



**REPORT OF THE
THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE
NORTH AMERICAN COMMISSION**

**12 – 15 JUNE 2018
Portland, Maine, USA**

Chair: Mr Tony Blanchard (Canada)
Vice-Chair: Mr Patrick Keliher (USA)
Rapporteur: Ms Julie Crocker (USA)
Secretary: Dr Emma Hatfield

NAC(18)08

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

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, USA

12 – 15 June 2018

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair, Mr Tony Blanchard (Canada), opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to Portland.
- 1.2 An Opening Statement was made by the United States and is included as Annex 1 of the report.
- 1.3 A list of participants at the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO is included as Annex 2.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda, NAC(18)06 (Annex 3).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Ms Julie Crocker (USA) was appointed as Rapporteur.

4. Election of Officers

- 4.1 The Commission elected Mr Patrick Keliher (USA) as its Chair and Mr Tony Blanchard (Canada) as its Vice-Chair.

5. Review of the 2017 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

- 5.1 The representative of ICES, Dr Martha Robertson, presented the report from ICES on the status of salmon stocks in the Commission area. Her presentation is available as document NAC(18)09 (Annex 4). The ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM) report that contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions is document CNL(18)08rev.
- 5.2 The United States representative noted that a small number of the 2006 – 2011 samples from the Labrador fishery were determined to be of U.S. origin and that these were from the Northern Area. In response to those 2006 – 2011 captures, the fishery was moved inshore to try to avoid further interactions with U.S.-origin fish. Noting the presence of two U.S.-origin fish in the 2017 sampling, the representative of the United States asked what management measures could be taken to minimise future captures of U.S.-origin fish in the Southern Area. The ICES representative noted that the U.S.-origin fish were captured in the Indigenous fishery in the Southern Area and that the captures were separated in time so that a seasonal management approach would not likely address the concern. The ICES representative suggested that a geographic movement of the fishing nets could be effective at reducing the risk to U.S.-origin fish. The Canadian representative noted that, based on reporting, they have identified the fisherman whose nets the U.S.-origin fish were caught in and that they would work with

the fisherman to move the nets further inshore in order to avoid those fish and to increase monitoring of the fishery.

- 5.3 The NGO representative noted their concern that the sampling of the Labrador fishery may not be adequate and that a more intensive sampling effort could reveal more U.S.-origin fish or fish from other origins. He also noted that the sampling regime in Labrador, at about 3% to 5% of the aboriginal food fishery, is at the low end of other sampling regimes. For example, approximately 20% of the catch is sampled in Greenland and 12% in St Pierre and Miquelon. The ICES representative responded that more sampling in the Labrador fishery would be beneficial, particularly in the Northern Area.
- 5.4 The NGO representative noted that the ICES report indicates that all three monitored rivers in Southern Labrador SFA2 are below their conservation limits, and one of these is substantially below. He noted concern about the continuation of a mixed-stock fishery in the Southern Area given their conservation status and that U.S.-origin fish were captured in this area.

6. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission

- 6.1 Under the Council's 'Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO', CNL(13)38, it was agreed that there should be agenda items in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries.
- 6.2 The representative of Canada presented paper NAC(18)04, which provided a description of the Labrador Subsistence Food Fishery, including information on the management, stock status, the most recent catch data and the sampling programme, as well as the origin and composition of the catches.
- 6.3 The NGO representative noted that the coastal fishery in southern Labrador, which targets mixed stocks, has been increasing over time and that the tonnage in the 2017 coastal fishery (9.1 tonnes) was the highest on record. The NGO representative noted his concern that some of the stocks captured in the coastal fishery were not attaining their conservation limits and asked the Canadian representative how the government was addressing this. The Canadian representative indicated that Canada will continue to work with the Indigenous groups in Labrador through the annual food, social and ceremonial fisheries negotiation process on ways to reduce the amount of coastal activity and to mitigate the interception of non-Labrador / non-Canadian fish, and that discussions are ongoing to consider moving some of the fishing activity from the coast to Lake Melville. He also noted that additional funding has been provided to the NunatuKavut Community Council to enhance sampling in its food, social and ceremonial fishery in 2018.

7. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery

- 7.1 The Chair noted that information on the sampling programme had been provided in both the ICES report and document NAC(18)04.
- 7.2 The United States representative noted concerns about the impact of the Labrador fishery on U.S.-origin salmon. She noted her appreciation of the thorough report on sampling and thanked Canada for identifying the cause of the harvest of U.S.-origin salmon. She acknowledged Canada's commitment to take actions to address the risk posed to U.S.-origin salmon. She asked the Canadian representative how Canada planned to address ICES recommendations to improve sampling in the Labrador

fishery. The Canadian representative noted that sampling was carried out by the community members and community officers and that sampling was apportioned to the different fishing areas. He noted that Canada was considering how sampling could be improved spatially and temporally but had no specific proposals to share at this time.

8. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

- 8.1 The Chair referred the Commission to Council document CNL(18)17, which contained information on the management and sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery and asked the representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to provide an overview of the report.
- 8.2 The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) presented a summary of the report, noting that a limit of 80 recreational licences had been set and that the fishing season had been shortened to end on 21 July. She noted that the number of professional licences has been stable at a total of eight. She noted that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) had reflected on the letter from NASCO requesting that they join NASCO and that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) would not be pursuing membership at this time. The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noted that the reported catch was 2.8 metric tonnes and it was difficult to estimate the undeclared catch. She also noted that salmon were sampled in 2017.
- 8.3 The United States representative noted their appreciation for the letter that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) sent in response to the letter from NASCO. She noted the commitment expressed by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) in its recent letter indicating that it would take NASCO recommendations on catch taken in its fishery into account. She asked for additional clarity on that statement. Specifically, she asked France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to provide information on the steps taken or to be taken regarding the management of the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery that were viewed by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) as responsive to NASCO. She noted that if NASCO had been unclear on any points, clarification could be provided. The representative from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) indicated that they would be setting a cap on the number of professional licences at nine and would reduce the number of recreational licences down from eighty over time. She explained that licences were retained for a fisher's lifetime, after which it is proposed that they would not be reissued to new fishers.
- 8.4 The Canadian representative noted that there are no limits on the number of salmon that recreational fishers can retain and that the report notes that one fisher retained more than 80 salmon. He asked whether France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) had considered setting limits on the number of salmon a fisher can retain. The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noted that there are limits on mesh size and a limit on the size of nets that can be used as well as a limit on the length of the fishing season.
- 8.5 The United States representative urged France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to reconsider joining NASCO as the competent international organization for the rational management of Atlantic salmon especially given the mixed-stock interceptory fishery that is known to take a wide variety of stocks, including some that are identified by ICES as suffering from reduced reproductive capacity.
- 8.6 The NGO representative provided examples of other jurisdictions that limit the number of salmon that can be retained by recreational fishers and urged France (in respect of St

Pierre and Miquelon) to consider implementing a limit on the number of salmon that can be retained. The representative from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) indicated that discussions are ongoing to consider a ceiling on the number of fish that could be caught in the fishery but these discussions had not yet been concluded.

9. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

- 9.1 In 2010, the Commission had adopted recommendations arising from a Review of the NAC Database on Introductions and Transfers and the Scientific Working Group, NAC(10)6. The Parties agreed (1) that a detailed international database was no longer necessary; (2) that the Parties should provide focused annual reports to the Commission on issues of mutual concern including salmonid disease incidences, breaches of containment, introductions from outside the Commission area and transgenics; (3) that experts should be appointed who could work to identify priority mechanisms and requirements for information exchange on fish health issues; and (4) that minor revisions to the NAC Protocols on Introductions and Transfers of Salmonids should be made to reflect the new information exchange mechanism.
- 9.2 The representative of Canada presented Canada's Annual Report, NAC(18)03. The representative of the United States thanked Canada for the clear and comprehensive report and noted her appreciation for the opportunity to share information through the report process.
- 9.3 The representative of the United States presented the U.S. Annual Report, NAC(18)05. The representative of Canada thanked the United States for their thorough report.
- 9.4 The NGO representative noted that the Atlantic Salmon Federation has been monitoring the fishway on the Magaguadavic River in New Brunswick for more than 20 years and that the river used to support returns of over 1,000 salmon. In 2017, there were no wild salmon that returned to the river but 17 farmed salmon were documented over a short time period in September and a number of farmed salmon were also detected at a few counting fences in Southern Newfoundland. He noted in prior years that documentation of 17 escaped salmon at the Magaguadavic River would have resulted from a reportable escape event in the Bay of Fundy. He noted that the table in NAC(18)03 does not include any report of escape events from New Brunswick or Newfoundland. He asked about the quality of the reports from industry and why NAC(18)03 does not include a reportable escape event for New Brunswick that would account for the escaped farmed salmon observed in the Magaguadavic River in 2017. The Canadian representative responded by indicating that enquiries about the quality of the industry reports should be directed to the industry. He also noted that DFO is aware of the observations of escaped farmed salmon in the Magagaudavic River and in Newfoundland. DFO is working with the New Brunswick Aquaculture Containment Liaison Committee that includes DFO Maritime Region, New Brunswick provincial officials, the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association, Fundy Baykeeper and the New Brunswick Atlantic Salmon Council on improving management options moving forward. He also noted that under the New Brunswick regulation and code of containment, noted escapes of fewer than 100 fish are not required to be reported and such low level escapes may be the source of the escaped farm salmon observation in some rivers.

10. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 10.1 The Chair announced that the winner of the North American Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Mr Tim Doherty, New Brunswick, Canada. The salmon was captured at the Northwest Miramichi River ‘Cassilis’ estuary trap-net, operated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, as part of the assessment programme for Atlantic salmon in the Miramichi River. The fish was captured at the trap-net on 14 October 2016, sampled for length, tagged with a light blue Carlin tag and released back to the river. It was recaptured 6 months later, on 22 April 2017 during the spring salmon angling season in the Northwest Miramichi River. The Commission offered its congratulations to the winner.

11. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice

- 11.1 The request for scientific advice from ICES prepared by the Standing Scientific Committee in relation to the North American Commission area was agreed by the Council, CNL(18)11 (Annex 5).

12. Other Business

- 12.1 There was no other business.

13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

- 13.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

14. Report of the Meeting

- 14.1 The Commission agreed its report of the Meeting.

15. Close of the Meeting

- 15.1 The Chair thanked the Parties and observers for their contributions and closed the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission.

Note: the annexes mentioned above follow the French translation of the report of the meeting. A list of North American Commission papers is included in Annex 6.

NAC(18)08

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

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

12 – 15 juin 2018

1. Ouverture de la session

- 1.1 Le Président, M. Tony Blanchard (Canada), a ouvert la session et accueilli les délégués à Portland.
- 1.2 Une déclaration d'ouverture a été effectuée par les Etats-Unis – celle-ci est incluse en Annexe 1 du rapport.
- 1.3 Une liste des participants aux trente-cinquièmes sessions annuelles du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN est incluse en Annex 2.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

- 2.1 La Commission a adopté son ordre du jour, NAC(18)06 (Annexe 3).

3. Nomination d'un rapporteur

- 3.1 Mme Julie Crocker (Etats-Unis) a été nommée rapporteur.

4. Election des Membres du bureau

- 4.1 La Commission a élu M. Patrick Keliher (Etats-Unis) en tant que Président et M. Tony Blanchard (Canada) en tant que Vice-président.

5. Examen de la pêche de 2017 et du rapport du Comité consultatif (ACOM) du CIEM sur les stocks de saumon dans la zone de la Commission

- 5.1 La représentante du CIEM, le Dr Martha Robertson, a présenté le compte rendu du CIEM sur le statut des stocks de saumon dans la zone de la Commission. Sa présentation est disponible dans le document NAC(18)09 (Annexe 4). Le rapport du Comité consultatif (ACOM) du CIEM qui contient les conseils scientifiques pertinents pour toutes les Commissions est le document CNL(18)08rev.
- 5.2 La représentante des Etats-Unis a souligné qu'il a été déterminé qu'un petit nombre des échantillons de 2006 – 2011 de la pêche du Labrador est originaire des Etats-Unis et qu'ils venaient de la région Nord. En réponse à ces prises de 2006 - 2011, la pêche a été déplacée à l'intérieur des terres pour tenter d'éviter davantage d'interactions avec les poissons originaires des Etats-Unis. Compte tenu de la présence de deux poissons originaires des Etats-Unis dans l'échantillonnage de 2017, la représentante des Etats-Unis a demandé quelles mesures de gestion pourraient être mises en place pour minimiser à l'avenir les prises de poisson originaire des Etats-Unis dans la région Sud. La représentante du CIEM a noté que les poissons originaires des Etats-Unis étaient pris dans la pêche autochtone de la région Sud et que les prises étaient séparées dans le temps si bien qu'une approche de gestion saisonnière ne risque pas de régler le problème. La représentante du CIEM a suggéré que déplacer géographiquement les

filets de pêche réduirait efficacement le risque de prise de poisson originaire des Etats-Unis. Le représentant du Canada a noté que, en s'appuyant sur le reporting, ils ont identifié le pêcheur dont les filets ont attrapé le poisson originaire des Etats-Unis et qu'ils allaient s'efforcer avec le pêcheur, de déplacer les filets plus près de la côte afin d'éviter ces poissons et améliorer le suivi de la pêcherie.

- 5.3 Le représentant des ONGs a exprimé leur inquiétude que l'échantillonnage de la pêcherie du Labrador puisse ne pas être approprié et que des efforts d'échantillonnage plus intensifs pourraient révéler un plus grand nombre de poissons originaires des Etats-Unis ou de poisson originaire d'ailleurs. Il a aussi noté que le régime d'échantillonnage au Labrador, qui s'élève à 3% à 5% de la pêcherie alimentaire aborigène, est un régime faible par rapport à d'autres régimes. Près de 20% des prises sont par exemple échantillonnées au Groenland et 12% à St Pierre et Miquelon. La représentante du CIEM a répondu qu'un échantillonnage plus important dans la pêcherie du Labrador serait bénéfique, en particulier dans la région Nord.
- 5.4 Le représentant des ONGs a noté que le compte rendu du CIEM indique que les trois rivières contrôlées dans le SFA2 du Sud du Labrador sont en deçà de leurs limites de conservation, et que l'une d'entre elle est considérablement en deçà. Il a fait part de l'inquiétude concernant la poursuite de la pêcherie de stocks mixtes dans la région Sud compte tenu de leur statut en termes de conservation, et des poissons originaires des Etats-Unis pris dans cette région.

6. Pêcheries de stocks mixtes menées par des Membres de la Commission

- 6.1 Selon le '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, il était convenu qu'il devrait y avoir des points d'ordre du jour dans chacune des Commissions pour permettre de se concentrer sur les pêcheries de stocks mixtes.
- 6.2 Le représentant du Canada a présenté le document NAC(18)04, décrivant la Pêcherie alimentaire de subsistance du Labrador, y compris des informations sur la gestion, le statut des stocks, les données relatives aux prises les plus récentes et le programme d'échantillonnage, ainsi que l'origine et la composition des prises.
- 6.3 Le représentant des ONGs a noté que la pêcherie côtière du Sud du Labrador, visant les stocks mixtes, a augmenté avec le temps, et que le tonnage de la pêcherie côtière de 2017 (9.1 tonnes) est le plus élevé enregistré à ce jour. Le représentant des ONGs a noté son inquiétude que certains des stocks pris dans la pêcherie côtière n'atteignent pas leurs limites de conservation et a demandé au représentant canadien ce que le gouvernement comptait y faire. Le représentant du Canada a indiqué que le Canada allait continuer de travailler avec les groupes autochtones du Labrador via le processus de négociation annuel sur les pêcheries alimentaires, sociales et rituelles pour établir des moyens de réduire la quantité d'activité côtière et de compenser l'interception de poisson non-originaire du Labrador / Canada, et que des discussions se poursuivent pour envisager de déplacer une partie de l'activité de pêcherie de la côte vers le lac Melville. Il a aussi noté qu'un financement supplémentaire a été fourni au Conseil communautaire NunatuKavut pour améliorer l'échantillonnage de sa pêcherie alimentaire, sociale et rituelle en 2018.

7. Echantillonnage de la pêche de Labrador

- 7.1 Le Président a noté que les informations relatives au programme d'échantillonnage avaient été fournies aussi bien dans le rapport du CIEM que dans le document NAC(18)04.
- 7.2 La représentante des Etats-Unis a noté les inquiétudes relatives à l'impact de la pêche de Labrador sur le saumon originaire des Etats-Unis. Elle a dit apprécier le caractère détaillé du rapport sur l'échantillonnage et a remercié le Canada d'avoir identifié la cause des prises de poisson originaire des Etats-Unis. Elle a reconnu l'engagement du Canada pour prendre des mesures de lutte contre les risques auxquels fait face le saumon originaire des Etats-Unis. Elle a demandé au représentant du Canada comment le Canada prévoyait de traiter les recommandations du CIEM pour améliorer l'échantillonnage dans la pêche de Labrador. Le représentant du Canada a noté que l'échantillonnage est effectué par les membres et les responsables de la communauté et que l'échantillonnage est réparti dans différentes zones de pêche. Il a noté que le Canada étudiait comment améliorer l'échantillonnage dans l'espace et le temps, mais n'avait pas de suggestions spécifiques à ce stade.

8. Pêche de saumon à St Pierre et Miquelon

- 8.1 Le Président a renvoyé la Commission au document du Conseil CNL(18)17, qui contient des informations sur la gestion et l'échantillonnage de la pêche au saumon de St Pierre et Miquelon et a demandé à la représentante de la France (pour Saint Pierre et Miquelon) de fournir un aperçu du rapport.
- 8.2 La représentante de la France (pour Saint Pierre et Miquelon) a présenté le rapport, notant qu'une limite de 80 permis de pêche récréative a été fixée et que la saison de pêche a été raccourcie et prend fin le 21 juillet. Elle a noté que le nombre de permis professionnels est stable et s'élève à huit. Elle a noté que la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a réfléchi à la lettre de l'OCSAN demandant qu'elle se joigne à l'OCSAN et que la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) ne s'attacherait pas à devenir membre à ce stade. La représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a noté que les prises sont rapportées à 2,8 tonnes métriques et qu'il est difficile d'évaluer la quantité des prises non-déclarées. Elle a aussi noté que le saumon a été échantillonné en 2017.
- 8.3 La représentante des Etats-Unis a déclaré apprécier la lettre envoyée par la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) en réponse à la lettre de l'OCSAN. La France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) s'est, dans cette récente lettre, engagée en déclarant qu'elle considérerait les recommandations de l'OCSAN concernant les prises dans sa pêche. La représentante des Etats-Unis a demandé que cette déclaration soit clarifiée. En particulier elle a demandé à la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) de fournir des informations sur les étapes prises ou à prendre concernant la gestion de la pêche de St Pierre et Miquelon envisagées par la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) en réponse à l'OCSAN. Elle a noté que si l'OCSAN a manqué de clarté sur un point quel qu'il soit, une clarification pouvait être fournie. La représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a indiqué qu'une limite sur le nombre de permis de pêche professionnels serait fixée à neuf et que le nombre des permis de pêche récréative qui est actuellement de quatre-vingt serait réduit progressivement. Elle a expliqué que les permis étaient retenus pour la durée de vie d'un pêcheur, après quoi il est suggéré que des permis ne seraient pas délivrés à d'autres pêcheurs.

- 8.4 Le représentant du Canada a noté qu'il n'existait pas de limites sur le nombre de saumons pouvant être conservés par les pêcheurs récréatifs et que le rapport postule qu'un pêcheur a conservé plus de 80 saumons. Le représentant a demandé si la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a envisagé de fixer des limites sur le nombre de saumons pouvant être conservés par un pêcheur. La représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a noté qu'il existe des limites relatives à la taille des mailles et à la taille des filets qui pourraient être employées de même qu'une limite sur la durée de la saison de pêche.
- 8.5 La représentante des Etats-Unis a exhorté la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) d'envisager à nouveau de se joindre à l'OCSAN, l'organisation internationale compétente pour la gestion rationnelle du saumon Atlantique compte tenu en particulier de la pêcherie interceptrice de stocks mixtes car il est connu que celle-ci prend des stocks très variés, y compris des stocks identifiés par le CIEM comme souffrant d'une capacité reproductive réduite.
- 8.6 Le représentant des ONGs a présenté des exemples d'autres juridictions limitant le nombre de saumon pouvant être conservés par les pêcheurs récréatifs et a exhorté la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) d'envisager la mise en place d'une limite du nombre de saumons pouvant être conservés. La représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a indiqué que des discussions se poursuivent pour étudier une limite du nombre des poissons pouvant être pris dans la pêcherie mais que ces discussions n'avaient pas encore tiré de conclusion.

9. Introductions et transferts de salmonidés

- 9.1 En 2010, la Commission avait adopté des recommandations découlant de la 'Revue de la Base de données sur les Introductions et transferts de la CNA et le Groupe de travail scientifique', NAC(10)6. Les Parties ont convenu (1) qu'une base de données internationale détaillée n'était plus nécessaire; (2) que les Parties devraient fournir des rapports annuels ciblés à la Commission sur les questions qui les concernent mutuellement y compris les cas de maladies chez les salmonidés, les ruptures de confinement, les introductions venant de l'extérieur de la zone de la Commission et la transgénique; (3) nomination d'experts qui pourraient travailler à l'identification de mécanismes de priorité et exigences en matière d'échange d'informations sur les questions de santé des poissons; et (4) que des révisions mineures devraient être effectuées sur les Protocoles CNA relatifs aux Introductions et aux Transferts de Salmonidés pour refléter le nouveau mécanisme d'échange d'information.
- 9.2 Le représentant du Canada a présenté le rapport annuel du Canada, le NAC(18)03. La représentante des Etats-Unis a remercié le Canada pour leur rapport clair et complet et a dit apprécier l'occasion de partage d'informations à travers le processus des rapports.
- 9.3 La représentante des Etats-Unis a présenté le Rapport annuel des Etats-Unis, le NAC(18)05. Le représentant du Canada a remercié les Etats-Unis pour leur rapport détaillé.
- 9.4 Le représentant des ONGs a noté que la Fédération du saumon atlantique a effectué un suivi de la passe migratoire de la rivière Magaguadavic dans le Nouveau Brunswick depuis plus de 20 ans et que la rivière soutenait autrefois le retour de plus de 1000 saumons. En 2017, aucun saumons sauvages ne sont retournés à la rivière mais 17 saumons d'élevage ont été enregistrés sur une courte période en septembre et un certain nombre de saumons d'élevage ont aussi été détectés à quelques barrières de dénombrement dans le Sud de Terre-Neuve. Il a noté que les années précédentes la

documentation de 17 saumons échappés dans la rivière Magaguadavic aurait suivi un événement de fuite rapportable dans la Baie de Fundy. Il a noté que le tableau figurant dans le NAC(18)03 n'inclut aucun rapport à un événement de fuite du Nouveau Brunswick ou de Terre-Neuve. Il a demandé ce qu'il en est de la qualité des rapports du secteur et pourquoi le NAC(18)03 n'inclut pas d'événement de fuite rapportable pour le Nouveau Brunswick qui correspondrait au saumon d'élevage observé dans la rivière Magaguadavic en 2017. Le représentant canadien a répondu en indiquant que des enquêtes sur la qualité des rapports du secteur devraient être demandées au secteur. Il a aussi noté que le MPO est informé des observations de fuite de saumon d'élevage dans la rivière Magaguadavic et dans Terre-Neuve. Le MPO travaille avec le Comité de liaison sur le confinement de l'aquaculture du Nouveau Brunswick qui inclut la Région Maritimes de MPO, les responsables provinciaux du Nouveau Brunswick, la Fédération du saumon atlantique, l'Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association, la Sentinelle de la baie de Fundy et le Conseil du saumon atlantique du Nouveau Brunswick sur l'amélioration à venir des alternatives de gestion. Il a aussi noté qu'en vertu de la législation et du code de confinement du Nouveau Brunswick, il n'est pas obligatoire de rapporter les fuites enregistrées de moins de 100 poissons et qu'un niveau aussi faible de fuite peut avoir pour origine l'observation de fuite de saumon d'élevage dans certaines rivières.

10. Annonce du gagnant du prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes

- 10.1 Le Président a annoncé que le gagnant du prix de £1,000 du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes de l'OCSAN était M. Tim Doherty, Nouveau Brunswick, Canada. Le saumon a été pris au filet trappe dans l'estuaire 'Cassilis' dans la rivière Miramichi Nord-Ouest, opéré par Pêches et Océans Canada, dans le cadre du programme d'évaluation du saumon atlantique dans la rivière Miramichi. Le poisson a été capturé au filet trappe le 14 octobre 2016, mesuré, étiqueté avec une étiquette Carlin bleu clair puis relâché dans la rivière. Il a été recapturé 6 mois plus tard, le 22 avril 2017 pendant la saison de pêche au saumon de printemps dans la rivière Miramichi Nord-Ouest. La Commission a présenté ses félicitations au gagnant.

11. Recommandations au Conseil concernant la demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM

- 11.1 La demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM préparée par le Comité scientifique permanent concernant la zone de la Commission nord-américaine a été acceptée par le Conseil, CNL(18)11 (Annexe 5).

12. Divers

- 12.1 Aucune autre question n'a été soulevée.

13. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

- 13.1 La prochaine session annuelle de la Commission aura lieu à la même date et au même lieu que la trente-sixième session annuelle de l'OCSAN.

14. Compte rendu de la session

- 14.1 La Commission a accepté un compte rendu de la session.

15. Clôture de la session

15.1 Le Président a remercié les Parties et observateurs pour leurs contributions et a clôturé la trente-cinquième session annuelle de la Commission nord-américaine.

Note: une liste des articles de la Commission nord-américaine est incluse en Annexe 6.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1 Opening Statement to the North American Commission by the United States
- Annex 2 List of Participants at the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO
- Annex 3 Agenda, NAC(18)06
- Annex 4 Presentation of the ICES Advice for the North American Salmon Stocks NAC(18)09
- Annex 5 Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, CNL(18)11
- Annex 6 List of North American Commission Papers

*Opening Statement by the United States of America to the
North American Commission*

Chair McLean, Secretary Hatfield, Assistant Secretary Robinson, distinguished delegates, ladies, and gentlemen:

We would like to welcome you to the great state of Maine as we begin our work together in the North American Commission this week. The United States values the collaboration with Canada in seeking to attain our collective goal of conservation of wild Atlantic salmon under the Convention.

We appreciate the opportunity for the dialog with Canada in relation to some challenging issues such as mixed-stock fisheries and introductions and transfers. We also look forward to the continued collaboration with France (in respect of St. Pierre et Miquelon).

Thank you.

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* Denotes Head of Delegation

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NAC(18)06

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Election of Officers
5. Review of the 2017 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
6. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
7. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery
8. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery
9. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers
10. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
11. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
12. Other Business
13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
14. Report of the Meeting
15. Close of the Meeting

sal.21.nac

Atlantic salmon from North America

Annex 4



Science for sustainable seas

Terms of Reference



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

3.1 describe the key events of the 2017 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon);

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;

3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2018-2021 with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding; and

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

3.1 Key Events 2017 Fisheries: Catch



- | | <u>Reported</u> | <u>Unreported</u> |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Canada: | 112 t (8% coastal) | 25 t |
| • Saint Pierre and Miquelon (France): | 3 t (100% coastal) | - |
| • USA: | 0 t | 0 t |

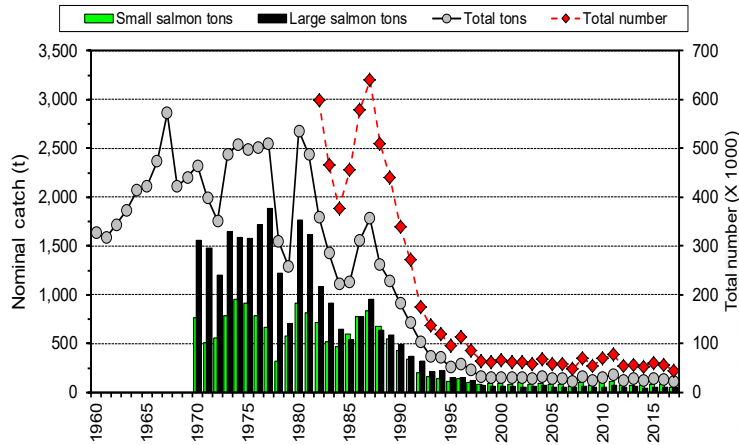
Sal.21.nac: Table 1

	Canada					St Pierre & Miquelon (SPM)	USA	North America
	Commercial	Indigenous (FSC)	Labrador Resident	Recreational	Total			
2017 reported harvests (t)	0	61	2	49	112	3	0	115
% of NAC total	-	53	1	43	98	2	0	100
Unreported catch (t)	25					na	0	25
Location of catches								
% in-river	62					0	-	61
% in estuaries	30					0	-	29
% coastal	8					100	-	10

3.1 Key Events 2017 Fisheries: Canada



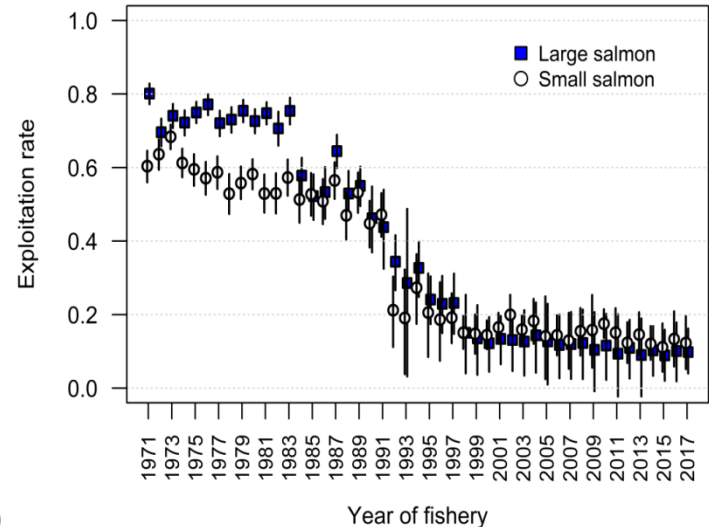
- Total Catch (harvest; t) Canada 1960-2017 (sal.21.nac: Figure 1)
 - 112 t: 32 439 small (55 t) and 11 578 large (57 t)



- Recreational Fisheries (49 t, 43% Total Catch)
 - Recreational Harvest: 24 987 salmon
 - Catch and Release: 49 513 salmon (67% Recreational Catch)

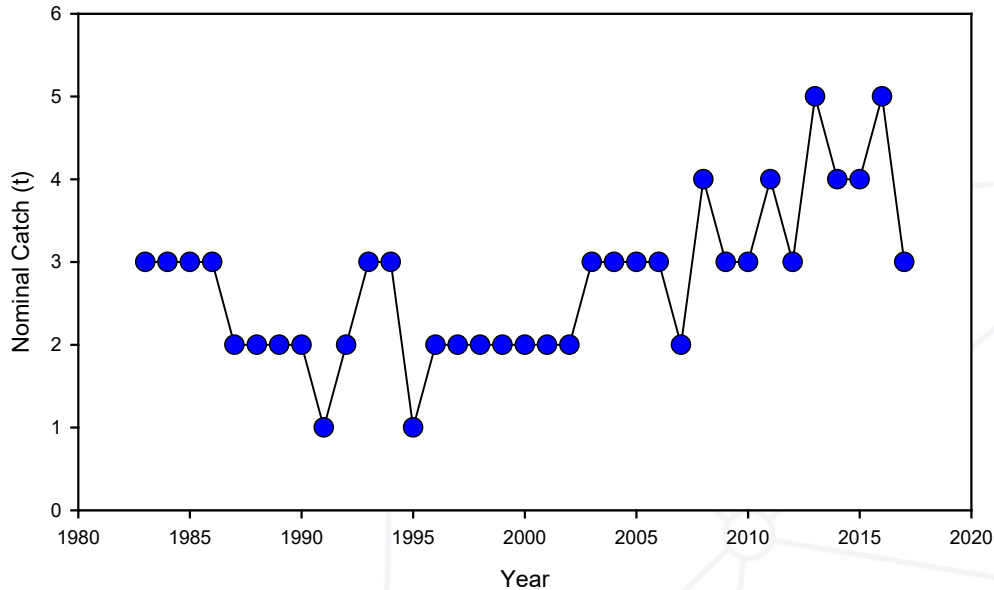
- Exploitation Rates 1971-2017 (sal.21.nac: Figure 3)

- currently lowest in time period



3.1 Key Events 2017 Fisheries: Saint Pierre & Miquelon (SPM)

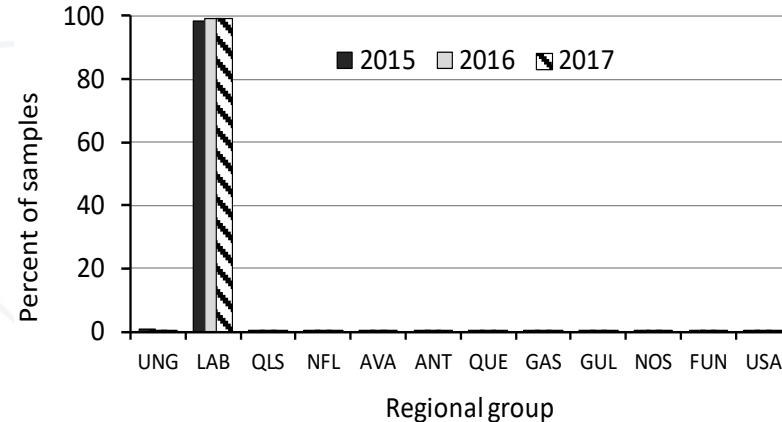
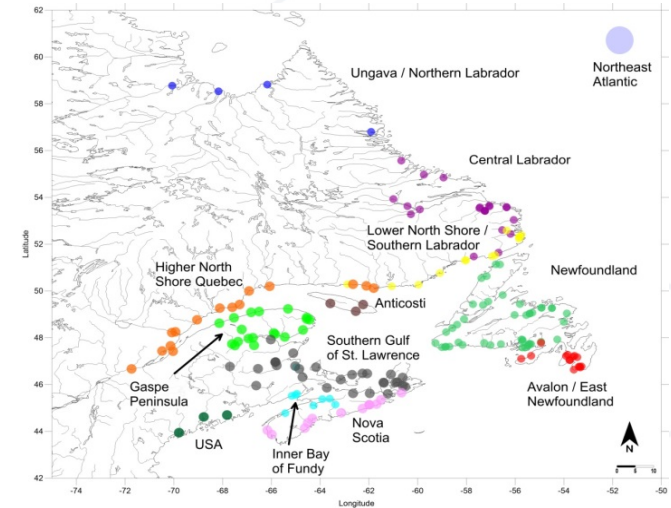
- Saint Pierre and Miquelon catches increased over time
- 2017 reported catch of 3 t less than previous 5 year mean of 4.2 t (2012-2016)



3.1 Key Events 2017 Fisheries: Origin and Composition of Catches

Labrador Subsistence Fisheries (sal.21.nac: Figure 5)

- 2015 to 2017: 1486 samples (3% to 5% of harvest)
- 98.9% Labrador origin (LAB)
- 2017: 2 of 180 samples assigned to the USA (estimated harvest of 41 salmon)
- No USA salmon 2012 to 2016 analyses
- 4 USA were reported between 2006 to 2011

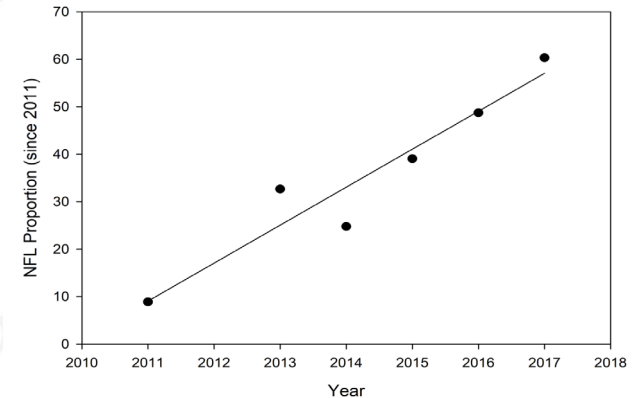
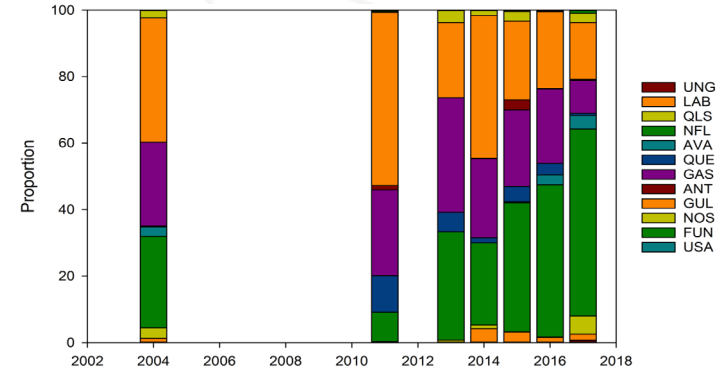


3.1 Key Events 2017 Fisheries: Origin and Composition of Catches



Saint Pierre and Miquelon Fishery (sal.21.nac: Figure 6)

- 2015 to 2017: 398 samples
- Samples dominated by small salmon (< 63 cm)
- 83-89% assigned to 3 reporting regions
 - Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (GUL)
 - Gaspé Peninsula (GAS)
 - Newfoundland (NFL)
- 2013 and 2014 dominated by large salmon
- Increase in small salmon samples in most recent years corresponds to an increase in Newfoundland assignment
- No information on size of salmon (e.g. proportion small and large) in the total harvest to determine if tissue samples representative of the catch



3.2 Stock Conservation Limits (CLs)

- sal.21.nac: Table 3, Figure 7

Number of Rivers

Canada

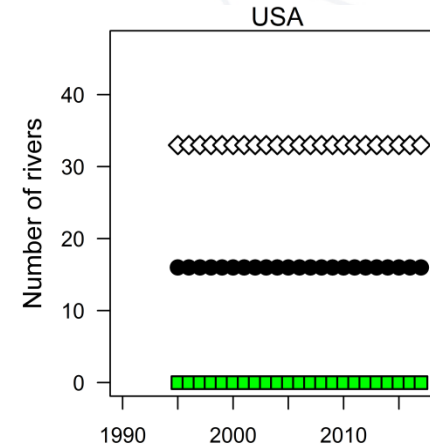
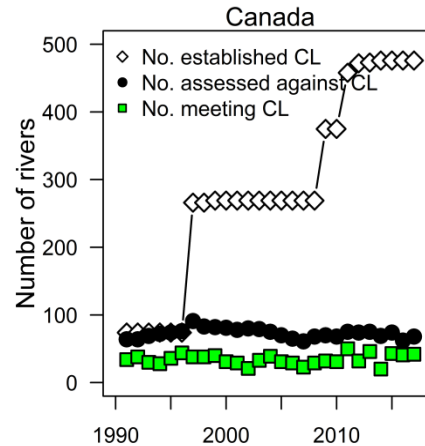
1991 – 74

1997 – 266

2014-2017 – 476

USA

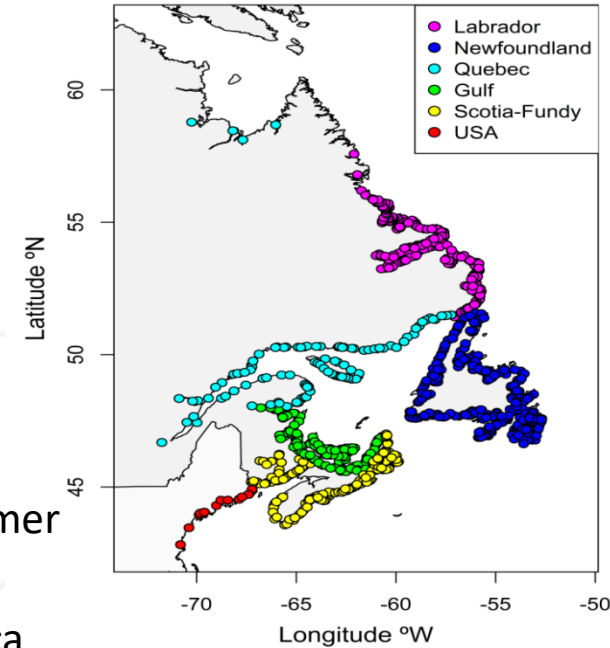
Since 1995 – 33



Country and Commission Area	Assessment regional group	2SW conservation limit (number of fish)	Management objective (number of fish)
Canada	Labrador	34 746	
	Newfoundland	4 022	
	Gulf of St. Lawrence	30 430	
	Quebec	29 446	
	Scotia-Fundy	24 705	10 976
	Total	123 349	
USA		29 199	4 549
North American Commission		152 548	

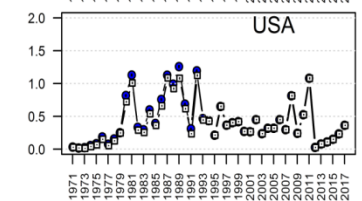
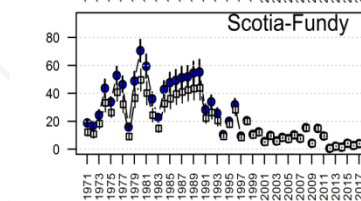
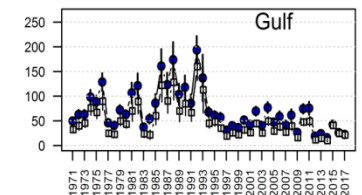
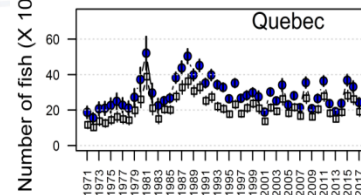
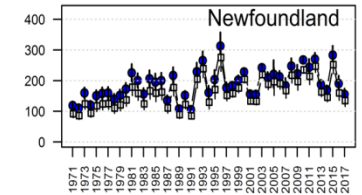
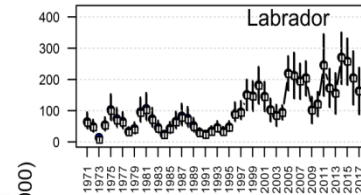
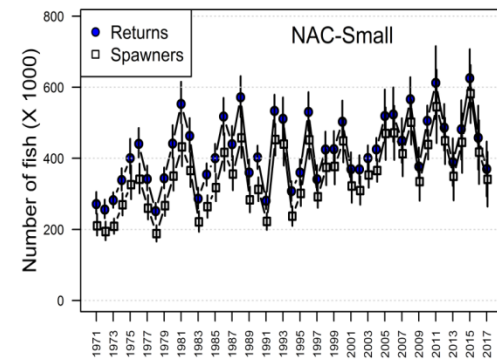
3.3 Status of Stocks

- Six regions and overall for North America (sal.21.nac: Figure 2)
- Size groups:
 - small (1SW)
 - large (MSW and repeat spawners)
 - 2SW salmon (a subset of large)
- Returns: include fish caught by homewater commercial fisheries, except Newfoundland and Labrador
- Pre-fishery abundance (PFA; recruitment):
 - Non-maturing 1SW salmon on August 1st of the second summer at sea (i.e. destined 2SW returns)
 - Accounts for returns to rivers, fisheries at sea in North America, fisheries at West Greenland, and natural mortality



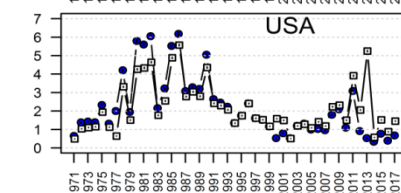
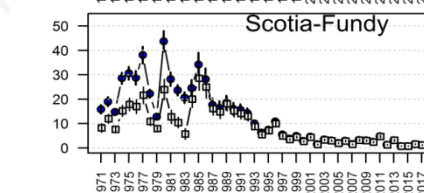
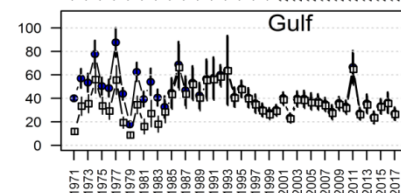
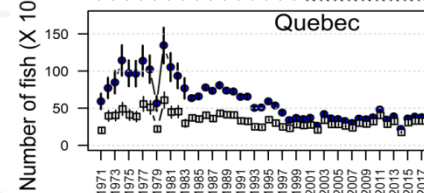
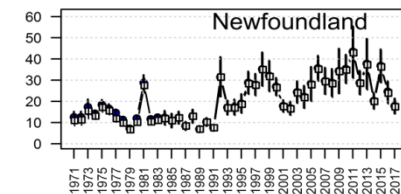
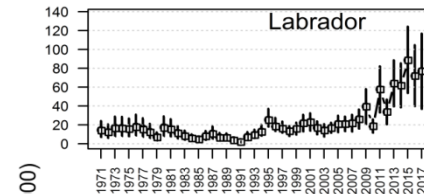
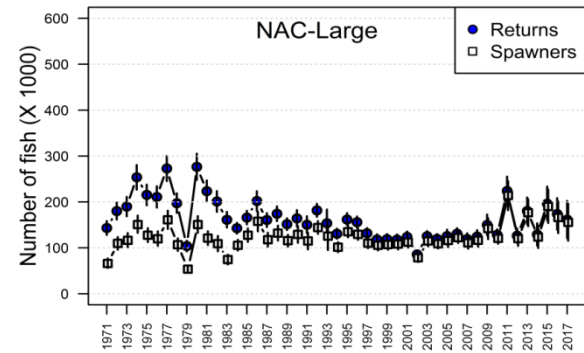
3.3 Status of Stocks: Small Returns

- Small salmon returns to North America in 2017 (sal.21.nac: Figure 8)
 - 370 000 small salmon
 - 19% lower than 2016
 - lower range of the 48 year time series
 - four of the six geographical regions declined from 2016
 - Labrador and Newfoundland combined represent 86% of the 2017 total small salmon returns to North America



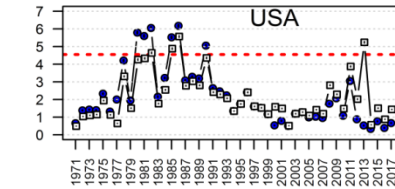
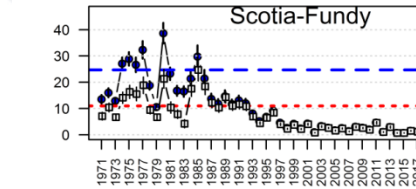
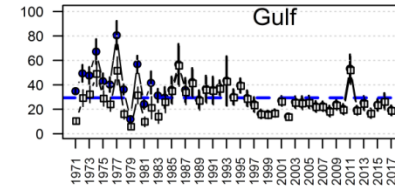
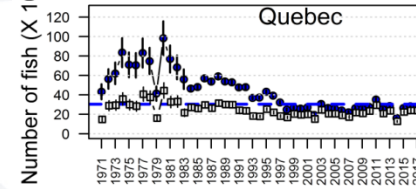
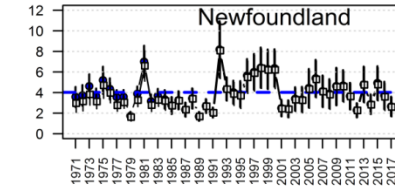
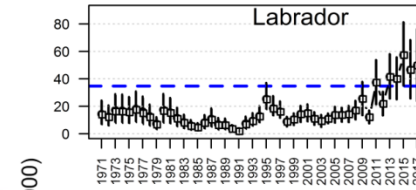
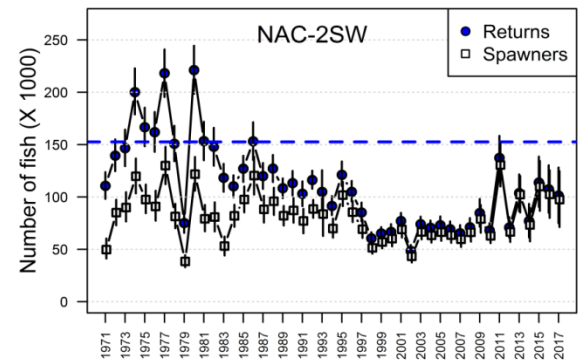
3.3 Status of Stocks: Large Returns

- Large salmon returns to North America in 2017 (sal.21.nac: Figure 9)
 - 161 500 large salmon
 - 7% lower than 2016
 - mid-range of the 48 year time series
 - four of the six geographical regions declined from 2016
 - Labrador, Québec and Gulf combined represent 88% of the 2017 total large salmon returns to North America



3.3 Status of Stocks: 2SW Returns

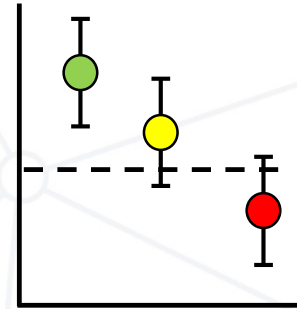
- 2SW salmon returns to North America in 2017 (sal.21.nac: Figure 10)
 - 101 350 2SW salmon
 - 6% lower than 2016
 - four of the six geographical regions declined from 2016
 - among lowest on record with the exception of Labrador
 - Labrador, Québec and Gulf combined represent 96% of the 2017 total 2SW salmon returns to North America



3.3 Status of Stocks: Reference Points

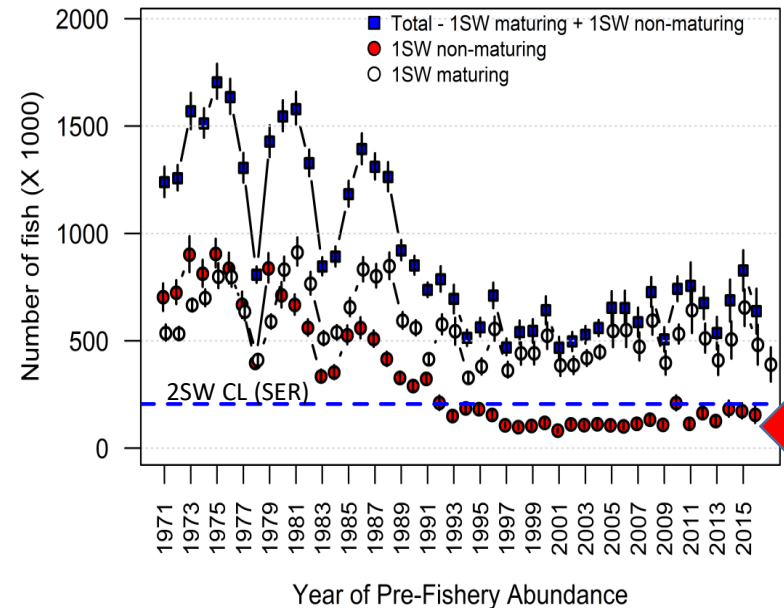
Risk Assessment Framework

- Full Reproductive Capacity :
 - lower bound of the 90% confidence interval of the estimate above reference point
 - equivalent to a probability of at least 95% of meeting reference point
- At Risk of Suffering Reduced Reproductive Capacity:
 - lower bound of the confidence interval is below reference point, but the midpoint is above
- Suffering Reduced Reproductive Capacity:
 - midpoint is below reference point



3.3 Status of Stocks: Pre-Fishery Abundance (PFA)

- Number of 1SW salmon on 1 August of the second summer at sea (sal.21.nac: Figure 11)
 - 1 SW non-maturing
 - 1SW maturing
- Estimates of recruitment (PFA) suggest continued low abundance of North American salmon (suffering reduced reproductive capacity)
- Recruitment of the 1SW cohort for the 2016 PFA year was 638 250 fish; abundance declined by 63% over the time-series from peak in 1975 of 1 705 000 fish.



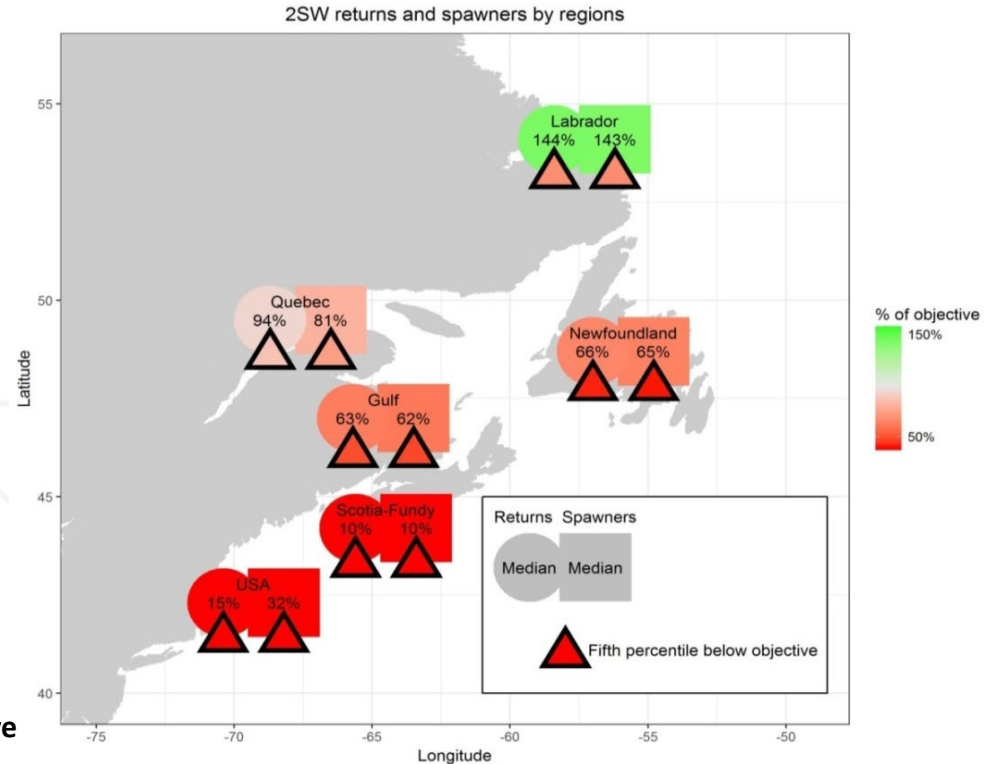
3.3 Status of Stocks: By Region

- sal.21.nac: Figure 12
- 2017, 2SW median estimates of returns to rivers and spawners below CLs for all regions except Labrador, and are therefore suffering reduced reproductive capacity
- Labrador at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity
- Particularly large deficits relative to CLs and rebuilding/management objectives are noted for Scotia-Fundy and USA regions

> 100
Full reproductive capacity

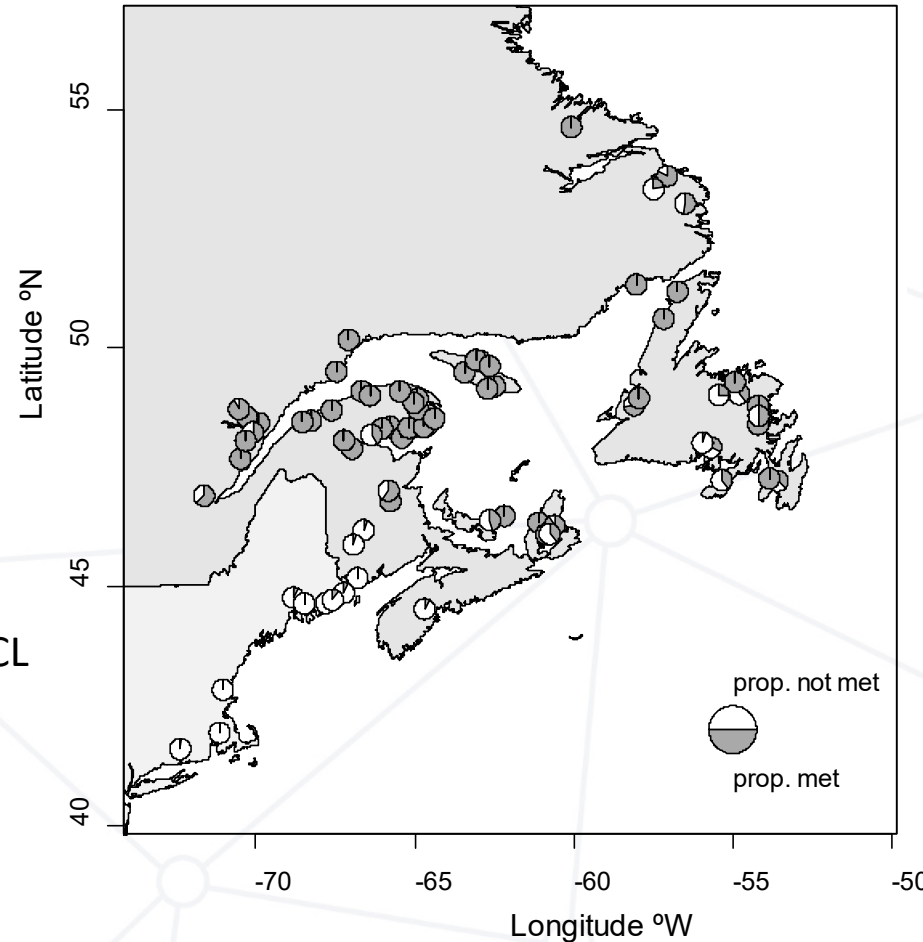
> 100
Risk suffering reduced reproductive capacity

< 100
Suffering reduced reproductive capacity



3.3 Status of Stocks: Proportion CL Attained

- sal.21.nac: Figure 13
- Egg depositions for 84 rivers in 2017
- 42 of 84 (50%) achieved or exceeded CLs
- 30 rivers achieved less than 50% CL
- Canada
 - rivers assessed annually ranged from 61 to 91
 - annual percentages of these rivers achieving CL ranged from 26% to 67% (62% in 2017)
 - no temporal trend (sal.21.nac: Figure 7)
- USA
 - None of the assessed rivers achieve CLs



3.3 Status of Stocks: Summary

- Despite major management changes and increasingly more restrictive fisheries, returns have remained near historical lows, except for returns to Labrador and Newfoundland
- All salmon populations within the USA and the Scotia-Fundy regions have been or are being considered for listing under country specific species at risk legislation
- Factors other than fisheries constraining production
- Declines in smolt production in some rivers of eastern Canada may also be contributing to lower adult abundance

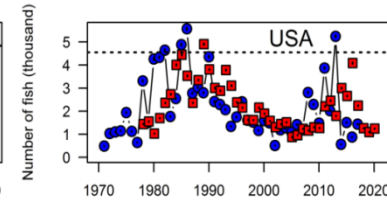
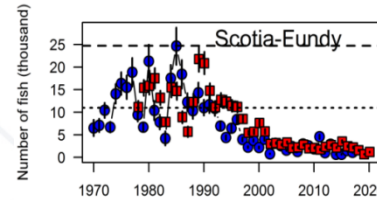
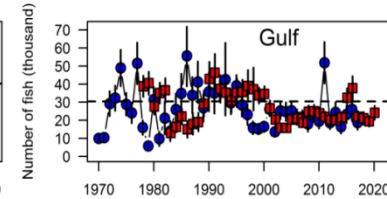
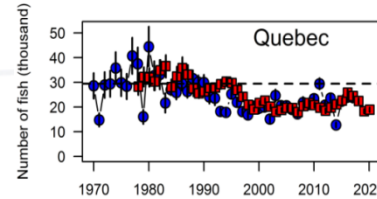
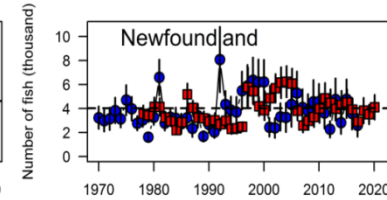
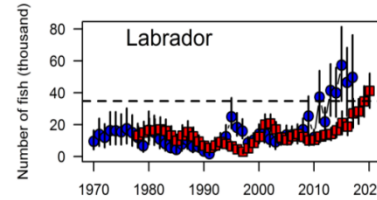
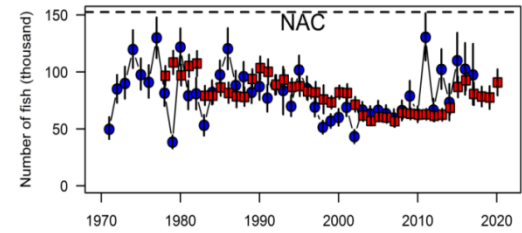
3.4 Catch Options: Multi-Year Catch Agreement 2015-2018

- NASCO 2015 multi-year regulatory agreement for the West Greenland salmon fishery (http://www.nasco.int/pdf/2015%20papers/WGC_15_21.pdf)
- 2018 is the third year and final year of this agreement
- A full assessment of stock status and catch advice was conducted to inform a potential new multi-year agreement

3.4 Forecast and Catch Options

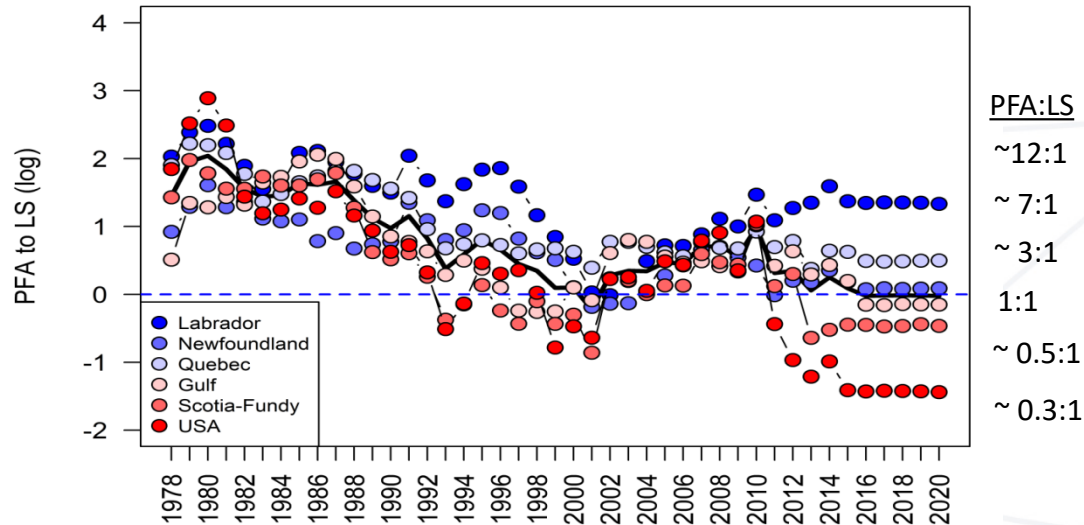
- Catch options for mixed-stock fisheries 2018-2021 provided for non-maturing 1SW and maturing 2SW
 - Maturing 1SW not fished outside homewaters
- 2SW Spawners and Lagged Spawners
 - sal.21.nac: Figure 14
 - 2SW Spawners (blue circle) – year of spawning
 - 2SW and Lagged Spawners (red square) – year of PFA

- - - - CL
 Management Objective



3.4 Catch Options

- Productivity coefficient (log of PFA to LS) 1978-2020 - sal.21.nac: Figure 15
 - negative productivity parameters (log scale) indicate that PFA is less than lagged spawners
 - salmon abundances in these regions are expected to continue to decline

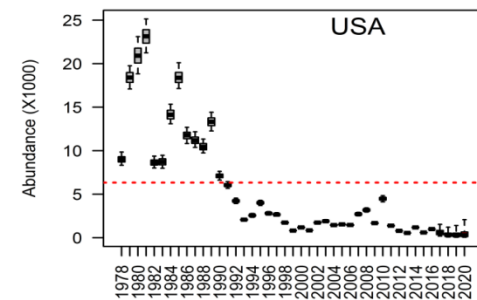
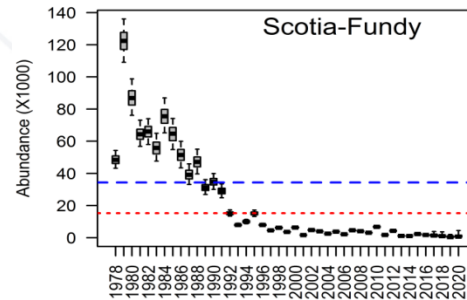
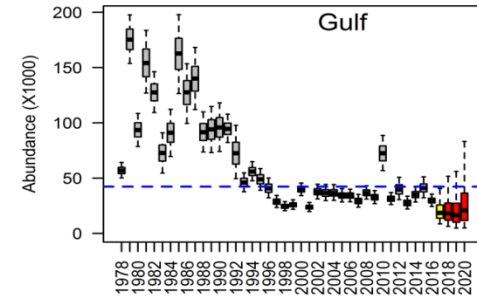
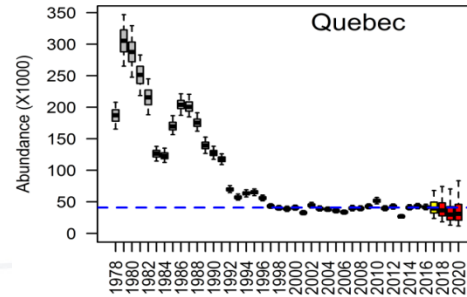
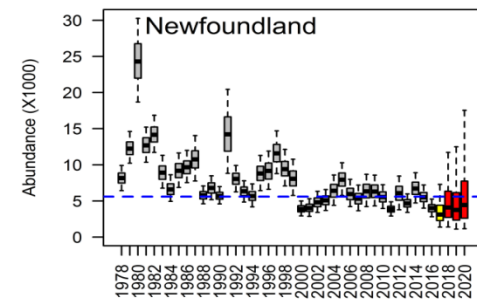
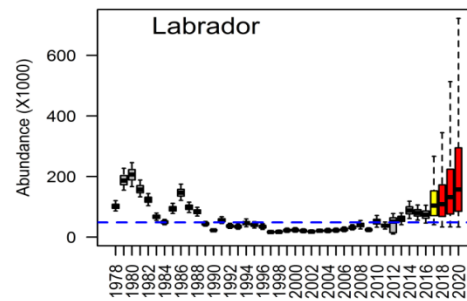


3.4 Catch Options: 2SW PFA

2SW PFA 2017-2020:
(sal.21.nac: Figure 16)

- Labrador – at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity
- All other regions suffering reduced reproductive capacity

--- CL (SER)
..... Management Objective



3.4 Catch Options

- All regions have less than 95% probability of achieving 2SW objective (CL or Management Objective)
- Probability of simultaneous attainment in any year is 0%
- Therefore, no mixed-stock fishery options on 1SW non-maturing salmon in the period 2018 to 2020 or 2SW salmon in the period 2018 to 2021

sal.21.nac: Table 4

Region	Region specific 2SW objective	Probability of meeting the 2SW objectives in the absence of fisheries for the 2SW return year			
		2018	2019	2020	2021
Labrador	34 746	0.826	0.871	0.888	0.898
Newfoundland	4 022	0.100	0.308	0.289	0.392
Quebec	29 446	0.391	0.387	0.271	0.316
Gulf	30 430	0.033	0.087	0.102	0.194
Scotia-Fundy	10 976	0.000	0.001	0.000	0.003
USA	4 549	0.000	0.001	0.002	0.006
Simultaneous to North America		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000

3.5 Framework of Indicators (FWI)

- FWI used in support of multi-annual catch options in the North American Commission and West Greenland Commission was updated in 2018
 - 21 indicator variables (e.g. marine survival and return rates)
 - 13 rivers
 - No indicator variables were retained for the Labrador or Newfoundland
- FWI can be applied for the next two years, in January 2019 and 2020, based on new assessment data in 2018 and 2019 (e.g. survival rate, returns) to evaluate the appropriateness of the advice

Relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs, and research requirements



- Complete and timely reporting of catch and effort data from all fisheries of eastern Canada
- Improved sampling of the Labrador and Saint Pierre and Miquelon fisheries
 - throughout the fishing season and in all areas to ensure representative of the entire catch
- Additional monitoring be considered in Labrador to estimate stock status for that region
 - Efforts should also be undertaken to evaluate the utility of other data sources (e.g. Indigenous and recreational catches and effort) to describe stock status in Labrador

(Full list in sal.oth.nasco: Section 1.5)



CNL(18)11

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES**1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:**

- 1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings by country, including unreported catches and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2018¹;
- 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 2018; and
- 1.4 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

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

- 2.1 describe the key events of the 2018 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 2019 / 2020 - 2021 / 2022 fishing seasons, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock 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 2018 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)³;
- 3.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
- 3.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;

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

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

- pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock 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 2018 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 2019-2021 with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock 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)
Birta í Dali (WGC, manager representative)
Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)
Martha Robertson (ICES representative, Observer)
Patrick Gargan (Coordinator)

NAC(18)00

List of North American Commission Papers

- NAC(18)00 List of North American Commission Papers
- NAC(18)01 Provisional Agenda
- NAC(18)02 Draft Agenda
- NAC(18)03 Annual Report (Tabled by Canada)
- NAC(18)04 Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed-Stock Fisheries Context (Tabled by Canada)
- NAC(18)05 Annual Report (Tabled by the United States)
- NAC(18)06 Agenda
- NAC(18)07 Draft Report of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
- NAC(18)08 Report of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
- NAC(18)09 Presentation of the ICES Advice for the North American Salmon Stocks