a remis aux Parties le document CNL(19)16 intitulé 'Etude du processus d'organisation d'une étude des performances en 2021'. Dans ce document, il a été noté que le Conseil devrait prendre des décisions dans les quatre domaines principaux suivants:

- le panel (entièrement interne, entièrement externe, ou hybride);
- les critères de révision;
- les Termes de Référence (ToRs) pour une révision; et
- les recommandations, y compris des mécanismes de suivi.

Le Conseil a décidé que le Président élaborerait un processus pour organiser la prochaine évaluation des performances de l'OCSAN en 2021, qui puisse être discuté et approuvé par les parties avant la prochaine session annuelle du Conseil.

5.7 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 représentée à la trente-

sixième session annuelle par Sebastian Belle qui a effectué une déclaration auprès du Conseil (Annexe 16).

Il a été souligné lors de la session annuelle de 2018 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. La Secrétaire avait échangé une correspondance avec l'ISFA concernant cette demande.

Sébastien Belle a fait référence à l'organisation intergouvernementale de référence, l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE), et a encouragé l'OCSAN à s'engager avec elle si d'autres travaux sur les pathogènes étaient entrepris.

Le représentant des ONGs a remercié Sebastian Belle pour sa déclaration et a accueilli l'entreprise de recherche et développement par l'Association et ses membres. Cependant, il a souligné que des problèmes existent pour le saumon Atlantique sauvage sur l'ensemble de l'espèce du fait des pratiques actuelles du secteur et que ces problèmes subsisteraient jusqu'à ce qu'une barrière physique et biologique sépare les poissons d'élevage et les poissons sauvages.

5.8 **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 chaque année et il a été demandé au CIEM de fournir des informations adéquates, contenues dans le document CNL(19)08. Les informations suivantes ont été fournies par le CIEM:

- une 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 continue de saumons malades dans les rivières en Suède;
- saumons malades dans les rivières russes en 2018;
- une mise à jour sur les enquêtes sur le pou de mer et les programmes de gestion du pou de mer en Norvège;
- deux projets avaient fait état de programmes de surveillance des agents pathogènes et des parasites provenant de saumons sauvages échantillonnés dans l'environnement marin du Groenland occidental;
- interactions de l'environnement et de l'écosystème avec le saumon Atlantique;
- mise à jour sur la situation des stocks de saumon atlantique en Allemagne;
- recherche sur les liens entre la taille du saumonnetteau et la survie en mer;
- mise à jour sur les opportunités pour examiner le saumon en mer y compris l'Etude internationale d'été de l'écosystème des mers nordiques, le projet 'SeaSalar', les programmes de contrôle des étiquettes à transpondeur passif intégré, et études de suivi et de marquage acoustique et étiquetage avec les étiquettes satellites d'archivage au Groenland; et

- progrès des modèles d'évaluation de stock.

Les informations pertinentes sont aussi présentées dans le résumé des Rapports de progrès annuel, CNL(19)13.

Une représentante du CIEM, Martha Robertson, a présenté un aperçu des informations fournies à l'OCSAN. La présentation du CIEM est disponible dans le document CNL(19)52 (Annexe 10). La représentante des Etats-Unis a demandé si le nouveau modèle d'évaluation des stocks changerait les conseils en matière de prises pour 2021. Le Dr Robertson a répondu que les conseils seraient les mêmes. Le représentant de la Norvège a informé le Conseil d'observations similaires de saumon malade en Norvège en 2019. La représentante du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) a cité un certain nombre d'exemples de prédateurs et a suggéré qu'ils présentaient une menace croissante.

5.9 Incorporation des facteurs sociaux et économiques dans la gestion du saumon

En 2014, le Sous-groupe socio-économique a recommandé qu'il soit demandé aux Parties / juridictions d'informer le Secrétariat de toutes nouvelles études relatives aux valeurs socio-économiques du saumon sauvage. Les informations relatives à de telles études sont présentées dans le Rapport de la Secrétaire.

5.10 Pêcherie de saumons à St Pierre et Miquelon - Gestion et Échantillonnage

Un rapport sur la gestion et l'échantillonnage de la pêche au saumon à St Pierre et Miquelon a été présenté par la représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) (CNL(19)19). Ce rapport a aussi été étudié par la Commission Nord-américaine.

5.11 Rapports des trois Commissions régionales concernant leurs activités de conservation

Le Vice-Président de la Commission Nord-américaine et les Présidents des Commissions de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est et du Groenland occidental ont rendu compte des activités de leurs commissions au Conseil.

6. Divers

Aucune autre question n'a été soulevée.

7. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

Le Conseil avait accepté une invitation pour tenir sa trente-septième session annuelle aux Iles Féroé. Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) a informé le Conseil que la session aurait lieu à Tórshavn et se fait un plaisir d'accueillir les délégués de l'OCSAN en 2020. Le Conseil a confirmé que la session aurait lieu entre le 2 – 5 juin 2020.

Le Conseil a confirmé les dates des 1 – 4 juin 2021 pour sa Trente-huitième session annuelle.

8. Compte rendu de la session

Le Conseil a accepté le compte rendu de la session.

9. Communiqué de presse

Le Conseil a convenu d'un communiqué de presse, CNL(19)47 (Annexe 17).

10. Clôture de la session

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

Note. Les annexes mentionnées ci-dessus commencent à la page suivante. Une liste d'articles du Conseil est incluse en Annexe 18.

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Welcome Message from State Secretary Atle Hamar of the Norwegian Ministry for Climate and Environment

Mr President, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my great honour to welcome you to the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO. It is also my pleasure to welcome you to Norway and to the beautiful city of Tromsø. I am especially proud to be able to welcome you this year – which is the International Year of the Salmon. I am also pleased to hear that the symposium held this week to highlight the International Year of the Salmon, was successful. For those of you that were, I hope we were able to inspire you and increase your knowledge of the great Atlantic salmon.

Atlantic salmon has been a highly appreciated resource in Norway for as long as our land has been inhabited. Salmon has been a very important basis for settlements along the Norwegian coast and our rivers, and some of the first laws adopted in Norway, as early as the 13th century, dealt with salmon-related issues.

Atlantic salmon is a symbol of the vitality and natural beauty of our waterways. It is a basis for recreation and outdoor activities and contributes to the quality of life for thousands of people. It is also a source of income for holders of fishing rights and the tourist industry. Salmon has played an important role historically and culturally in Norway – not least when it comes to Sami culture and Sami traditional fisheries.

I know that our enthusiasm and affection for the Atlantic salmon is shared by many others around the North Atlantic. It is due to these shared sentiments that NASCO was established, and it is due to them that partnering up to protect Atlantic salmon resonates so well with us.

Looking back at the co-operation in NASCO since its establishment in 1984, it is clear that the organization has been of great importance to the Atlantic salmon. The organization has undergone several changes since its establishment. From being centered on fisheries regulation, the organization has broadened its focus to dealing with the full spectrum of restoration measures and sustainable management of Atlantic salmon. NASCO now serves as the major platform for co-operation across the Atlantic ocean on salmon management and other salmon-related issues.

NASCO has also served as an important forum for implementing and addressing the moratorium on salmon fishing in international waters and the sustainable regulation of fisheries in the waters off the Faroe Islands and Greenland. This, along with all the other fisheries regulations put into place by all Parties has – obviously – demanded sacrifice, but has nevertheless contributed significantly to safeguarding the Atlantic salmon.

Together with ICES, NASCO has also been an important driving force for developing new and modern approaches on managing salmon. This has been of great importance to salmon management around the North Atlantic, also here in Norway.

We must admit that it has not been easy and that we still have a job to do, in order to achieve the levels of protection that the Atlantic salmon deserves. In spite of all our efforts, salmon stocks are still struggling in large parts of the North Atlantic and have gone completely extinct from some places. This gives rise to concern and is a matter that requires our full dedication.

About one third of all Atlantic salmon have their spawning ground in Norwegian rivers, with more than 400 different populations. Norway has a large responsibility in maintaining and restoring these populations. We have used large resources on combating threats and building a sustainable management.

Historically, the salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*, together with acidification, overfishing and hydro power regulation have constituted the main causes to the poor status of many Norwegian salmon populations. Now, several watercourses are declared free from the salmon gyro-parasite. About every fifth salmon are caught in a lime/calcium treated river. And strict fishing regulations enable us to reach the management targets to a large degree.

Roughly speaking, long standing efforts have brought these threats under control. One particular measure we have had a particular focus on during the International Year of the Salmon, is combatting the threat to wild salmon from illegal fisheries – including illegal mixed-stock fisheries with nets, along the coast. This has been a considerable problem for some years now, especially in areas near Tromsø. In order to be able to sanction such illegal activities efficiently, we have increased the budget for our environmental surveillance authority to meet needs for increased manpower and equipment. When taking into account our fjords Norway has one of the longest coastlines in the world, which poses a significant challenge in terms of having sufficient surveillance and enforcement-coverage.

We have also proposed legal amendments to enable the surveillance authority to more efficiently interrupt illegal fishing activities. We have also proposed to increase the penalties for illegal fishing, from a maximum sentence of 2 years in prison to 5 years in prison. This is in line with a more general trend in Norway, with stricter punishment and higher awareness when it comes to environment-related crimes.

Escapees of farmed salmon as well as high sea lice levels remain pressing challenges for the wild salmon. Many important measures have been implemented in recent years to fight these threats. At the same time, it is important to strengthen our efforts to allow for a sustainable growth in the salmon industry in Norway. Furthermore, efforts are made to secure enough water in regulated watercourses with wild salmon.

However, it is evident that we still have great obstacles to overcome in restoring salmon stocks and optimizing our salmon management. We also need to be able to adapt continuously to face both current and future challenges, not least adapting salmon management to a time with a rapidly changing climate. I think NASCO will be crucial in this regard. And it gives me some comfort to know that NASCO already has a history of adapting to new situations and challenges – most recently through the "next steps for NASCO" process and the NASCO performance review.

The system with national implementation plans and reporting – with an independent review panel to provide constructive criticism and input, is also something that helps us to keep up our efforts and strive for improvements. I know that this process has been challenging for many, including for Norway, but it has also been very important. Based on the experiences learned, I am confident that the next round of implementation and review of plans will be even better, and even more challenging! I think this process represents one of the main benefits of NASCO: namely that it provides a forum in which NASCO-members can push each other and challenge each other to achieve even more.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the accredited non-governmental organizations. I think you represent a very important and necessary driving force. You deserve considerable credit for the fact that NASCO has been able to remain relevant, and a significant resource for international and national salmon management.

Norway is investing considerable resources in NASCO – and we have done so with pleasure. I have faith that with all ongoing projects and our continued efforts, NASCO will remain a relevant and important resource, also in the future.

I can assure you that Norway is committed to keep up our efforts in this regard and aims to contribute significantly to the safeguarding and strengthening of the Atlantic salmon in the years to come.

Norway is also investing considerable resources and efforts on other areas related to the marine environment. For example, we work towards a zero vision for discharge of litter and microplastics into the oceans, as agreed at the UN Environment Assembly in 2017. Norway is also looking forward to hosting the sixth Our Ocean Conference in Oslo 23-24 October. At Our Ocean 2019 we will highlight the importance of knowledge as the basis of our actions and policies, to ensure protection of our oceans, responsible management of marine resources and sustainable future economic growth.

Finally, I would like to thank the whole Secretariat and the Norwegian Environment Agency for their efforts in preparing this meeting.

I wish you a productive and successful meeting and that the beautiful surroundings may encourage and inspire you. I also hope that you will have some eventful and inspiring days here in Tromsø.

Thank you!

Opening Statement made by the President of NASCO

State Secretary Atle Hamar, distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is my great pleasure to open the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO and to welcome you all to Tromsø, the ‘Gateway to the Arctic’ in the land of the midnight sun.

Firstly, I would like to thank the organizing team, particularly Raoul Bierach and Heidi Hansen, for the arrangements made in this excellent hotel with beautiful views out to the surrounding mountains.

Thank you to State Secretary Atle Hamar for your warm welcome to Tromsø and to Norway. 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.

It is 10 years since NASCO last met for its Annual Meeting in Norway, meeting then in Molde, some 1300 km south of where we are now! It gives me great pleasure to hold this meeting in this beautiful area of Norway, where wild Atlantic salmon are still abundant in several rivers. Norway with its long coastline bordering the Atlantic has the largest catches of Atlantic salmon in a jurisdiction among the NASCO Parties. As such it has always been active in NASCO matters and contributed greatly to the conservation of wild salmon. However, even in Norway, all has not been well. The abundance of wild Atlantic salmon has declined. The number returning from the ocean to Norway each year is now less than half of the level thirty years ago. In 2017, about 530,000 salmon were estimated to return, which was an increase from 2016, but still on a low level. The decline in abundance has reduced, and in some cases eliminated, the harvestable surplus available for fisheries. In response to the decline of wild Atlantic salmon fisheries therefore have been greatly reduced. Annual catches in the sea and rivers have declined from 1,500 to 500 – 600 tonnes during the last 30 years. The reduced exploitation has more than compensated for the decline, however, and the number of salmon spawning in the rivers has increased during recent years.

We have much to consider and a good deal of work to complete. We have a very busy, and short, few days ahead of us, with a shorter meeting due to the most interesting Symposium that was held here on Monday and Tuesday. We will get to hear the recommendations to Council from the Symposium Steering Committee in due course.

These remain 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.

In 2018, the Council agreed the Guidelines and Templates for the third cycle of reporting, to run from 2019 to 2024. It recognised that while there have been improvements over the second

cycle of reporting, Council has expressed a wish to strengthen the IP / APR process still further in the third reporting cycle, including a greater emphasis on Parties / jurisdictions working toward the achievement of the NASCO goals for sea lice and containment by the end of the reporting period. It has been a great deal of work for the NASCO Parties to respond to the greater challenges inherent in this third cycle and to produce their Implementation Plans within the required deadline. It has also been challenging for the Review Group to complete its work given the greater stringency requested by the Council and as part of the Special Session on the Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle, we expect to hear the revised schedule for their completion. We will also need to consider the evaluation of the reporting on progress in the final year of the second cycle of reporting under the current Implementation Plans.

This week, we will hear of the progress and activities under the International Year of the Salmon. We are 5 months into the focal year now and there has been a great deal of activity across the NASCO Parties and jurisdictions and by our colleagues in the NGOs. I would ask all of you to consider what more you can do to contribute to this important initiative, which will hopefully lead to greater support for lasting initiatives to conserve and restore wild Atlantic salmon throughout their range and raise NASCO's profile.

In the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board we can look forward to hearing about the discussions had around the revision to its Rules of Procedure, regarding a review of its Inventory of Research and updates on progress made in several exciting areas of research.

As usual we have a full agenda before us and a limited time to cover it. I am looking forward to a lively discussion and debate both in the Special Sessions and Council. Finally I want to reiterate my gratitude to the Ministry of Climate and Environment for the invitation to hold this meeting in Norway and for excellent preparations for the meeting. As usual our Secretariat has secured efficient running of the meeting and are prepared to assist you in any way possible. Our Norwegian hosts have planned some interesting post-NASCO tours on Friday and Saturday, which will offer some of us a chance to see more of this beautiful part of Norway.

With that, I would like to move on noting that, although there will be no verbal statements by Parties and observers, written statements provided to the Secretariat will be distributed and annexed to our report.

Thank you for your attention.

Opening Statements submitted by the Parties

Opening Statement to Council submitted by Canada

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

It is a pleasure for the Canadian delegation to participate at this 36th Annual NASCO Meeting in Tromsø, Norway. 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, Norway, for selecting this beautiful venue, the city of Tromsø for welcoming us so warmly, and the Secretariat for the excellent arrangements.

Atlantic salmon continues 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 continued to decline in 2018.

Domestically, Canada has demonstrated a strong commitment to Atlantic salmon conservation both from a policy and an investments perspective. In 2017, we adopted a new Wild Atlantic Salmon Policy, which was developed collaboratively through a Working Group comprised of 17 indigenous, watershed, and conservation groups. The 2019-21 Wild Atlantic Salmon Implementation Plan was recently completed with a working group of over 20 stakeholder groups in eastern Canada. The goal of the plan ultimately is to restore and maintain healthy Atlantic Salmon populations, this will be achieved by rebuilding and protecting the biological foundation of Wild Atlantic Salmon. This plan is for domestic implementation in Atlantic Canada, and helps us meet one of the key requirements of Canada's Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy.

I would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to the organizers and participants of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) Symposium, which has proven to be an example of how we can successfully work collectively to discuss these challenges as a global community.

In line with our commitments to the goals and objectives of IYS, the Government of Canada announced the Ocean and Freshwater Science Partnership Program projects for 2018-19, supporting Atlantic Salmon Joint Venture studies for projects such as: mapping distribution of Atlantic salmon, genetic characterization, and temperature impacts. This past March, Quebec City hosted the Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture's IYS signature event - the Atlantic Salmon Ecosystem Forum, which attracted over 150 leading salmon scientists and conservationists, managers, Indigenous partners, students, and other researchers and partners from across North America. It was an extremely successful two days of shared knowledge around IYS and Joint Venture research priorities for wild Atlantic salmon populations and the riverine, estuarine, and marine habitats they depend upon. Participants also examined how their research might have implications for both management and conservation action.

The conservation and rebuilding of wild Atlantic salmon stocks is a shared responsibility. Canada will continue investing in science and working with Indigenous groups, our partners, and through NASCO, to offer sustainable solutions for Atlantic salmon. Our goal is to work together to ensure we can continue to enjoy the cultural, social and economic benefits of Atlantic salmon for generations to come.

As demonstrated during last year's negotiations for the West Greenland Commission (WGC), Canada is committed to working with you 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 introducing mandatory licence requirements for everyone fishing for Atlantic salmon. Canada will work through the WGC to support Greenland in further strengthening its monitoring, control and surveillance measures going forward to ensure the total allowable catch limits set at the 2018 meeting are met.

Canada would like to thank Saint Pierre and Miquelon (SPM) for their continued collaboration on an Atlantic salmon sampling program for the SPM fishery. Important genetic stock information has been attained through this program. Strong collaboration continued in 2018 and the analysis of scale samples and genetic samples has been completed and reported to NASCO by ICES.

Though Canada is pleased with the initial reports from France that SPM's reported catch for 2018 was the lowest in recent years, we continue to be concerned with their wild Atlantic salmon harvests which are from mixed stocks produced exclusively outside its territory. We note, in particular, the increased number of recreational licences implemented in 2017 and the fact that there continues to be no limit established on the number of fish permitted per licence. We look forward to working with France (in respect to SPM) and hope to see progress on improved controls of this fishery that harvest salmon from eastern Canada, as difficult decisions are being taken in Canada to further reduce retention limits in and even closing retention of small salmon in recreational fisheries.

It is clear that to tackle the challenges facing salmon, including climate change, we need ambitious plans, coupled with a fierce commitment to implementation. It is my sincere hope that we will augment our efforts as Parties and jurisdictions of NASCO via the 2019-2024 Implementation Plans.

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

Thank you.

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

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

Denmark on behalf of the Faroe Islands and Greenland would like to begin by thanking our Norwegian hosts for arranging the Annual Meeting in this beautiful location of Tromsø, being here north of the polar circle feels a bit like home. Also, we would like to thank the Secretary and her staff for once again having prepared the Annual Meeting so well.

Commercial salmon fisheries at sea were once of high importance both to the Faroe Islands and to Greenland. It was therefore at great expense to our small communities 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 re-building the stocks. Still, even though

we have stopped our commercial salmon fisheries, we retain our rights to conduct fishing in accordance with NASCO's guidelines. Therefore, the Faroe Islands have retained the right to practise scientific based catch, if need be, and Greenland continues to set a small quota for the subsistence 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 our belief that it is the limited subsistence fishery in Greenland that is preventing the recovery of the Atlantic salmon. Despite the extensive reductions in catch, strict management regimes and increased monitoring and control, with great sacrifices made by our small coastal communities, 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. Therefore, Greenland and the Faroe Islands want to emphasise the importance of focusing on the external factors that affect the Atlantic salmon stock such as pollution, climate change, obstacles and predation. The number of Grey seals, harp seals, harbour seals, cormorants and other birds and cetaceans predators has increased substantially in the North Atlantic in the last 20 years. Therefore, the Faroe Islands and Greenland want to ensure increased attention to these factors and thus, we are very pleased that NASCO and ICES is arranging a workshop on sea mortality of Atlantic salmon and that our proposal to add predation to the agenda has been accepted. We want to see more initiatives like this and we look forward to reviewing the outcome of this workshop.

We also want to once again urge the river nations to 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 Annual Progress Reports and we look forward to the evaluation of the current reporting cycle, but more importantly to the Special Session on the Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019-2024). We believe that there is still room for improvement in the reporting and we want to emphasise the importance of ensuring full transparency on how Parties manage wild salmon in their rivers and waters.

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 may 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 and ensure sustainable aquaculture.

Mr President, the Faroe Islands and Greenland are looking forward to a productive week in this lovely Ishavshotel in Tromsø 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 36th Annual NASCO Meeting.

Thank you

Opening Statement submitted by the European Union

Mr President, Mrs Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, the European Union is very pleased to participate to the 36th Annual Meeting of NASCO in the beautiful city of Tromsø. We would like to thank our Norwegian hosts for their hospitality and for the superb arrangements for this meeting. 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 organization.

The European Union is pleased to report on the continuous and determined engagement of its Member States towards salmon conservation. We take particular encouragement from the attendance of delegates from the Iberian Peninsula to this meeting, as well as their significant efforts in completing the submission of implementation plans for the next reporting period. We are also pleased to acknowledge the success of our Member States in continuing to phase out mixed stocks fisheries. The Member States of the European Union therefore continue to work with resolve to protect the salmon resource and this meeting will offer an opportunity to further define the future of our collective efforts towards salmon conservation.

We are looking forward to the recommendations from the Tromsø Symposium to Address Future Management Challenges. This is a timely initiative in the context of a fast-changing environment, and increasing anthropological pressures on natural resources. We are confident that the impressive line-up of experts and the subjects covered will deliver important guidance to the Parties on how to best manage salmon populations.

This year, NASCO will also start the preparations for its next performance review. This important process will help to ensure that NASCO is fit for purpose to address current and future challenges, and that it continues working in a transparent way towards reaching its objectives.

Among other advances, the last performance review eventually paved the way for the current reporting approach in NASCO. We are looking forward to discussing the process and timing of finalising the improvement of this important process for the next reporting cycle, and in particular to ensure that NASCO can benefit from the work already accomplished when comes the submission of the 2019 APRs next year.

Finally, we are also looking forward to taking stock of how the International Year of the Salmon has delivered on its objectives.

This is an ambitious agenda for a short meeting, but we anticipate that the Norwegian midnight sun will provide the perfect settings for very long and productive working days...

As always, the European Union is looking forward to continuing working with all its NASCO friends to make this 36th Annual Meeting a success for Atlantic salmon.

Opening Statement Submitted by Norway

Mr President, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies, and Gentlemen. On behalf of Norway, I would like to welcome you all to Norway and the city of Tromsø to the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

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

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. Only 20 percent of the stocks are within norms requirements of good or very good status. The preparation of a plan for improvement is in its final stages.

The fishery regulations adopted over the last decade or so have - to a large extent - compensated for the reduction in salmon runs. Therefore, in general, 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. Further reductions in bag- and bend net fisheries to protect Tana stocks came in to force in Finnmark county in 2018.

Of a total of 50 rivers infected by *Gyrodactylus salaris*, 32 are treated and the parasite successfully eradicated, 11 rivers are treated but not yet declared parasite free and seven rivers are untreated and thus still infected. After eradicating the parasite, the local salmon stocks are re-built from the gene bank. Later this year the rivers in the Rauma region, are expected to be declared parasite free. In the Skibotn region, near Tromsø, the eradication program is completed, leaving just two regions still infected and untreated.

A new live gene bank is now under construction to try to rescue what remains of 15-17 stocks of salmon and sea-trout from the Hardanger region in Western Norway. Negative impacts from aquaculture activities were the main triggering factor for the decision.

Not least thanks to the Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers and the Norwegian Salmon Rivers, the International Year of the Salmon is turning into a success and more than 200 events are planned, contributing to achieving NASCO's main goal for the year. The Norwegian government has also launched an initiative to strengthen the legislation and enhance surveillance efforts to discover and prosecute illegal coastal fisheries.

The work on developing new IPs has proven to be challenging, as it should be. It is our strong belief that NASCO, in part by introducing the IP scheme, has played a vital role in the better protection and rational management of Atlantic salmon internationally and nationally. We hope NASCO will be able to fulfill this role also in the future, and in order to do so NASCO has to be efficient, innovative, relevant, and challenging.

At last, the Norwegian delegation would like to thank the whole Secretariat for its efforts in all the preparations for this meeting, and we look forward to a productive and successful meeting.

Opening Statement submitted by the Russian Federation

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates and Observers of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO, Ladies and Gentlemen!

On behalf of the Russian Federation and Federal Agency for Fisheries, representing interests of Russia in NASCO, I am pleased to greet all participants and guests of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

We welcome the opportunity of joint ongoing work to conserve and restore the Atlantic salmon

populations, as one of the key and valuable fish species in the Northern Hemisphere.

Based on the decisions that were taken at the previous NASCO Annual Meetings, Russia makes active efforts to protect the Atlantic salmon. During the II Global Fishery Forum and Seafood Expo in Saint Petersburg, Mr. Ilya Shestakov – Deputy Minister of Agriculture – Head of the Federal Agency for Fisheries announced this year in Russia as the Year of Salmon. To this end, additional salmon protection measures are being taken in Russia.

Adoption of the Federal Law on Recreational Fishery in 2018 should be particularly noted. The Law was designed to protect many fish species, including Atlantic salmon, from overfishing by anglers. Russia focuses on recreational catch-and-release fisheries at fishing sites in order to conserve Atlantic salmon and other valuable fish species.

In May 2019, a major action “A Day without Nets” was held in Russia, within the action fish guard staff and public activists cleared out our rivers and lakes from poaching nets, including in the North-West of the country, in the Atlantic salmon distribution area. Federal Agency for Fisheries undertakes outreach activities in the media and on the internet, aimed at preventing illegal and unregulated salmon fishing.

In March 2019, the Working Group on Atlantic salmon in Finnmark County and the Murmansk Region met in Murmansk, Russia to continue its work under MoU between the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation and the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment. Russia believes that it is important to maintain open and positive dialogue with Norway with regard to regulations for interceptory Atlantic salmon fisheries in the Northern Norway and expect that feedback from the Federal Agency for Fisheries will be carefully considered by Norwegian authorities in the decision process for the upcoming fishing regulations.

We appreciate that, thanks to NASCO, all interested countries can unite and coordinate their efforts to conserve salmon for the sake of future generations. I would like to express my gratitude to Norwegian Party for the cordial welcome and excellent arrangements for the joint work, the International Year of the Salmon Symposium including. We are sure that together we can achieve great success!

Wish all of us good luck and fruitful work!

Opening Statement submitted by the U.S.

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

The United States is pleased to participate in the 36th annual meeting of NASCO in the lovely city of Tromsø, Norway. We sincerely thank our hosts for the wonderful meeting venue and arrangements as well as the NASCO Secretariat for the excellent meeting preparations. We are looking forward to a productive week working together with our international partners to conserve and manage wild Atlantic salmon.

Atlantic salmon in the United States remain critically endangered; the only remaining native populations are in the State of Maine. The work we do this week is essential to ensuring the future viability of these populations. In that regard, mixed-stock fisheries that intercept U.S.-origin salmon continue to be a key concern of ours. We anticipate a robust discussion in the

West Greenland Commission regarding the implementation of the regulatory measure adopted last year, and we thank Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) for providing detailed information on both the outcome of the 2018 fishery at West Greenland as well as plans for improving management in 2019. We also look forward to continuing discussions on the effective management, monitoring, and control of the mixed-stock fisheries in Labrador and St. Pierre and Miquelon in light of the helpful information on those fisheries provided by both Canada and France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), respectively.

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative has provided new opportunities to highlight on a global scale the plight of wild Atlantic salmon and to increase public awareness and interest in actions necessary for the recovery of this iconic species. We heard about the challenges facing salmon during the successful IYS Symposium held earlier this week. The IYS initiative has improved visibility and support for Atlantic salmon recovery throughout the North Atlantic, and we are especially encouraged by the level of participation by NGOs and other partners in the United States. We appreciate the efforts that have been made by the Parties, jurisdictions, and NGOs to engage in IYS and look forward to reviewing the report from the IYS Symposium. The IYS Special Session will provide an opportunity to highlight accomplishments, discuss how best to continue to engage with key audiences on wild Atlantic salmon conservation, and continue to raise the profile of NASCO. We are particularly excited about the State of the Salmon report which was presented earlier this week at the Symposium. This first ever State of the Salmon report is a signature IYS output for NASCO, and we expect that it will greatly assist in raising awareness of the status of and threats to wild Atlantic salmon while also raising the profile of NASCO as an international conservation organization.

We are also looking forward to the special session on Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports. 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 meet the objective of the NASCO Convention regarding the conservation and management of wild Atlantic salmon, including through effective implementation of NASCO measures. We urge everyone to take full advantage of the opportunity that the special session presents. In looking ahead to the next phases of the third cycle of reporting, we welcome discussion regarding how to balance the continuing need for a complete, rigorous, and transparent reporting process given its many benefits – most particularly to Atlantic salmon – with the resources needed to conduct such a process.

Finally, we draw attention to NASCO's decision last year to hold a third performance review. The reviews held in 2004 and 2012 have been instrumental in strengthening the organization. To ensure a meaningful third review, NASCO must clearly identify its purpose and develop, or set the stage for development of, terms of reference for the work that ensures the independence, efficiency, and effectiveness of the review and supports the development of a finished product that provides meaningful feedback. It is important that this review is done correctly to help ensure the organization can meet the ever increasing challenges to the viability and resiliency of our wild Atlantic salmon stocks.

In closing, on behalf of the United States, I would like to acknowledge the tireless work of our Secretary, Emma Hatfield, Assistant Secretary, Sarah Robinson, and the rest of the Secretariat staff, all of whom support this organization so professionally. Sadly, Sarah will be leaving NASCO soon, and while she has not been with NASCO long, she has become an invaluable member of the Secretariat. Consequently, this is a big loss to our organization. We thank her for all of the hard work, particularly that related to the production of the State of the Salmon Report and other IYS initiatives, and we wish her the best of luck as she moves on from NASCO.

Thank you.

Opening Statements submitted by Inter-Governmental Organizations

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

Mr President, Madame Secretary, 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 36th 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 German Government, is the delivery of the EIFAAC symposium on Food Safety and Conservation in Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture, to be held in Dresden, Germany from the 9th to 11th of September 2019. This symposium presents a unique opportunity to develop and advance inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to pressing issues facing European aquaculture farmers, commercial and recreational inland fishers, fisheries managers and conservationists.

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 Tromsø, Norway and for the facilities and hospitality provided. Finally, may I wish all of you a productive and enjoyable NASCO session.

Dr Cathal Gallagher – EIFAAC

Opening Statement submitted by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates, Members of the Secretariat, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am very grateful for the opportunity to deliver an Opening Statement on behalf of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea at this Thirty-Six Annual Meeting of NASCO in beautiful Tromsø.

NASCO aims to base its management measures on the best available scientific information. Through the Memorandum of Understanding between our two organizations, ICES is proud and honored to provide scientific advice on Atlantic salmon to NASCO on an annual basis.

As many of you are aware, ICES was formed back in 1902, initially to promote and encourage international co-operation in marine science. Our contemporary goal is to advance and share scientific understanding of marine ecosystems and the services they provide and to use this knowledge to generate state-of-the-art advice for meeting conservation, management, and sustainability goals.

In developing and providing advice, ICES aims to use the best available science characterized by quality assurance, with the end product that is developed in a transparent process and is unbiased and independent. The advice is developed through the work of expert groups, review groups, workshops and advice drafting groups under the oversight of the Advisory Committee (ACOM) of ICES. Through its annual meeting with clients and stakeholders and regular interactions, ICES ACOM continually works to ensure that the advice it provides is recognized by all Parties as being relevant to management.

ICES is more than an organization; it is a community of more than 5,000 scientists from over 700 marine institutes from our 20 member countries and beyond. Each year, 1,500 scientists participate in our activities. I cannot stress enough that the scientific advice that ICES provides is only possible through the contributions of the many scientists involved and the support that they receive from their respective countries.

While much knowledge has been gained regarding Atlantic salmon, much remains to be discovered particularly during the at-sea stage. In this context, ICES welcomes the International Year of the Salmon (IYS), a joint initiative of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). Such a focus on all salmon including Atlantic salmon, helps bring awareness and further engages the scientific community, managers and society at large to gain a greater understanding of the challenges faced by this iconic species. I trust that the NASCO Symposium held earlier this week on 'Managing the Atlantic salmon in a rapidly changing environment' was successful in this regard.

In addition to the work conducted in the relevant expert groups of ICES such as WGNAS and others, ICES is happy to organize the Workshop for North Atlantic Salmon At-Sea Mortality that will have its first meeting later this month in Copenhagen. This workshop will seek to improve the scientific assessment and advice on Atlantic salmon by exploring how best to integrate available data on marine survival.

All of these activities provide a good opportunity to bring forward research priorities to the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development that will help us deliver the knowledge of the ocean that we need to help shape the future that we want. With ICES recently gaining observer status at the United Nations, we have an obligation and an opportunity to share our working procedures, methods and our discoveries with the global community.

Should you be interested in reading more about the ICES activities, I am pleased to refer you to our annual report, that can be found on our website, <https://ices.dk/news-and-events/news-archive/news/Pages/A-year-of-advancing-and-sharing-marine-science.aspx>.

In closing, I note that NASCO and ICES share many of the same goals including that of international co-operation. In this context, I am confident that the discussions of this annual meeting will be fruitful.

Thank you for your attention.

Opening Statement submitted by NAMMCO

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

I am pleased on behalf of **NAMMCO** to greet all participants of the Thirty Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO, and to welcome you to Tromsø, the hometown of the Secretariat of **NAMMCO**.

NAMMCO with member states, Faroe Islands, Greenland, Iceland and Norway is committed to ensuring the effective conservation and the sustainable and responsible use of cetaceans (whales and dolphins) and pinnipeds (seals and walruses) in the North Atlantic.

NAMMCO is built upon the belief that regional co-operation is the most efficient way of managing and conserving marine resources. Through an active regional co-operation, **NAMMCO** focuses on modern approaches to the study of the North Atlantic marine ecosystem as a whole and to better understand the role of marine mammals and the impact of anthropogenic activities in this system. **NAMMCO** provides science-based management advices to its Parties.

Aware that direct catches represent only the most apparent anthropogenic pressure, and that marine mammals also face multiple, cumulative and synergistic threats, **NAMMCO** works to progress towards effective ecosystem-based management and the monitoring of other direct or indirect anthropogenic disturbances, such as by-catch and entanglements, noise, pollution, climate change and increased human activities in the Arctic (shipping, fishing, mining, tourism).

NAMMCO has gone through its first Performance Review. The international panel of experts nominated by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and International Whaling Commission (IWC) has assessed the performance of **NAMMCO**. In general, the Panel concluded that **NAMMCO** is meeting its overall objective, to contribute through regional consultation and co-operation to the conservation, rational management and study of marine mammals in the North Atlantic. **NAMMCO** will now review the detailed conclusions and recommendations of the panel and consider follow up actions.

In closing, **NAMMCO** wish NASCO a productive Council meeting and the successful conservation of another highly appreciated marine resource.

Thank you.

Opening Statement submitted by 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 36th NASCO Annual Meeting. On behalf of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), I congratulate you on this annual meeting in the incredible city of Tromsø, Norway and for hosting a very successful symposium on Managing the Atlantic Salmon in a Rapidly Changing Environment.

I am particularly excited to join all of you at this, the mid-point of the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon. NPAFC has just concluded a successful annual meeting in Portland, Oregon and we were very pleased to have Ms Kim Damon-Randall, US Head of Delegation to NASCO, join us. Our joint Technical Team had a very successful year continuing to build our working relationship. We completed a NASCO/NPAFC two-year partnership agreement with DFO that contributed significantly to our joint efforts to implement the IYS. NASCO Technical Team members Dr Hatfield and Ms Kim Damon-Randall joined us for our North Pacific IYS opening event in October 2018. Following that meeting, NPAFC President Dr Suam Kim and I were hosted by President Hansen and Secretary Dr Hatfield in Edinburgh where we attended an IYS opening event in Scotland. The visit was outstanding, and we are grateful for the extremely thoughtful itinerary. I was struck by the similarity of the issues between Scotland and Canada's west coast as we spoke with Cabinet Secretary Roseanna Cunningham and her Department's scientists at the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory in Pitlochry, Scotland and talked to restoration biologists working in the Scottish Highlands. It affirmed that our IYS vision of connecting salmon interests across the Salmosphere is a worthy endeavor.

In Edinburgh we had the good fortune to meet with Mr Robbie Douglas Miller, Mr Andrew Wallace and Mr Pedro Langdale from the Atlantic Salmon Trust Board and we discussed the potential for further hemispheric-scale collaboration on the Likely Suspects Framework (LSF) project. I am pleased to say that significant investments are being considered in both the Pacific and Atlantic basins and I look forward to further discussions here at NASCO and late June in the first meeting with ICES regarding the LSF. This highlights the effectiveness of face to face meeting and the NPAFC will continue to look for opportunities for meetings of this type and we are committed to an IYS Coordinating Committee Meeting in late 2019.

The IYS website is a joint initiative and we have a remarkable inventory of activities taking place in 2019. The website has been used as a destination for our social media campaigns on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook and we hope to find resources to improve the site in 2020.

The IYS was designed to use 2019 as a focal year to raise awareness about salmon and to serve as a call to action for support for outreach and research through 2022. The NPAFC remains committed to jointly pursuing cross-basin collaboration on the LSF and ROAM as Signature Projects for the IYS. The LSF resonates in the Pacific Basin and we have proposed freshwater case studies that will be linked to coastal/high seas monitoring and modelling. While the details

of the mechanisms driving the production of salmon in both basins differ the climate drivers that affected marine survival in both Basins starting in the early 1990's are shared. The methods to study this change and to develop understanding from correlations to causation will more effectively be accomplished through collaboration. We look forward to working with the Atlantic Salmon Trust and the newly formed Alliance of Missing Fish as well as ICES and European Union on the Atlantic LSF. As agreed, we will provide details of our research and outreach workshops and events in order to identify scientists within the NASCO Parties that may wish to participate.

The NPAFC actively participated in the ROAM workshop this past year and is awaiting the outcome of research conducted recently that should provide a better indication of the potential for applying the technology in the Pacific.

In closing I wish you well in your deliberations. I look forward to ongoing engagement with all of you through the International Year of the Salmon.

Thank you.

Opening Statement submitted on behalf of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) (SPM)

I wish to thank NASCO's president and its Parties for inviting France in respect of SPM to attend this Annual Meeting as observer. I also thank heartfully the Norwegian government, our host in this beautiful venue of Tromsø. Last, many thanks to the Secretariat for their help.

Keeping our commitment to co-operate with NASCO, we continue to report annually on the coastal fishery in the home waters around the islands of SPM. This year's report includes data on effort, and on length measurement for the past 5 years. The sampling programme was continued in 2018 by the delegate of IFREMER at a level of 9%. The genetic and age analyses for SPM are taken on board by Canada, so we thank all the people involved and we commit to maintain this well-established co-operation. From this year on, the sampling will be extended in time to cover the whole fishing season.

As a management measure, the season was shortened two years ago while the number of recreational licenses was definitely capped at 80.

In 2018, although the Maritime Affairs Service allocated the maximum number of permits, a significant part of the fishermen did not set their nets. So effort was quite moderate.

Last year we heard the concerns expressed by some Parties' representatives, and NGOs, about the lack of limit for the recreational catch of salmon. We reflected on this in the context of the IYS, and it was decided to experiment a different gear with some recreational fishermen. A pilot cast fishing will start soon.

We also have ongoing research programs: seals counting and a study of their diet.

There is a good momentum in biodiversity and marine research in SPM at this time, some of it in co-operation with the maritime provinces of Canada and some with Québec. At national level, we have just had confirmation for the financement by the French Agency for Biodiversity of a comprehensive study on the residual salmon population in Miquelon-Langlade.

I thank NASCO for the guidance we get from attending the Annual Meeting.

Thank you

Opening Statement submitted by NASCO's accredited Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)

Mr President, Heads of Delegation, Delegates and Colleagues – may the NGOs begin by thanking our Norwegian hosts for organizing what we are sure will be a lively and informative meeting in this, the International Year of the Salmon (IYS).

Mr President, the NGOs believe that IYS gives us even greater responsibility within NASCO to redouble our efforts on the protection and conservation of wild salmon which, in many regions of the North Atlantic, are either at, or very near, crisis point. If fishery managers at all levels, from Governments down to river catchment systems, do not get to grips with addressing the issues impacting wild salmon and causing bottlenecks to their survival, then we fear that significant populations of this iconic species could be driven to extinction - on our watch. The NGOs firmly believe that the prevarication that has dogged international salmon politics for so long must now be replaced by clear political commitment to protect the species right across its North Atlantic range. The IYS focus has ensured that our work over the next few days will be forensically dissected by many more people in the salmon world than usual, and unless NASCO Parties and jurisdictions show commitment to this forum's principal salmon conservation objective, the organization will justifiably lose credibility with our peers.

Several NGOs were consulted by their respective Parties/Jurisdictions during the drafting of their 3rd cycle Implementation Plans (IPs). However, although we appreciated an adherence to the Guidelines by involving us in the drafting process, we also reported varying degrees of despondency at the quality of the actions contained within the IPs. This was especially the case with actions meant to address the impacts of salmon farming on wild fish. NASCO Council stated at Portland last year that the 3rd IP cycle should pay special attention to the salmon farming issue in the light of increasing evidence from around the North Atlantic of significant losses to wild fish populations through the transfer of sea lice and the introgression of escaped farmed salmon genes into native stocks.

Mr President, allowing a significant number of wild smolts to be killed by lice emanating from salmon farms before any serious regulatory enforcement is considered, or that the continuation of a research project that has failed to report or reach any conclusions in recent years is considered a sufficient action to address aquaculture impact, will hardly give the salmon world any confidence in NASCO's and its Parties' commitment to wild fish protection. As far as the NGOs are concerned, unless the IPs submitted for review were considerably better than the draft consultation versions, this 3rd cycle of IPs has spectacularly failed to respond to Council's wishes to focus special attention on addressing the damage caused by salmon farming.

As we understand it, very few draft IPs were acceptable to the Review Group and the great majority will be returned to jurisdictions for revision. The NGOs look forward to being involved again during the revision process but our immediate plea to NASCO Council is for all possible influence to be placed on Parties and jurisdictions to take urgent action to live up to the main NASCO objective of protecting wild Atlantic salmon, rather than just writing some vague reference to a particular threat that they hope will see them through the process without having to commit to doing anything too onerous.

In December this year, a conference will be held at Pembroke College, University of Cambridge, to close the International Year of the Salmon in England. The conference is inspired not only by the issues facing salmon today, but also by the culture surrounding the species, as depicted so wonderfully by the late UK Poet Laureate, Ted Hughes, who studied at

Pembroke College. In 1993, Hughes wrote of ‘the thousand perils’ salmon faced, from natural and human predators and degradation of their habitats: he wrote passionately about drift netting, water abstraction, agricultural run offs, intensive farming, salmon farms and the other obstacles we put in their paths, from weirs to toxic chemicals. Three decades on, Climate change, shifting patterns of predation, the commercial exploitation of wild fish, the horrors of sea-lice impact and wild genetic fish stocks contaminated by farm escapees, have left us in no doubt as to the salmon’s plight. It is not that things haven’t changed – it is that they are considerably worse today than when Hughes wrote those words! The one thing that has not changed is general government inaction.

At stake is not just the salmon itself, as a keystone species, and the health of the ecologies and species it sustains. It is also the question of our own relationship with the natural world which the salmon expresses so powerfully. Hughes wrote, of a friend’s successful court case to protect water quality on a tributary of an English river, that he had given the salmon a voice. In this, the International Year of the Salmon, how can we ensure that scientists, poets, conservationists and, surely above everyone else, governments, do the same - speak in concert and make others hear us on behalf of this silent hero?

Mr President, we must emphasise that it is not just the NASCO NGOs who are concerned at this time about NASCO Parties’ / jurisdictions’ continuing inability to prioritise wild Atlantic salmon protection above the interests of salmon farmers, commercial fishermen, land managers, developers, hydropower operators or the myriad of other interests that seem to take precedence over the main objective of this inter-government organization. There is an increasing belief outside this forum that Atlantic salmon are in crisis, and if NASCO is not to lose its remaining credibility within the wider salmon world, Parties and jurisdictions at this meeting have to commit to taking far greater responsibility for genuine species protection, otherwise, frankly, we are all wasting our time. The NGOs try their best within flawed systems to influence political commitment right across the North Atlantic region, but we now look to you, your Heads of Delegation and supporting staff to send a very clear, unequivocal message back to your respective governments that in this, the International Year of the Salmon, they have to act now if, as Sir David Attenborough starkly warned in his IYS video earlier this year, we are not to lose the King of Fish for ever.

Mr President, the time for prevarication is over.

List of Participants

* Denotes Head of Delegation

CANADA

*Mr Serge Doucet <i>Serge.Doucet@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	<u>Representative</u> Fisheries and Oceans Canada, New Brunswick
Mr Carl McLean <i>mclean351@gmail.com</i>	<u>Representative</u> Nunatsiavut Government, Happy Valley - Goose Bay, Newfoundland & Labrador
Dr Blair Adams <i>blairadams@gov.nl.ca</i>	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Mr Tony Blanchard <i>tony.blanchard@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St John's, Newfoundland & Labrador
Mr John Campbell <i>John.Campbell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ontario
Dr Julien April <i>julien.april@mffp.gouv.qc.ca</i>	Ministère des Forêts de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec
Mr Doug Bliss <i>doug.bliss@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Moncton, New Brunswick
Mr David Dunn <i>dunnd@nb.sympatico.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, New Brunswick
Mr Gérald Chaput <i>gerald.chaput@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Moncton, New Brunswick
Mr Chris Connell <i>Chris.Connell@gnb.ca</i>	Department of Energy and Resource Development, Province of New Brunswick
Ms Shelley Denny <i>shelley.denny@uinr.ca</i>	Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Eskasoni Nova Scotia
Mr James Goudie <i>Jim.Goudie@nunatsiavut.com</i>	Government of Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland and and Labrador
Ms Susan A. Farquharson <i>s.farquharson@atlanticfishfarmers</i>	Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association, Letang, New Brunswick
Mr Alan McNeill <i>mcneilla@gov.ns.ca</i>	Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture, Pictou, Nova Scotia

Dr Martha Robertson
martha.robertson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St. Johns,
Newfoundland and Labrador

Ms Lis Sondergaard
Lis.Sondergaard@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa

DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)

*Ms Katrine Kærgaard
katk@nanoq.gl

Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture,
Nuuk, Greenland

Mr Svein Magnason
sveinm@uvmr.fo

Representative
Faroese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
Tinganes, Faroe Islands

Mr John Biilmann
johnb@nanoq.gl

Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture,
Nuuk, Greenland

Mr Pól E. Egholm
pole@uvmr.fo

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Faroe Islands

Mr Jóannes Hansen
joannesv@tinganes.fo

President of NASCO
Prime Minister's Office, Torshavn, Faroe Islands

EUROPEAN UNION

*Dr Arnaud Peyronnet
arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu

Representative
European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Mr Ignacio Granell
ignacio.granell@ec.europa.eu

Representative
European Commission, Brussels, Belgium

Ms Ruth Allin
Ruth.Allin@defra.gov.uk

DEFRA, UK

Mr Magnus Andersson
magnus.andersson@regeringskansliet.se

Ministry for Enterprise and Innovation, Sweden

Dr Ida Ahlbeck Bergendahl
ida.ahlbeck.bergendahl@slu.se

Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences,
Stockholm, Sweden

Dr Ciaran Byrne
ciaran.byrne@fisheriesireland.ie

Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

Mr Håkan Carlstrand
hakan.carlstrand@havochvatten.se

Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management,
Gothenburg, Sweden

Mr Seamus Connor
seamus.connor@daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA Inland Fisheries, Belfast, UK

Mr Simon Dryden <i>simon.dryden@gov.scot</i>	Marine Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
Dr Dennis Ensing <i>dennis.ensing@afbini.gov.uk</i>	Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute Northern Ireland, Belfast, Northern Ireland, UK
Dr Jaakko Erkinaro <i>jaakko.erkinaro@luke.fi</i>	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Oulu, Finland
Mr Clemens Fieseler <i>clemens.fieseler@ble.de</i>	Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Bonn, Germany
Dr Cathal Gallagher <i>cathal.gallagher@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Julián García <i>jgbaena@mapa.es</i>	Spanish General Secretariat of Fisheries, Madrid, Spain
Dr Paddy Gargan <i>paddy.gargan@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Tapio Hakaste <i>tapio.hakaste@mmm.fi</i>	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki, Finland
Mr Grant Horsburgh <i>Grant.Horsburgh@defra.gov.uk</i>	DEFRA, UK
Ms Teodora Ivanova-Staykova <i>Teodora.Ivanova-Staykova@ consilium.europa.eu</i>	Secretariat General of the Council of the European Union, Brussels, Belgium
Ms Marine Jaspers <i>marine.jaspers@agriculture.gouv.fr</i>	Ministry of Agriculture and Food, France
Mr Romuald Loridan <i>romuald.loridan@developpement- durable.gouv.fr</i>	French ministry, France
Mr Denis Maher <i>denis.maher@dccae.gov.ie</i>	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Cavan, Ireland
Mr John McCartney <i>john.mccartney@loughs-agency.org</i>	Loughs Agency, Derry, Northern Ireland
Dr Michael Millane <i>michael.millane@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Dr Niall Ó Maoiléidigh <i>niall.omaileidigh@marine.ie</i>	Marine Institute, Newport, Ireland

Mr Arthur Niven
arthur.niven@daera-ni.gov.uk

DAERA Inland Fisheries, Belfast, UK

Mr Mike Palmer
mike.palmer@gov.scot

Marine Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

Ms Christiane Pilz
christiane.pilz@bmel.bund.de

Bundesministerium für Ernährung und
Landwirtschaft, Berlin, Germany

Mr Ian Russell
ian.russell@cefas.co.uk

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture
Science, Lowestoft, England, UK

Mr Lawrence Talks
*lawrence.talks@
environment-agency.gov.uk*

Environment Agency, England, UK

Ms Liliana Teixeira
lteixeira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt

General-Directorate for Natural Resources, safety and
Maritime services, Portugal

Mr Simon Toms
*simon.toms@
environment-agency.gov.uk*

Environment Agency, England, UK

Ms Bénédicte Valadou
benedicte.valadou@afbiodiversite.fr

ONEMA, Direction Générale, Vincennes, France

Dr Alan M. Walker
alan.walker@cefas.co.uk

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture
Science, Lowestoft, England, UK

Ms Samantha Watts
Samantha.Watts@defra.gov.uk

DEFRA, UK

NORWAY

*Mr Raoul Bierach
raoul.bierach@miljodir.no

Representative
Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim

Mr Helge Dyrendal
helge.axel.dyrendal@miljodir.no

Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim

Ms Heidi Ekstrøm
heidi.ekstrom@kld.dep.no

Ministry of Climate and Environment, Oslo

Dr Peder Fiske
peder.fiske@nina.no

Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Trondheim

Ms Heidi Hansen
heidi.hansen@miljodir.no

Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim

Ms Lindis Nerbø
lindis.nerbo@kld.dep.no

Ministry of Climate and Environment, Oslo

Mr Benjamin Sæverås
bs@kld.dep.no

Ministry of Climate and Environment, Oslo

Marianne Kvaal
marianne.kvaal@miljodir.no

Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

*Dr Alexander Khatuntsov
Khatuntsov.a@tsuren.ru

Representative
Federal State Budgetary Establishment, Moscow

Mr Ivan Kolobanov
Kolobanov_II@fishcom.ru

Federal Agency for Fisheries, Moscow

Mrs Kristina Belogurova
krismel@pinro.ru

Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), Murmansk

Dr Sergey Prusov
prusov@pinro.ru

Knipovich Polar Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and Oceanography (PINRO), Murmansk

Mr Victor Rozhnov
rozhnov@bbtu.ru

Barentsevo-Belomorskoe Territorial Department, Murmansk

Ms Daria Ursu
daria_ursu@mail.ru

Federal Agency for Fisheries, Moscow

USA

*Ms Kimberly Damon-Randall
kimberly.damon-randall@noaa.gov

Representative
National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, Massachusetts

Mr Stephen Gephard
steve.gephard@ct.gov

Representative
Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries Division, Old Lyme, Connecticut

Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker
kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov

National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland

Mr Michael Thomas Brakke
BrakkeMT@state.gov

US Department of State, Washington DC

Ms Julia Crocker
julie.crocker@noaa.gov

National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester,
Massachusetts

Mr Tim Sheehan
tim.sheehan@noaa.gov

National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole,
Massachusetts

STATES NOT PARTY TO THE CONVENTION

France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon)

*Ms Christiane Laurent-Monpetit
christiane.laurent-monpetit@
outre-mer.gouv.fr

Ministère des Outre-Mer, Paris, France

Mr Herlé Goraguer
Herle.Goraguer@ifremer.fr

IFREMER, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, France

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Dr Cathal Gallagher
cathal.gallagher@fisheriesireland.ie

European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory
Commission

Mr Ghislain Chouinard
ghislain@ices.dk

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea,
Copenhagen, Denmark

Dr Geneviève Desportes
genevieve@nammco.no

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, Tromsø,
Norway

Dr Charlotte Winsnes
charlotte@nammco.no

North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, Tromsø
Norway

Mr Mark Saunders
msaunders@yearofthesalmon.org

North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission,
Vancouver, Canada

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

** Denotes NGO Co-Chairs

Association de Défense des Ressources Marines

Dr Philippe Garcia

maigre42@gmail.com

Mr Jean-Baptiste Garcia

maigre42@gmail.com

Association Internationale de Défense du Saumon Atlantique, France

Mr Philippe Méry

philippemery@yahoo.fr

Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada

Mr Dave Meerburg

dmeerburg@asf.ca

Dr Stephen Sutton**

ssutton@asf.ca

Atlantic Salmon Federation, USA

Mr Robert Otto

rotto@asf.ca

Mr John Burrows

*john@asf.comcastbiz.net***Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network, UK**

Mr Donald R. Sprangers

*sd.sprangers@gmail.com***Atlantic Salmon Trust, UK**

Mr Mark Bilsby

mark@atlanticsalmontrust.org

Professor Ken Whelan

*ken.whelan@hotmail.com***Connecticut River Salmon Association**

Mr Thomas Chrosniak

*president@ctriversalmon.org***Der Atlantische Lachs**

Mr Heinz Ackmann

*team@lachsverein.de***Downeast Salmon Federation**

Dwayne Shaw

*dwayne@mainesalmonrivers.org***Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers, Ireland**

Dr Jens Christian Holst

jens@ecosystembased.com

Mr Michael Stinson

*mick.stinson@hotmail.com***Fisheries Management Scotland, UK**

Dr Alan Wells

*alan@fms.org***Institute of Fisheries Management, UK**

Dr Nigel Milner

*n.milner@apemltd.co.uk***Norske Lakseelver, Norway**

Mr Torfinn Evensen

torfinn@lakseelver.no

Dr Erik Sterud

*erik@lakseelver.no***North Atlantic Salmon Fund US**

Mrs Kateryna Rakowsky

kateryna@northatlanticsalmonfund.org

Ms Lisa Nelson

*lisa@northatlanticsalmonfund.org***Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers, Norway**

Mr Oyvind Fjeldseth

*o.f@njff.no***Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland, UK**

Mr Andrew Graham-Stewart

*director@salmon-troutscotland.org***Salmon and Trout Conservation UK, UK**

Mr William Hicks

william.hix@btinternet.com

Mr Paul Knight **

*paul@salmon-trout.org***Salmon Watch Ireland**

Mr Niall Greene

niall.b.greene@gmail.com

Sami Parliament, Norway

Mr Jon Petter Gintal

jon.petter.gintal@samediggi.no

Scottish Anglers National Association, UK

Dr Andy Walker

andywalker231@aol.com

Tana River Fish Management, Norway

Mr Asbjørn Guttorm

asbjorn.guttorm@gmail.com

Mr Benn Larsen

post@tanafisk.no

WWF – Russia

Mr Miron Borgulev

mborgulev@wwf.ru

INTERNATIONAL SALMON FARMERS ASSOCIATION (ISFA)

Mr Sebastian Belle

futureseas@aol.com

SECRETARIAT

hq@nasco.int

Dr Emma Hatfield

Secretary

Ms Sarah Robinson

Assistant Secretary

Ms Kim Gibson

PA to the Secretary

Ms Vicky Newton

PA

SUPPORT STAFF

Ms Julie Rakkestad

Ms Lisa Martinsen

CNL(19)48

Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Council

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway

5 – 7 June 2019

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Financial and Administrative Issues**
 - 3.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee
- 4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information**
 - 4.1 Secretary's Report
 - 4.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2018
 - 4.3 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize
 - 4.4 Scientific Advice from ICES
 - 4.5 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board
 - 4.6 Review of the Procedures Relating to the Work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group
 - 4.7 Report of the Standing Scientific Committee
- 5. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach**
 - 5.1 Special Session: Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans
 - 5.2 Special Session: Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)
 - 5.3 Special Session: Report on Progress during the International Year of the Salmon
 - 5.4 Report from the Tromsø Symposium on the Recommendations to Address Future Management Challenges
 - 5.5 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
 - 5.6 Consideration of the Process for Arranging a Second External Performance Review in 2021
 - 5.7 Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

- 5.8 New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management
- 5.9 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management
- 5.10 Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery
- 5.11 Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions
- 6. Other Business**
- 7. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**
- 8. Report of the Meeting**
- 9. Press Release**
- 10. Close of the Meeting**

CNL(19)54

**North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
2020 Budget and 2021 Forecast Budget (Pounds Sterling)**

		Budget 2020	Forecast 2021
Expenditure			
1.	Staff-related costs	353,180	360,600
2.	Travel and subsistence	39,500	40,330
3.	Research and advice	65,700	67,080
4.	Contribution to Working Capital Fund	0	0
5.	Meetings	12,750	13,250
6.	Office supplies, printing and translation	26,500	26,500
7.	Communications	19,750	19,750
8.	Headquarters Property	44,250	44,250
9.	Office furniture and equipment	17,000	17,000
10.	Audit and other expenses	13,500	64,000
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	0	0
Total Expenditure		636,630	697,259
Income			
16.	Contributions - Contracting Parties	583,630	646,259
17.	General Fund – Interest	1,000	1,000
18.	Income from Headquarters Property	52,000	50,000
19.	Surplus or Deficit (-) from 2018	0	0
Total Income		636,630	697,259

2020 Budget & 2021 Forecast Budget (Pounds Sterling) – Expenditure by Sub-section

	2020	Forecast 2021
1. Staff related costs		
1.1 Secretariat members	233,270	238,200
1.2 Temporary and part-time staff costs	33,800	34,500
1.3 Staff Fund, allowances, insurances and other costs	86,110	87,900
Total	353,180	360,600
2. Travel & subsistence		
2.1 Travel to Annual Meeting	11,500	11,742
2.2 Official travel and subsistence	28,000	28,588
Total	39,500	40,330
3. Research and advice		
3.1 Contribution to ICES	65,700	67,080
3.2 Other research & advice	0	0
Total	65,700	67,080
4. Contribution to Working Capital Fund	0	0
5. Meetings		
5.1 Costs of annual meeting	5,000	5,500
5.2 Costs of other meetings	7,750	7,750
Total	12,750	13,250
6. Office supplies, printing and translation		
6.1 Office supplies	16,000	16,000
6.2 Printing	8,000	8,000
6.3 Translations	2,500	2,500
Total	26,500	26,500
7. Communications		
7.1 Telecommunications	4,750	4,750
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	19,750	19,750
8. Headquarters Property		
8.1 Capital and interest payments	0	0
8.2 Maintenance, services and other building related costs	44,250	44,250
Total	44,250	44,250
9. Office furniture and equipment		
9.1 Furniture	0	1,500
9.2 Equipment	17,000	17,000
Total	17,000	17,000
10. Audit and other expenses		
10.1 Audit and accountancy fees	8,000	8,000
10.2 Bank charges and insurances	1,000	1,000
10.3 Miscellaneous	4,500	55,000
Total	13,500	64,000
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	0	0
Total Expenditure	636,630	697,259

2019 Budget Contributions (Pounds Sterling) Adjusted for Confirmed rather than Provisional 2017 Catches (tonnes)

Party	2017 catch (provisional)	2017 catch (confirmed)	2019 contribution (provisional)	2019 contribution (confirmed)	Adjustment
Canada	112	110	71,954	71,075	-879
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	28	28	39,926	39,896	-30
European Union	223	225	114,277	114,800	524
Norway	664	667	282,423	282,859	435
Russian Federation	47	47	47,170	47,120	-50
USA	0	0	29,250	29,250	0
Total	1,074	1,077	585,000	585,000	0

Note. A positive adjustment represents an underpayment in 2019.

NASCO Budget Contributions for 2020 and Forecast Budget Contributions for 2021 (Pounds Sterling)

Party	2018 catch (provisional)	2020 contribution	Adjustment from 2019	2020 adjusted contribution	2021 forecast contribution
Canada	90	66,061	-879	65,181	73,150
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	40	45,572	-30	45,543	50,463
European Union	192	107,857	524	108,381	119,432
Norway	595	272,995	435	273,430	302,290
Russian Federation	80	61,963	-50	61,913	68,612
USA	0	29,182	0	29,182	32,313
Total	997	583,630	0	583,630	646,259

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 2020 – 2024

		2020	Forecast 2021	Forecast 2022	Forecast 2023	Forecast 2024
Expenditure						
1.	Staff related costs	353,180	360,600	371,418	382,561	394,037
2.	Travel & Subsistence	39,500	40,330	30,500	40,750	41,000
3.	Research & advice	65,700	67,080	68,500	69,000	70,000
4.	Contribution to Working Capital	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Meetings	12,750	13,250	48,500	13,500	13,750
6.	Office supplies, printing and translations	26,500	29,500	27,000	27,500	27,500
7.	Communications	19,750	19,750	20,000	20,250	20,500
8.	Headquarters Property	44,250	44,250	45,000	45,500	46,000
9.	Office furniture & equipment	17,000	17,000	6,500	6,500	6,500
10.	Audit & other expenses	13,500	64,000	13,750	13,750	14,000
11.	Tag return incentive scheme	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
12.	International Co-operative Research	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Contribution to Contractual Obligation Fund	35,000	35,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
14.	Contribution to Recruitment Fund	5,000	5,000	0	0	0
15.	Contribution to IYS Fund	0	0	0	0	0
Total		636,630	697,259	665,668	653,811	667,787
Income						
16.	Contributions of Contracting Parties	583,630	646,259	614,668	603,447	617,997
17.	Interest Received on General Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
18.	Income from HQ property	52,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total		636,630	697,259	665,668	654,447	668,997



Council

CNL(19)52

***Presentation of the ICES Advice on
North Atlantic Salmon Stocks to the Council***



sal.oth.nasco

North Atlantic Salmon Stocks

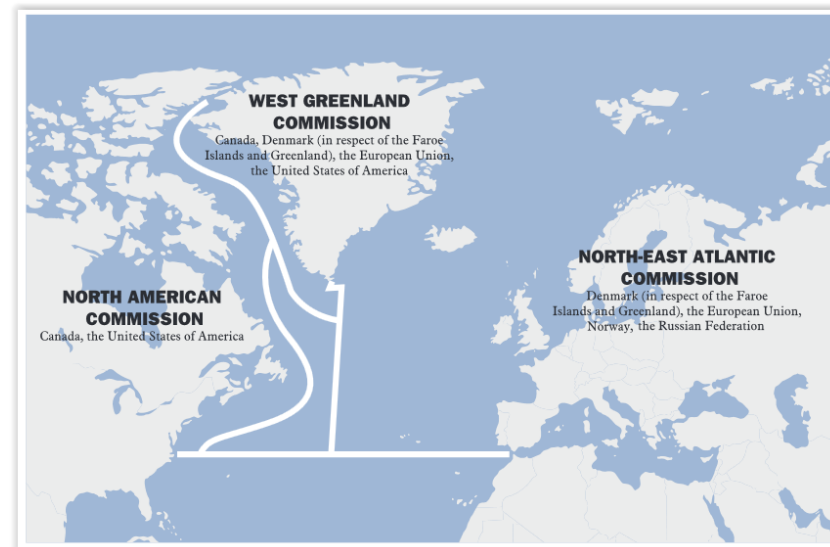
Photo by Nick Hawkins



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Background

- NASCO Commissions: North American (NAC), West Greenland (WGC) and North-East Atlantic (NEAC)
- Management framework for Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic



ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS)



- Bergen, Norway
- 26 March–04 April 2019
- 28 participants
- 13 countries
- 35 working documents

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
- 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management
- 1.3 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2018
- 1.4 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements

1.1 Nominal Catch

- 1090 t
 - whole weight of fish caught and retained (harvest)
 - released fish not included

Area	Catch (t)	
	2017	2018
NEAC	1022 (88%)	960 (88%)
NAC	113 (10%)	90 (8%)
WGC	28 (2%)	40 (4%)
Total	1163	1090

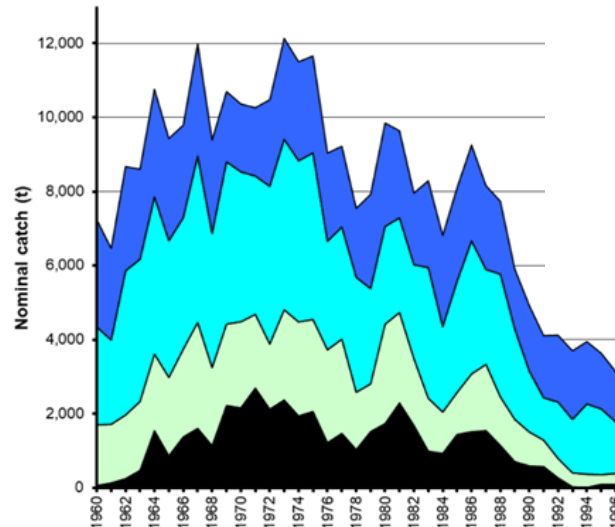
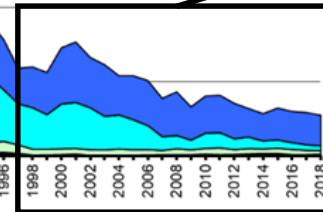
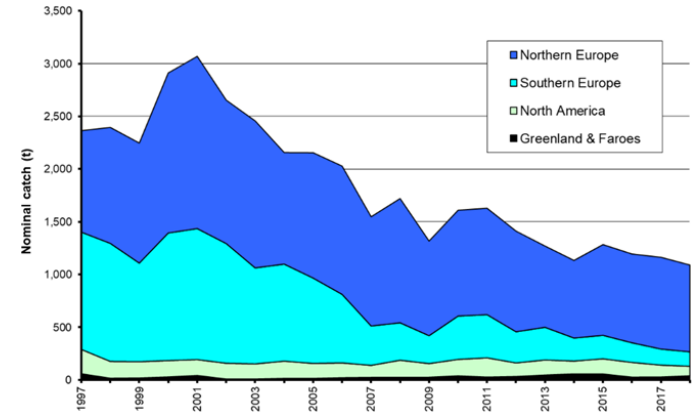





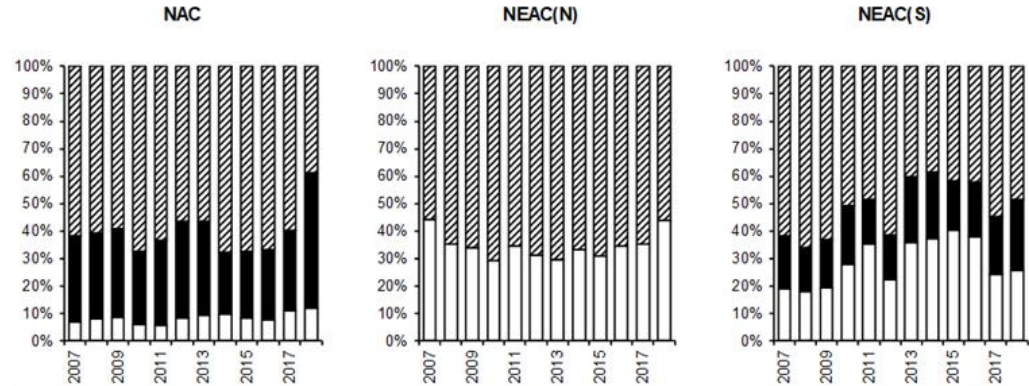
Figure 1: sal.oth.nasco



1.1 Location of Catches

Figure 2: sal.oth.nasco

In-River 
Estuarine 
Coastal 



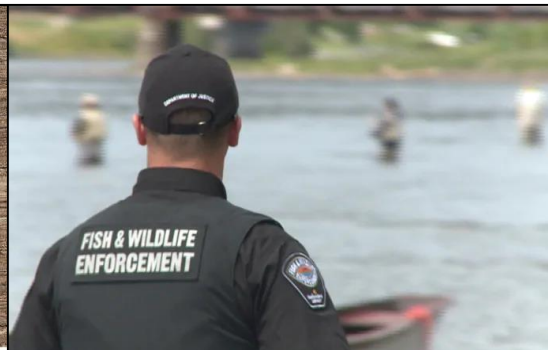
- Coastal Catches
 - N-NEAC: 30% - 40% since 2007
 - S-NEAC: 25% (similar to 2017 and lower than previous years)
 - NAC: 8% (< 10% since 2007)
- location of catches by country (Figure 3: sal.oth.nasco)

1.1 Unreported Catches

- 314 t
 - Legal under-reporting, non-reporting and illegal catch
 - 29% of total nominal catch
 - no estimate for Russia, France, Spain, and St. Pierre and Miquelon

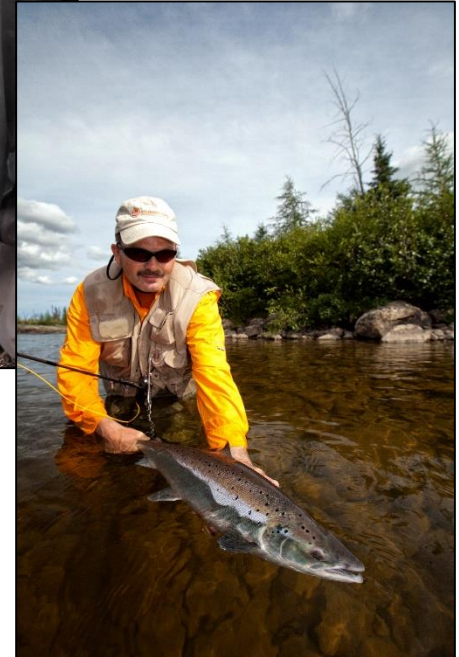
Table 3: sal.oth.nasco

Year	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NEAC	256	298	298	318	279 t
NAC	21	17	27	25	24 t
WGC	10	10	10	10	10 t
Total	287	325	335	353	314 t



1.1 Catch-and-Release (C&R)

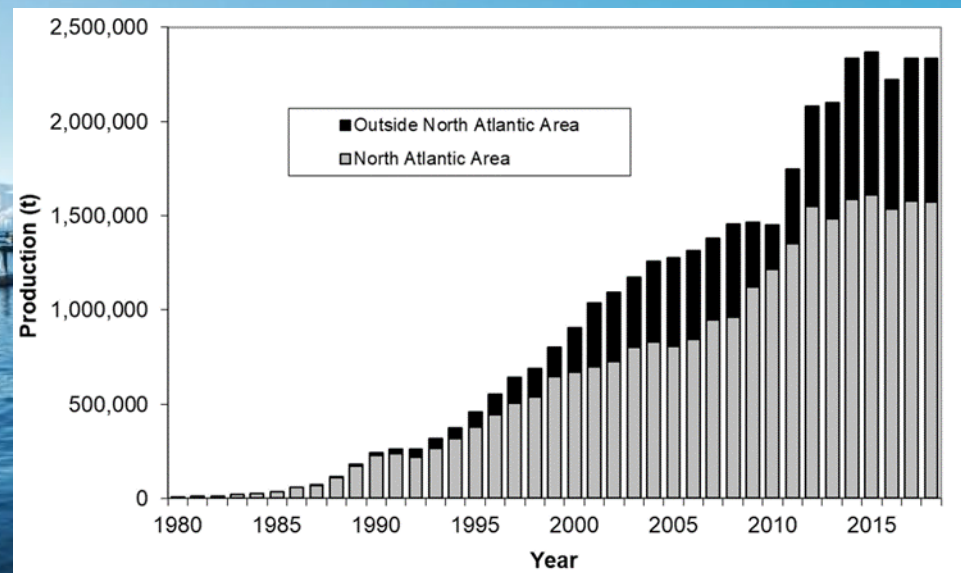
- 166 000 salmon released
(Table 8: sal.oth.nasco)
- Percentage released ranges from:
 - 19% in Sweden
 - 93% in UK (Scotland)
- Reflects varying management practices and angler attitudes
- Practice of C&R generally increasing



1.1 Production Farmed Salmon

- 1577 kt
 - Norway (81%)
 - UK (Scotland) (10%)

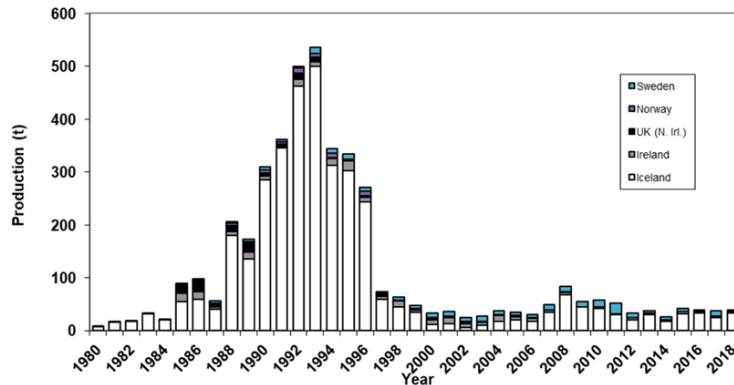
Figure 4: sal.oth.nasco



1.1 Production Ranched Salmon

- 40 t
 - Iceland 83%, Sweden 10%, Ireland 8%
 - No estimate for Norway (< 1 t)
 - UK (N. Ireland) not assessed since 2008

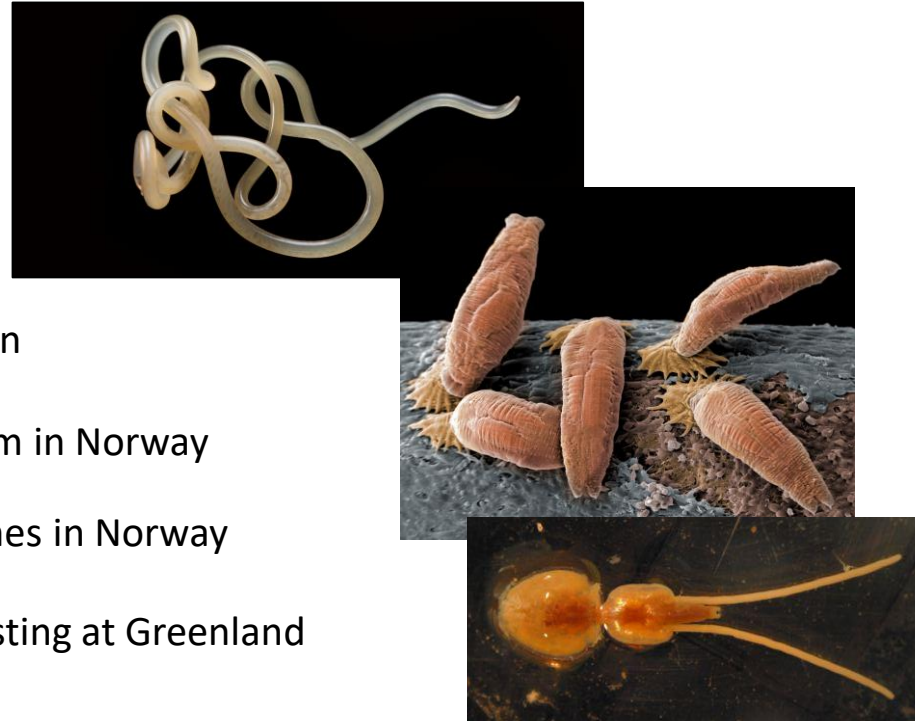
Figure 5: sal.oth.nasco



1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Diseases and Parasites - Updates

- Red vent syndrome (RVS, *Anisakiasis*) monitoring UK (England and Wales)
- Reports of RVS in Sweden
- Update on undiagnosed diseased salmon in Sweden
- Update on *Gyrodactylus salaris* eradication program in Norway
- Sea lice investigations and management programmes in Norway
- Infectious agents in Labrador Sea and pathogen testing at Greenland



1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

2018.....Hot and Dry!

- very low river discharge and high river temperatures
- delayed upriver migrations of salmon
- Increased recreational fishery closures or restrictions
- low catch rates

Plummeting river levels due to hot weather sparks fish rescue

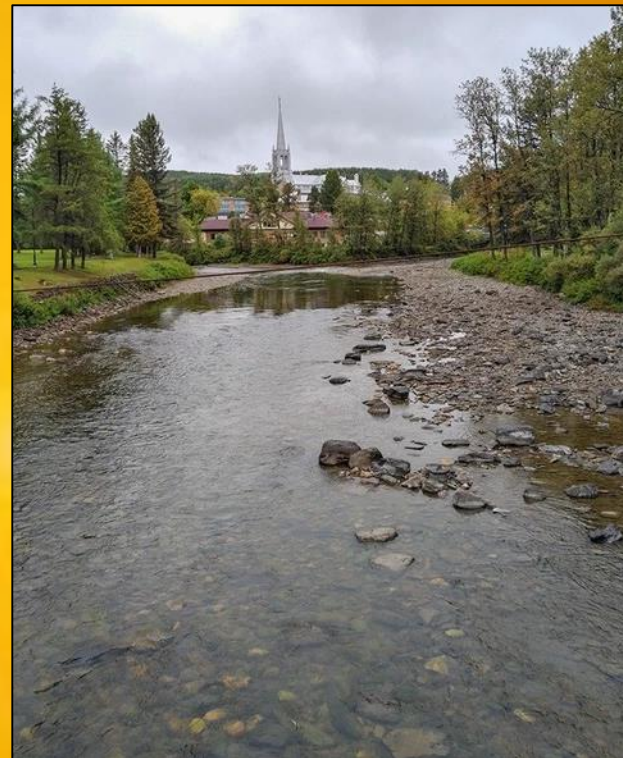
Heat is 'disastrous' for salmon industry

Inland Fisheries appeals to anglers to halt fishing during heatwave

Norway is known for its cold weather – but it's been in the grip of a severe heatwave

Low water levels stop salmon fishing in Gaula

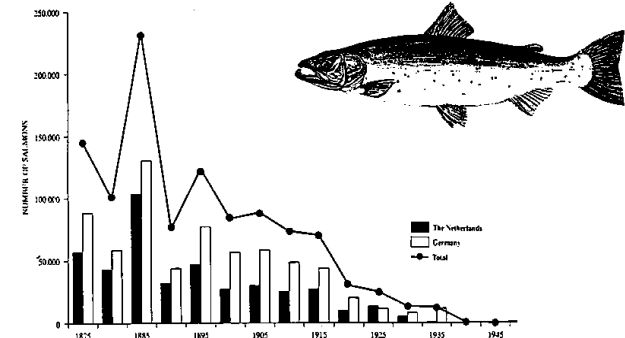
Irish freshwater temperatures 'lethal'



1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Atlantic salmon in Germany

- Atlantic salmon populations lost by 1950s
- Re-introduction started in 1970s but more coordinated programmes developed in past 20 years
- Reestablish self-sustaining stocks in four river systems (River Ems, Rhine, Weser and Elbe)
 - improve river connectivity
 - Improve spawning and nursery habitats
 - scientifically based salmon brood stock management
- Populations heavily dependent on stocking
 - high predation rates (cormorant, piscivorous fish)
 - poaching
 - Barriers to migration
- EU Water Framework Directive: tool for restoring habitat

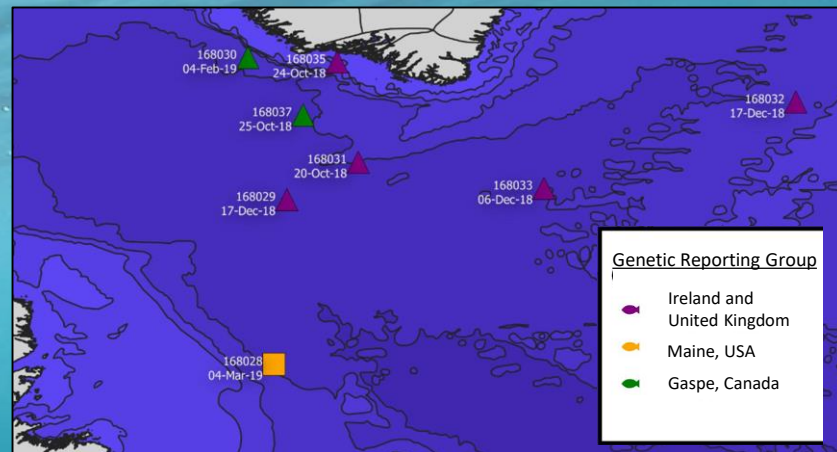


1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Pop-off Satellite Tagging Atlantic Salmon at Greenland

- 12 salmon tagged in 2018
- Mean: 65.8 cm FL and 3.7 kg WW
- Most tags set to release 1 May 2019
- 8 transmitted to date (March 2019)
- Project plan: 50 tags in fall of 2019

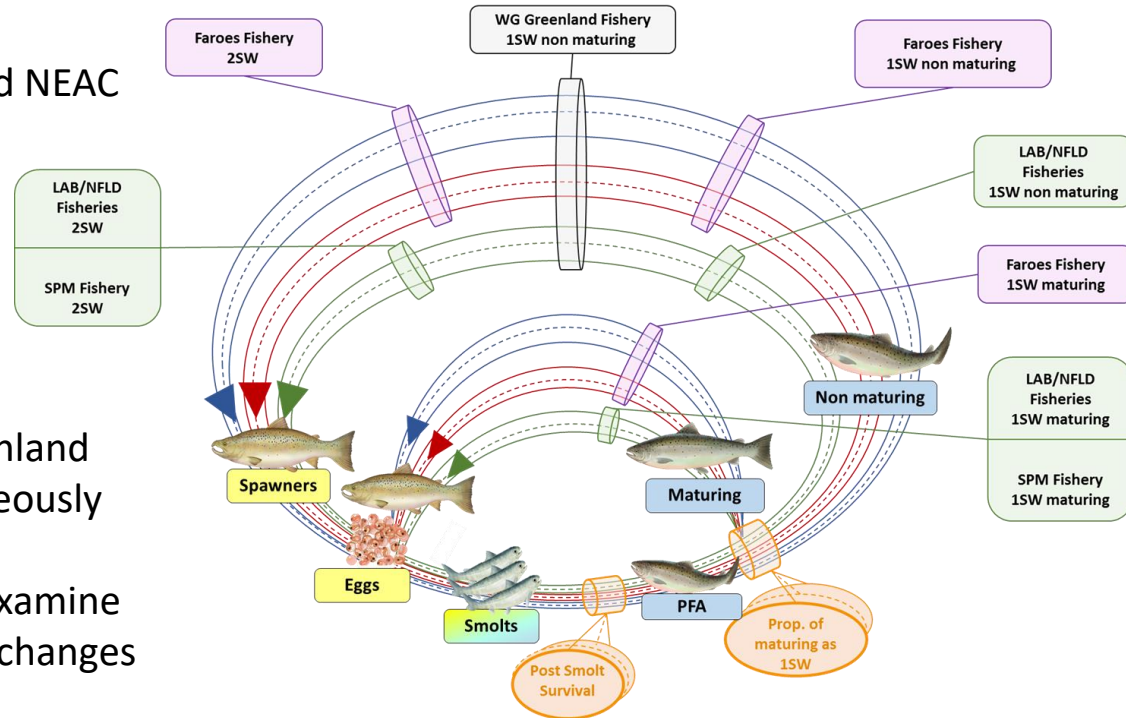
	COO	ROO	Data
<u>North American</u>	6		
Maine, United States		1	1
Gaspé Peninnsula		4	2
Ungava Bay		1	0
<u>European</u>	6		
United Kingdom/Ireland		6	5
TOTALS	12	12	8



1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Update: Life Cycle Model

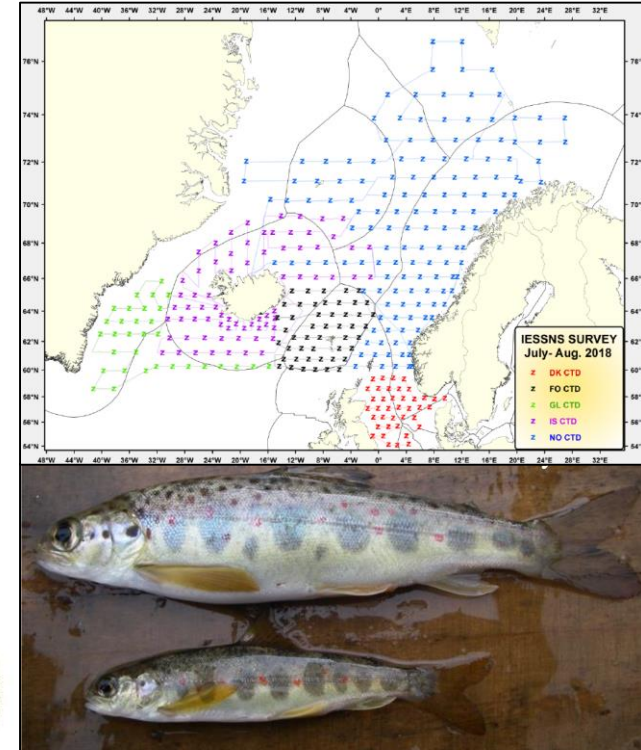
- One model of all stock units of NAC and NEAC
 - Outputs estimates of:
 - pre-fishery abundance (PFA)
 - fisheries mortality
 - life history parameters
 - post-smolt survival to 1 January
 - proportion maturing at 1SW
- Provides catch options for West Greenland and Faroes salmon fisheries simultaneously
- Allows for the addition of factors to examine drivers and mechanisms of observed changes in population dynamics



1.2 Emerging Threats or Opportunities

Investigating marine survival and salmon at sea

- International Ecosystem Summer Survey of the Nordic Seas (IESSNS)
 - 80 post-smolt and adult salmon caught in 2018
- Norway SeaSalar Project initiated in 2018
(<https://www.seasalar.no>)
- PIT tag screening programs: detect bycatch in pelagic fisheries
- Tracking and acoustic tagging studies in Canada
- Study on the positive influence of fork length on smolt survival
- Investigations on the drivers of Atlantic salmon population declines across the Atlantic basin using the life cycle model
- Update on SALmonids Management ARound the CHannel (SAMARCH) programme (<https://samarch.org>)



1.3 Tag Releases

- Data on tagged or marked salmon are compiled as a separate report (ICES, 2019b)
- Summary in Table 4: sal.oth.nasco
 - 2.7 million salmon were marked in 2018 (2.8 million in 2017)
 - Hatchery: 2.64 million juveniles and 1315 adults Wild: 62 296 juveniles and 7903 adults
 - adipose clip (2.26 million) and coded wire microtags (CWT) (0.241 million)
 - 189 022 external tags
 - 135 157 internal electronic tags (PIT, DSTs, radio, acoustic), increased use in recent years



1.4 Data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements

- PIT tag database needed to facilitate identification of tagged fish captured in fisheries or surveys
- 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 to ensure that samples are representative of the entire catch
- Additional monitoring be considered in Labrador to estimate stock status for that region
- Continue efforts to improve the reporting system of catch in the Greenland fishery
- The broad geographic sampling programme in Greenland should include Nuuk and be expanded across the fishing season to ensure that samples are representative of the entire catch



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Photo by Nick Hawkins

CNL(19)09

***Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon
Research Board***

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway

1 June 2019

1. Opening of the Meeting

In the absence of the Chair, the Secretary opened the meeting and welcomed members of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB), their scientific advisers and observers to Tromsø.

A list of participants is contained in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The IASRB adopted its Agenda, ICR(19)05 (Annex 2).

3. Election of Officers

The Chair of the IASRB, Rory Saunders (USA), was unable to attend the meeting. Tony Blanchard (Canada) was proposed by the IASRB member from the United States to serve as Chair of the IASRB until the close of the 2019 Annual Meeting. He was seconded by the European Union IASRB member. The IASRB duly elected Tony Blanchard as its Chair, to serve for the remainder of his predecessor's term in office. The Chair then asked for proposals for a Chair to serve the next term beginning immediately after the end of the 2019 Annual Meeting. The IASRB elected Ciaran Byrne (European Union) as its Chair (proposed by the IASRB member from Norway and seconded by the IASRB member from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG)).

4. Report of the Scientific Advisory Group

The Chair of the IASRB's Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), Gérald Chaput (Canada), presented a report on the Group's meeting, SAG(19)05 (Annex 3). During its meeting the SAG had:

- discussed the updated Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea. The Inventory contains 94 completed projects and 52 ongoing projects. Seven 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;
- recognised several ambitious and resource intensive ongoing projects including: ASF projects in North America that now have a 17 year time-series of smolt / post smolt tracking from 4 rivers; a Norwegian project, 'Salmon at Sea', that addresses a number of research avenues related to the ecology of salmon; several EU-funded

initiatives including ‘SMOLTrack I and II’, and satellite tagging of salmon initiatives from West Greenland;

- discussed the importance of the Inventory, a worthwhile initiative that has led to better collaborations and highlighted initiatives under the SALSEA banner. The SAG Chair welcomed the addition of dropdown menus in the Inventory template to aid reporting and noted the SAG’s view that a 2020 review of the Inventory and how it is compiled annually is still appropriate. The opportunity to promote the Inventory better was also raised;
- been informed that there was no update to the metadatabase of salmon survey data and sample collections, but this was not unexpected. The upcoming Likely Suspects Framework workshops may make use of this valuable resource;
- received an update on projects and workshops being held during the International Year of the Salmon (IYS). These included: the International Year of the Salmon workshop hosted by DFO and the NPAFC in January 2019; the ‘International Year of the Salmon: Salmon and People in a Changing World – 2019 Atlantic Salmon Ecosystems Forum’ held in Quebec in March 2019; the ‘Wild Salmon Conference’ (‘Villakskonferansen’) held in Trondheim, Norway, in January 2019; the ‘SAMARCH International Coastal and Marine Telemetry Workshop’ to be hosted by Salmon & Trout Conservation, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Atlantic Salmon Trust in November 2019 in Southampton, UK; the ICES / NASCO Likely Suspects Framework ‘Workshop for North Atlantic Salmon At-Sea Mortality’ to be held in June 2019; and the NGO-led initiative, the ‘Missing Salmon Initiative’;
- discussed streamlining the annual reporting to the IASRB in terms of SALSEA – Track progress reports and whether updates on these projects can be included in the Inventory;
- discussed developments in relation to SALSEA – Track (see item 5 below);
- received an update on the telemetry programme being conducted by the Atlantic Salmon Federation;
- received an update on the SALSEA – Track initiative, including on a new project, ‘SeaMonitor’, and the EU sea lice dynamics modelling project; and
- discussed the importance of the IASRB having resources available to support studies in the future, recognising the challenge of raising these funds.

The Chair of the IASRB thanked Mr Chaput for the report. The IASRB then discussed several items relating to the SAG report.

The member of the IASRB from Norway asked the Chair of the SAG whether there were any recommendations from the SAG regarding the proposed Rules of Procedure detailed in ICR(19)03. The Chair of the SAG responded that it felt that some points in ICR(19)03 need to be clarified but in general there was no issue taken with the proposal that the SAG will meet on the recommendations of the IASRB.

The United States IASRB member raised a question regarding SALSEA – Track and how it is entered into the Inventory. The Chair noted that this could be raised in the next agenda item.

In the light of the recommendations from the SAG, the IASRB decided to:

- ask the Parties to provide to the Secretariat, by 1 July, any changes or updates for the Inventory, prior to it being uploaded to the IASRB website;
- clarify in any future iterations of the Rules of Procedure details relating to how the SAG would be convened;
- encourage Parties / jurisdictions to provide details of archive scale collections for inclusion in the metadata base and ask the Secretary to contact Parties / jurisdictions in order to seek relevant additional information; and
- issue a revised version of the Progress Report on SALSEA – Track (ICR(19)04) to include the information on the new ‘SeaMonitor’ project.

5. **Developments in relation to SALSEA – Track**

In 2014, the IASRB 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 IASRB had noted that the telemetry programme should build on the success and identity of the SALSEA Programme.

In 2015, the IASRB received a report from its Telemetry Workshop that had, *inter alia*, developed 12 outline project proposals. The IASRB 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 IASRB also 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 IASRB 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.

The Secretary introduced document ICR(19)04 (Annex 4) providing an update on developments in relation to SALSEA – Track. Since the IASRB’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 document ICR(19)04 and a brief update on these projects was provided verbally by the European Union member of the IASRB. Although the European Union projects are not part of the original 12 projects identified in 2015, they do involve differing levels of telemetry-based investigations and are considered to contribute to the overall goals of SALSEA – Track.

The IASRB received an update on the ROAM project from Tim Sheehan (USA). Mr Sheehan noted that the project is still moving forward, although there have been some delays in equipment delivery for some of the components needed to construct the sound sources and prototype tags. The equipment for the sound sources has been acquired and construction on a sound-source unit is currently ongoing. The IASRB was informed that, as a consequence of these delays, the field trials are now planned to be conducted in late summer / early autumn 2019.

The European Union IASRB member enquired as to whether the IASRB contribution of £4,000 identified to support a research workshop for the ROAM project could be spent on a spring 2020 workshop following the field trials in late summer / early autumn

2019. The Chair of the IASRB suggested that a workshop date should be scheduled and, based on the results of the initial field trials, it could then be determined whether the date should be retained and the workshop held. Mr Sheehan asked the IASRB what it anticipated would be the desired outcome of the workshop. A discussion determined that the purpose of the workshop could also be established based on the outcomes of the field trials. The IASRB agreed that the Secretary should liaise with Mr Sheehan to agree a date and that the purpose of the workshop would be established following the field trials.

The NGO representative suggested that a review of the SALSEA – Track programme should be undertaken. This review could consider a full range of options for the future of the SALSEA – Track programme. As one example, should a broader spectrum of tracking including new technologies be included and whether this would require that a new umbrella programme term is applied.

The European Union IASRB member noted that this suggestion related to the review of the Inventory and could benefit from putting the two reviews together.

Discussions amongst the IASRB recognised that the projects identified under the SALSEA – Track brand have had mixed success coming to fruition. It was acknowledged that SALSEA – Track projects were focused on acoustic tracking technology and that new tracking technology and methods have been developed in the lifetime of SALSEA – Track (e.g. ROAM). In addition, a number of new large-scale collaborative projects have since been initiated whose objectives are in line with the objectives of SALSEA – Track and maybe should also be considered. The IASRB agreed to an inter-sessional review of the SALSEA – Track programme, which would allow this information to be discussed and considered at the next meeting of the IASRB.

It was agreed that the European Union and United States members would lead the drafting of high-level objectives that would form the basis of some Terms of Reference to be developed by the Secretariat / IASRB after the Annual Meeting for a Working Group to review the Inventory and SALSEA – Track programme and, in addition, consider how the Inventory could be best updated and managed going forward. The Secretariat will contact the IASRB for proposals on members for the Working Group and a likely date.

6. Finance and Administrative Issues

6.1 Report on 2018 Accounts – Income and Expenditure Statements

The Secretary introduced document ICR(19)02 presenting the IASRB's accounts for 2018. The decision had been taken not to have the 2018 accounts audited, but rather income and expenditure statements were prepared. At the end of 2018, the balance of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund was £406,802.64. Of this, approximately £396,600 is ring-fenced for the EU-funded projects. For the IASRB's general account, the year-end balance was £10,200 after the sum of £5,000 was paid to the Atlantic Salmon Trust to support the workshop for the Likely Suspects Framework and £2,400 for the costs in 2018 of the 2017 audit. The IASRB had previously agreed that it was desirable to retain a reserve of £4,000 – £5,000.

The Chair thanked the European Union for its continuing generous support.

At its 2006 Annual Meeting, the IASRB recognised that it was not necessary to have the accounts audited annually and agreed that, in future, the IASRB's accounts should be audited as required in relation to the funds held. For years in which an audit is not

conducted, details of the IASRB's income and expenditure statements would be circulated to the members of the IASRB and discussed at its Annual Meeting. In accordance with this decision, the IASRB decided not to have its 2019 accounts audited. The Secretary was asked to provide income and expenditure statements at next year's IASRB meeting.

6.2 Rules of Procedure of the Board and the Scientific Advisory Group

At its 2017 Annual Meeting, the Council asked the Secretary to prepare a review of the procedures relating to the work of the IASRB. The Secretary had provided a summary of the review in 2018, CNL(18)10, which included the history of the establishment of the IASRB, its Rules of Procedure and past and current membership. In conducting the review, the Secretary identified some issues that were somewhat unclear, including the clarification of the role of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for which there are no Terms of Reference currently. This document was considered both by the IASRB and Council of NASCO at their respective 2018 Annual Meetings. The then Chair of the IASRB, Rory Saunders (USA), was asked to work inter-sessionally, in consultation with the Secretary, members of the IASRB and current and past Chairs of the SAG, to propose new Rules of Procedure and clarify the Terms of Reference for the IASRB and SAG for consideration by the IASRB at its 2019 Meeting.

The Secretary presented document CNL(19)10, containing the Review of the Procedures relating to the work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group. This document will also be considered by the Council at its 2019 Annual Meeting.

Mark Saunders (NPAFC) posed a question regarding observers such as other RFMOs and asked if they could better engage with the working of the IASRB. Members of the IASRB felt that observers, such as RFMOs, should not be official members of the IASRB, but they are encouraged to attend the meetings as observers. They should also be encouraged to participate in these meetings in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Board and at the discretion of the Chair and could be invited to participate in relevant Sub- or Working Groups as appropriate.

The member from the United States raised a number of issues with document CNL(19)10 that he wished to see addressed and corrected before the IASRB considers the document for adoption (e.g. use of correct terminology within the document clarifying that the Chair is elected and not appointed, clearly identifying if a Chair can serve more than two terms if there is a hiatus between their terms, etc). While there was some uncertainty as to whether the IASRB is bound by NASCO Council's Rules of Procedure, the IASRB agreed to follow them. Following discussion, the IASRB concluded that the United States member would lead on the initial redrafting of document CNL(19)10 inter-sessionally, which would include consideration of the issues raised by the SAG Chair in relation to clarifying how the SAG would be convened in future. The United States member would liaise with the other members of the IASRB and Secretariat during this process and a revised document will be considered for approval by the IASRB members inter-sessionally. During this process the IASRB will need to decide if it is necessary to convene a meeting of the SAG prior to or during the 2020 IASRB Meeting and, if so, the IASRB will need to address Terms of Reference for the SAG.

7. Other Business

The Chair noted thanks to Rory Saunders for all his preparation for the meeting of the IASRB and for his work as Chair of the IASRB. All present requested that their thanks and well wishes be passed on to Rory and his family.

The member for the European Union noted thanks to Tony Blanchard for taking on the role of Chair at short notice.

8. Report of the Meeting

The IASRB agreed a report of its meeting.

9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The IASRB agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of NASCO.

10. Close of the Meeting

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

2019 IASRB List of Participants

Canada

****Tony Blanchard (Chair)**

Doug Bliss

Gérald Chaput

Lis Sondergaard

Denmark (in respect of the FI & G)

****Rasmus Nygaard**

Katrine Kærgaard

European Union

****Cathal Gallagher**

Dennis Ensing

Niall Ó Maoiléidigh

Michael Millane

Norway

****Raoul Bierach**

Peder Fiske

Heidi Hansen

Russian Federation

Sergey Prusov (for ****Alexander Khatuntsov**)

United States

**** Tim Sheehan**

Kim Damon-Randall

IGO

Mark Saunders

NGO

Ken Whelan (nominated NGO representative)

Dave Meerburg

Secretariat

Emma Hatfield

Sarah Robinson

****Nominated IASRB Member**

ICR(19)05

Eighteenth Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway

Saturday 1 June 2019

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Report of the Scientific Advisory Group
5. Developments in relation to SALSEA - Track
6. Finance and Administrative Issues
 - 6.1 Report on 2018 Accounts - Income and Expenditure Statements
 - 6.2 Rules of Procedure of the Board and the Scientific Advisory Group
7. Other Business
8. Report of the Meeting
9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
10. Close of the Meeting

SAG(19)05

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

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway

1 June 2019

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), Gérald Chaput (Canada), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Tromsø.
- 1.2 A list of participants is contained in Annex 1.
- 1.3 The Chair introduced the Secretary who explained the setup of the meeting and the review process that had taken place regarding the Rules of Procedure for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the IASRB).

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The SAG adopted its Agenda, SAG(19)03 (Annex 2), noting that clarification of the proposed rules and procedures of the IASRB with specifics to the functioning of SAG would be considered under item 8 of the Agenda, ‘Other business’.

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

Research Inventory

- 3.1 The Secretary presented an overview of the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea, SAG(19)02. For 2019, the total annual expenditure on the 52 ongoing projects (five of which are uncoded) is approximately £8.5 million. Approximately 46% of the expenditure is associated with long-term monitoring programmes. The Secretary indicated that there are seven new projects included in the Inventory in 2019, 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

- Coastal acoustic telemetry receiver infrastructure off the Coast of Greenland;
- Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture – Evaluating The Potential of Open-Ocean Acoustic Telemetry of Atlantic Salmon;
- Mapping Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Atlantic Salmon Mixed Stocks in the North Atlantic.

European Union – Ireland

- National Salmon Scale Archive (NSSA).

European Union – UK (England and Wales)

- Evaluation of potential stressors affecting Atlantic salmon at sea, particularly in estuarine and nearshore environments.

United States

- Evaluation of age-1 hatchery smolts in the Narraguagus River;
- Monitoring the energy density of Atlantic salmon prey at Greenland.

- 3.2 The SAG noted that there are a number of ongoing projects that were of particular relevance to NASCO and the IASRB. Not exclusively, these projects included:
- Project N22 from Norway: ‘Salmon at Sea’ that addresses a number of research avenues and multiple disciplines related to ecology of salmon;
 - Project C18 from Canada: project led by the Atlantic Salmon Federation that is currently in its 17th year of consecutive tracking of smolts and post-smolts from four index rivers in eastern Canada;
 - Project EU De6: one of several European Union-led projects to further understand salmon distribution, migration and survival at sea; and
 - Project C41 from Canada: a new initiative to extend tracking of salmon-at-sea using satellite tracking tags placed on larger salmon during their second summer at sea at West Greenland.
- 3.3 The Chair recognised the effort and the information provided in the summary report by the Secretariat, and the SAG highlighted the great value of the current Inventory. The SAG discussed the challenges in maintaining the Inventory, in incorporating updates and assimilating all the information from the Inventory. The addition of dropdown menus for contributors to categorise projects according to SALSEA work packages and IASRB topics was felt to be a useful addition to the Inventory template. There was also a brief discussion on whether there were alternate processes for compiling and maintaining the Inventory more efficiently. The SAG was not in a position to propose alternatives but indicated that a review of alternate approaches could be included as a task for the future review of the Inventory and process.
- 3.4 The SAG also discussed how to promote the Inventory further. The SAG felt that Parties could promote the Inventory further by communicating it to the groups that contributed input to the Inventory thus completing the follow-up with contributors and making reference to the IASRB’s website. There was also a suggestion that the Inventory could be mentioned and the link to the IASRB’s website could be made in the press release from the NASCO Council.
- 3.5 A few questions were raised regarding omissions in specific projects (such as absence of funding estimates). The Secretary clarified that the funding information was requested in relation to the relevant year and not the entire project. The SAG recommended to the IASRB that the Parties be asked to provide any comments on the Inventory, including omissions and corrections, to the Secretariat by 1 July and, thereafter, that the revised Inventory should be uploaded to the IASRB’s website.

- 3.6 The SAG discussed a possible duplication of effort in terms of the annual reporting to the IASRB for the SALSEA – Track progress reports. The Chair suggested that that work could be streamlined, possibly by adding a ‘SALSEA – Track’ row to the Inventory return form. The SAG agreed to propose this addition to the Inventory template to the IASRB.
- 3.7 In 2018, the SAG had recommended that the need for a further review of the Inventory should be reconsidered at the earliest in 2020 given that it thought that it might be appropriate to wait until after the IYS to conduct the next review of the Inventory. In addition, it was suggested that when the review is undertaken, the Group could also consider how the information is collated and solicited. Members of the SAG were keen to highlight to the IASRB that they felt the Inventory was still very much useful and relevant.

Metadatabase

- 3.8 The IASRB had previously decided that it could play an important role with regard to marine salmon survey data and sample co-ordination by establishing a metadatabase of existing datasets and sample collections of relevance to mortality of salmon at sea. This metadatabase was established in 2014 and is made available on the IASRB’s website. In 2015, the IASRB agreed that information on archival scale collections should, as a first step, be included in the IASRB’s metadatabase. Accordingly, Parties / jurisdictions were requested to provide details to the Secretariat of any archival scale collections. The IASRB had also agreed that information on the West Greenland Sampling Programme Biological Characteristics database should be included in the metadatabase.
- 3.9 There have been no further updates on the metadatabase since the 2018 Annual Meeting and the Chair encouraged Parties / jurisdictions to contribute details of scale collections for inclusion in the metadatabase.
- 3.10 Part of the intention of creating a metadatabase was to make it available to researchers for consideration. Members involved in the creation of the metadatabase recognised that further consideration needed to be given to the next steps relating to this valuable resource. It was recognised that the Likely Suspects Framework project and related workshops will draw on the metadatabase; this process may provide some insight on the current metadatabase contents and suggestions for next steps.

4. Update on Projects / Workshops during the International Year of the Salmon

- 4.1 The Chair invited presentations on a number of workshops organized as part of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS).
- 4.2 Mark Saunders (NPAFC) was invited to provide an update and gave some background to the development of IYS research and the activities taking place in the Pacific. A number of activities and symposiums were highlighted that had engaged hemispheric collaborations between the Pacific and Atlantic research communities (Annex 3).
- 4.3 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) co-hosted an IYS workshop on Pacific and Atlantic salmon status and trends in Vancouver (BC; Canada), during 23 – 24 January 2019. The primary goal of the workshop was to bring together salmon ecologists interested in working with others on representative time-series of data and associated metadata to understand salmon status and trends. The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- 1) identify a series of legacy datasets (and associated standards where possible);
 - 2) look at broad temporal patterns for salmon data categories; and
 - 3) link observed state changes and trends to potential drivers and mechanisms.
- 4.4 The workshop followed on from a meeting held in Santa Barbara (USA) in June 2018 (entitled ‘Toward Effective Coupling of the Science of a Changing Climate with Salmon and People’) and immediately preceded one developing an international salmon data laboratory. There were 25 participants at the workshop who contributed information on state changes and trends for sockeye, pink, chum, chinook and Atlantic salmon with incidental information provided for steelhead, coho and masu salmon. The workshop report will be published in the NPAFC Technical Report series.
- 4.5 Doug Bliss (Canada) updated the SAG on the 2019 Atlantic Salmon Ecosystems Forum that was held in Quebec City (Canada) on 12 – 13 March 2019. The Atlantic Salmon Ecosystems Forum (ASEF) began in 2002 as the biennial ‘Maine Atlantic Salmon Technical Advisory Committee Research Forum’. In 2018, the Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture (ASRJV), based in Canada but with US representation through NOAA, hosted the forum in Canada, coinciding with the focal year of IYS. The overarching theme of the Forum was the theme of the IYS: ‘Salmon and People in a Changing World’. The 2019 Forum included session themes based on three of the Research Themes for the IYS. Additional contributors to the forum were the province of Quebec and NGOs. The topics discussed at the forum contributed to understanding the causes of Atlantic salmon declines and foster collaboration for the purpose of developing research and assessment projects related to wild Atlantic salmon. There were 150 participants at the forum with 35 oral presentations and 15 poster presentations. The conference abstracts are to be published in the near future.
- 4.6 The Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture (ASRJV) has produced a five-year science plan intended to support the development of projects in furthering the understanding of Atlantic Salmon and ultimately the conservation of the species.
- 4.7 Peder Fiske (Norway) explained that as part of the IYS, a conference called ‘The Wild Salmon Conference’ (‘Villakskonferansen’) was held in Trondheim, Norway on 22 and 23 January 2019. The science-based conference was held in Norwegian to reach out to a broader audience of stakeholders, fishers and interested members of the public. The theme of the conference was ‘New methods give new insights – salmon research into its second century’. The focus of the conference was not the methods themselves, but rather what had been learned using the new methods. The conference was very well attended with over 200 participants and 40 talks were given during the conference. The talks covered a range of topics including how best to communicate science, effects of climate change, effects of cultivation, migration of salmon in rivers and at sea, survival at sea, effects of parasites and diseases and the effects of aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon. The programme and summaries of the talks can be found on the following website: <https://www.vitenskapsradet.no/villakskonferansen2019>.
- 4.8 Ken Whelan (NGO) informed the SAG of an ICES / NASCO workshop to be held during 24 – 28 June 2019 entitled ‘A Workshop for North Atlantic Salmon At-Sea Mortality (WKSalmor)’. In June 2018, both the SAG and the IASRB had discussed moving forward with a workshop to identify and obtain data to define specific salmon domains as proposed by the Likely Suspects Framework workshop. The Chair of the IASRB had requested that the Secretary liaise with ICES about the possibility of organising a data workshop to identify and prioritise data gaps in relation to candidate

mortality factors. A five-day workshop has been announced by ICES with associated Terms of Reference. Potential relevant data providers include experts from a number of ICES expert groups: WGNAS; EPDSG; WGOOFE; WGZE; WGSPEC; and WGWISE, as well as ICES survey group members, ICES Data Centre staff and ICES Advisory Department staff. The first workshop would be tasked to:

- 1) identify the available and relevant data in the Atlantic basin;
- 2) develop, with ICES / the 'Missing Salmon Alliance' Marine Team, a format for uploading data to the relevant ICES database(s); and
- 3) identify other data sets that may be of relevance to the analysis of at-sea-salmon mortality, e.g. oceanographic time-series, plankton survey data, International Ecosystem Summer Survey in the Nordic Seas (IESSNS) and other relevant pelagic or demersal fish surveys and a plan developed to access these data in a relevant format for this work.

4.9 An update on the 'Missing Salmon Project' was also provided by Professor Whelan and its development into the 'Missing Salmon Alliance'. The Alliance is a collaboration between a number of UK NGOs (Atlantic Salmon Trust, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Salmon and Trout Conservation and the Angling Trust, supported by the Fishmongers' Company London) that has secured funding successfully to employ several scientists over three years to take forward the identified research.

4.10 Salmon & Trout Conservation, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Atlantic Salmon Trust, on behalf of the SALmonid MANagement Round the CHannel (SAMARCH) project, and as a contribution to the International Year of the Salmon, will host a two-day SAMARCH International Salmonid Coastal and Marine Telemetry Workshop, on 5 and 6 November 2019 in Southampton (UK). The sessions will focus on sharing knowledge of current tracking projects, new and emerging technologies and maximising the benefits and opportunities of multiple tracking projects.

4.11 The Chair thanked all of the speakers for providing updates.

5. Developments in relation to SALSEA – Track

5.1 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 IASRB 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 IASRB in co-ordinating efforts and supporting fund raising initiatives. In 2014, a Telemetry Workshop organized by the IASRB had developed 12 outline project proposals utilising telemetry. The IASRB 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 IASRB 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 IASRB reaffirmed its commitment to an international telemetry project under the SALSEA brand, namely SALSEA – Track. Specifically, the IASRB 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 IASRB 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.

- 5.2 In 2016 and 2017, funding had been provided to the IASRB for three projects relating to marine mortality through an EU funding mechanism. Approximately €800,000 funding has been provided by the EU and this has contributed to projects costing approximately €2,000,000 being implemented.
- 5.3 The Chair referred participants to paper ICR(19)04, which contains an update on the outline project proposals developed in 2014 and the European Union funded projects. The Chair proposed that the SAG recommend to the IASRB that the updates on SALSEA – Track initiatives be included in the Inventory to ensure that all projects are captured and / or updated annually.
- 5.4 Niall Ó Maoiléidigh was asked to provide the SAG with a talk on the INTERREG ‘SeaMonitor’ project, another of the SALSEA – Track projects that had not been able to be provided to the Secretariat in time for inclusion in the paper ICR(19)04. The Chair thanked Dr Ó Maoiléidigh for informing the SAG about the project and suggested that the SAG recommend to the IASRB that the paper ICR(19)04 be revised to include this project and redistributed.
- 5.5 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 IASRB to be kept informed of developments in relation to this technology. Tim Sheehan (USA) stated that he would provide an update on progress with the ROAM project to the IASRB.
- 5.6 Dave Meerburg (NGO) briefly updated the SAG on smolt and kelt tracking studies carried out by the ASF in the Gulf of St Lawrence.

6. Progress Reports on Projects Funded by the IASRB

- 6.1 No new projects were supported in 2018.

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

- 7.1 No applications for funding were received in 2018.
- 7.2 Cathal Gallagher (EU) was invited to update the SAG on the EU-funded ‘SMOLTrack’ projects, the first of which was started in early 2017. Tagging has highlighted the high mortality rates of smolts as they migrate out to the nearshore environment and has shown temporal differences between 2017 and 2018 (in the second ‘SMOLTrack’ project). A new website is available for the project: www.smolttrack.eu. A new tranche of funding from the EU is available and it is anticipated that the ‘SMOLTrack’ project will be expanded to include more partners to range from northern Finland to northern Portugal in a third project. The ‘LICEtrack’ project was also highlighted.
- 7.3 The IASRB 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 IASRB’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 IASRB. The SAG recognised that the IASRB has 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. Other Business

- 8.1 The Chair referred the members of SAG to paper ICR(19)03, ‘Chair’s Proposed Revisions to the Rules of Procedure for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board’ and highlighted the aspects of the Rules of Procedure that related directly to the SAG (items 10 to 12). The Secretary clarified that the idea was that the SAG would meet at the request of the IASRB and therefore each SAG meeting would have a specific Terms of Reference relevant to the requirements specified by the IASRB. The SAG noted that clarification would be welcomed on the development of the Terms of Reference and whether the SAG would meet as discussed in the report of the inter-sessional meeting of the IASRB (ICRIS(19)04), where paragraph 7.3 provides specifics on the interactions of the SAG and IASRB that could be included in the procedures for the SAG.
- 8.2 The Chair clarified that the members of the SAG would be specified and retain their positions for the identified term. The Chair requested comments from the SAG regarding how the SAG meeting was conducted in 2019 (i.e. only identified representatives seated at the table) and the approach was considered to be effective by the SAG. Members of the SAG recognised that how meetings were conducted could change given the proposed revisions to the rules.
- 8.3 No other business was raised.

9. Report of the Meeting

- 9.1 The SAG agreed the report of the meeting.

10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

- 10.1 The SAG noted that if the proposals contained in the ‘Review of Procedures Relating to the Work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group’, to be considered by the IASRB and Council were accepted, there would be no defined date for the next meeting. However, if a further regular meeting is to be held, the SAG agreed that it should be held in conjunction with the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of NASCO (2 – 5 June 2020).

11. Close of the Meeting

- 11.1 The Chair of the SAG thanked the participants for their contributions and in particular the Secretariat for their excellent work in support of the IASRB and the meeting of the SAG. The Chair closed the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group.

List of participants

Canada

****Gérald Chaput (Chair)**
Tony Blanchard
Doug Bliss
Martha Robertson
Lis Sondergaard

Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands & Greenland)

****Rasmus Nygaard**

European Union

Michael Millane
Niall Ó Maoiléidigh
Cathal Gallagher (for ****Jaakko Erkinaro**)

Norway

****Peder Fiske**

Russian Federation

****Sergey Prusov**
Kristina Belogurova

United States

****Tim Sheehan**

IGOs

Mark Saunders

NGOs

David Meerburg (nominated NGO representative)
Nigel Milner
Ken Whelan

Secretariat

Emma Hatfield
Sarah Robinson

****Nominated SAG Member**

SAG(19)03

***Seventeenth Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group of the
International Atlantic Salmon Research Board***

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway

Saturday 1 June 2019

Agenda

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



Activities and Actions Related to IYS in the North Pacific in 2019-2022

Preamble

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) is a five-year outreach and research initiative of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). The IYS goal is to inspire/motivate/activate a new hemispheric-wide partnership of government, academia, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, and industry that will drive an intense burst of outreach and research to create a well-informed community of decision-makers who can establish the conditions necessary for the resilience of salmon and people in an uncertain future.

Establishing the conditions necessary for resilience of salmon and people by the end of 2022 is a bold objective, requiring rigor to establish programs, projects, workshops and symposia that will make this possible. A suite of six objectives stated as **OUTCOMES** describe the conditions that when considered collectively will allow us to achieve our **VISION**.

IYS OUTCOMES

Status of salmon	The present status of salmon and their environments is understood
Salmon in a changing salmosphere	The effects of natural environmental variability and human factors affecting salmon distribution and abundance are understood and quantified
New frontiers	New technologies and analytical methods are advanced and applied to salmon research. Research is carried out to fill gaps in poorly studied regions of the salmosphere
Human dimensions	Communities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, harvesters, scientists and resource managers across the Northern Hemisphere share knowledge and collaborate in the development of new tools and approaches to restoring, managing and sustaining salmon
Information systems	Freely available information systems contain historic and current data about salmon and their environment

Salmon outreach and communication

People understand the value of healthy salmon populations and engage to ensure salmon and their varied habitats are conserved and restored against the backdrop of increasing environmental change

Projects and activities will be sought that are deemed to be high-impact with respect to making significant progress in achieving the five research outcomes and the single outreach outcome. Specifically, we will look for high-impact projects that will significantly address barriers or gaps that have hindered achieving each outcome to this point.

The IYS consists of a planning phase for outreach and research during 2018/19, a focal year in 2019 with outreach and research continuing through the end of 2022. In the Pacific, IYS **Theme Counsel Groups** composed of experts will conduct research planning for the research and outreach outcomes. Scoping meetings with small groups of experts drawn from the Theme Counsel Groups have and will be convened to develop recommendation for high impact projects. The Theme Counsel Groups and IYS staff in the Secretariat will also coordinate the planning of symposia or workshops that will contribute to the research and outreach outcomes. This could for most outcomes be a strategic series of symposia with cumulative learning that builds over the four years and culminates at the wrap-up symposium.

Details of Workshops/Symposia/Scoping Meetings to be held in the Pacific in 2019-2022.

Salmon in A Changing Salmosphere - High Seas Expeditions (2019-2021) Workshop #1

When: October 19&20, 2019

Where: Victoria BC

Convenor(s): PICES/NPAFC

Expertise Required: Oceanographers with experience in complex ocean models; salmon ecologists with knowledge / experience in ocean mechanisms affecting salmon productivity and climate change; researchers with expertise in climatic modelling.

Objectives: Co-sponsored with PICES, this workshop will convene salmon/fish specialists, oceanographers, climatologists and resource managers to review the progress made during the March 2019 survey and recommend the core elements of a pan-Pacific high seas ecosystem research survey program that would be implemented through 2022 to assess the ocean/climate mechanisms affecting salmon distribution and productivity

World Salmon Forum

When: August 21st-23rd, 2019

Where: Seattle, WA, USA

Convenor(s): Bruce McNae, World Salmon Forum

Objectives: The World Salmon Forum is designed to bring together wild salmon conservation groups from around the world to share new policies and measures that will provide for the survival of Atlantic and Pacific salmon, seatrout, and steelhead populations.

- **Aquaculture** – Open water or land-based?
- **Harvest** – Mixed Stock or Terminal – Nonselective or Selective?
- **Hatcheries** – Problem or Solution?

- **Management** – Status quo or New Place-based Conceptual Foundation?
- **Research** – Likely Suspects Framework
- **International Year of the Salmon** – Working together

The Science of Pacific Salmon Conservation: Foundations, Myths, and Emerging Insights

When: September 29-Oct 3, 2019

Where: Reno, Nevada, USA

Convenor(s): American Fisheries Society/The Wildlife Society

Expertise Required: Experts in the applied salmon sciences, including: genetics, evolution, ecology, geomorphology, hydrology, oceanography, and climate science.

Objectives:

- To distill historical and emerging science to inform salmon conservation and management
- To highlight key foundations and advances in applied Pacific salmon science that are relevant to their conservation and management
- To discuss emerging tools and their application, such as genomics
- To examine emerging evidence for impacts of pressures such as:
 - Ocean competition
 - Climate change
 - Hatcheries
 - Rise of marine predators
- To address common misperceptions in salmon conservation and management
- Collectively synthesis the big ideas in salmon science relevant to their conservation and effective management

Multi-scale Impact of Climate Change and Human Activities on Salmon Productivity

When: September 29-Oct 3, 2019

Where: Reno, Nevada, USA

Convenor(s): American Fisheries Society/The Wildlife Society

Expertise Required: Experts salmon ecology and climatology.

Objectives:

Local Advocacy to Hemispheric Outreach through the International Year of the Salmon

When: September 29-Oct 3, 2019

Where: Reno, Nevada, USA

Convenor(s): American Fisheries Society/The Wildlife Society

Expertise Required: Experts in communications, outreach, international collaboration, and management.

Objectives: This presentation will focus on the successes and lessons learned around the outreach approach for the International Year of the Salmon initiative (IYS).

- Discussion of challenges in bringing such an ambitious research driven initiative to the grassroots level in a way that galvanizes support and mobilizes local interest towards positive change.
- Discussion of current IYS outreach tactics, which involve leveraging the IYS brand through social media, website, signature events and projects, presentations, celebrities, stewardship activities, and global strategic partnerships.
- The goal is to align these tactics across every scale and throughout various networks in order to #signupforsalmon and realize benefits at the local level.

New Frontiers #2 – CSI Salmon - Otolith Microchemistry Scoping Meeting

When: TBD

Where: TBD

Convenor(s): NPAFC

Expertise Required: Salmon ecologists with knowledge / experience with otolith microchemistry; microbiologists.

Objectives: Review the potential for otolith microchemistry to determine stock specific migration routes and scope high impact project(s) to remove barriers to implementation. New Frontiers was the main focus of the Second NPAFC-IYS Workshop on Salmon Ocean Ecology in a Changing Climate and a Symposia will take place in the UK this summer. The information from those workshops will inform the planning for this workshop..

New Frontiers #3 – Salmon CSI – Genomics eDNA/Fish health – Scoping Meeting

When: TBD

Where: TBD

Convenor(s): NPAFC

Expertise Required: Salmon ecologists with knowledge / experience with eDNA and genomics; geneticists; microbiologists, fish health experts-epidemiologists-veterinarians.

Objectives: Leading experts in salmon ecology, eDNA, fish health and genomics will come together to discuss:

- the potential for eDNA to be used to determine the distribution and abundance of salmon in aquatic environments and to identify project(s) to provide definitive proof of concept and/or requirements for broad application. Note link to High Seas Expeditions. During the high seas research cruise in March 2019, eDNA samples were collected.
- The application of genomic technology to assess the impact of pathogens across life history stages.

Likely Suspects Framework – NE Pacific Scoping Meeting #1

When: TBD

Where: TBD

Convenor(s): NPAFC

Expertise Required: Salmon ecologists with knowledge / experience with threat assessment, western scientific and indigenous knowledge of salmon interactions in freshwater, coastal, and marine environments. Experts in data synthesis.

Objectives: This workshop will be convened to bring together experts with knowledge of threat assessment; knowledge of salmon interactions in freshwater, coastal and marine

environments and knowledge of life history modelling and knowledge of integrated data systems. The experts will consider methods for bottleneck/threat assessments and recommend case studies with associated teams. They will also consider an experimental approach to data synthesis.

NPAFC-IYS Workshop on Salmon Ocean Ecology in a Changing Climate

When: 2020

Where: Hakodate, Japan

Convenor(s): NPAFC

Expertise Required: TBD

Objectives: TBD

Fourth NPAFC-IYS Workshop on Salmon Ocean Ecology in a Changing Climate

When: 2021

Where: Republic of Korea

Convenor(s): NPAFC

Expertise Required: TBD

Objectives: TBD

IYS Concluding Symposium

When: 2022

Where: TBD

Convenor(s): NASCO/NPAFC

Expertise Required: TBD

Objectives:

Summary of IYS workshops and activities from NPAFC Mark Saunders

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

CNL(19)49

Summary of discussions during the Special Session on the Evaluation of the Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): thanked Cathal Gallagher for the presentation. He stated that the NGOs felt that the second cycle of reporting is now complete and the NGOs had spent their time since the Symposium looking forward. Therefore, the NGOs would keep their comments until after the presentation on the new Implementation Plans.

Dave Meerburg (Atlantic Salmon Federation): noted that information from EU – Denmark contained in the APR summary document (CNL(19)13) indicated that support for stocking would be phased out. However, the document continued by stating that if the improvement in numbers continues, stocking would be commenced on certain rivers. He asked if this was an editorial issue.

Cathal Gallagher (European Union – Ireland): stated that it was likely to have come from the Implementation Plan, but he would take the comment on board and look into it.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): thanked the Review Group for their excellent work.

CNL(19)50

Summary of discussions during the Special Session on the Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): made the following statement:

Mr President, Heads of Delegations, Delegates and Colleagues, I would like to reiterate what the NGOs said in our opening statement – salmon are in crisis across the North Atlantic and with the exception of agreements reached over limiting fishing at Greenland and the Faroe Islands, and closure of some mixed-stock fisheries in home waters, little has been done within or without NASCO to halt the decline. We have heard the report from the Implementation Plan (IP) Review Group, and it is now clear that the vast majority of IPs have been returned to Parties and jurisdictions for revision. So, in light of presentations and discussions at the IYS Symposium at the beginning of this week, the NGOs believe that certain issues need urgent action as IPs are reviewed:

- the primary objective of salmon management across all NASCO Parties and jurisdictions must be to produce the highest number of healthy wild salmon smolts possible from all relevant river systems. Planned actions to achieve this objective should be clearly stated in the revised IPs;
- the threat of extinctions of salmon populations is very real right across the NASCO region. The time for actions to combat stressors on wild salmon is now. For many wild salmon populations, the fourth IP cycle will be too late – the damage will have been done. SMART objectives to address the range of stressors in each jurisdiction need to be agreed with stakeholders and included in the new IPs;
- the strong message from the Symposium is that we have to change our mindset from managing wild salmon stocks to actively conserving them, otherwise extinctions will surely follow. The NGOs therefore urge NASCO Council to undertake a progressive transition from a stock management to a protection and conservation regime for wild salmon;
- we have to control what is controllable. There are plenty of targets: salmon farming, water quality, intensive agriculture, hydroelectricity and barriers to migration – all these and more can be directly addressed by NASCO Parties and jurisdictions now – it just takes the will to put the necessary actions into IPs and implement them;
- as we heard from the Symposium Steering Committee on Tuesday, aquaculture is the greatest threat in many areas. Relevant IPs have to adopt SMART actions that are genuinely targeted at achieving the agreed NASCO and ISFA objectives for sea lice and escapes;
- Parties and jurisdictions must do all in their power to mitigate the impact of climate change on wild salmon and influence wider-ranging policies within their Governments to control anthropogenic impact on global temperatures. The threat of losing sea ice completely from the Barents Sea by 2100 should be a wake-up call to everyone.

Mr President, the NGOs believe that the Symposium should be a wake-up call to NASCO that, just as scientists and policy makers have to change their mindsets to the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon rather than just managing them, so too NASCO has to adapt its objectives. For

example, there are several immediate threats common to all Parties and jurisdictions that we believe NASCO has the collective power to address:

- salmon do not respect country borders. Fish heading from Spain, Portugal, France, Ireland and the UK, and from the USA and Canada, all run the risk of being impacted by open-net salmon farming in other jurisdictions. NASCO is ideally placed as a forum to reach a consensus as to how salmon farming should be operated and regulated to protect salmon across their entire range;
- NASCO should have an agreement amongst all Parties and jurisdictions that the expansion of existing open-net salmon farming industries, or any move into new territory, should be prohibited until such time as salmon farmers can prove the sustainability of their operations in terms of the protection of wild Atlantic salmon;
- the Symposium showed the importance of retaining genetic diversity amongst individual wild salmon populations. Again, NASCO is well-placed to agree a regional strategy that all Parties and jurisdictions can buy into and adapt to local issues;
- the NGOs believe that by-catch in marine pelagic fisheries is still a serious issue. NASCO should use its international forum to agree a common system whereby tagged salmon can be identified within marine monitoring programmes so that an accurate report can be compiled into the true impact of pelagic by-catch in mackerel and herring fisheries;
- information derived from marine monitoring, including SALSEA-Merge, should be used to establish Marine Protected Areas whereby pelagic fishing is prohibited in those areas at particular times when salmon are known to be present. Suitable alternative areas should be made available to impacted fishermen.

Mr President, to achieve the above, the NGOs believe that NASCO has to commit to being genuine conservators of wild Atlantic salmon. That requires consensus across NASCO Parties and jurisdictions as to the political commitment required to address all these issues which threaten wild salmon throughout the North Atlantic region. If NASCO does not step up to its responsibilities now, the very existence of the species is in jeopardy, and it will be on your watch, our watch, that history will record the demise of the King of Fish.

Bill Hicks (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): made the following statement:

Mr President, I have a question about the procedure in relation to Implementation Plans.

NASCO's 'Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress', CNL(18)49, contains the following requirement:

2.4 Reporting to the Annual Meeting

The Review Group will present its evaluation of the Implementation Plans to the Annual Meeting of the Council in a Special Session, highlighting shortcomings in Implementation Plans that are considered unsatisfactory and giving suggestions for how these might be addressed, at the same time as providing examples of good practice within the Implementation Plans. The President will lead the discussions with Parties / jurisdictions concerning any shortcomings in their Implementation Plans and those Parties / jurisdictions will have an opportunity to revise their Implementation Plans after the Annual Meeting. Where the Review Group considers that there are still clear omissions or inadequacies in the actions or the answers/ information provided (category 2), these shortcomings will be listed in their report to the Council.

This is an important element of the IP / APR process. It provides transparency and the opportunity for engagement. This is the Special Session at which this would normally be done. However, it cannot be done this year because the new IPs are not sufficiently advanced.

I do not intend to criticise the Review Group in any way – they have been working extremely hard carrying out their important and demanding work. I seek reassurance that this important part of the IP process will still take place, but next year.

The Guidance provides at 3.4 that:

The Review Group will present its evaluation of the Annual Progress Reports to the Annual Meeting of the Council in a Special Session, highlighting examples of good practice within the Annual Progress Reports. The President will ask the Chair to introduce any shortcomings within individual Annual Progress Reports and the President will then invite representatives of the relevant Parties / jurisdictions to take the floor in turn and respond to the Review Group's critique.

I seek reassurance that if the Review Group identify shortcomings in the IPs that those shortcomings will be considered in the same way at next year's Annual Meeting.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): thanked Mr Hicks for the question and asked the Secretary to clarify the process.

Emma Hatfield (Secretary of NASCO): indicated that discussions are ongoing amongst the Heads of Delegations as to how this will be done. She noted that there is very strong recognition that the Next Steps process in 2004 wanted full transparency in the reviews and feedback in the IP process. This is the first time that there has been a discussion like this, among NASCO, so there is progress. She noted that there is a very clear understanding that there needs to be transparency and there is recognition that if IPs are not acceptable after the second round of review, there needs to be an agreed process. The discussions are taking place and it is hoped that the process will be agreed by the end of the week or shortly thereafter. Once agreed, everyone will be informed as to what the way forward will be.

Robert Otto (Atlantic Salmon Federation): stated that the IP Guidelines require consultations within the jurisdictions. He noted concern with the consultation process followed during the initial drafting of the Canadian IP. A two-hour conference call was held and the groups involved were provided with the IP approximately 24 hours in advance. There was wide consensus that this was insufficient. It was only at that point that provisions were made for written submissions. He asked Canada what the plans were to ensure that the next round of consultation on the updated IP would be more robust.

Serge Doucet (Canada): thanked Mr Otto for the question and recognised that this had been an issue in the previous engagement process. He stated that it is Canada's intent to improve this going forward.

Kateryna Rakowsky (North Atlantic Salmon Fund): asked whether there should be more specific guidance provided generally, with respect to the overall process, given the issue raised by Mr Otto.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): stated that he encouraged thorough reviews but was reluctant to engage in how this is done within each jurisdiction as that is a matter for each Party and jurisdiction to decide.

Philippe Garcia (Association de Défense des Ressources Marines): stated that salmon have two problems in the southwest Atlantic coast of France near the Pyrenees mountains. Firstly, there is an intensive coastal gill net fishery which officially catches bonito and sea bream but

kills many salmon. Four unpublished scientific reports have stated on behalf of at-sea observers that each day, each fishing trip, an average of three salmon per day are caught. At the very least, this means that 4,500 fish a year are taken in June and July. He referred to legal action that has been taken against the French administration. He said that fishers had been told to throw dead salmon back into the sea, and that they were angry about this. He stated (referring to document CNL(19)13) that when NASCO asked the French Government about coastal catches, they said they did not know.

Secondly, in the Adour estuary, there is an official drift net fishery with a dozen commercial fishermen. They officially report 1,500 fish without any scientific advice, any quota, or any monitoring of conservation limits. He felt that France is failing for many reasons. The gill net fishery is a mixed fishery which takes half the salmon entering the Adour estuary and many other rivers like the Nivelle, the Bidasoa and Spanish rivers including in Asturias. This drift net fishery is also a mixed fishery which falls far below conservation limits. He gave the example of the Gave de Pau river, which has been stocked for 15 years without any noticeable effect on native reproduction. He commented that both fisheries are taking place in NATURA 2000 areas which have been designated to protect salmon and shad and are under Annex 2 and 5 of the 1992 Habitat Directive. He requested that NASCO and the EU investigate this in the southern corner of Europe – France, Spain and Portugal.

Arnaud Peyronnet (European Union): thanked Philippe Garcia for raising the issue. He noted that it had been mentioned in both the North-East Atlantic Commission and the West Greenland Commission. He said there is concern about the allegations and that the EU will look into the precise elements of both fisheries. He stated that they have already liaised with the French authorities to gather information and will report to NASCO. It may be possible to include some elements of this in the next Implementation Plan, if necessary.

Dwayne Shaw (Downeast Salmon Federation): asked whether fish populations are being measured as they should be, given tools for genetics assessment are available. He reported that in the United States success is largely measured based on the overall biodiversity of the populations at a very fine scale, down to sub-populations within rivers or sub-populations within the overall scope of the range within the United States. This is not necessarily consistent across all jurisdictions. He sought assurance that, given the tools that are currently available, current conservation biology practices are keeping pace with technology. He stated that measuring numbers of fish does not give a fine enough granularity to reflect populations as a whole, that each river's inventory can be done at a scale commensurate with how the population actually behaves. He noted that technology is rapidly changing and conservation biologists may not necessarily be keeping pace with what is possible. He asked for assurances that things other than numbers of fish will be measured in the future.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): replied that NASCO should be very open to ways of improving this. More generally, in distant water fisheries, NASCO measurements are based on scientific advice through ICES. He noted that ICES is aware of various ways of doing this. He commented that what each Party does in their own waters is up to them, but that it is important to raise these matters so that management advice is based on the best available scientific advice. It should ensure that the best scientific advice is carried out with the best available tools.

Miron Borgulev (WWF – Russia): commented on the strong connection between salmon rivers and forests. This means salmon conservation organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, need to interact with forestry authorities and influence forestry legislation. In Russia for example, after 1 July, protection for spawning rivers is excluded from Russian forestry legislation. He noted support for the efforts of the Federal Fishery Agency to establish

fisheries protection forest zones. He asked the President if NASCO could write to the Russian Federal Agency for Forestry to express concern about the protection of spawning rivers from felling and for NASCO to consider developing guidelines on forestry management and legislation and interactions with forestry authorities on spawning rivers.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): replied that this is an internal matter for Russia. NASCO should not engage with how the Russian Federation choose to deal with these problems. He said therefore that NASCO could not send a letter expressing concern. He also said that NASCO already has habitat guidelines.

Andrew Graham-Stewart (Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland): noted that one of the presentations had said that great progress had been made by NASCO Parties in the last few years. He disagreed that there has been great progress, especially on the salmon farming front. He commented that each June, delegations and civil servants attended NASCO meetings and each year a Press Release summarises what had been achieved. In the past five years, the Press Releases have said almost nothing. He noted that they included talk of developing research at sea, the International Year of the Salmon and new measures for Faroes and Greenland. The Press Releases sometimes include a quote about how committed the Parties are to Atlantic salmon conservation. However, he asked, apart from the closure of some, mostly minor, mixed-stock fisheries, what significant actions have the Parties agreed, or taken in the last six years? He asked where the actions, so desperately needed to address the damaging impacts of salmon farming, are? He stated that from an NGO perspective these meetings are largely a matter of process. At the end of the week, having successfully avoided making any commitments to taking any future action that would make any real difference, the Parties are able to return home – ‘Mission Accomplished’.

He said he can imagine the conversation, when the Head of Delegation gets back to his or her home country: ‘Don’t worry Minister, NASCO was just the usual talking shop. As long as we pay vague lip-service to conserving and protecting wild salmon we can proceed as normal and allow our salmon farming industry to keep on expanding, whatever the consequences for wild fish.’ Mr Graham-Stewart noted that the failure of NASCO in this regard is not the fault of the Secretariat, but the responsibility of the Parties who appear to conspire each year to ensure that no real progress is made. He said he hoped to be proved wrong. He asked, aside from the closure of few, mainly minor, mixed-stock fisheries, what significant action has been taken in the last six years to conserve and protect wild Atlantic salmon, and why has there been no progress whatsoever towards achieving the NASCO goals on sea lice and escapes as set out in the Williamsburg Resolution?

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): thanked Mr Graham-Stewart for his candid and direct question. He noted that NASCO manages distant-water fisheries and that within the Faroese zone there are no fisheries at all and within the Greenlandic zone the fishery is very limited. Therefore NASCO lives up to its obligations in that area. He also noted that under the Annual Progress Reports each country with salmon rivers is encouraged to report on these matters. NASCO tries to improve, such as with Special Sessions and the IYS. However, he felt that it is fair to say that a lot of the tasks that are to be done now, are in homewater countries. In that respect NASCO can only be a vessel in which Parties can deliberate and encourage action. NASCO cannot actually take such action, but can set up frameworks in which action can be taken.

Kim Damon-Randall (United States): replied to Mr Graham-Stewart’s salmon farming question. She commented that the United States has made considerable progress in the last few years on aquaculture issues, as reported in the North American Commission. She noted that

there had been no reportable escapes this year and no diseases to report. The United States talk frequently with Canadian counterparts about aquaculture issues that are transborder.

Cathal Gallagher (European Union – Ireland): noted some progress achieved in Ireland through the NASCO framework: closure of a huge mixed stock fishery, not a small one; the development of conservation limits; individual river management; and lots of work on barrier removals. He noted that sometimes these programmes are not being sufficiently acknowledged.

He recognised that the area that needs further work is aquaculture, as identified in the Review Group report. He commented that new SMART actions are now included in the IP template so that a cycle is beginning where maybe there will be more specific measurements and data coming back. He also noted the mandatory elements of the new IP template, under which jurisdictions must have specific actions on sea lice and containment. He said that everyone had the goal of improving aquaculture businesses. There will be a strong focus through the mandatory elements of the plans, to address that.

Alan Wells (Fisheries Management Scotland): asked a question relating to Scotland's draft IP, and specifically section four on aquaculture. He noted that the draft IP for Scotland makes several references to processes and policies that relate to farmed fish health, rather than the conservation of wild salmon. He asked whether the Scottish Government would make an unambiguous commitment to bring forward an amended IP, in which section four focuses solely on the protection and conservation of wild fish from the known impacts of aquaculture?

Mike Palmer (European Union – UK, Scotland): replied that section four of Scotland's IP was drafted before the Scottish Government was able to respond to the Parliamentary Inquiry on the impacts of salmon farming on the environment, including on wild salmon. Since then, the Government's response to that enquiry has been published, which makes clear that the Scottish Government recognise there is a gap in current regulation, in terms of the interactions between farmed and wild fish. He said they will be doing work on addressing and closing the gap and will be consulting later this year on proposals for tightening regulation. Then the intention would be to update the IP to reflect that work. That will address the question of ensuring that the target in the IP is the protection and conservation of wild salmon. It will make clear how that follows through from the impacts of salmon farming.

In response to Mr Graham-Stewart, he noted that Scotland is one of the largest salmon farming nations within the EU block. He said that the NASCO framework has been useful in helping to promote a more energetic and intensive approach towards the regulation of salmon farming within Scotland. There has been increased momentum over the last year or so. He noted that the work of NASCO gives helpful international support. The NASCO framework gives confidence to Ministers that there is international promotion of increased activity around sea lice reporting. He noted the recent announcement in the Scottish Parliament of a new statutory regime under which there will be weekly reporting of sea lice counts. The NASCO framework has helped deliver these advances, sometimes in intangible ways. He noted that the Scottish Government will be doing more, in terms of the regulatory improvements.

Mark Bilsby (Atlantic Salmon Trust): asked about the SMART nature of the Implementation Plans, and whether progress towards attainment of NASCO's goals will be objectively assessed over time. He noted that ICES provide Greenland and the Faroe Islands with useful scientific advice on the suitability of data collection. He asked whether ICES could provide scientific guidance and commentary on the suitability of the IPs. He said this would provide consistent information across the Commissions, on how the measures are being monitored, and their success or failure.

Cathal Gallagher (European Union - Ireland): noted that there is already a review process for IPs agreed by Heads of Delegation. It would be unclear how another process from a scientific organization commenting on management plans for individual jurisdictions would work.

Ghislain Chouinard (ICES, ACOM Advisory Committee Vice-Chair): replied that ICES gets requests for advice from NASCO and sometimes provides advice on management plans. He said it may be possible for ICES to comment on Implementation Plans, but it would depend on how the request was shaped. It would also depend on whether ICES has the expertise and data to be able to respond.

Ken Whelan (Atlantic Salmon Trust): commented that the context of the Implementation Plans should be considered. He recalled the reason NASCO was established – to deal with the issues that no jurisdiction could deal with alone. In the Symposium there were at least two areas of shared problems, which originate in one jurisdiction and impact several others. He asked if the Implementation Plans, as they currently exist, or NASCO as it currently exists, are capable of supporting those mixed impacts. He gave two examples. First, pink salmon. He noted that invasive species may be a problem for a particular jurisdiction. One jurisdiction's problem may become other jurisdictions' problems in time. The challenge is to think about how to deal with shared general issues into the future. Second, only now are the implications of intensive salmon farming being understood in relation to genetics, sea lice and migratory corridors. If migratory corridors are better understood, where very large numbers of mixed-stock salmon populations are passing a particular impact (farm), it may be possible to combine forces to deal with this. He said that he would encourage groups looking at the IPs to consider this. He also noted that as the next steps for NASCO are considered, how NASCO can deal with these problems in an integrated way is important, because it will be wholly unsatisfactory to deal with them separately.

Steve Sutton (Atlantic Salmon Federation): commented that one of the strong themes from the Symposium was around human dimensions, the importance of engagement and collaboration. He said there had been some good examples of how collaboration and engagement can lead to better outcomes. He noted that it is not NASCO's role to tell Parties how to consult on their IPs and that NASCO's role is more to provide guidance and to help provide consistency across IPs. He noted that NASCO does have guidance around incorporation of socio-economic concerns and that it might be an opportune time to revisit those guidelines. This might include guidance to Parties as to what acceptable consultation looks like. Parties could report on the process they used to help them meet the guidelines.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): replied that as President he is open to the guidelines being revisited, but it is something that needs to be revisited in Council.

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): commented that the English IP consultation process was good. The England Fisheries Group, which is representative of the national bodies, including Rivers Trusts, held a meeting. A representative from Cefas gave a presentation on the Implementation Plan and the drafts. Comments were made, the draft was circulated and there was plenty of time to provide written responses. Some written responses were taken into account and the IP was produced. He felt it was a good process and commended colleagues in England. He noted that he is looking forward to a similar process for the revised IP.

Dwayne Shaw (Downeast Salmon Federation): asked how specifically the NASCO Council might consider integrating indigenous voices in the overall IP process and whether there is there any consideration of changing the current process?

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): replied that that is also about socio-economics and something the Council could consider if they revisit that process.

Andrew Graham-Stewart (Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland): commented that Scotland, like England, consulted well on their IP. Some of the NGO's comments were incorporated. He thanked Scotland.

Nigel Milner (Institute of Fisheries Management): asked about setting SMART objectives for habitat restoration in rivers, in the absence of clear understanding of the current productivity of rivers, and the potential carrying capacity of rivers. He said he could not see how SMART objectives could be set in the absence of that type of information. Clear inventories of current capacity in fresh water are lacking and are needed.

Cathal Gallagher (European Union - Ireland): replied that one of the actions for delegations could be to give a timeline for the development of inventories. He noted that this could be a good example of how to link up an action to something to be done. The challenge is identified – not having that information – and the action is firmly related to it with a time limit.

CNL(19)51

***Summary of discussions during the Special Session Reporting on Progress
during the International Year of the Salmon***

Dwayne Shaw (Downeast Salmon Federation): commented that this is the International Year of the Wild Salmon.

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): noted a desire to build on the profile of the IYS, and that work should not end on 31 December 2019. He stated that planning into the future is very important and that Symposia would help with ongoing work. He said that from a NASCO point of view outreach to the general public was important. Politicians are more likely to take meaningful action if the public are on side to save salmon. He noted that the film with Sir David Attenborough has had a huge impact. It got over 100,000 views in two weeks on the Salmon and Trout Conservation website. Celebrities can help with public profile, and there must be many more within the Parties and jurisdictions.

He stated that NGOs feel that websites are very important and should include easily digestible information that is understandable to an intelligent 12-year-old. He noted that NASCO's website is due for an update and that it should include educational material, it should be linked to the IYS and the NPAFC. He said that the State of Salmon Report will be really useful, especially if it can be made accessible to the general public and put on websites.

Mr Knight believed the IYS Symposium was excellent and congratulated those involved in its organization. He wanted to be sure that the words of the Symposium made it out to the public and into action that protects wild Atlantic salmon. He concluded by saying that perhaps we have to think in terms of conserving salmon now, rather than managing them.

Liliana Teixeira (European Union – Portugal): reported that she has been teaching the life cycle of salmon to three-year-old children. She stated that working with schools and children is important, because we protect what we know. Some of the IYS activities she was involved in were in the Minho River on the border – a river with international management. She thanked colleagues from Galicia for help with those activities.

Don Sprangers (Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network): reported on hosting a high school group from the United States and Canada. He noted that there is a similar event this summer in Canada and the United States as part of the IYS. Next year high school groups will be going to Scotland to learn about salmon issues there. He invited all the countries with high schools that might want to get involved, to contact the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network via their website.

Lawrence Talks (European Union – UK (England and Wales)): noted that the State of Salmon report is an excellent initiative. It will do a lot to raise the profile of salmon stocks. In the future, he said there may be merit in co-ordinating with the UN, WWF or Greenpeace in terms of the state of the world's biodiversity. This would help inform the general public about salmon.

Oyvind Fjeldseth (Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers): noted that, in co-operation with the Norwegian Salmon Rivers, there were more than 250 activities around Norway this year. He expressed thanks to the Norwegian Environment Agency for their important contribution in funding the work and making it visible.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): thanked participants for their contributions. He said that the IYS has been a great initiative so far and expressed hope that it would continue to be so.

***Statement given by the Salmon Farming Industry on behalf of the
International Salmon Farmers' Association***

President Hansen, Vice President Doucet, Madam Secretary Hatfield, Honorable Commissioners, Delegates and Observers, I am Sebastian Belle Vice President of the International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA). I bring you greetings and apologies from our President Trond Davidson who is unable to attend NASCO this year. Founded in 1990, ISFA representatives have been attending NASCO meetings for many years. ISFA membership includes the producer's associations from all the major and many of the minor salmon farming regions in the world. ISFA is an association of associations at a global level and as such does not engage in or comment on issues that relate to specific local jurisdictions or individual companies. ISFA's primary focus has been the sharing of information between producer associations to ensure that innovations and lessons learned in one jurisdiction are shared across the sector in an efficient and timely manner.

On behalf of our members I would like to thank NASCO for the opportunity to speak briefly to you today. I understand you had some very interesting presentations during the International Year of The Salmon Symposium on Managing Atlantic Salmon in a Rapidly Changing Environment. Although I was unable to attend the symposium, I look forward to reading the proceedings. I can say unequivocally that the challenge that climate change presents to wild salmon management is shared by the salmon farming community. For example, in some cases changing environmental conditions are altering the geographic distribution of naturally occurring pathogens, pests or parasites. Another example would be how changing weather and current patterns can alter the type of sea state conditions on a site over time. In response to these types of changes the farming community is developing new ways to farm and manage existing sites. Even without these types of environmental challenges our sector has always been characterized by rapid technical evolution. I thought it might be of interest to the NASCO Parties and observers to talk about a few recently emerging technical trends in the farming sector.

The Emergence of Large-Scale Land-Based Production Units.

For a number of years critics of the ocean based net pen farms have suggested that the solution to many of their environmental concerns is the movement of all salmon farms on land. Small scale, land-based production units have been around for quite a few years. In addition, recirculating aquaculture systems (RAS) have been used by farmers for many years in our freshwater hatchery and broodstock facilities. Within the last 2-3 years we have seen an increasing number of proposals for very large land-based facilities designed to grow salmon to market size. Currently these projects are either raising investment capital, beginning construction or in several cases beginning actual production. These are ambitious projects at scales designed to test the hypothesis that the only reason land-based production has not been economical to date is they have not been big enough. The level of investment going into this trend is quite large and depending on whose estimates you believe they could result in anywhere from 20,000 to several hundred thousand metric tons of production annually. It is early days in the development of farming methods designed for these systems. We have much to learn about how to build and manage these complicated and highly technical systems. Although they may address some potential environmental risks, they will no doubt present other environmental and farming challenges. It should be noted that a major reason the projected economics of these projects appear to currently work is that salmon prices are at

historically high levels. Industry expectations on this trend remain cautious. We will need these projects to complete successful, profitable and repeated production runs in order shift this outlook to optimistic. I look forward to coming back to NASCO and reporting on how these facilities are developing.

The Implementation of large ‘Post Smolt’ Production Strategies.

Another fast-developing trend is the use of land-based facilities to produce much larger ‘post smolts’ for stocking into ocean net pen farms. These facilities use essentially the same technology as the large land-based facilities designed to grow fish to market size. The fish these ‘post smolt’ facilities produce are anywhere between $>.5 - 1$ kilogram. By producing stocking fish that large this production method shortens the time fish are in the ocean cages exposed to any natural risks such as storms or pests, pathogens and parasites such as sea lice. In the case of sea lice this strategy avoids the first possible cycle of exposure, reduces potential total sea lice loads and eliminates the need for at least one treatment. Industry expectations are that this trend will continue and strengthen.

The Move to Offshore Sites.

The final technical trend I will comment on is the movement into more exposed ‘offshore’ sites. These sites are further from shore than current sites and are typically characterized by high energy states and deep water. This is a trend that has been building for some time. Early experiments using submersible cages or highly engineered structures go back to the early ‘90s. The current projects although much larger are essentially refinements of these original designs using new materials, manufacturing methods and sophisticated remote monitoring and control technologies.

Moving offshore presents both advantages and challenges. Temperature and water quality offshore are often ideal and more stable than inshore sites. In addition, the scale of the production units and depth of water allow for larger farms driving cost efficiencies without measurable benthic impact. Finally, by moving away from near shore locations potential user conflicts and impacts on migratory species may be reduced. The challenges are obvious. More exposed sites require more highly engineered and robust equipment. Like land-based production facilities this results in very high capital requirements driving production costs up. In addition, although we have not had enough time to test this hypothesis, farms in more exposed high energy sites may have a higher risk of system failure and potential escapes. Certainly, the fact that the individual cages are larger and contain more fish suggests that if a system failure occurs the number of escapes per failure may potentially be higher. As with land-based systems it is early days in the development of this trend but if successful the move offshore could revolutionize the sector. The industry outlook on this trend is cautiously optimistic.

Other technical trends of interest to NASCO would include the level of innovation in methods designed to reduce escapes and effectively manage sea lice. The speed and level of innovation in these areas has accelerated since ISFA last commented at a NASCO meeting. Net and cage designs have improved significantly. National and international engineering and installation standards have become much more rigorous. Most system failures and escapes we hear about in the sector are associated with older outdated equipment or inexperienced operators. The good news is that current economics in the sector are allowing significant investment into equipment upgrades and operator training. Sea lice management methods are evolving dramatically and very quickly. The fastest innovations are currently occurring in non-chemical control methods. ‘Thermolicers’, underwater lasers, mechanical removal, semi closed cage systems, cleaner fish, genetic selection for resistant strains of salmon, use of large post smolts

and immunoboosters in feeds have all made significant progress in the last couple of years. Of particular note is the progress being made on the genetic selection of strains of salmon resistant to sea lice infestation. Although breeding programs take time, significant gains have already been made and the industry expects breeding to be the most effective medium to long term solution to the sea lice challenge. Although sea lice remain a challenge, we are making good progress and fully expect this challenge to be controlled in the near future.

Finally, I would note that most if not all of these improvements are being driven by risk management strategies demanded by investors, insurance companies and international seafood sustainability certification programs not regulations. Indeed, the certification programs being demanded by our customers are often significantly stricter than most regulations. Different customers use different certification standards and we must comply with them all if we are to sell our product. It is not unusual for farms to have multiple auditors from different certification programs on their farms on a weekly basis. While regulations remain an important tool to maintain minimum standards, the market and our customers are driving innovation and improvements in sustainability at a truly blistering pace.

I thank you for your attention and on behalf of ISFA would like to recognize all the hard work NASCO, its Parties and observers continue to do to conserve the truly amazing animal we all love and respect, the Atlantic Salmon.

CNL(19)47

Press Release

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)
Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting,
Tromsø, Norway
5 – 7 June 2019

Value of Wild Atlantic Salmon Celebrated while Recognizing Challenges to Survival Throughout their Range

At the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), Parties highlighted ongoing work to assess the health of wild Atlantic salmon stocks and better understand the threats and pressures they face. A number of Parties have implemented further reductions in home water fisheries while also implementing projects to address key threats such as water quality, barriers to migration, and degraded habitat. These domestic efforts are critical to ensuring the continued survival of the species across its range.

These discussions took place north of the Arctic Circle in the beautiful sea-side city of Tromsø, Norway. Representatives from six Parties and a number of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and observers came together to discuss the many environmental and human-caused factors influencing the health and abundance of wild Atlantic salmon. Parties to NASCO gather each year to review the newest scientific information and consider actions being taken and those still needed to ensure the conservation of this iconic species.

This year's meeting of NASCO was particularly significant given that 2019 is the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) initiative. IYS aims to bring people together to share and develop knowledge more effectively, raise awareness and take action to establish the conditions necessary to ensure the resilience of salmon and people throughout the Northern Hemisphere. Highlights from the soon to be released State of Salmon report were presented; this signature outcome of the IYS initiative will be a key outreach and education tool for a number of key audiences.

In a NASCO first, the Organization's annual meeting was preceded by a two-day multi-disciplinary Symposium featuring a series of talks and discussions related to 'Managing the Atlantic salmon in a Rapidly Changing Environment – Management Challenges and Possible Responses'. This symposium went beyond a typical series of scientific presentations by successfully incorporating various perspectives on the value of Atlantic salmon and opportunities to raise awareness and increase the resiliency of populations throughout their range. Presenters challenged participants to incorporate new approaches and ideas as they moved forward with conservation, management and science initiatives. The Symposium Steering Committee presented a set of recommendations to NASCO related to how the organization and its members can work to ensure salmon and their habitats are conserved and restored in the face of changing conditions.

NASCO President Jóannes V. Hansen of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) stated, 'I could not be prouder of what NASCO is achieving for salmon through

IYS. The first ever NASCO IYS Symposium was a tremendous success and several of the important recommendations stemming from it have already been incorporated into NASCO's work'.

At the 2018 NASCO Annual Meeting, a new regulatory measure for the West Greenland mixed stock fishery was agreed to by the Parties. During review of the measure by NASCO in 2019, improvements were evident in monitoring and control activities in the 2018 fishery and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) reiterated its commitment to fully implement the 2018 measure, including reducing their 2019 quota to account for the 2018 quota overharvest. In addition to receiving updates on mixed stock fisheries occurring in West Greenland and in Labrador, Canada, harvests of at risk populations of North American origin salmon in the St. Pierre and Miquelon mixed stock fishery were also discussed. NASCO continues to urge France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) to co-operate in the management of, and research on, its fishery and appreciates the efforts made to provide more information about the impact of this fishery on Atlantic salmon stocks. In the same vein, NASCO is seeking to re-engage former member Iceland in its work.

Parties to NASCO and NGOs continue to invest important resources in research to better understand the complex ecology of salmon at sea; highlighted projects including the continuation of a 17-year time series tracking smolt and post-smolt migration and survival at sea from four index rivers in the northwest Atlantic and new multi-year, multi-faceted studies including telemetry and pelagic ecosystem studies in the northeast Atlantic. More information on these critical scientific efforts can be found at: <http://www.nasco.int/sas/research.htm>.

NASCO continues to look for ways to improve implementation of its agreements on fisheries management, habitat protection, and the impacts of aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon. A workshop was held again this year to critically and publicly review 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 began in 2019 that strives to increase transparency, clarity, and thoroughness of information shared by the Parties. Efforts to improve this process are ongoing. NASCO is also considering the process for undertaking a third performance review which will aim to ensure that the organization is well poised to address the future challenges facing this vitally important species.

The Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO was held during 5 – 7 June 2019 in Tromsø, Norway.

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 44 non-governmental observers accredited to the Organization.

The 2019 Annual Meeting included 114 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-Seventh Annual Meeting will be held in Tórshavn, Faroe Islands in June 2020.

For further information contact: Dr Emma Hatfield, Secretary NASCO
Tel: +44 (0)131 228 2551
Email: hq@nasco.int Website: www.nasco.int

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List of Papers

CNL(19)01	Provisional Agenda (English and French)
CNL(19)02	Draft Agenda (English and French)
CNL(19)02rev	Draft Agenda
CNL(19)03	Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda
CNL(19)04	Draft Schedule of Meetings
CNL(19)04rev	Draft Schedule of Meetings
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CNL(19)05rev	Report of the Finance and Administration Committee (issued at meeting)
CNL(19)06	Secretary's Report
CNL(19)07	Report on the Activities of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization in 2018
CNL(19)08	Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM)
CNL(19)09	Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (issued at meeting)
CNL(19)10	Review of the Procedures Relating to the Work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group
CNL(19)11	Request for Scientific Advice from ICES (issued at meeting)
CNL(19)12	Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports
CNL(19)13	Summary of Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 - 2018 Implementation Plans
CNL(19)14	Interim Report of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Implementation Plans under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)
CNL(19)15	Report on Progress during the International Year of the Salmon
CNL(19)16	Report from the Tromsø Symposium on the Recommendations to Address Future Management Challenges
CNL(19)17	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(19)18	Consideration of the Process for Arranging a Third Performance Review in 2021
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CNL(19)20 Summary of Council Decisions

Annual Progress Reports on Actions taken under the Implementation Plans:

CNL(19)22	Annual Progress Report: European Union – Spain (Navarra)
CNL(19)23	Annual Progress Report: United States
CNL(19)24	Annual Progress Report: Russian Federation
CNL(19)25	Annual Progress Report: Canada
CNL(19)26	Annual Progress Report: EU – Denmark
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CNL(19)43	2019 update on the NGO perspective on salmon farming (Tabled by the NGOs)
CNL(19)44	Draft Report of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO
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CNL(19)49	Summary of discussions during the Special Session on the Evaluation of the Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans
CNL(19)50	Summary of discussions during the Special Session on the Evaluation of the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans
CNL(19)51	Summary of discussions during the Special Session Reporting on Progress during the International Year of the Salmon
CNL(19)52	Presentation of the ICES Advice on North Atlantic Salmon Stocks to the Council
CNL(19)53	Not issued
CNL(19)54	2020 Budget and 2012 Forecast Budget