

CNL(12)10

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 2012¹;
- 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management²;
- 1.3 provide a review of examples of successes and failures in wild salmon restoration and rehabilitation and develop a classification of activities which could be recommended under various conditions or threats to the persistence of populations;
- 1.4 advise on the potential threats to Atlantic salmon from exotic salmonids including rainbow trout and brown trout where appropriate;
- 1.5 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2012;
- 1.6 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

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

- 2.1 describe the key events of the 2012 fisheries³;
- 2.2 review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits;
- 2.3 describe the status of the stocks;
- 2.4 further develop a risk-based framework for the provision of catch advice for the Faroese salmon fishery reporting on the implications of selecting different numbers of management units⁴;

*In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:**

- 2.5 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2013-2016, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁵;
- 2.6 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 2012 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)³;
- 3.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available;
- 3.3 describe the status of the stocks;

*In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:**

- 3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2013-2016 with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁵;

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 2012 fisheries³;

4.2 describe the status of the stocks⁶;

*In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:**

4.3 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2013-2015 with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁵;

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. Any new information on non-catch fishing mortality of the salmon gear used, on the by-catch of other species in salmon gear, and on the by-catch of salmon in any existing and new fisheries for other species is also requested.*
4. *In response to question 2.4, ICES is asked to advise on the limitations for defining management units smaller than the current NEAC stock complexes, the implications of applying probabilities of achieving CLs to separate management units versus the use of simultaneous probabilities and the choice of risk levels for achieving management objectives.*
5. *In response to questions 2.5, 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.*
6. *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.*

*** The aim should be for NASCO to inform ICES by 31 January of the outcome of utilising the FWI**