



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

**5 – 7 JUNE 2019**

**Tromsø, Norway**

Chair: Patrick Keliher (USA)  
Vice-Chair: Tony Blanchard (Canada)  
Rapporteur: John Burrows (USA)  
Secretary: Emma Hatfield

**NAC(19)09**

## NAC(19)09

### *Report of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization*

*Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway*

*5 – 7 June 2019*

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

- 1.1 In the absence of the Chair of the Commission, the Vice-Chair, Tony Blanchard (Canada), opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to Tromsø.
- 1.2 A written Opening Statement was tabled by Canada (Annex 1).
- 1.3 A list of participants at the Thirty-Sixth 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(19)06 (Annex 3).

#### **3. Nomination of a Rapporteur**

- 3.1 John Burrows (USA) was appointed as Rapporteur.

#### **4. Review of the 2018 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

- 4.1 A representative of ICES, Martha Robertson, presented the report from ICES on the status of salmon stocks in the Commission area. Her presentation is available as document NAC(19)07 (Annex 4). The ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM) report that contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions is available as document CNL(19)08.
- 4.2 The representative of the United States asked if ICES provides any guidance for what percentage of a harvest should be screened to accurately estimate region of origin contributions. Dr Robertson responded that there is currently no ICES guidance for determining the percentage of a fishery that should be sampled, but that the fisheries in question are sampled at a rate of up to 10%. She noted that beyond the percentage sampled, it is important to make sure that the sampling is distributed throughout the entire fishery in time and space. The representative of the United States noted that in the recent report, ICES states that approximately 4% of the Labrador fishery, 10% of the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery and 10% of the Greenland fishery were sampled in 2018. The representative of the United States asked if this was adequate for identifying rare event contributions and whether increasing the sample sizes analysed would be of benefit. Dr Robertson responded that in some cases, they get more samples than they can analyse and this was an issue of funding. She noted that the greater the number of samples and the more representative they are of the fishery in time and space, the more confident you can be that a rare event did or did not occur.
- 4.3 The representative of the NGOs stated his position that there is a need for some improvements in catch statistics. He expressed his appreciation for the work of ICES

and their recommendations. He also stated that he was going to raise similar questions to those of the representative of the United States.

- 4.4 The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) stated that there will be sampling for the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon for the entire 2019 season.

## **5. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission**

- 5.1 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 an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries.

- 5.2 The representative of Canada presented paper NAC(19)03, which provided a description of the Labrador Subsistence Food Fishery, including information related to management, stock status, recent catch data and the sampling programme, and the origin and composition of the catches.

- 5.3 The representative of the United States thanked Canada for its report and expressed appreciation for Canada's transparency on this issue. The representative of the United States stated that they continue to have concerns about any fishery that may intercept U.S.-origin fish. The United States appreciated Canada's continued efforts to reduce impacts on U.S.-origin salmon. The representative of the United States acknowledged that working in remote areas is difficult and noted the increase in logbook reporting in 2018. The representative of the United States asked if Canada felt whether or not the data from the logbooks that were returned adequately represent the total fishery. The representative of Canada stated that it is difficult to know what they do not know. The catch report for a community is adjusted to assign a catch for those individuals that did not report, so there is an incentive in local communities to report. Canada will try to improve communication about the importance and expectations of reporting within communities that did not have 100% reporting. The representative of the United States asked whether Canada was looking at ways to improve the overall reporting rate and the quality of the information provided. The representative of Canada stated that they would probably not be looking at new ways, but they would continue effort and pressure to increase the reporting rate from 78% to a higher level.

- 5.4 The representative of the NGOs noted that the approach in Canada was different than Greenland with respect to assigning a catch to those individuals that do not report their catch, based on the average catch of those that do report, and that this is a good approach that improves the accuracy of the value of reported catch. The representative of the NGOs asked for details of the specific reporting rates of the four subsistence fisheries in Labrador. The representative of Canada responded that the rate of reporting compliance of the four subsistence food fisheries ranged from 69% to 100% in 2018.

## **6. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery**

- 6.1 Information on the sampling programme had been provided in both the ICES report and document NAC(19)03.

- 6.2 The representative of Canada recognised the importance of a strong sampling programme and their commitment to expand and improve efforts to increase sampling.

- 6.3 The representative of the United States stated that ICES reported on the need to expand sampling spatially and temporally and asked if there was any progress made in this regard. The representative of Canada responded that it is difficult to have a sampling

requirement in terms of percentage of the catch, and it is important to get a representative sample of the fishery. The representative of Canada felt that the 2018 sampling was representative of size (i.e. small / large salmon) and noted that it is always a challenge to get the right coverage. More tissue samples are collected than are processed. Funding is secured for analysing samples and they are working to make sure the samples are representative of the fishery. The representative of Canada also noted that any U.S.-origin fish would likely be from the large landing category. They anticipate weekly updates with samplers and enhanced communication during the sampling programme to help ensure appropriate temporal and spatial coverage. The representative of the United States thanked Canada for their efforts on this issue.

- 6.4 The representative of the NGOs expressed appreciation for the questions from the United States and the response from Canada.

## **7. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

- 7.1 The Vice-Chair referred the Commission to Council document CNL(19)19, 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.

- 7.2 The representative of Canada asked if there was an explanation for the reduction in harvest in 2018 compared to 2017. The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) responded that some professional fishers were engaged in fishing for other species and therefore there was limited effort for salmon. For the recreational fishery, temperature and weather had been poor and the abundance of salmon low, which reduced fishing efforts in this segment.

- 7.3 The representative of the United States encouraged the representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to reconsider joining NASCO and she urged that sampling be improved as much as possible to ensure it is as representative of the fishery as possible. The representative of the United States requested that further information be provided in future reports, such as detailed statistics on catch and sample characteristics, to allow ICES and NASCO to better characterise the impact of the fishery on contributing stocks.

## **8. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers**

- 8.1 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.

- 8.2 The Vice-Chair noted that the members had tabled annual reports (NAC(19)04 and NAC(19)05) and suggested that in the interest of time the members might forego presenting the reports and pose questions on the reports if there were any. The members agreed to this approach.

- 8.3 The representative of the United States noted that the report from Canada did not

include information on the Placentia Bay / Greig Project but should have given the relevance of this project to the work of the NAC, and NASCO more generally, given the terms of the Williamsburg Resolution and the NAC protocols and, particularly, the proposal to use non-North American strain salmon for a large sea-based aquaculture project. The representative of the United States noted their understanding that there is not 100% effectiveness when developing triploid fish and that when triploid fish are used in other sensitive areas, typically there are monitoring and verification / quality control procedures in place. She asked whether Canada has established a threshold percentage of triploidy for fish to be stocked at this project.

- 8.4 The representative of Canada responded that the sites are still undergoing review, so there have been no introductions yet, and that he anticipates more than 99% triploidy. The representative of the United States reiterated that there is still a concern about the possible negative effects on U.S.-origin salmon if fish are used in sea cages in Canada that are not 100% triploid and there is a breach of containment. She asked if Canada has plans for developing a triploid threshold percentage. The representative of Canada responded that he would need to confirm the establishment of any threshold with the provincial government responsible for permitting.
- 8.5 The representative of the United States asked if Canada has performed a risk assessment for the potential escape of non-triploid fish from these cages and the impact to wild populations. The representative of Canada responded that they had done a full CSAS (Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat) review and concluded that the project was very low risk and the report was recently made available on the Fisheries and Oceans Canada website.
- 8.6 The representative of the NGOs asked if the Canadian government had considered next steps if the planned stocking of triploid fish did not perform well and enquired about the process that would occur if the company wished to switch to diploid salmon. The representative of Canada responded that they had completed a full peer-review analysis on the use of triploid fish and are very comfortable with their use. The representative of Canada further noted that the project will be licensed for triploid-fish production, and that any proposed change away from using triploid fish would need to be reassessed by the provincial Government.

## **9. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize**

- 9.1 The Vice-Chair announced that the winner of the North American Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Andrew Mason, New Brunswick, Canada. The winning tag was applied to a large female salmon with a fork length of 69.4 cm returning to the Miramichi River in 2018. It was tagged on 20 June 2018 at the trap net in Millerton operated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada as part of the assessment programme for Atlantic salmon in the Miramichi River. It was recaptured 2 months later on 23 August 2018, in the Cains River, at the mouth of Salmon Brook. It was subsequently released by the angler as there were mandatory catch and release measures in place on the Southwest Miramichi River. The Commission offered its congratulations to the winner.

## **10. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice**

- 10.1 The North American Commission made no recommendations to the Council and deferred any recommendations to the Council as the necessary information was not available at the time of the Commission meeting.

10.2 The request to ICES, as agreed by the Council, is contained in document CNL(19)11 (Annex 5).

**11. Other Business**

11.1 There was no other business.

**12. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

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

**13. Report of the Meeting**

13.1 The Commission agreed its report of the Meeting.

**14. Close of the Meeting**

14.1 The Vice-Chair thanked the Parties and observers for their contributions and closed the Thirty-Sixth 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(19)09

### *Compte rendu de la trente-sixième session annuelle de la Commission Nord-Américaine 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**

- 1.1 En l'absence du Président de la Commission; le Vice-Président, Tony Blanchard (Canada), a ouvert la session et accueilli les délégués à Tromsø.
- 1.2 Une déclaration d'ouverture écrite a été présentée par le Canada (Annexe 1).
- 1.3 Une liste de participants aux trente-sixièmes sessions annuelles du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN est incluse en Annexe 2.

#### **2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour**

- 2.1 La Commission a adopté son ordre du jour, NAC(19)06 (Annexe 3).

#### **3. Nomination d'un rapporteur**

- 3.1 John Burrows (États-Unis) a été nommé rapporteur.

#### **4. Examen de la pêche de 2018 et du rapport du Comité Consultatif (ACOM) du CIEM sur les stocks de saumons dans la zone de la Commission**

- 4.1 Une représentante du CIEM, 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(19)07 (Annexe 4). Le rapport du Comité consultatif (ACOM) du CIEM qui contient les conseils scientifiques pertinents pour toutes les Commissions est disponible dans le document CNL(19)08.
- 4.2 La représentante des États-Unis a demandé si le CIEM donnait des indications sur le pourcentage de prises à analyser afin d'estimer avec exactitude les régions d'origine contributrices. Le Dr Robertson a répondu qu'il n'existait actuellement aucune directive du CIEM pour déterminer le pourcentage d'une pêche à échantillonner, mais que les pêcheries concernées étaient échantillonnées à un taux pouvant atteindre 10%. Elle a noté qu'au-delà du pourcentage échantillonné, il est important de s'assurer que l'échantillonnage est réparti dans toute la pêche dans le temps et dans l'espace. La représentante des États-Unis a noté que, selon le récent rapport du CIEM, environ 4% de la pêche au Labrador, 10% de la pêche à Saint Pierre et Miquelon et 10% de la pêche au Groenland avaient été échantillonnées en 2018. La représentante des États-Unis a demandé si cela était suffisant pour identifier les contributions des événements rares et si l'augmentation de la taille des échantillons analysés serait avantageuse. Le Dr Robertson a répondu que dans certains cas, ils obtenaient plus d'échantillons qu'ils ne pouvaient en analyser, et que cela était une question de financement. Elle a noté que plus le nombre d'échantillons est grand et plus ils sont représentatifs de la pêche dans

le temps et dans l'espace, plus vous pouvez être sûr qu'un événement rare s'est produit ou non.

- 4.3 Le représentant des ONGs a déclaré qu'il estimait nécessaire d'améliorer certaines statistiques sur les prises. Il a déclaré apprécier le travail du CIEM et ses recommandations. Il a également déclaré qu'il allait poser des questions similaires à celles de la représentante des États-Unis.
- 4.4 La représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a déclaré qu'un échantillonnage aurait lieu pour la pêcherie à St Pierre et Miquelon pour l'intégralité de la saison 2019.

## **5. Pêcheries de stocks mixtes menées par des Membres de la Commission**

- 5.1 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 (MSFs).
- 5.2 Le représentant du Canada a présenté le document NAC(19)03, 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.
- 5.3 La représentante des États-Unis a remercié le Canada pour son rapport et s'est félicité de la transparence dont il faisait preuve en la matière. La représentante des États-Unis a déclaré qu'elle demeurait préoccupée par toute pêcherie susceptible d'intercepter des poissons originaires des États-Unis. Les États-Unis appréciaient les efforts soutenus du Canada pour réduire les impacts sur les saumons originaires des États-Unis. La représentante des États-Unis a reconnu qu'il était difficile de travailler dans des zones reculées et a noté l'augmentation du nombre de rapports des journaux de bord en 2018. La représentante des États-Unis a demandé si le Canada estimait que les données des journaux de bord renvoyés représentaient bien la totalité de la pêche. Le représentant du Canada a déclaré qu'il était difficile de savoir ce qu'ils ne savaient pas. Le rapport des prises d'une communauté est ajusté pour attribuer une prise aux personnes n'ayant pas déclaré, de sorte qu'il existe dans les communautés locales une incitation à déclarer. Le Canada tentera d'améliorer la communication sur l'importance et les attentes en matière de reporting dans les communautés où le reporting n'était pas complet. La représentante des États-Unis a demandé si le Canada s'efforçait par différents moyens d'améliorer le taux global de reporting et la qualité des informations fournies. Le représentant du Canada a déclaré qu'ils ne chercheraient probablement pas de nouveaux moyens, mais qu'ils poursuivraient les efforts et exerceraient une pression pour faire passer le taux de déclaration de 78% à un niveau supérieur.
- 5.4 Le représentant des ONGs a noté que l'approche du Canada était différente de celle du Groenland concernant l'attribution de prises aux personnes ne déclarant pas leurs prises, sur la base de la moyenne des prises de celles qui le déclarent, et que ceci est une bonne approche qui rend la valeur des prises déclarées plus précise. Le représentant des ONGs a demandé des informations sur les taux de déclaration spécifiques des quatre pêcheries de subsistance au Labrador. Le représentant du Canada a répondu que le taux de reporting conforme des quatre pêcheries alimentaires de subsistance était de 69% à 100% en 2018.



## **6. Echantillonnage de la pêche de Labrador**

- 6.1 Des informations relatives au programme d'échantillonnage ont été fournies aussi bien dans le rapport du CIEM que dans le document NAC(19)03.
- 6.2 Le représentant du Canada a reconnu l'importance d'un programme fort d'échantillonnage et leur engagement à étendre et améliorer leurs efforts pour accroître l'échantillonnage.
- 6.3 La représentante des États-Unis a déclaré que le CIEM faisait état de la nécessité d'élargir l'échantillonnage dans le temps et dans l'espace et a demandé si des progrès avaient été effectués dans ce sens. Le représentant du Canada a répondu qu'il était difficile d'exiger un échantillonnage en termes de pourcentage des prises et qu'il était important de disposer d'un échantillon représentatif de la pêche. Le représentant du Canada a estimé que l'échantillonnage de 2018 était représentatif de la taille (c'est-à-dire des petits / grands saumons) et a noté qu'il était toujours difficile d'obtenir la bonne couverture. Un plus grand nombre d'échantillons de tissus sont collectés qu'analysés. Le financement est assuré pour l'analyse des échantillons et ils travaillent pour s'assurer que les échantillons sont représentatifs de la pêche. Le représentant du Canada a également noté que tout poisson originaire des États-Unis appartiendrait probablement à la catégorie de débarquement des grands saumons. Ils prévoient des mises à jour hebdomadaires avec les échantillonneurs et une communication améliorée au cours du programme d'échantillonnage pour aider à assurer une couverture temporelle et spatiale appropriée. La représentante des États-Unis a remercié le Canada pour ses efforts dans ce dossier.
- 6.4 Le représentant des ONGs a déclaré apprécier les questions des États-Unis et la réaction du Canada.

## **7. Pêche de saumons à St Pierre et Miquelon**

- 7.1 Le Vice-Président a renvoyé la Commission au document du Conseil CNL(19)19, qui contient des informations sur la gestion et l'échantillonnage de la pêche au saumon à St Pierre et Miquelon et a demandé à la représentante de la France (pour Saint Pierre et Miquelon) de fournir un aperçu du rapport.
- 7.2 Le représentant du Canada a demandé s'il y avait une explication pour la baisse des prises en 2018 par rapport à 2017. La représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a répondu que certains pêcheurs professionnels étaient engagés dans la pêche d'autres espèces et que l'effort était donc limité pour le saumon. Pour la pêche récréative, la température et les conditions météorologiques avaient été médiocres et le nombre de saumons faible en abondance, ce qui a réduit les efforts de pêche dans ce segment.
- 7.3 La représentante des États-Unis a encouragé la représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) à reconsidérer son adhésion à l'OCSAN et elle a demandé que l'échantillonnage soit amélioré autant que possible pour qu'il soit aussi représentatif que possible de la pêche. La représentante des États-Unis a demandé que des informations supplémentaires soient fournies dans les prochains rapports, telles que des statistiques détaillées sur les prises et les spécificités des échantillons, afin de permettre au CIEM et à l'OCSAN de mieux caractériser l'impact de la pêche sur les stocks contributeurs.

## **8. Introductions et transferts de salmonidés**

- 8.1 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 de la CNA relatifs aux Introductions et aux Transferts de Salmonidés pour refléter le nouveau mécanisme d’échange d’information.
- 8.2 Le Vice-Président a indiqué que les membres avaient présenté des rapports annuels (NAC(19)04 et NAC(19)05) et a suggéré que, pour gagner du temps, les membres pourraient renoncer à présenter les rapports et poser des questions sur les rapports s’il y en avait. Les membres ont accepté cette approche.
- 8.3 La représentante des États-Unis a fait remarquer que le rapport du Canada n’incluait pas d’informations sur le projet de la baie Placentia / Greig, mais aurait dû rendre compte de la pertinence de ce projet pour les travaux de la CNA, et plus généralement de l’OCSAN, compte tenu des termes de la Résolution Williamsburg et des protocoles de la CNA et, en particulier, la suggestion d’utiliser des souches de saumon non Nord-américaines pour un large projet d’aquaculture en mer. La représentante des États-Unis a indiqué qu’elle comprenait que l’efficacité dans le développement du poisson triploïde ne peut pas être de 100% et que, lorsque des poissons triploïdes sont utilisés dans d’autres zones sensibles, des procédures de vérification et contrôle de la qualité et de surveillance sont généralement en place. Elle a demandé si le Canada avait établi un pourcentage seuil de triploïdie pour le poisson à stocker dans le cadre de ce projet.
- 8.4 Le représentant du Canada a répondu que les sites étaient toujours en cours d’examen. Il n’y a donc pas encore eu d’introductions et il prévoit plus de 99% de triploïdie. La représentante des États-Unis a répété qu’une préoccupation subsiste concernant les éventuels effets négatifs sur le saumon originaire des États-Unis si les poissons utilisés dans les cages marines au Canada n’étaient pas à 100% triploïde et s’il y a une brèche de confinement. Elle a demandé si le Canada prévoyait d’établir un pourcentage seuil de triploïde. Le représentant du Canada a répondu qu’il lui faudrait confirmer la mise en place de tout seuil avec le gouvernement provincial responsable des autorisations.
- 8.5 La représentante des États-Unis a demandé si le Canada avait effectué une évaluation des risques potentiels d’évasion des poissons non triploïdes de ces cages et son impact sur les populations sauvages. Le représentant du Canada a répondu qu’il avait effectué une évaluation complète du SCCS (Secrétariat canadien de consultation scientifique) et avait conclu que le projet présentait un risque très faible. Le rapport a récemment été publié sur le site web de Pêches et Océans Canada.
- 8.6 Le représentant des ONGs a demandé si le gouvernement canadien avait envisagé les prochaines étapes si le stockage de poissons triploïdes prévu ne donnait pas de bons résultats et s’est renseigné sur le processus à suivre si l’entreprise souhaitait passer au saumon diploïde. Le représentant du Canada a répondu qu’ils avaient achevé une analyse collégiale complète sur l’utilisation du poisson triploïde et qu’ils étaient très à

l'aise avec leur utilisation. Le représentant du Canada a ajouté que le projet serait autorisé pour la production de poisson triploïde et que toute modification proposée consistant à ne plus utiliser de poisson triploïde devrait être réévaluée par le gouvernement provincial.

## **9. Annonce du gagnant du prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes**

- 9.1 Le Vice-Président a annoncé que le gagnant du prix de la Commission Nord-américaine de £1,000 du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes de l'OCSAN était Andrew Mason, Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada. L'étiquette gagnante a été appliquée à un grand saumon femelle dont la longueur de fourchette est de 69,4 cm retournant à la rivière Miramichi en 2018. Il a été étiqueté le 20 juin 2018 au filet trappe de Millerton opéré par Pêches et Océans Canada dans le cadre du programme d'évaluation du saumon atlantique dans la rivière Miramichi. Il a été recapturé 2 mois plus tard le 23 août 2018, dans la rivière Cains, à l'embouchure du ruisseau Salmon. Il a été ultérieurement relâché par le pêcheur, des mesures de pêche et remise à l'eau obligatoire étant en vigueur dans la rivière Miramichi Sud-Ouest. La Commission a présenté ses félicitations au gagnant.

## **10. Recommandations au Conseil concernant la demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM**

- 10.1 La Commission Nord-américaine n'a formulé aucune recommandation au Conseil et a renvoyé toute recommandation au Conseil, l'information nécessaire n'étant pas disponible au moment de la session de la Commission.
- 10.2 La demande auprès du CIEM, telle que convenue par le Conseil, est incluse dans le document CNL(19)11 (Annexe 5).

## **11. Divers**

- 11.1 Aucune autre question n'a été soulevée.

## **12. Date et lieu de la prochaine session**

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

## **13. Compte rendu de la session**

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

## **14. Clôture de la session**

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

Note. Les annexes mentionnées ci-dessus commencent à la page suivante. Une liste d'articles du Conseil est incluse en Annexe 6.

## **List of Annexes**

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- Annex 3      Agenda, NAC(19)06
- Annex 4      Presentation of the ICES Advice on Atlantic Salmon from North America  
to the North American Commission, NAC(19)07
- Annex 5      Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, CNL(19)11
- Annex 6      List of North American Commission Papers

### *Opening Statement to the North American Commission submitted by Canada*

With the exception of some areas in Labrador, Atlantic salmon stocks of eastern Canada have shown a large decline in abundance over the past 40 years despite continued support by the Government of Canada and local jurisdictions of habitat conservation programs and increasingly restrictive measures, including reduced retention limits in recreational fisheries and harvests in Indigenous fisheries.

Overall estimated harvest of Atlantic salmon from all fisheries in the North Atlantic was reported to be 1090 t in 2018, the lowest on record. In 2018, Canadians harvested an estimated total of 90 t of wild Atlantic Salmon, also the lowest on record for Canada, of which 60% (53 t) were taken in Indigenous peoples' food, social and ceremonial fisheries (FSC), and 39% (35 t) in recreational fisheries. In a number of areas of eastern Canada, Indigenous peoples' fisheries were closed due to conservation concerns. Recreational fisheries in 2018 were closed or restricted to catch and release only in the Maritime provinces for the entire season and for part of the season in Newfoundland (after July 20) and Labrador (after August 3) due to low in-season returns. In the province of Quebec, the retention of large salmon in the recreational fishery was allowed in only 13% (14 rivers) of the 114 salmon rivers in the province, and small salmon only could be retained in 52% (59 rivers). In 30 rivers (26%) in Quebec, no fisheries for Atlantic salmon were permitted.

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. This policy will help guide actions that need to be taken to reverse the trend for Atlantic salmon.

The 2019-21 Wild Atlantic Salmon Implementation Plan was recently completed alongside members of the Atlantic Salmon Advisory Committee and other stakeholder groups in eastern Canada, and ensures that Atlantic salmon remains a priority within Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO). We are confident that this work will carry us a long way in helping stop the declining trends and rebuild wild Atlantic salmon populations. As reported to ICES and NASCO, the proportions of the Atlantic salmon harvests in Canada from all sources (Indigenous, recreational, Labrador resident food) which take place in rivers (on single stocks), in estuaries, and in coastal areas have varied annually. Coastal harvests have ranged from about 2 t to 9 t during 2000 to 2018, representing about 8% (in 2018) or less of the total annual harvests of Atlantic salmon. Harvests in Indigenous food, social and ceremonial fisheries of Quebec and the Maritime provinces occur in rivers and estuaries whereas harvests in the subsistence food fisheries (Indigenous and resident) of Labrador occur in estuaries and coastal areas. In Canada, the sale of wild Atlantic salmon is prohibited, which recognizes the value of this resource to the Indigenous communities and in the recreational fishery and avoids an incentive for illegal harvest in the Labrador subsistence fisheries conducted by Indigenous peoples and residents of Labrador, the management of these fisheries includes a number of conditions related to gear, seasons, weekly fishery closures, carcass tagging of harvested salmon, a logbook program for reporting catches, and a limit on total harvest using tags. Catches in 2018 of 33 t represent a reduction from previous years. We are encouraged by the

sampling results of the 2018 Labrador fishery indicating that over 98% of the salmon captured in this fishery were from local Labrador populations and that there was no indication of the interception of the endangered US or southern Maritime provinces origin salmon in the fishery. That being said, we will continue to work with the Indigenous communities in Labrador to further ensure that the fisheries management regime aligns with the guidelines agreed to at NASCO regarding reporting, managing the extent of mixed-stock fisheries, and fishing on stocks that meet their conservation limits. Canada has provided an estimate for unreported catch of 24.4 t for 2018. We remain committed to working with the various regions and jurisdictions responsible for Atlantic salmon to further reduce the unreported catch activities while providing the best estimate possible for unreported catch in 2019 based on a solid methodology. While aquaculture production of Atlantic salmon and other salmonids in eastern Canada is relatively small in the North Atlantic and global context, it is of high economic value and there is interest in further expansion in the region. The Government of Canada supports these initiatives that provide important economic benefits to the rural and coastal communities while actively working with the industry to ensure that there is appropriate oversight, effective regulations, and collaborative management to protect the equally highly valued wild Atlantic salmon resource that is critically important to the Indigenous peoples and communities in eastern Canada. The importance of this NAC meeting continues to be reinforced by the situation facing many of our salmon stocks in Canada and the United States.

In terms of work carried out under the framework of the North American Commission, Canada would like to thank the United States for its 2018 NAC Report. Our goal is to work together to ensure both Canadians and Americans can continue to enjoy the cultural, social and economic benefits of Atlantic salmon for generations to come.

Thank you.

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NAC(19)06

*Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission*

*Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway*

*5 – 7 June 2019*

*Agenda*

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Review of the 2018 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
5. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
6. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery
7. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery
8. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers
9. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
10. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
11. Other Business
12. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
13. Report of the Meeting
14. Close of the Meeting



**North American Commission**

**NAC(19)07**

***Presentation of the ICES Advice on Atlantic Salmon from  
North America to the North American Commission***



*sal.nac.all*

Atlantic salmon from North America

Photo by Nick Hawkins



## Terms of Reference

### 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);
- 3.2 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;



The NASCO Framework of Indicators was applied in 2019 and there was no indication of underestimated abundance forecasts. Therefore, a full reassessment was not required and the 2018 ICES catch advice remains valid. Consequently, there are no mixed-stock fishery options on 1SW non maturing and 2SW salmon components from North American stocks in the period 2019 to 2021.

### 3.1 Key Events 2018 Fisheries: Catch

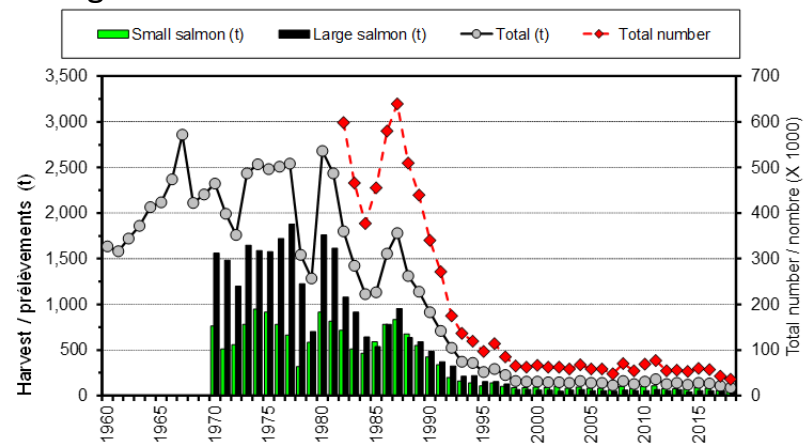
Table 1: sal.nac.all

2018	Canada					St Pierre & Miquelon (SPM)	USA	North America
	Commercial	Indigenous (FSC)	Labrador Resident	Recreational	Total			
Reported catch	0 t	53 t	2 t	35 t	90 t	1 t	0 t	91 t
% of NAC total	-	59%	2%	38%	99%	1%	-	100
Unreported catch	24 t					na	0 t	24 t
Location of catches								
% in-river	41%							40%
% in estuaries	51%							51%
% coastal	8%					100%		9%

# 3.1 Key Events 2018 Fisheries: Canada

- Total Harvest (t) Canada 1960-2018
  - 89.5 t: 27,765 small (49.7 t) and 8,420 large (39.8 t)
  - lowest in time-series

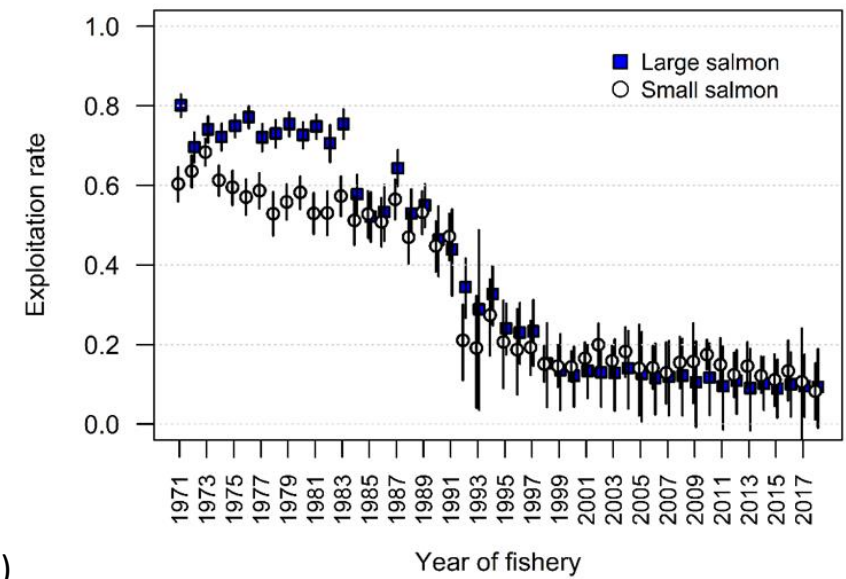
Figure 1: sal.nac.all



- Recreational Fisheries (34.7 t)
  - Recreational Harvest: 18,587 salmon
  - Catch and Release: 50,184 (73% Recreational Catch)

- Exploitation Rates 1971-2018
  - lowest in time-series

Figure 3: sal.nac.all

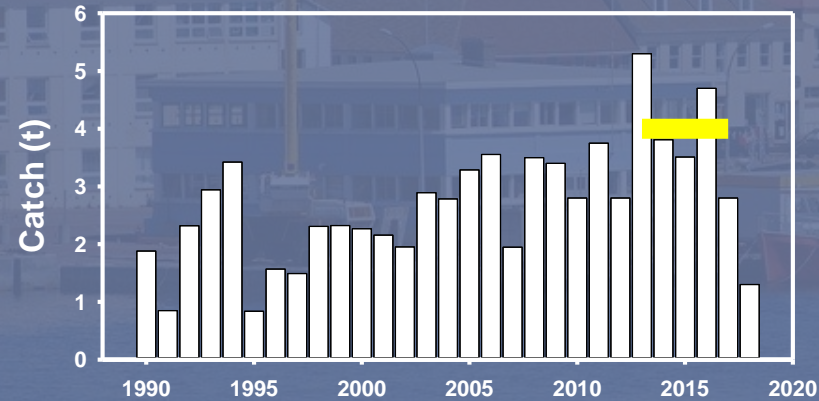




# 3.1 Key Events 2018 Fisheries: Saint Pierre & Miquelon

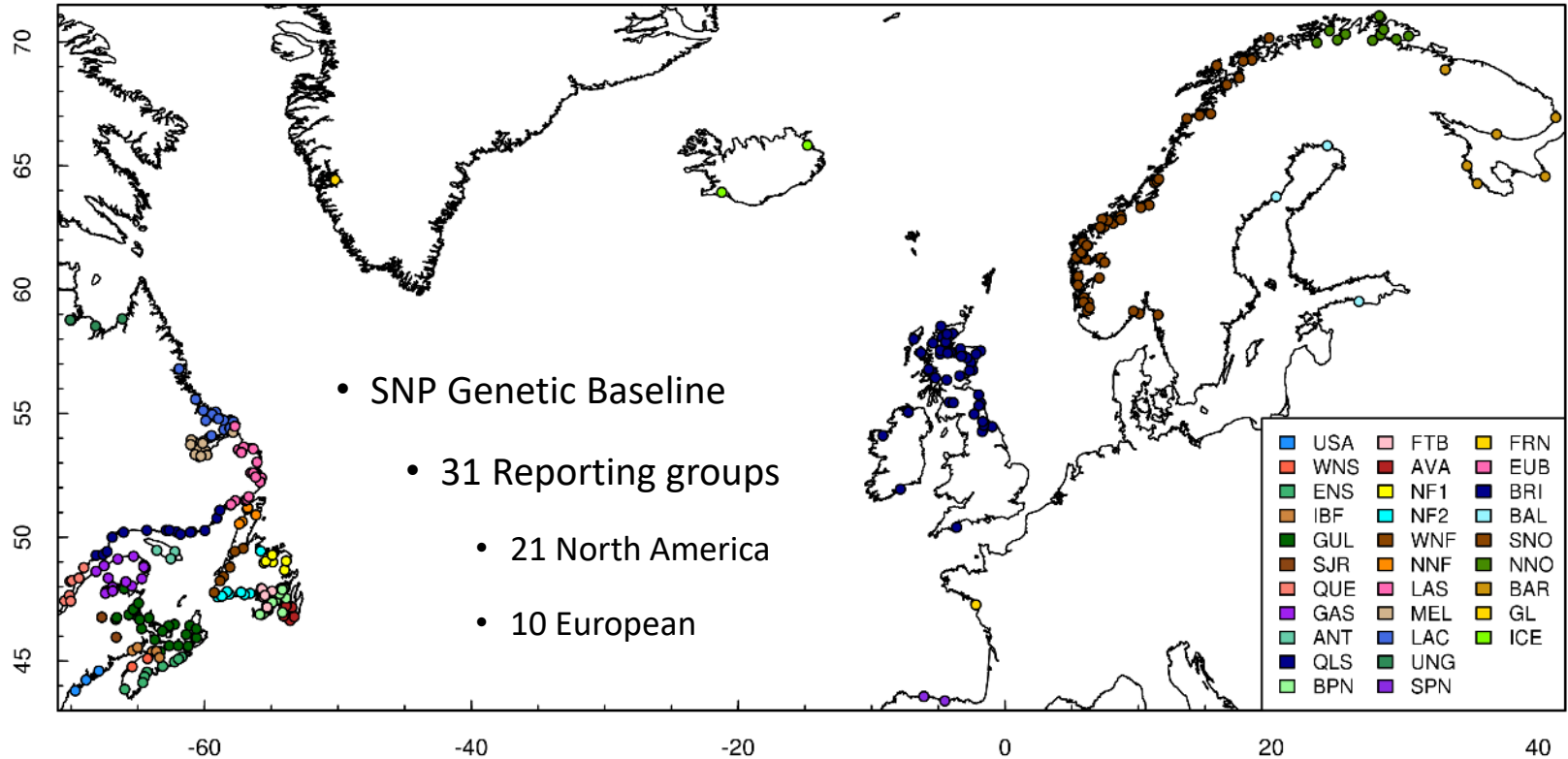


- 2018 reported catch of 1.3 t
- catches declining since 2016
  - 76% lower than previous 5 year mean of 4 t



# 3.1 Origin and Composition of Catches

Figure 4: sal.nac.all

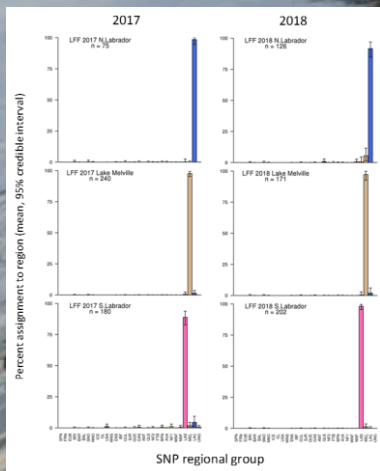




# 3.1 Origin and Composition of Catches: Labrador



Figure 5: sal.nac.all



2018:

- 799 scale and tissue samples collected
- 6% of harvest

2017 and 2018:

- 994 samples analysed for genetic region of origin
- > 98.0% assigned to Labrador reporting group (LAB)
- 2 assigned to USA in 2017, 0 USA in 2018

### 3.1 Origin and Composition of Catches: Saint Pierre and Miquelon

2017 to 2018:

- 193 scale and tissue samples
- 12% (2017) and 9% (2018) of harvest
- 83-89% assigned to 3 reporting groups
  - Southern Gulf of St. Lawrence (GUL)
  - Gaspé Peninsula (GAS)
  - Newfoundland (NFL) - > 60%
- Samples mostly small salmon (< 63 cm)
- Not fully representative of total catch
  - Harvest – 77% small
  - Samples – 93% small

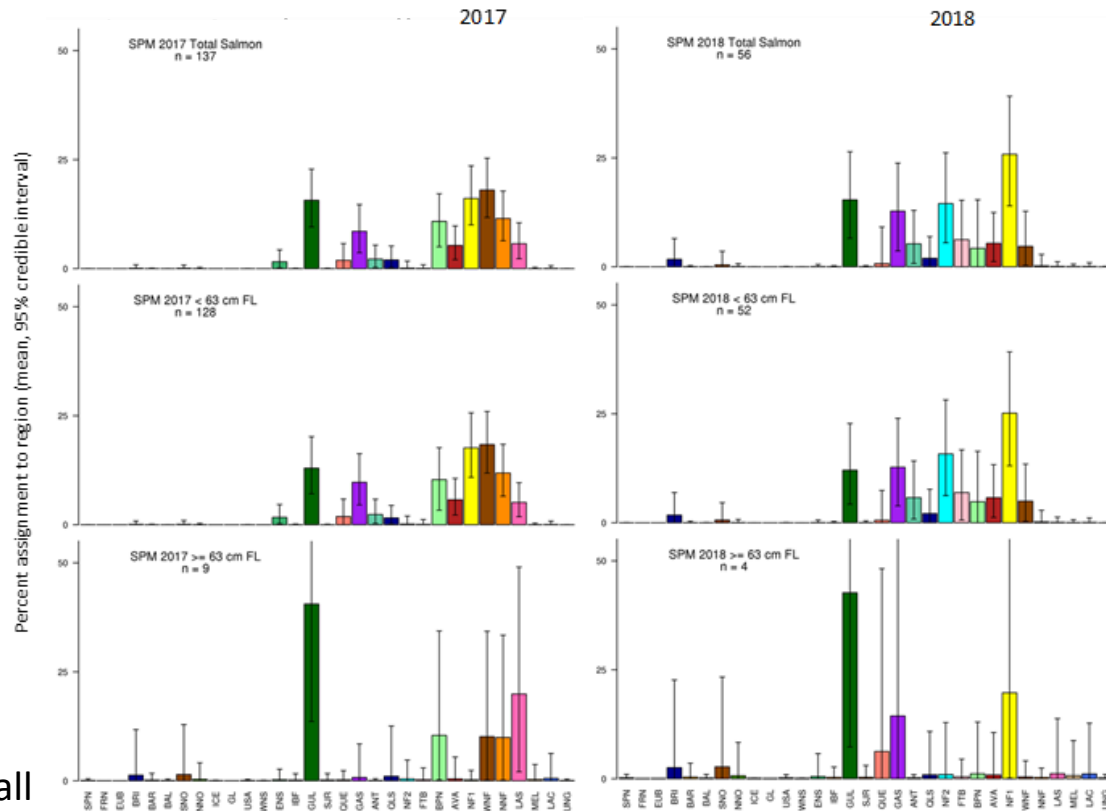


Figure 6: sal.nac.all



## 3.2 Stock Conservation Limits (CLs)

Figure 8: sal.nac.all

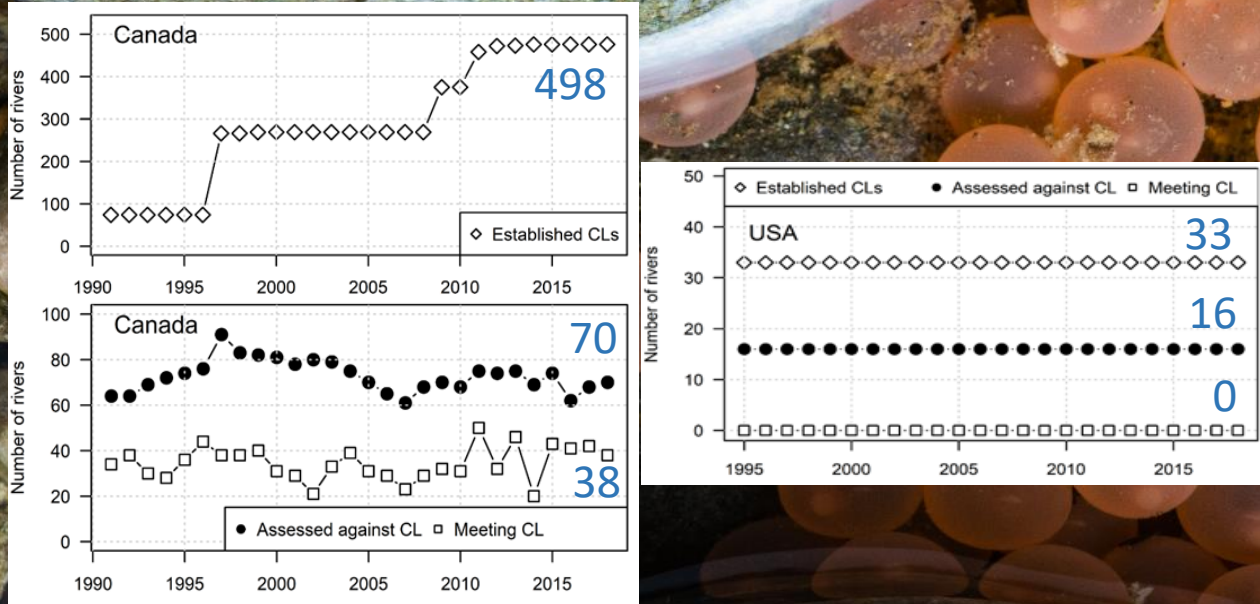


Photo by Nick Hawkins

### 3.3 Status of Stocks

- Six regions and overall for North America
- Size groups:
  - small (1SW)
  - large (MSW and repeat spawners)
  - 2SW salmon (a subset of large)

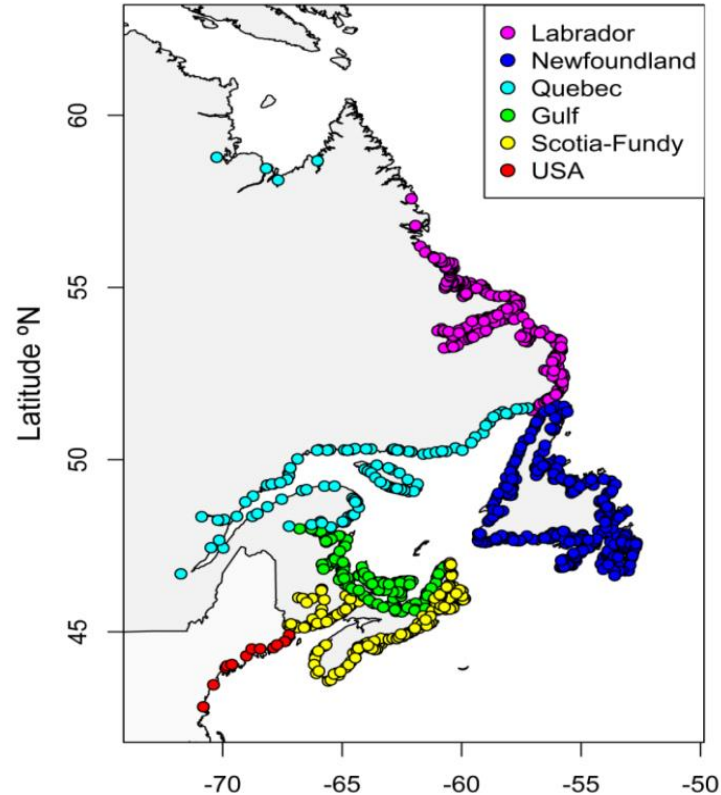


Figure 2: sal.nac.all

# 3.3 Returns of Small Salmon



- Includes homewater fisheries catch, except in Newfoundland and Labrador
- 581,900 returns of small salmon (1SW)
  - 29% higher than 2017
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> highest in 48 year time series
  - four of six geographical regions declined from 2017
  - 92% of small salmon return to Newfoundland and Labrador rivers

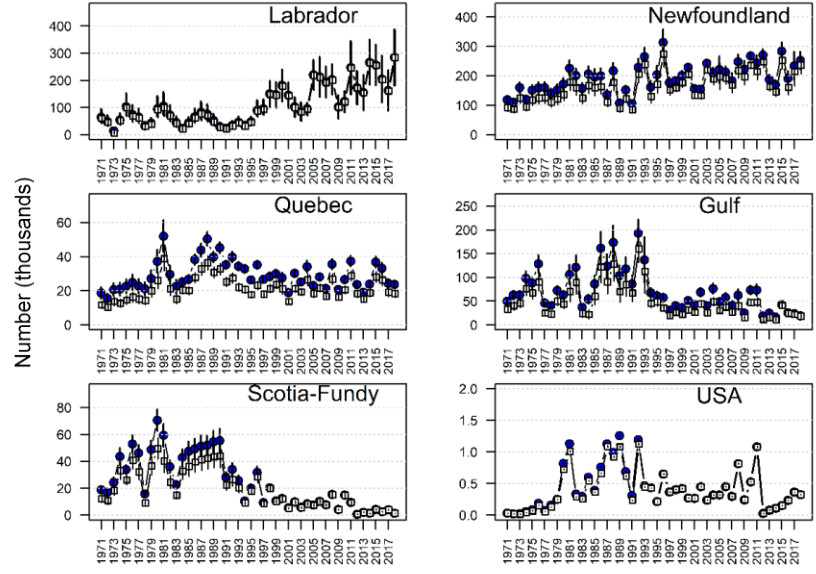
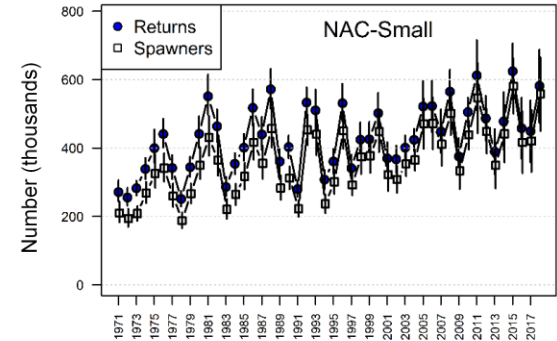


Figure 9: sal.nac.all

# 3.3 Returns Large Salmon (MSW and Repeats)



- 131,800 large salmon
  - 24% lower than 2017
  - four of six geographical regions declined from 2017
  - 81% of large salmon return to rivers in Labrador, Quebec and Gulf

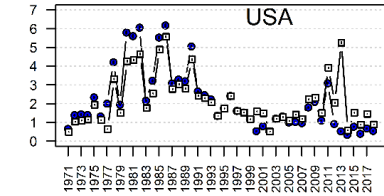
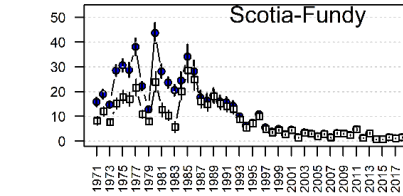
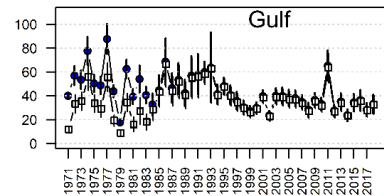
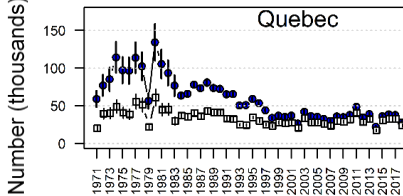
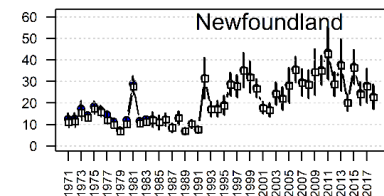
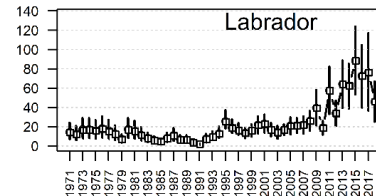
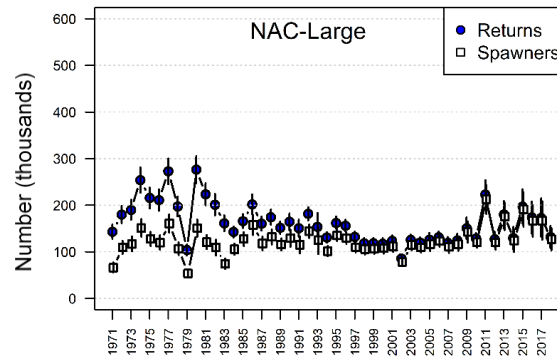


Figure 10: sal.nac.all



# 3.3 2SW Returns

78,100 2SW salmon

- 23% lower than 2017
- four of six geographical regions declined from 2017
- among lowest on record with the exception of Labrador
- 81% of 2SW salmon return to rivers in Labrador, Quebec and Gulf

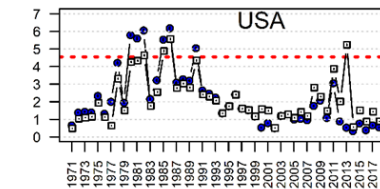
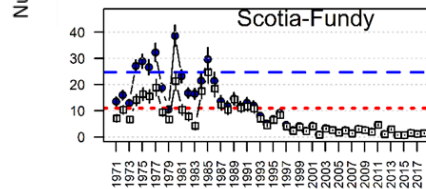
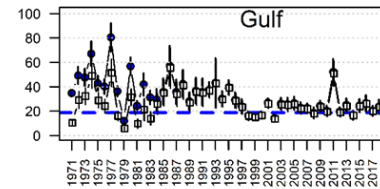
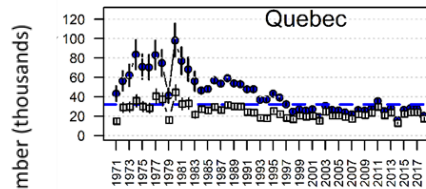
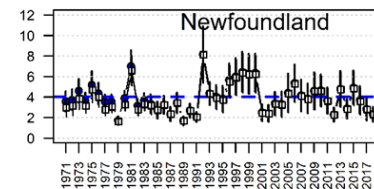
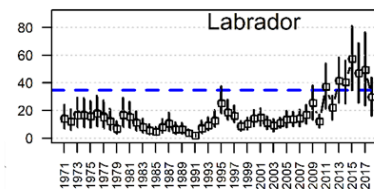
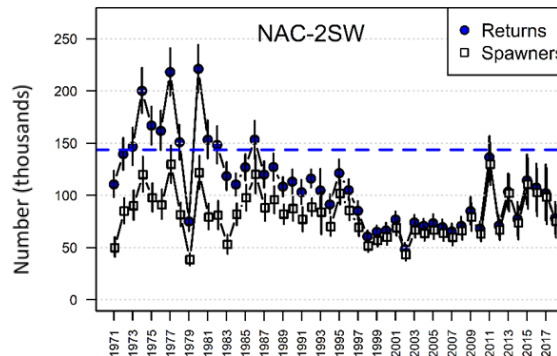
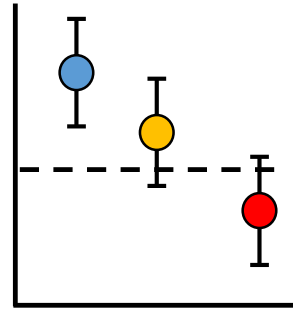


Figure 11: sal.nac.all

## 3.3 Status of Stocks: Reference Points

### Risk Assessment Framework

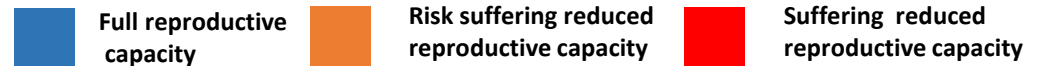
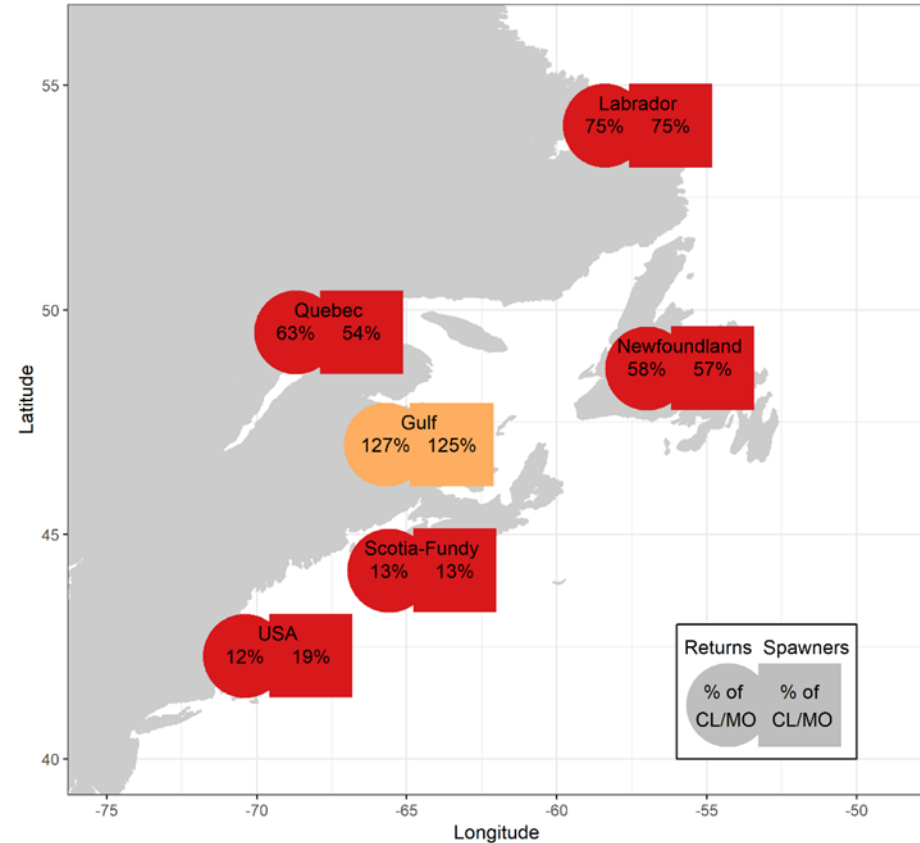
- Full Reproductive Capacity :
  - lower bound of the 90% confidence interval of the estimate above reference point
  - equivalent to a probability of at least 95% of meeting reference point
- At Risk of Suffering Reduced Reproductive Capacity:
  - lower bound of the confidence interval is below reference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



### 3.3 Status of Stocks: By Region

- 2018: 2SW median estimates of returns to rivers and spawners were below CLs (suffering reduced reproductive capacity) for five of the six assessment regions
- Particularly large deficits relative to CLs and rebuilding/management objectives are noted for Scotia-Fundy (13%) and USA regions (12% and 19%)

Figure 12: sal.nac.all



### 3.3 Degree of CL Attainment

- Proportion CL Attained = egg deposition / CL
  - 38 of 86 (44%) achieved or exceeded CLs
  - 28 of 86 (33%) were at, or less, than 50% CL
  
- Canada
  - 1991-2018 CL time-series
    - Number of rivers assessed ranged from 61 to 91
    - percentage rivers achieving CL ranged from 26% to 67%
  
- USA
  - None of the assessed rivers have achieved CLs

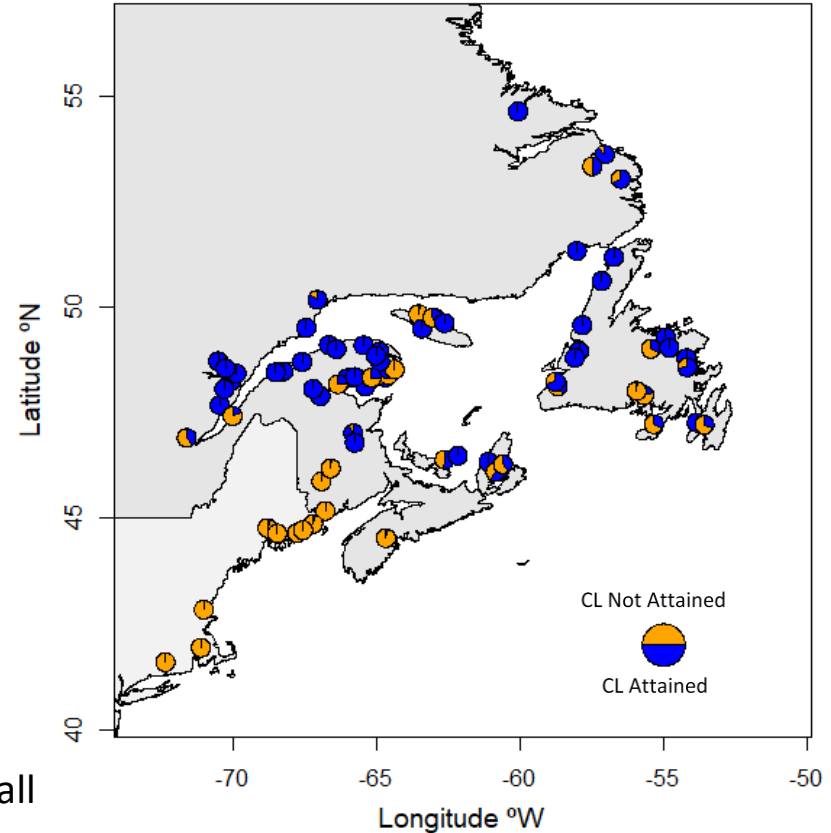


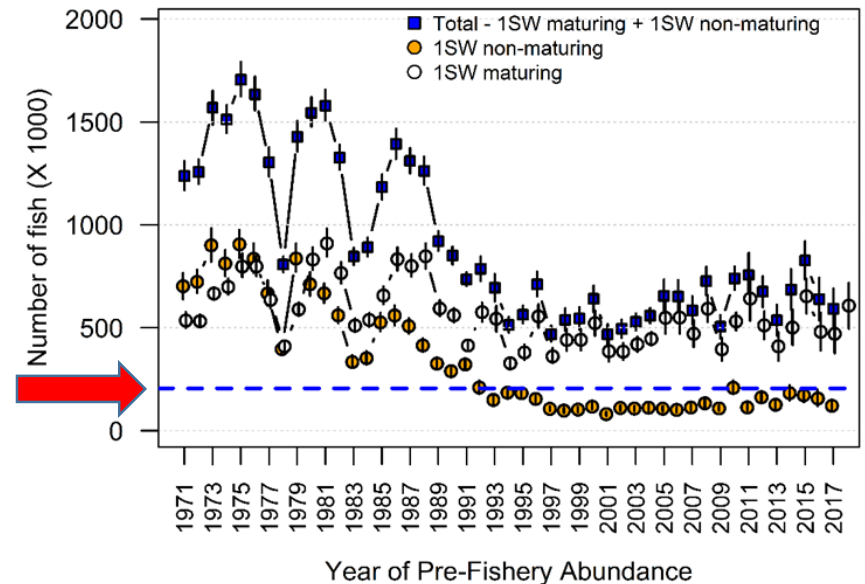
Figure 14: sal.nac.all



## 3.3 Pre-Fishery Abundance (PFA)

- Number of salmon at sea prior to all marine fisheries (1 August second summer at sea)
  - Two components:
    - 1SW maturing (return as 1SW)
    - 1SW non-maturing (return as MSW)
- 2017 PFA year was 592 700 fish
  - abundance declined 65% over the time-series from a peak of 1 705 000 fish in 1975
- PFA estimates suggest continued low abundance of salmon (suffering reduced reproductive capacity)

Figure 12: sal.nac.all



### 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 acting on survival in the first and second years at sea at both local and broad ocean scales are constraining abundance of salmon
- Smolt production declines in some eastern Canadian rivers may also be contributing to lower adult abundance



*Photo by Nick Hawkins*



## Relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs, and research requirements

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





ICES  
CIEM



## 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 2019<sup>1</sup>;
  - 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management<sup>2</sup>;
  - 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 fisheries<sup>3</sup>;
  - 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 rebuilding<sup>4</sup>; 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)<sup>3</sup>;
  - 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 rebuilding<sup>4</sup>; 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 fisheries<sup>3</sup>;

- 4.2 describe the status of the stocks<sup>5</sup>;

*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 rebuilding<sup>4</sup>;
- 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

**NAC(19)00**

***List of North American Commission Papers***

- NAC(19)01 Provisional Agenda (English and French)
- NAC(19)02 Draft Agenda (English and French)
- NAC(19)03 Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed Stock Fisheries Context Paper
- NAC(19)04 Annual Report (Tabled by Canada)
- NAC(19)05 Annual Report (Tabled by the United States)
- NAC(19)06 Agenda
- NAC(19)07 Presentation of the ICES Advice on Atlantic Salmon from North America to the North American Commission
- NAC(19)08 Draft Report of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
- NAC(19)09 Report of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization