



**REPORT OF THE
THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION**

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

Chair:	Dr Ciaran Byrne (European Union)
Vice-Chair:	Mr Victor Rozhnov (Russian Federation)
Rapporteur:	Mr Benjamin Sæverås (Norway)
Secretary:	Dr Emma Hatfield

NEA(18)13

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

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, USA

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair, Dr Ciaran Byrne (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Commission. He thanked the hosts for the warm welcome to Portland, Maine, and to them and the Secretariat team for all the work in preparing for the meeting.
- 1.2 An Opening Statement was made on behalf of both the Sami Parliament (Norway) and the Sami Parliament (Finland) (Annex 1).
- 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, NEA(18)09 (Annex 3).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Mr Benjamin Sæverås (Norway) was appointed as Rapporteur for the meeting.

4. Election of Officers

- 4.1 The Commission elected Mr Victor Rozhnov (Russian Federation) as its Chair and Mr Tommy Petersen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)) 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 NEA(18)10 (Annex 4). The ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM) report that contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions is document CNL(18)08rev.

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 (MSFs).
- 6.2 The European Union, NEA(18)05, Norway, NEA(18)04rev, and the Russian Federation, NEA(18)06, tabled papers providing an update on the information on MSFs contained in the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans, including a description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data, and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs to implement NASCO's agreements.

- 6.3 The representative of the European Union stated that there are many types of mixed-stock fisheries and that several of the remaining EU mixed-stock fisheries are exploiting identified stocks for which conservation limits are being met. He identified the jurisdictions with mixed-stock fisheries and invited people to refer to the report, NEA(18)05 for further details. A brief overview was then given of the report highlighting to participants of the Commission the changes that have been undertaken and planned. It was detailed that these activities past and present have seen a reduction in the mixed-stock fishery catches from 500 t approximately a decade ago, to 50 t currently. It was highlighted that the aim is for the mixed-stock fishery catches to be under 10 t in the next few years.
- 6.4 In response to the paper tabled by the European Union, the representative of the NGOs expressed appreciation for the decision to phase out salmon fishing with nets in European Union – UK (England and Wales). The representative of the NGOs also expressed understanding for the reasons given for postponing the implementation of the measure to 2019, although it was initially intended that the implementation would take place in 2018. At the same time, he stated that it was important to have the measure implemented as soon as possible, and at the latest in 2019. He also reminded the Commission that a substantial proportion of the total catch from salmon fishing with nets in North-East England is comprised of salmon destined for Scotland and, therefore, the implementation of the measure was a matter not only in the interest of European Union – UK (England and Wales).
- 6.5 Additionally, and also in response to the paper tabled by the European Union, the representative of the NGOs underscored the importance of undertaking research in remaining sea-trout fisheries where salmon are released back to the sea, in order to identify the percentage of fish which survive to spawn in their natal rivers.
- 6.6 The representative of Norway stated that restricted mixed-stock fisheries are in operation in most fjords and along the Norwegian coast. In several fjords and coastal regions, mixed-stock fisheries have not been permitted for many years due to low target attainment. The total salmon catch in coastal net fisheries in 2017 was 290 t, an increase of 8% from 2016. Mixed-stock fisheries are still most extensive in Finnmark County where the catches increased by 23% (total catch = 138 t) compared to 2016. No in-season measures in mixed-stock fisheries were considered necessary in 2017. As a new tool in fisheries management, rules for mandatory continuous reporting of catches in the sea fisheries are in progress. In the 2017 fishing season, around 100 fishermen tested a digital solution for voluntary continuous reporting. From 2018 electronic reporting of catches is available to all fishermen engaged in coastal net fishing.
- 6.7 In addition to presenting the paper tabled by Norway, the Norwegian delegation presented a joint statement (Annex 5) on behalf of Norway and the European Union concerning the status of work with implementing the bilateral agreement between Norway and Finland on the fisheries in the Teno river. Fisheries in the river include mixed-stock fisheries. The agreement entered into force in 2017.
- 6.8 The representative of the European Union declared its endorsement of the statement, and expressed its appreciation that Norway, as planned, has adopted new and stricter regulations for salmon fisheries in the coastal regions of Finnmark and in the Tanafjord.
- 6.9 The representative of the Russian Federation stated that salmon mixed-stock fisheries have been conducted in the Murmansk and Archangelsk regions in the White Sea only and coastal salmon fisheries in the Barents Sea were closed completely in the late

1950s. Coastal catches in the White Sea decreased from over 100 t in the 1980s to 20 t in recent years. In 2017 the declared catch was 13 t, the lowest in the time series.

- 6.10 In addition to presenting the paper tabled by the Russian Federation, the Russian delegation presented a joint statement (Annex 6) on behalf of the Russian Federation and Norway on the work conducted under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway) and the Federal Agency for Fisheries (the Russian Federation) on co-operation on management and monitoring of, and research on, wild Atlantic salmon in Finnmark County (Norway) and the Murmansk Region (the Russian Federation), which was signed on September 30, 2015.

7. Development of a Risk Framework for the Faroese Fishery

- 7.1 The Chair noted that since 2010, the Commission has discussed the possible development and adoption of a Risk Framework for the Faroese fishery that would be needed before ICES could provide quantitative catch advice. The elements that would need to be developed and adopted to allow establishing a formal mechanism for the provision of the scientific advice as in other NASCO Commissions could, *inter alia*, include:
- agreement on appropriate management units (MU);
 - the management objectives for these units;
 - a sharing agreement;
 - the season to which any TAC should apply (January to December or October to May).
- 7.2 Last year, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) had indicated that it intended to prepare a discussion document examining both scientific (e.g. data being used and appropriate management units) and management (components to be included in the framework) aspects. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) had suggested that he might prepare a discussion document on this matter for consideration by the Parties.
- 7.3 Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) was asked to elaborate on this item. Considering the ICES Risk Assessment Framework, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) in principle accept the framework for the next cycle of ICES advice, noting that this does not prejudice a future framework for the sharing of quotas. The Chair noted that an inter-sessional meeting of the Commission could be held if it was felt to be of benefit and the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agreed to discuss this with his Ministry.

8. Regulatory Measures

- 8.1 The multi-annual Decision regarding the salmon fishery in Faroese waters adopted in 2015 was applied to the salmon fishery in 2015 / 2016, 2016 / 2017 and 2017 / 2018. The Commission considered a proposal for a new multi-annual Decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters, NEA(18)07. This Decision was adopted for the seasons 2018 / 2019 to 2020 / 2021, NEA(18)12rev_final (Annex 7).
- 8.2 The representative of the NGOs noted that they welcomed the approach being taken by the Faroe Islands and commended them on their efforts.
- 8.3 The Commission agreed that the same procedure for applying the Framework of Indicators (FWI) as used during the previous multi-annual Decision would apply during

the new measure. Under this arrangement, a small group comprising one representative from each member of the Commission would work by correspondence to co-ordinate the data collection and application of the FWI. The Secretary will contact the Parties to seek their nominations for the Group and liaise with the Chair and report the findings to the Parties and to ICES in January in each year when the FWI is applied.

9. Report of the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris*

- 9.1 The Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* met from 25 – 26 April 2018 with the Terms of Reference set by the Commission in 2017. Updates on several aspects of research on and monitoring of *G. salaris* were presented by representatives from Norway, European Union – Sweden, European Union – UK (England and Wales) and European Union – UK (Scotland). Norway continues to treat its rivers to eradicate *G. salaris* with success. Nine more rivers were declared *G. salaris* free in 2017 and seven rivers are still known to be infected. All 16 rivers flowing into the Kattegat on the Swedish west coast are now infected with the parasite. There are indications that *G. salaris* may be able to spread north from southern Swedish rivers through the Skagerrak through the natural movement of salmonid fish because it has been shown that heavy winter rainfall can freshen the coastal waters to the extent that it may not be fatal to the parasite, as was previously thought. This is of obvious concern to Norway.
- 9.2 At its 2017 meeting, the Working Group had noted that when the ‘Road Map’ was developed in 2004 and updated in 2006, there had been considerable uncertainty about new EU fish health legislation which was under review at that time. Many of the recommendations for revisions to international guidelines contained in the 2006 ‘Road Map’ related to the replacement of EC Directive 91/67 by a new Directive, 2006/88/EC. The 2006 Directive was due to be replaced by a new Commission Regulation (2016/429) that would cover both terrestrial and aquatic animal health, but the provisions relating to aquatic animals would remain largely unchanged. The Working Group had agreed that the 2006 ‘Road Map’ could be simplified considerably to remove duplication and reflect changes in the EU aquatic animal health legislation and reformatted without reference to the original source of the recommendations, responsibilities and timeframe for action. A revised ‘Road Map’, GSWG(17)13, was developed and the Working Group recommended that the North-East Atlantic Commission consider adopting the document given the potentially devastating impacts of this parasite on wild salmon stocks if introduced.
- 9.3 At the 2017 Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission, the representative of the European Union noted that he was unable to adopt the proposed revised ‘Road Map’ as there had been inadequate time to consult and it was not clear if some recommendations were consistent with EU Animal Health regulations. The Commission therefore did not adopt the revised ‘Road Map’ but agreed that at its 2018 meeting the Working Group would consider the need for revisions to the recommendations contained in that document to ensure consistency with NASCO Parties’ animal health legislation. To this end, the representative of the European Union proposed to provide comments to the Working Group in relation to the revised ‘Road Map’ ahead of the Group’s 2018 meeting.
- 9.4 The representative of the European Union was not able to provide comments by the time the Working Group met and the Group therefore recommended that the revised ‘Road Map’ GSWG(17)13 should be used as the basis of best practice going forward until the Commission has agreed it formally, subject to any changes recommended by the European Union and agreed by the Commission. The Working Group was anxious

to ensure that these outstanding issues be resolved as swiftly as possible, and preferably in advance of the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Commission, to enable the full adoption of the revised ‘Road Map’.

- 9.5 The Working Group recommended that the 2018 meeting should remain the first in the three-year cycle of meetings (as agreed by the Commission at its meeting in 2017) and the Working Group should, therefore, reconvene in 2021, as originally envisaged, to review progress, and recommend any required changes, with annual reporting on progress on the ‘Road Map’ in between.
- 9.6 In general, the Working Group recognised the value of the forum as an opportunity to exchange information on best practice in the prevention of the spread and eradication of *G. salaris*. A recommendation to all Parties and jurisdictions is that all action and contingency plans related to a putative outbreak of *G. salaris* be tested routinely to ensure their efficacy.
- 9.7 In addition, the Working Group would encourage all Parties and jurisdictions to ensure that the threat of *G. salaris* is highlighted sufficiently within the new Implementation Plans, and that subsequent actions to prevent, contain and eradicate the parasite are developed. For example, when routinely monitoring populations of juvenile salmon, Parties and jurisdictions should be particularly conscious of the effects that *G. salaris* might have in significantly lowering juvenile salmon numbers. This should be taken into account when assigning a cause(s) to an unexpected decline in juvenile salmon abundance.
- 9.8 The representative of the European Union raised two minor editorial issues for clarification in the ‘Road Map’ text, in paragraphs 1(g) and 1(h). The Parties accepted these revisions unanimously.
- 9.9 The representative of the European Union then stated that they had consulted the competent authorities in the European Commission and were pleased to announce that they are now able to adopt the revised ‘Road Map’ (NEA(18)08) (Annex 8). The NGO representative thanked the representative of the European Union for this move and gave full support to the proposed meeting schedule. Norway added its thanks to the representative of the European Union for adopting the ‘Road Map’ and recognising its value.
- 9.10 The Commission agreed that the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* should meet again in 2021 with the following Terms of Reference:
 - provide a forum for exchange of information among the Parties / jurisdictions on research on, and monitoring, control and eradication programmes for, the parasite *G. salaris*;
 - review progress in relation to the recommendations contained in the Commission’s ‘Road Map’ including progress with the development and testing of contingency plans;
 - develop recommendations for enhanced co-operation on measures to prevent the further spread of the parasite and for its eradication in areas where it has been introduced.

10. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 10.1 The Chair announced that the winner of the Commission's £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Mr Victor Koretsky, Murmansk, Russian Federation. The fish was tagged as a fresh summer run salmon on June 27, 2017 during catch-and-release fly fishing in the Vostochnaya Litsa River at the Military pool near the river mouth. It was recaptured by fly on 3 August 2017 at the Lower Tent beat, about 3 km upstream from the place of tagging. 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-East Atlantic Commission area was agreed by the Council, CNL(18)11 (Annex 9).

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 Thirty-Sixth 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 a 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-East Atlantic Commission.

Note: the annexes mentioned above follow the French translation of the report of the Meeting. A list of North-East Atlantic Commission papers is included in Annex 10.

NEA(18)13

Compte rendu de la trente-cinquième session annuelle de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est 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, le Dr Ciaran Byrne (Union européenne), a ouvert la session et accueilli les participants à la trente-cinquième session annuelle de la Commission. Il a remercié les hôtes pour l'accueil chaleureux à Portland, Maine, et les a remercié ainsi que l'équipe de Secrétariat pour tout le travail de préparation pour la session.
- 1.2 Une déclaration d'ouverture a été effectuée au nom aussi bien du Parlement Sami (Norvège) que du Parlement Sami (Finlande) (Annexe 1).
- 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 l'ordre du jour, NEA(18)09 (Annexe 3).

3. Nomination d'un rapporteur

- 3.1 M. Benjamin Sæverås (Norvège) a été nommé rapporteur.

4. Election des Membres du Bureau

- 4.1 La Commission a élu M. Victor Rozhnov (Fédération de Russie) en tant que Président, et M. Tommy Petersen (Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) en tant que Vice-président.

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

- 5.1 La représentante du CIEM, le Dr Martha Robertson a présenté le rapport du CIEM sur le statut des stocks de saumon dans la zone de la Commission. Sa présentation est disponible dans le document NEA(18)10 (Annexe 4). Le rapport du Comité consultatif (ACOM) du CIEM qui contient les conseils scientifiques pertinents pour toutes les Commissions est inclus dans le document CNL(18)08rev.

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 (MSFs).

- 6.2 L'Union européenne, NEA(18)05, la Norvège, NEA(18)04rev, et la Fédération de Russie, NEA(18)06, ont enregistré des articles apportant des mises à jour sur les informations relatives aux MSFs contenues dans les Plans d'application de 2013 - 2018, y compris une description de toutes MSFs encore en opération, les données les plus récentes relatives aux prises, et tous changements ou développements dans la gestion des MSFs pour mettre en œuvre les accords de l'OCSAN.
- 6.3 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a déclaré qu'il existait de nombreux types de pêches de stocks mixtes et qu'un certain nombre des pêches de stocks mixtes de l'Union européenne exploitent des stocks identifiés pour lesquels des limites de conservation sont atteintes. Il a identifié les jurisdictions avec des pêches de stocks mixtes et a invité les personnes à se référer au rapport NEA(18)05 pour de plus amples détails. Un bref aperçu du rapport a ensuite été présenté aux participants de la Commission les changements ayant été effectués et prévus. Il était précisé que ces activités passées et présentes ont vu une baisse des prises en pêches de stocks mixtes, qui sont passées d'environ 500 t il y a une dizaine d'années à 50 t actuellement. Il a été souligné que l'objectif est que les prises des pêches de stocks mixtes soient inférieures à 10 t au cours des prochaines années.
- 6.4 En réponse à l'article enregistré par l'Union européenne, le représentant des ONGs a affirmé apprécier la décision d'éliminer la pêche au saumon au filet dans l'Union européenne – Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles). Le représentant des ONGs a aussi dit comprendre les raisons données pour remettre la mise en œuvre de la mesure à 2019, bien qu'il était initialement prévu que celle-ci ait lieu en 2018. En même temps, il a déclaré qu'il était important de mettre la mesure en œuvre dès que possible, et au plus tard en 2019. Il a aussi rappelé à la Commission qu'une part notable du total des prises de la pêche au saumon avec des filets dans le Nord Est de l'Angleterre est constituée de saumon destiné à l'Ecosse et, par conséquent, que l'intérêt de la mise en œuvre de la mesure ne se limite pas à l'Union européenne – Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles).
- 6.5 De plus, et aussi en réponse à l'article enregistré par l'Union européenne, le représentant des ONGs a insisté sur l'importance de mener des recherches relatives aux pêches de truite de mer restantes où du saumon est relâché en mer, afin d'identifier le pourcentage de poisson qui survit à l'éclosion dans leur rivière natale.
- 6.6 Le représentant de la Norvège a indiqué que les pêches de stocks mixtes restreintes sont en activité dans la plupart des fjords et le long de la côte norvégienne. Dans un certain nombre des fjords et régions côtières, les pêches de stocks mixtes ne sont pas autorisées depuis de nombreuses années du fait de la réussite médiocre de la réalisation des Objectifs de gestion. Le total des prises de saumon dans les pêches côtières au filet en 2017 est de 290 t, une augmentation de 8% par rapport à 2016. Les pêches de stocks mixtes restent plus extensives dans le Comté du Finnmark où les prises ont augmenté de 23% (total des prises = 138 t) par rapport à 2016. Il n'a été considéré nécessaire de prendre des mesures en saison dans les pêches de stocks mixtes en 2017. Un nouvel outil de gestion des pêches, des règles de reporting constant des prises dans les pêches de mer sont en cours. Pendant la saison de pêche de 2017, près de 100 pêcheurs ont testé une solution électronique de reporting constant à titre volontaire. A partir de 2018 le reporting électronique des prises est disponible pour tous les pêcheurs impliqués dans la pêche côtière au filet.
- 6.7 La délégation norvégienne a de plus effectué une déclaration conjointe (Annexe 5) au nom de la Norvège et de l'Union européenne concernant la mise en œuvre d'un accord

bilatéral entre la Norvège et la Finlande sur les pêches de la rivière Teno. Les pêches dans la rivière incluent des pêches de stocks mixtes. L'accord est entré en vigueur en 2017.

- 6.8 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a affirmé approuver la déclaration, et a indiqué apprécier l'adoption par la Norvège, comme prévu, de nouveaux règlements plus strictes pour les pêches de saumon dans les zones côtières du Finnmark et dans le Tanafjord.
- 6.9 Le représentant de la Fédération de Russie a déclaré que les pêches de stocks mixtes de saumon ont été menées seulement dans les régions de Murmansk et de Archangelsk dans la Mer Blanche et les pêches côtières de saumon dans la Mer de Barents ont été entièrement fermées à la fin des années 1950. Les prises côtières dans la Mer Blanche ont baissé pour passer de 100 t dans les années 1980 à 20 t ces dernières années. En 2017 la récolte déclarée était de 13 t, la plus faible quantité dans la série chronologique.
- 6.10 La délégation russe a de plus présenté une déclaration conjointe (Annexe 6) au nom de la Fédération de Russie et de la Norvège sur le travail mené en vertu du Protocole d'entente entre le Ministère du Climat et de l'Environnement (Norvège) et l'Agence fédérale pour la pêcherie (Fédération de Russie) sur la coopération pour la gestion et le suivi de, et la recherche sur, le Saumon atlantique sauvage dans le Comté du Finnmark (Norvège) et la région de Murmansk (Fédération de Russie), qui a été signé le 30 septembre 2015.

7. Elaboration d'un cadre des risques pour la pêcherie féringienne

- 7.1 Le Président a noté que depuis 2010, la Commission a discuté de l'éventuel développement et adoption d'un cadre des risques pour la pêcherie féringienne qui serait nécessaire avant que le CIEM puisse fournir des conseils quantitatifs en matière de prises. Les éléments qui devraient être développés et adoptés pour permettre d'établir un mécanisme formel de fourniture des conseils scientifiques comme dans d'autres Commissions de l'OCSAN pourraient, *inter alia*, inclure :
- un accord sur des unités de gestion appropriées (MU);
 - les objectifs de gestion pour ces unités;
 - un accord de partage;
 - la saison à laquelle tout TAC s'appliquerait (janvier à décembre ou octobre à mai).
- 7.2 L'année dernière, le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) avait indiqué qu'il prévoyait de préparer un document de discussion examinant les aspects aussi bien scientifiques (e.g. données utilisées et unités de gestion appropriées) que de gestion (composantes devant être incluses dans le cadre). Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) avait offert de préparer un document de discussion à ce sujet pour que les Parties y réfléchissent.
- 7.3 Il a été demandé au Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) d'approfondir sur ce point. Compte tenu du Cadre d'évaluation de risque du CIEM, le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) accepte en principe le cadre pour le prochain cycle de conseils du CIEM, et note que cela ne compromet pas un cadre futur pour le partage des quotas. Le Président a noté qu'une réunion d'inter-session de la Commission pourrait avoir lieu si cela pouvait être bénéfique et le représentant du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) a accepté d'en discuter avec son Ministère.

8. Mesures de règlementation

- 8.1 La décision pluri-annuelle concernant la pêcherie au saumon dans les eaux féringuennes adoptée en 2015 s'appliquait à la pêcherie de saumon en 2015 / 2016, 2016 / 2017 et 2017 / 2018. La Commission a étudié une proposition pour une nouvelle Décision pluri-annuelle pour la pêcherie au saumon dans les eaux féringuennes, NEA(18)07. Cette Décision a été adoptée pour les saisons 2018 / 2019 à 2020 / 2021, NEA(18)12rev_final (Annexe 7).
- 8.2 Le représentant des ONGs a noté qu'ils appréciaient l'approche entreprise des Iles Féroé et félicitaient leurs efforts.
- 8.3 La Commission a accepté que la même procédure d'application du Cadre d'Indicateurs (FWI) que pour la Décision pluri-annuelle précédente s'applique dans le cadre de la nouvelle mesure. En vertu de cette disposition, un petit groupe comprenant un représentant pour chaque membre de la Commission travaillerait par correspondance pour coordonner la collecte des données et l'application du FWI. La Secrétaire contactera les Parties pour prendre connaissance de leurs nominations pour le groupe, effectuer une liaison avec le Président et rapporter les résultats aux Parties et au CIEM en janvier chaque année lors de l'application du FWI.

9. Compte rendu du Groupe de travail sur le *Gyrodactylus salaris*

- 9.1 Le Groupe de travail sur le *Gyrodactylus salaris* s'est réuni du 25 au 26 avril 2018 avec les termes de référence définis par la Commission en 2017. Des représentants de la Norvège, de l'Union européenne – Suède, l'Union européenne – Royaume-Uni (Angleterre et pays de Galles) et l'Union européenne – Royaume-Uni (Écosse) ont présenté des informations sur plusieurs aspects de la recherche sur et du suivi du *G. salaris*. La Norvège continue à traiter ses rivières pour éradiquer le *G. salaris* avec succès. Neuf autres rivières ont été déclarées exemptes de *G. salaris* en 2017 et sept rivières sont encore infectées. Les 16 rivières qui se jettent dans le Kattegat sur la côte Ouest de la Suède sont maintenant infectées par le parasite. Selon certaines indications, le *G. salaris* pourrait se propager au Nord des rivières suédoises du Sud à travers le Skagerrak par le mouvement naturel des salmonidés car il a été démontré que de fortes pluies hivernales peuvent adoucir les eaux côtières dans la mesure où elles ne seraient alors plus fatales au parasite, comme on le croyait auparavant. La Norvège s'en inquiète évidemment.
- 9.2 Lors de sa session de 2017, le Groupe de travail avait noté que lors de l'élaboration de la 'Feuille de route' en 2004 et de sa mise à jour en 2006, une grande incertitude entourait la nouvelle législation de l'UE en cours de révision à l'époque sur la santé des poissons. Un grand nombre des recommandations de révision des lignes directrices internationales contenues dans la 'Feuille de route' de 2006 concernaient le remplacement de la directive 91/67/CEE par une nouvelle directive, 2006/88/CE. La directive de 2006 devait être remplacée par un nouveau règlement de la Commission (2016/429) qui couvrirait à la fois la santé de la faune terrestre et de la faune aquatique, mais les dispositions relatives à la faune aquatiques resteraient largement inchangées. Le Groupe de travail avait convenu que la 'Feuille de route' de 2006 pourrait être simplifiée considérablement pour éliminer les doubles emplois et refléter les changements dans la législation de l'UE sur la santé de la faune aquatique et reformatée sans référence à la source originale des recommandations, responsabilités et délais d'action. Une 'Feuille de route' révisée, GSWG(17) 13, a été élaborée et le Groupe de travail a recommandé que la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est envisage

d'adopter le document compte tenu des effets potentiellement dévastateurs de ce parasite sur les stocks sauvages.

- 9.3 Lors de la session annuelle de 2017 de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est, le représentant de l'Union européenne a indiqué ne pas pouvoir adopter la 'Feuille de route' révisée proposée car le délai de consultation était insuffisant et la conformité de certaines recommandations avec les réglementations de l'UE en matière de santé animale n'était pas claire. La Commission n'a donc pas adopté la 'Feuille de route' révisée mais a convenu que lors de sa session de 2018, le Groupe de travail examinerait s'il est nécessaire de réviser les recommandations contenues dans ce document pour s'assurer de sa conformité avec la législation zoosanitaire des Parties de l'OCSAN. À cette fin, le représentant de l'Union européenne a proposé de faire part au Groupe de travail de ses observations relatives à la 'Feuille de route' révisée avant que le Groupe ne se réunisse en 2018.
- 9.4 Le représentant de l'Union européenne n'a pas été en mesure de faire part de ses commentaires avant la réunion du Groupe de travail, le groupe a donc recommandé que la 'Feuille de route' révisée, GSWG(17)13, constitue une base aux meilleures pratiques jusqu'à ce que la Commission l'accepte formellement, sous réserve des modifications recommandées par l'Union européenne et approuvées par la Commission. Le Groupe de travail tenait à ce que ces questions en suspens soient résolues dans les plus brefs délais possibles, et de préférence avant la réunion annuelle de la Commission en 2018, en vue de l'adoption intégrale de la 'Feuille de route' révisée.
- 9.5 Le Groupe de travail a recommandé que la réunion de 2018 reste la première du cycle triennal des réunions (comme convenu par la Commission lors de sa réunion de 2017) et le Groupe de travail devrait donc se réunir à nouveau en 2021, comme prévu initialement, pour examiner le progrès et recommander les changements nécessaires, un rapport annuel sur les progrès de la 'Feuille de route' serait effectué entre temps.
- 9.6 De façon générale, le Groupe de travail a reconnu l'utilité du forum pour échanger des informations sur les meilleures pratiques pour prévenir la propagation et éradiquer le *G. salaris*. Il est recommandé à toutes les Parties et à toutes les juridictions de tester régulièrement tous les plans d'action et de contingence liés à une éventuelle épidémie de *G. salaris* pour garantir leur efficacité.
- 9.7 En outre, le Groupe de travail encouragerait toutes les Parties et juridictions à faire en sorte que la menace de *G. salaris* soit suffisamment soulignée dans les nouveaux Programmes d'application et que des mesures soient développées pour prévenir, contenir et éradiquer le parasite. Par exemple, lorsqu'ils surveillent régulièrement les populations de saumons juvéniles, les Parties et les juridictions devraient être particulièrement conscientes que le *G. salaris* pourrait avoir pour effet une réduction significative du nombre de saumons juvéniles. Cela devrait être pris en compte lors de l'attribution d'une cause à un déclin inattendu de l'abondance du saumon juvénile.
- 9.8 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a soulevé deux questions rédactionnelles mineures aux fins de clarification dans le texte de la 'Feuille de route', aux paragraphes 1 g) et 1 h). Les Parties ont accepté ces révisions à l'unanimité.
- 9.9 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a ensuite indiqué qu'il avait consulté les autorités compétentes de la Commission européenne et qu'il était heureux d'annoncer qu'il était désormais en mesure d'adopter la 'Feuille de route' révisée (NEA(18)08) (Annexe 8). Le représentant des ONGs a remercié le représentant de l'Union européenne pour cette initiative et a apporté son plein soutien au calendrier des réunions proposé. La Norvège

a remercié le représentant de l'Union européenne pour l'adoption de la 'Feuille de route' et d'avoir reconnu sa valeur.

9.10 La Commission a convenu que le Groupe de travail sur le *Gyrodactylus salaris* devrait se réunir à nouveau en 2021 avec les termes de référence suivants:

- permettre un forum d'échange d'informations entre les Parties / juridictions en recherche sur le parasite *G. salaris*, et sur les programmes de suivi, contrôle et d'éradication de ce parasite;
- passer en revue les progrès relatifs aux recommandations contenues dans la 'Feuille de route' de la Commission y compris les progrès en matière de développement et de test des plans de contingence;
- développer des recommandations pour une coopération plus étroite sur les mesures de prévention contre une prolifération du parasite et pour son éradication dans les régions où il a été introduit.

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 de la Commission du Programme incitatif de l'OCSAN au renvoi des étiquettes était M. Victor Koretsky, Murmansk, Fédération de Russie. L'étiquette gagnante avait été appliquée le 27 juin 2017 pendant une pêche à la mouche avec remise à l'eau dans le rivière Vostochnaya Litsa dans la fosse militaire près de l'embouchure de la rivière sur un saumon fraîchement arrivé de la mer dans le cadre de la remontée estivale. Il a été repris à la mouche le 3 août 2017 dans la chute 'Lower Tent', à près de 3 km en amont du lieu de marquage. La Commission a adressé 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 et concernant la zone de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est a été acceptée par le Conseil, CNL(18)11 (Annexe 9).

12. Divers

12.1 Aucune autre question n'a été soulevée.

13. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

13.1 La Commission a convenu de tenir sa prochaine session annuelle à la même période et 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 de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est

Note: une liste des articles de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est est inclue en Annexe 10.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1 Opening Statement submitted on behalf of both the Sami Parliament (Norway) and the Sami Parliament (Finland)
- Annex 2 List of Participants at the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO
- Annex 3 Agenda, NEA(18)09
- Annex 4 Presentation of the ICES Advice for the North-East Atlantic stocks to the Commission, NEA(18)10
- Annex 5 Joint statement on behalf of Norway and the European Union regarding the agreement between Norway and Finland on the fisheries in the Teno Watercourse
- Annex 6 Joint statement on behalf of the Russian Federation and Norway
- Annex 7 Decision regarding the salmon fishery in Faroese waters, NEA(18)12rev_final
- Annex 8 *Gyrodactylus salaris* ‘Road Map’, NEA(18)08
- Annex 9 Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, CNL(17)10
- Annex 10 List of North-East Atlantic Commission Papers

NASCO - Statement to the North-East Atlantic Commission

On behalf of the Sámi Parliament of Norway and the Sámi Parliament of Finland we submit a joint statement.

Salmon fishing on Tana River has been regulated by bilateral agreements between Norway and Finland since 1873, with the current agreement dating back to 1990. After being signed and endorsed by the parliaments of Norway and Finland in March 2017, the new agreement has met with opposition from Sámi and non-indigenous fishing communities in both countries. In a situation generally intended to reduce exploitation and where the Sámi in particular are being required to bear most of the burden, the agreement establishes a new group of stakeholders that are being granted fishing rights.

In addition, as mentioned in our opening statement, the Sámi largely have been excluded from consultations on the new fishing agreement concerning the river-Tana. One would expect the Nordic countries to know better than to conduct such processes without proper involvement on the part of the Sámi parliaments in both countries. We are gravely disappointed. In all honesty, many local Sámi are angry.

This raises the question of whether the new agreement complies with the NASCO guidelines concerning socio-economic implications, particularly when it comes to consulting stakeholders. The Sámi parliaments strongly underscore the State's responsibility for obtaining indigenous people's free, prior informed consent when making decisions that may impact our interests.

We would like to remind the parties that The Permanent Forum of UN urges Member States to reform agreements of intergovernmental conservation organizations to comply with the principles of the UN Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples, such as NASCO.

The Sámi Parliaments of Norway and Finland also wants to inform NASCO that the Norwegian Road Administration, the Norwegian Coastal Authority and the municipality of South Varanger have begun cooperation to plan a new trunk terminal in the harbor area and the Europaroad 6 connection in the municipality of South Varanger. The final proposal for the plan is to be left to the municipal government's decision-making in Autumn 2018. The harbor area is planned to be placed to Neiden Fjord.

Both the Neiden-river and the Munk-river falls to the Neiden Fjord. Both rivers are also spawning waters of the salmon. Climate change, Kirkenes mining industry and emissions from the Russian nickel mine already have a negative impact to both rivers. The fish in the Neiden-river has a significant impact on the local Sámi food culture and the Sámi culture more widely. The Sámi Parliament in Finland has submitted an environmental impact assessment procedure under the Espoo Agreement to the Finnish Ministry of the Environment.

The Sámi Parliaments considers that a project is likely to have an impact especially on the salmon population and we invite NASCO to follow the planned harbor area construction project, which also involves an Arctic railway.

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Annex 3

NEA(18)09

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. Development of a Risk Framework for the Faroese Fishery
8. Regulatory Measures
9. Report of the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris*
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

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Atlantic salmon from Northeast Atlantic



Science for sustainable seas

Terms of Reference



- 2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:**
- 2.1 describe the key events of the 2017 fisheries;
 - 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;
 - 2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2018/19-2020/21 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; and
 - 2.5 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice.

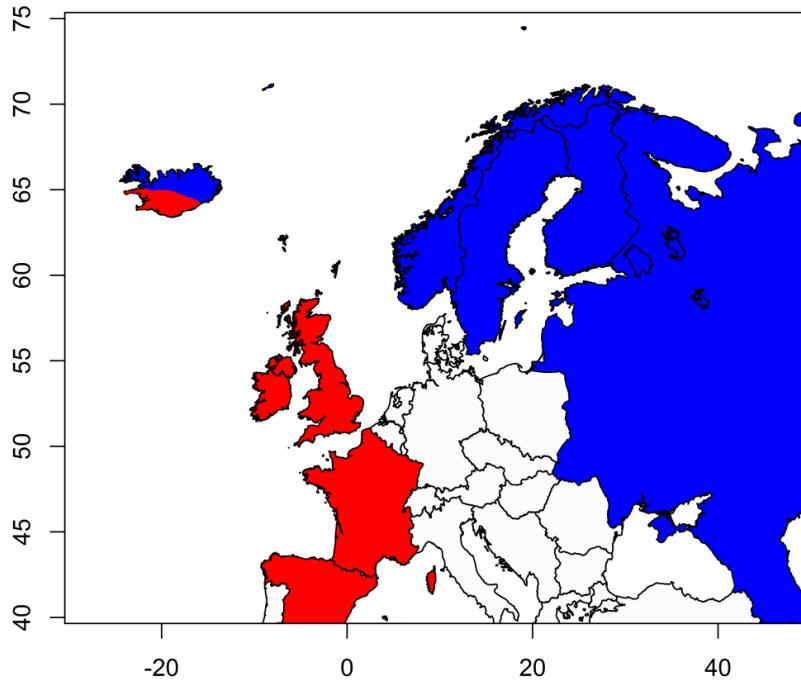
Background

- Northeast Atlantic Commission (NEAC) stocks are combined into two groups for the provision of management advice for fisheries at West Greenland and Faroes

Southern group (Southern NEAC)

:

- UK (Scotland)
- UK (England and Wales)
- UK (N. Ireland)
- Ireland
- France
- Iceland (south/west regions)



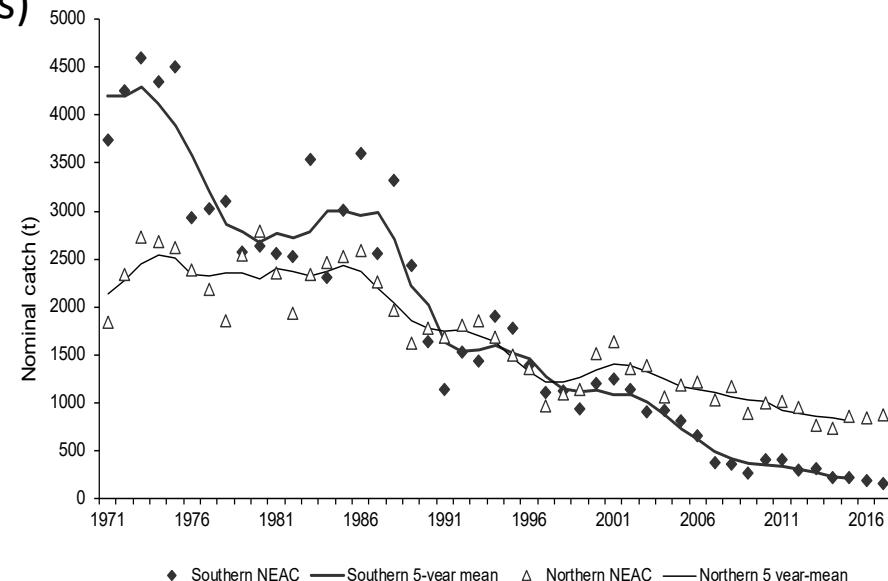
Northern group (Northern NEAC) :

- Russia
- Finland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Iceland (north/east regions)

2.1 Key Events 2017 Fisheries

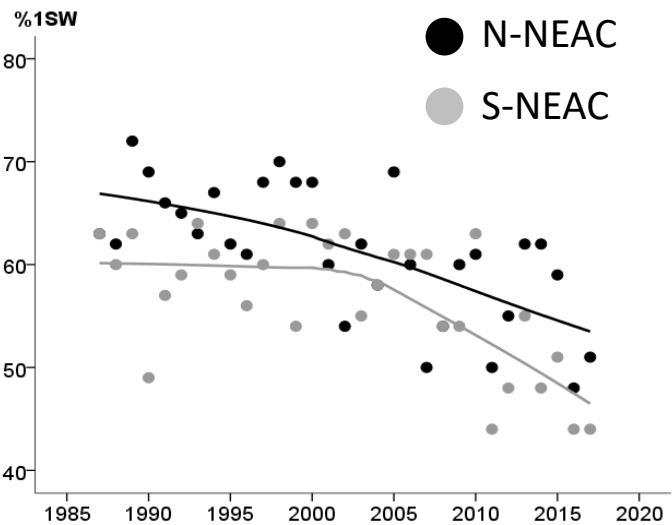
- No significant changes in the gear types used. No fishery Faroes since 2000
- NEAC Reported Nominal Catch (sal.27.neac: Table 1, Figure 1):
 - 1039 t
 - 162 t in Southern NEAC (lowest in time series)
 - 877 t in Northern NEAC
- Unreported catch: 317 t

	Southern NEAC	Northern NEAC	Faroës	Total NEAC
2017 nominal catch (t)	162	877	0	1039
Catch as % of NEAC total	16	84	0	
Unreported catch (t)	16	301	-	317
Location of catches				
% in-river	58	65	-	64
% in estuaries	20	0	-	3
% coastal	23	35	-	33

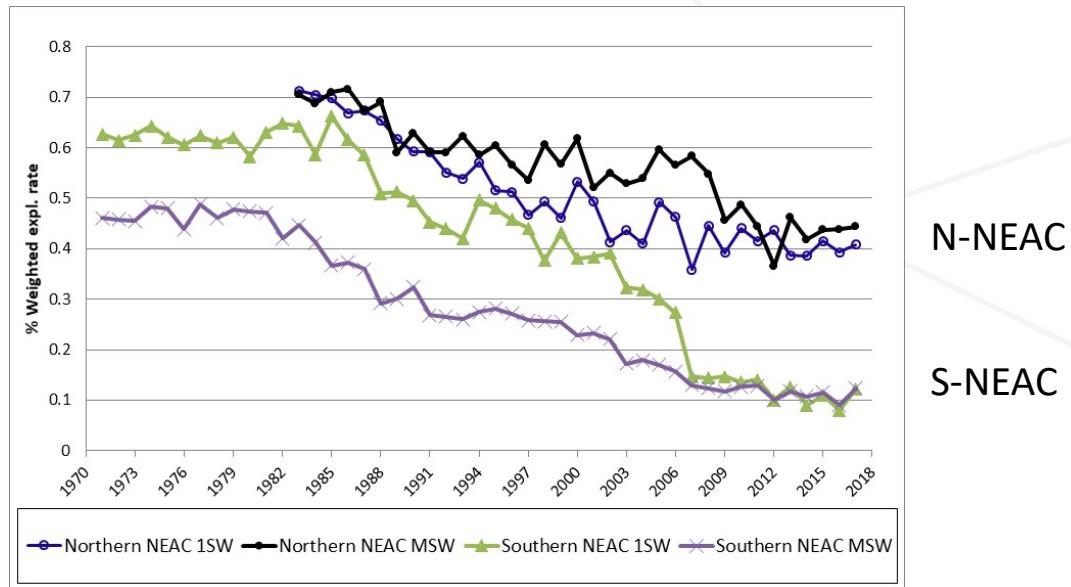


2.1 Key Events 2017 Fisheries

- Declining trend in catch of 1SW salmon over time series (1987-2017)
- Exploitation rates deceased since early 1980s, 1SW and MSW salmon have become similar



sal.27.neac: Figure 2



sal.27.neac: Figure 3

2.2 Stock Conservation Limits (CLs)



- River-specific CLs (egg or spawner requirements):
 - France, Ireland, UK (England & Wales), UK (Northern Ireland), Finland, Norway, and Sweden
 - CLs summed to country level
- Interim approach:
 - Russia, UK (Scotland), and Iceland
- Updates:
 - UK (Scotland) – currently developing modelling approach for river specific CLs
 - Russia – preliminary results from a few rivers

sal.27.neac: section from Table 4

Country or jurisdiction	Number of rivers with CLs	Number of rivers assessed for compliance
Northern NEAC		
Russia	85	8
Finland/Norway (Tana/Teno)	24	14
Norway	439	174
Sweden	24	22
Southern NEAC		
UK (Scotland)	171	171
UK (Northern Ireland)	16	11
UK (England & Wales)	64	64
Ireland	143	143
France	35	35

2.2 Stock Conservation Limits (CLs) and Spawner Escapement Reserves (SERs)

- National CLs summed to four NEAC stock complexes
- SER (Spawner Escapement Reserves)**
 - Number of fish prior to fisheries to meet CLs when they return to homewaters
 - CLs increased to account for natural mortality ($M = 0.03$ per month) between 1 January of first winter and return to homewaters

sal.27.neac: Table 3

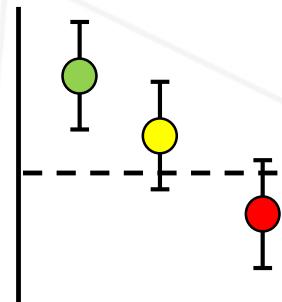
Complex	Sea age group	CL (number of fish)	SER (number of fish)
Northern NEAC	1SW	137 330	173 601
	MSW	120 953	206 201
Southern NEAC	1SW	654 921	830 559
	MSW	324 126	550 081

2.3 Stock Status

- Pre-Fishery Abundance (PFA) : abundance at 1 January of first winter at sea
 - by sea age group (maturing 1SW and non-maturing 1SW (MSW) salmon)
 - by stock complex (Northern NEAC and Southern NEAC) and individual country
- PFA relative to SER (Spawner Escapement Reserve: CLs adjusted for natural mortality)
- Spawners relative to CLs

Risk Assessment Framework

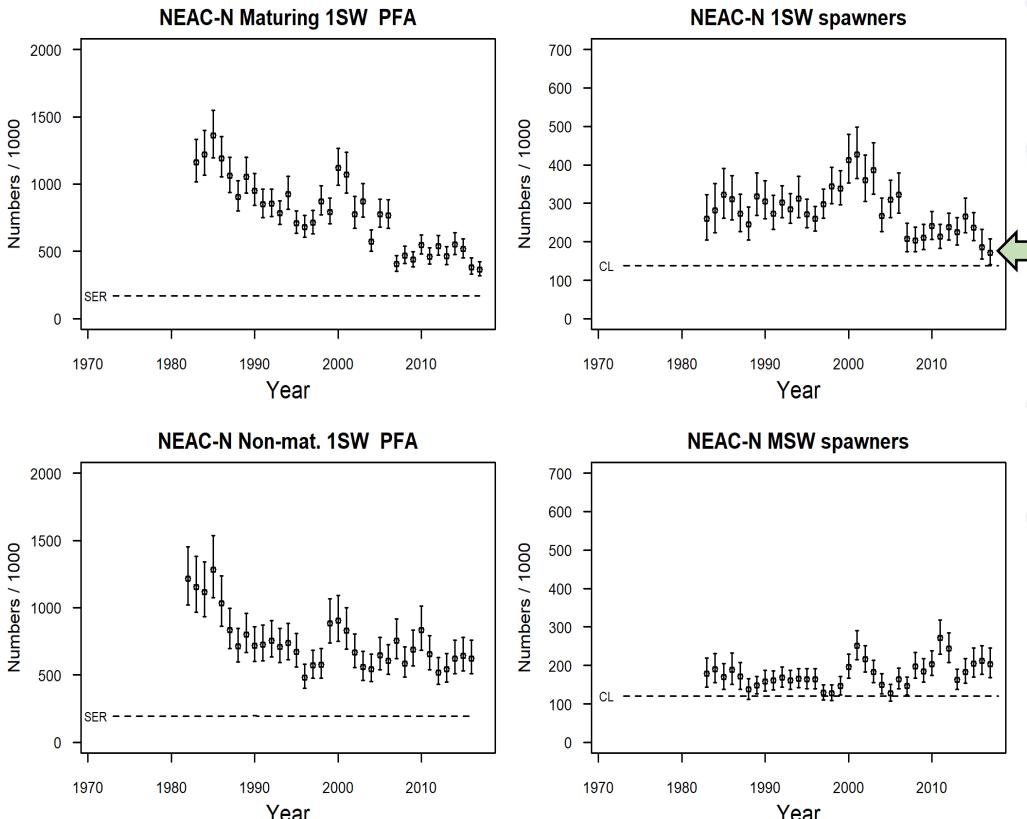
- Full Reproductive Capacity :
 - lower bound of the 90% confidence interval of the estimate above reference point
 - equivalent to a probability of at least 95% of meeting reference point
- At Risk of Suffering Reduced Reproductive Capacity:
 - lower bound of the confidence interval is below reference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



2.3 Stock Status: Northern NEAC (N-NEAC)

N-NEAC:
2017 PFA

- Declining trend
- PFA > SER
- Both complexes at full reproductive capacity



N-NEAC:
2017 Spawners

- Spawners > CLs
- Both complexes at full reproductive capacity
- 1SW spawners lowest in time series

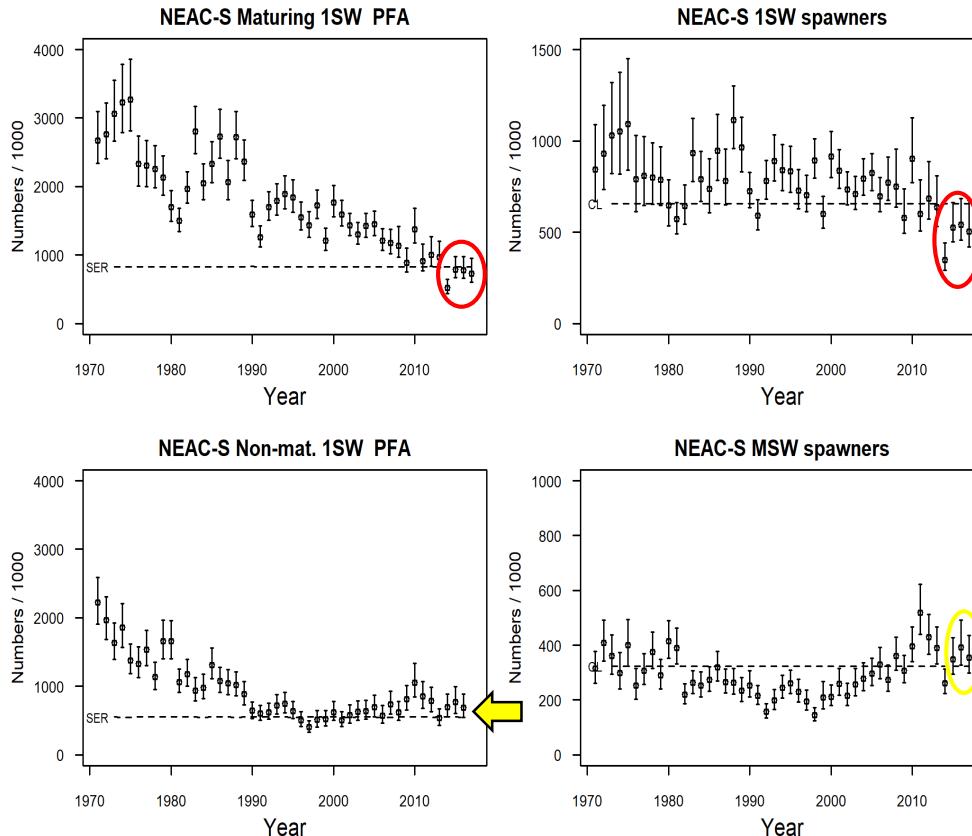
sal.27.neac: Figure 5

2.3 Stock Status: Southern NEAC (S-NEAC)



S-NEAC: 2017 PFA

- Declining trend
- Mat 1SW: suffering reduced reproductive capacity
- Non-mat 1SW: at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity



sal.27.neac: Figure 5

S-NEAC: 2017 Spawners

- 1SW spawners: suffering reduced reproductive capacity
- MSW spawners: at risk of suffering reduced reproductive capacity

2.3 Stock Status: PFA by Country

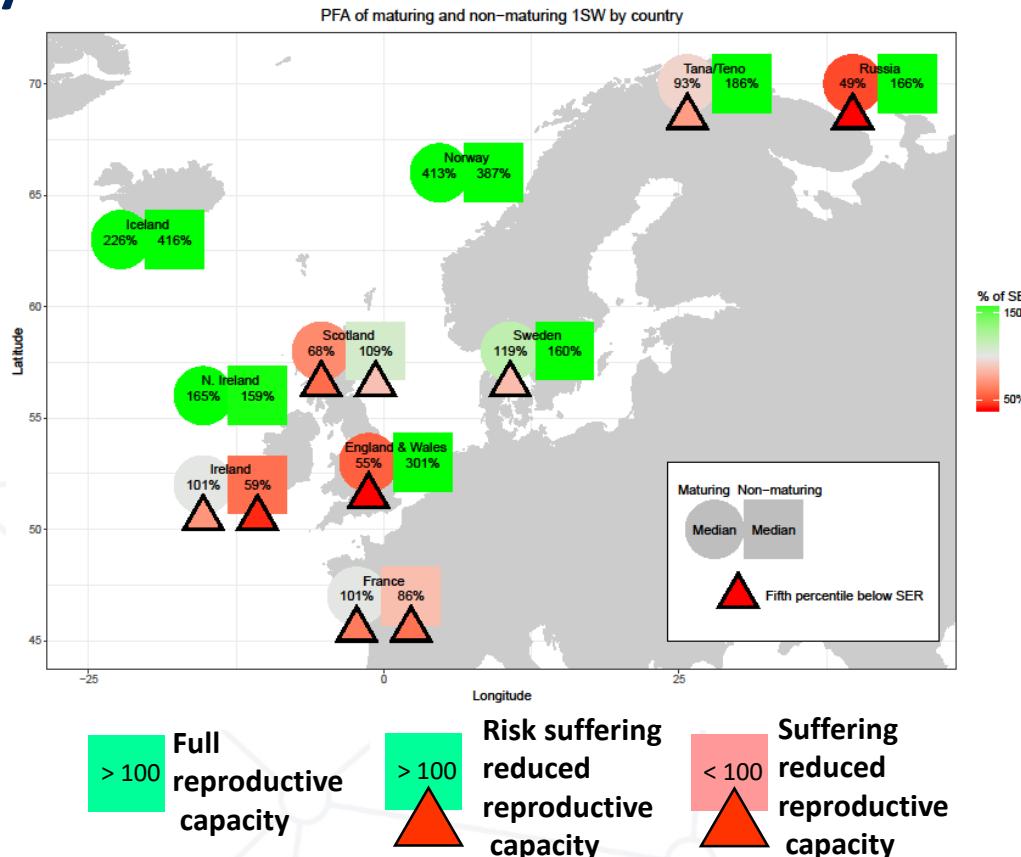
Northern NEAC 2017:

- Non-mat. 1SW: full reproductive capacity
- Mat. 1SW: full reproductive capacity in Iceland and Norway, others at risk or suffering reduced reproductive capacity

Southern NEAC 2017:

- Non-mat. 1SW: full reproductive capacity in UK (England and Wales and N. Ireland), others at risk or suffering reduced reproductive capacity
- Mat. 1SW: full reproductive capacity in UK (N. Ireland), others at risk or suffering reduced reproductive capacity

sal.27.neac: Figure 6



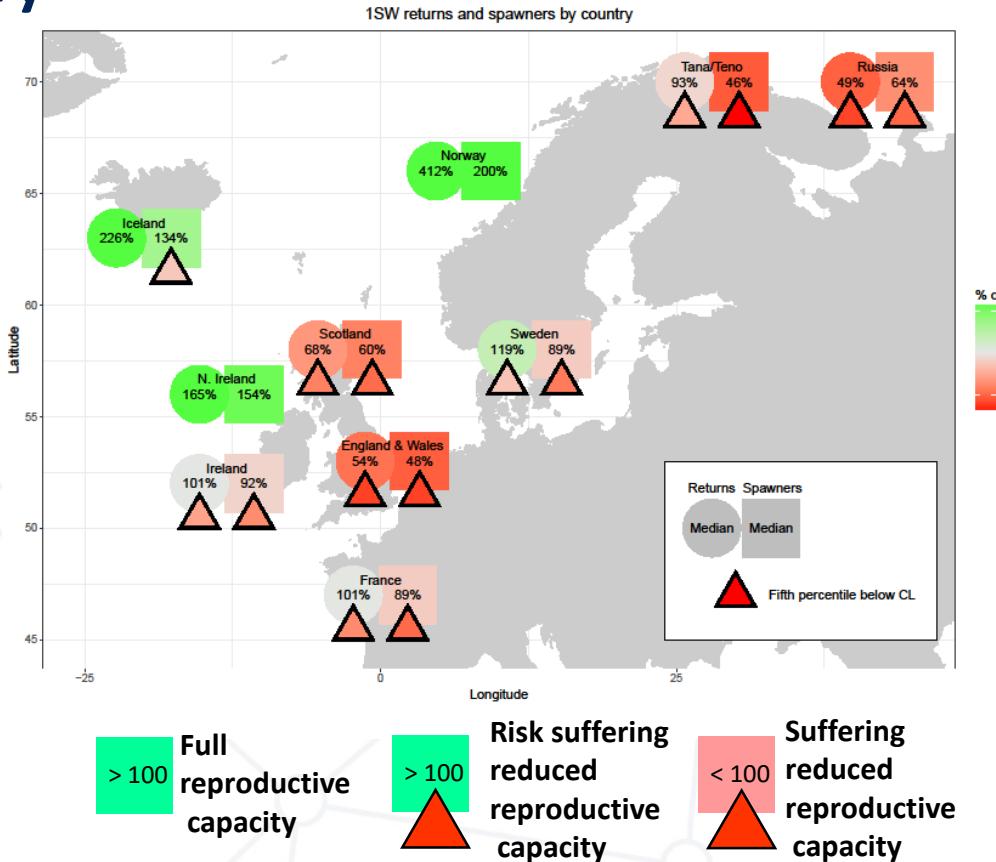
2.3 Stock Status: 1SW by Country

Northern NEAC 2017:

- 1SW spawners at risk of (Iceland) or suffering (Russia, Sweden, Teno/Finland) reduced reproductive capacity

Southern NEAC 2017:

- With exception of UK (N. Ireland), 1SW spawners suffering reduced reproductive capacity



sal.27.neac: Figure 7

2.3 Stock Status: MSW by Country

Northern NEAC 2017:

MSW spawners:

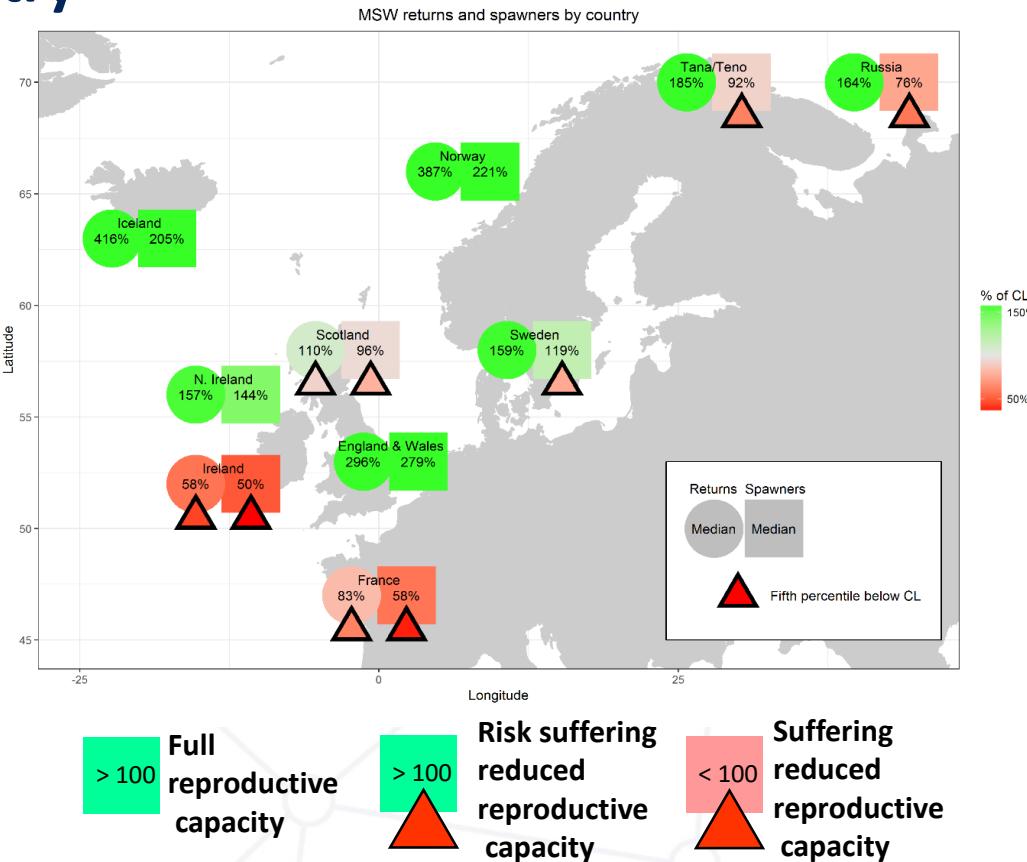
- full reproductive capacity: Norway and Iceland
- at risk: Sweden
- suffering: Finland and Russia

Southern NEAC 2017:

MSW spawners:

- full reproductive capacity:
UK (England and Wales, N. Ireland)
- suffering reduced reproductive capacity:
France, Ireland, and UK (Scotland)

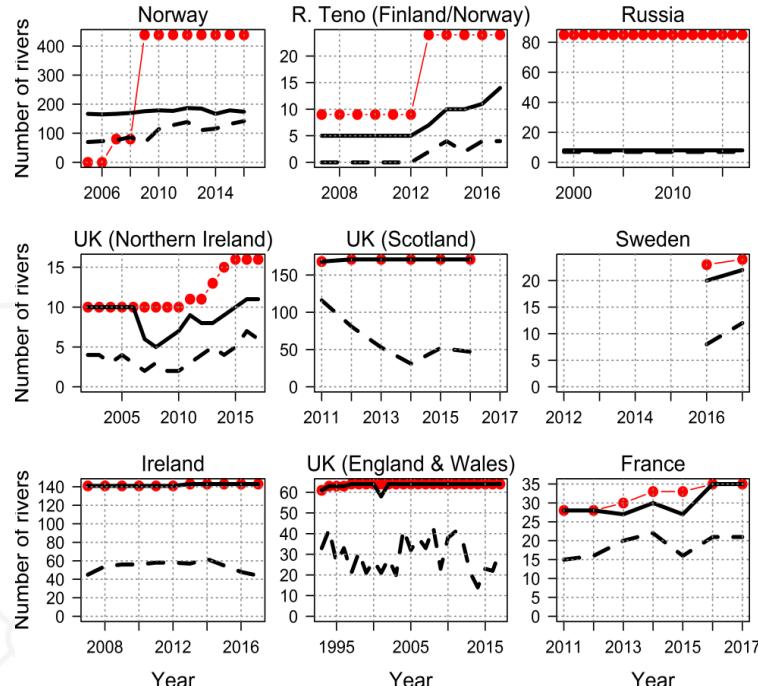
sal.27.neac: Figure 8



2.3 Stock Status: Trends in Rivers Meeting CLs

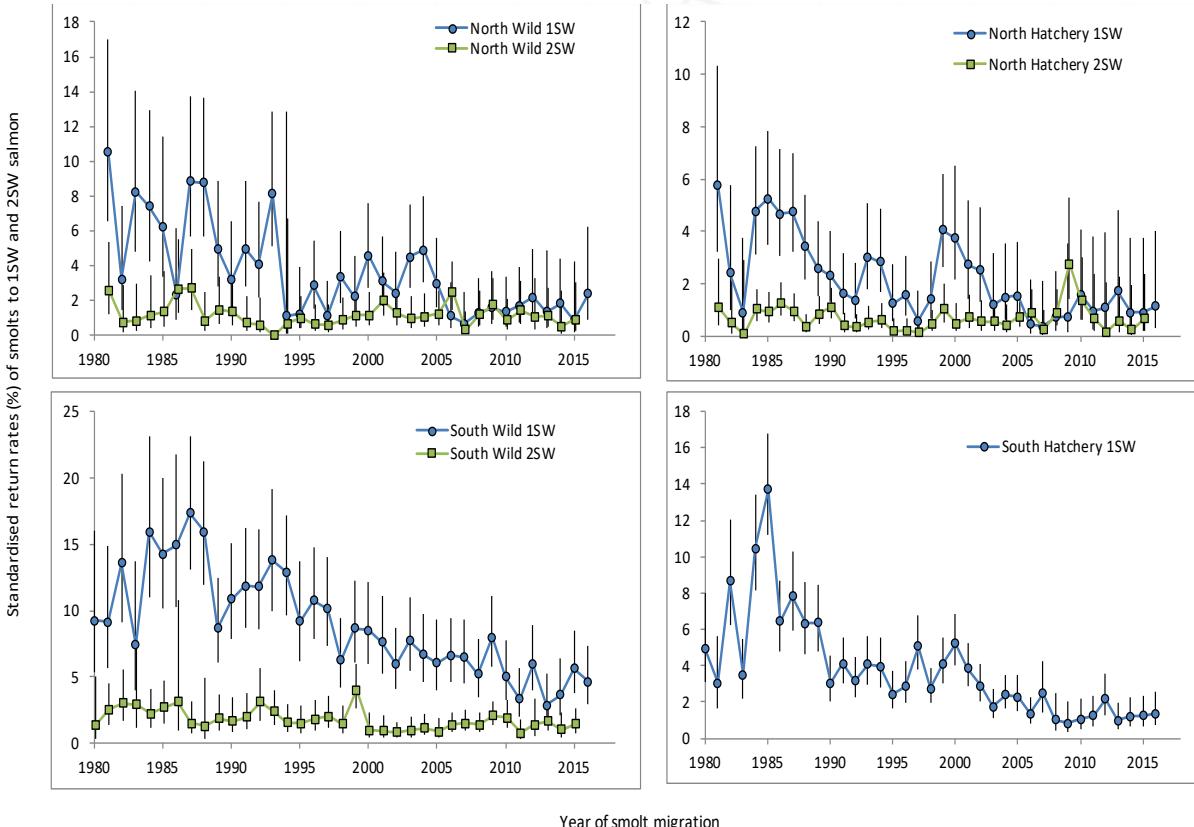
- nine jurisdictions with river-specific CLs (sal.27.neac: Table 4, Figure 4)
- Spawners assessed against CLs

Country or jurisdiction	Number rivers assessed	Number attaining CL	% attaining CL	Trend statement
Northern NEAC				
Russia	8	7	88	stable
Finland/Norway (Tana/Teno)	14	4	29	0% attainment to 2013, variable since 2014 (20% to 40%)
Norway	174	142	82	increasing
Sweden	22	12	55	increasing (data for 2016 and 2017 only)
Southern NEAC				
UK (Scotland)	171	47	27	Decreasing
UK (Northern Ireland)	11	6	55	Increasing
UK (England & Wales)	64	50	32	increasing since 2014
Ireland	143	44	31	decreasing since 2014
France	35	21	60	Increasing



2.3 Stock Status: Return Rates (Marine Survival)

- 1SW declining trend since 1980
- 2SW no trend
- Little improvement of stock status over time
- Mainly a consequence of continuing poor survival in the marine environment



sal.27.neac: Figure 9

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

- NASCO 2015 multi-year regulatory agreement for the Faroese salmon fishery (http://www.nasco.int/pdf/2015%20papers/NEA_15_10.pdf)
- 2018 is the third 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.

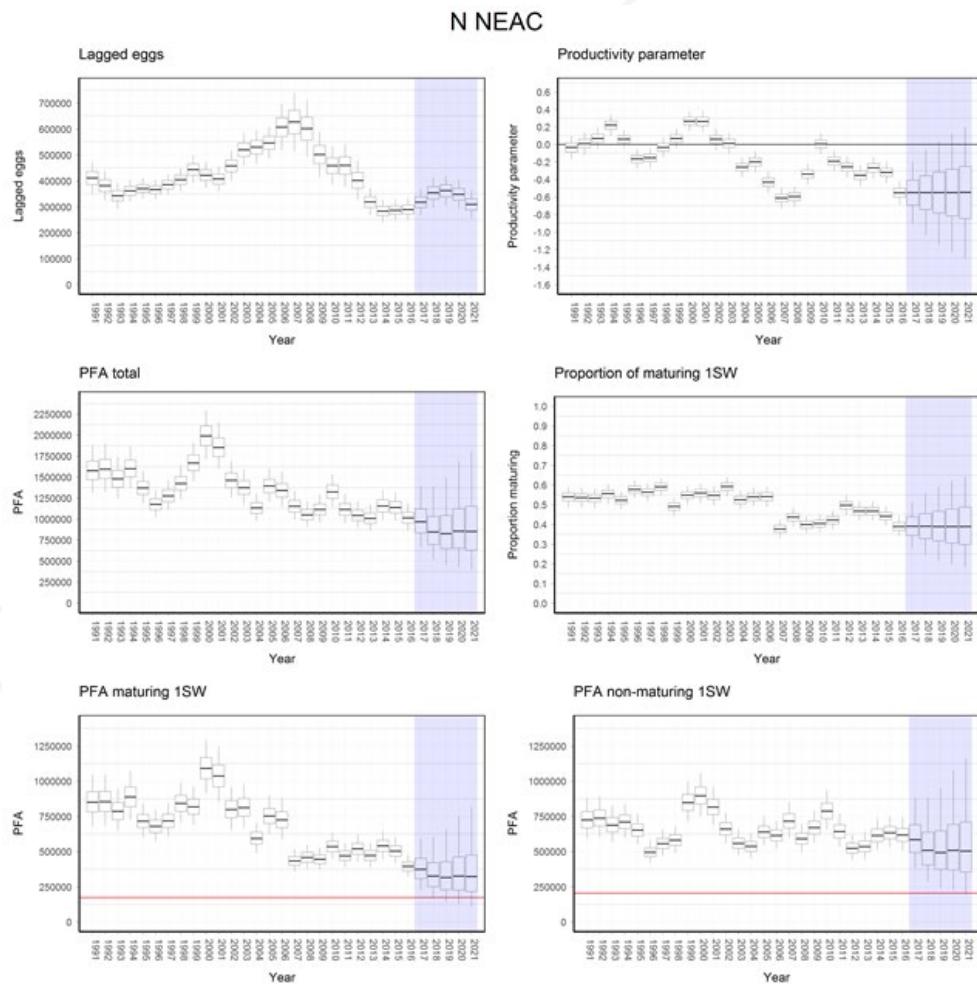
2.4 Catch Options: PFA Forecasts 2017-2021

Northern NEAC

(sal.27.neac: Table 6, Figure 10)

Without any fisheries 2018-2021,

- Potential 1SW spawners: < 95% probability of meeting CLs (84% - 89%)
- Potential MSW spawners: > 95% probability of meeting CLs (96% - 99%)



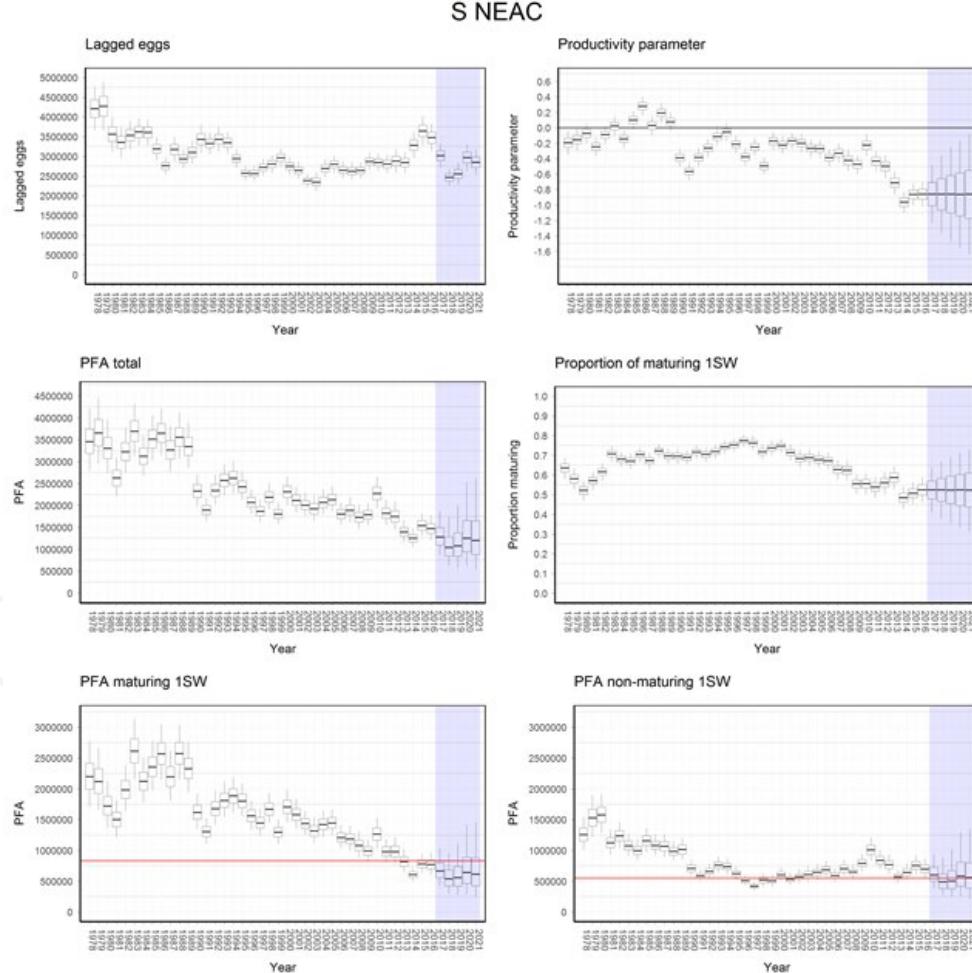
2.4 Catch Options: PFA Forecasts 2017-2021

Southern NEAC

(sal.27.neac: Table 6, Figure 11)

Without any fisheries 2018-2021,

- Potential 1SW and MSW spawners:
< 95% probability of meeting CLs
 - 1SW: 17% - 30%
 - MSW: 37% - 55%



2.4 Catch Options:

N-NEAC MSW:

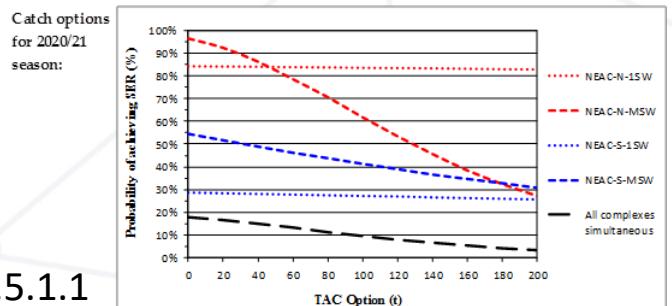
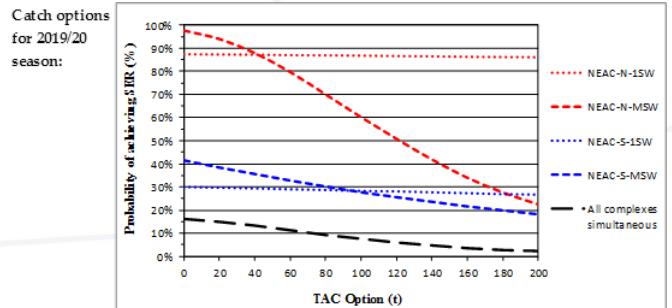
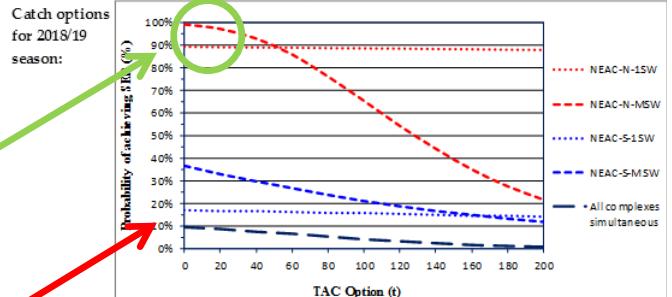
≥ 95% probability of achieving SERs at Faroes

Catch option of ≤ 20t

No catch option ensures a >95% probability of all complexes achieving SERs simultaneously (10% at 0 t)

By Country (sal.27.neac: Tables 7 and 8):

- 1SW – all less than 95% probability of meeting CLs at 0 t
- MSW – most less than 95% probability of meeting CLs at 0 t (exceptions Norway and Iceland)



ICES CM 2018/ACOM:21 WGNAS Figure 3.5.1.1

2.4 Catch Options:

- ICES advises that, in line with the management objectives agreed by NASCO and consistent with the Maximum Sustainable Yield Approach (MSY), there are no mixed-stock fishery options on the NEAC complexes/countries at the Faroes in 2018/2019 to 2020/2021
- Even in the absence of a fishery at Faroes, the abundance of many stocks remains low and particular care should be taken to ensure that homewater fisheries are managed to protect stocks that are below their CLs

2.5 Framework of Indicators



- In the intermediate years of a multiyear catch agreement, an interim assessment is conducted to determine whether a full reassessment of stock status and new catch advice might be required.
- This assessment relies on a framework of indicators (FWI) that was updated in 2018
 - FWI could be applied for the next two years, in January 2019 and 2020, based on new assessment data in 2018 and 2019 (e.g. returns, counts, catch)
 - only N-NEAC 1SW salmon and S-NEAC 1SW and MSW are included in the assessments (forecasts below CLs resulting in no catch option for Faroes)
 - full reassessment required if any of these NEAC stock complexes suggest an increase in PFA abundance that is above the 75th percentile of the forecasted PFA



Annex 5

Joint statement on behalf of Norway and the European Union regarding the Agreement between Norway and Finland on the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse

Introduction

The Agreement between Norway and Finland on the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse came into force in 2017. There are genetically unique salmon stocks in the river, and regulations under the agreement aim to reduce the fishing pressure by one third. This is expected to improve the status of weak stocks within a 15 year-period. In addition to ensuring the sustainability of the stocks, the regulations are made in a way traditional Sami gear fishery is allowed to continue with reduced fishing times, and the tourist rod fishery is reduced substantially, by setting an annual maximum number of fishing licenses available to tourists. To safeguard fishing rights of the Sami and the local population in the negotiations, the Sami Parliaments of Norway and Finland, as well as local fishing rights holders, whom to a large extent are Sami, were represented throughout the whole negotiation process.

The following is a summary of the process of implementing the agreement. The summary emphasizes four core aspects of the process: Establishment of a monitoring and research group (1), establishment of the permanent working group on the management of the salmon stocks (2), drafting of a management plan (3) and the procedure for annual evaluation and review of the fishing rules (4).

Monitoring and research group

The Norwegian and Finnish Governments have updated the mandate for a common working group for monitoring and research on the salmon stocks in the river. The group consists of two scientists from each country. The purpose of the group is to coordinate the monitoring and research on the stocks, and to facilitate a knowledge-based approach to the Teno river salmon management. The group compiles annual reports on the status of the stocks, and upon request, it can give scientific advice to the authorities. The group shall integrate traditional knowledge into its evaluations, and meets regularly with local stakeholders. The reports of the group are written in english and are available on the internet (https://www.luke.fi/tana_research_group).

The establishment of a permanent working group on the management of the fish stocks and drafting of a management plan

The Norwegian and Finnish Governments are jointly compiling a management plan, in order to monitor the recovery of the weak salmon stocks and to ensure the biological diversity and sustainable utilization of the salmon stocks. The management plan will be based on data presented by the monitoring and research group, and will include management targets for each salmon stock and stock development trajectories estimating how the management targets can be achieved with the present fishing rules.

Furthermore, the Norwegian and Finnish Governments have established a joint permanent working group on the management of the Teno river salmon stocks, which will propose a draft management plan for the governments. Besides government authorities, local stakeholders are represented in the group.

Evaluation and review of the fishing rules

A set of fishing rules forms an integral part of the agreement, and includes regulations for fishing with rod and traditional gears. Pursuant to the NASCO guidelines, the rules comprise an element of flexibility, according to which the rules may be adjusted annually, so long as the status of the fish stocks allows it, or even requires it.

During the spring of 2018, Norway and Finland carried out the review- and adjustment-procedure for the first time. Certain deviations with minor expected effect on fishing mortality were agreed upon, to facilitate more flexible administration and sales of fishing licenses and to clarify some regulations.

The Norwegian and Finnish Governments are committed to continuing the work under the Teno Agreement, and will continue to seek assistance and involvement from the research and monitoring group and the local stakeholders, which is vital for a good implementation of the agreement.

Annex 6

Norway – Russia update on coastal fisheries issues

In autumn 2015 the Russian Federation and Norway signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway) and the Federal Agency for Fisheries (the Russian Federation) on cooperation in management of and monitoring and research on wild Atlantic salmon in Finnmark County (Norway) and the Murmansk region (the Russian Federation).

In accordance with the MoU the joint Working group was established. The group shall consist of managers and scientists from each country. At the group's inaugural meeting in Oslo 24 November 2015, it was agreed that the formal name of the group should be the Working Group on Atlantic Salmon in Finnmark County and the Murmansk Region.

At its 2016 meeting the group agreed that the first report should focus on the main topics such as the scientific foundation for conservation limits and catch advice, status of relevant salmon populations, development of fisheries, policies and processes in salmon fisheries management in Norway and Russia. Other topics could be included in later reports.

The main purpose of the group meeting in autumn 2017 was to work on the report from the group. The report was formalized in spring 2018 and delivered to the Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway) and the Federal Agency for Fishery (the Russian Federation). It was agreed that the report will be opened for the public soon.

NEA(18)12rev_final

***Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters
in 2018 / 2019, 2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021***

The North-East Atlantic Commission:

RECOGNISING the right of the Faroe Islands to fish for salmon in their area of fisheries jurisdiction;

ACKNOWLEDGING the restraint demonstrated by the Faroe Islands by not having commercial salmon fisheries for a number of years;

RECALLING that the Parties to the North-East Atlantic Commission have previously agreed decisions for the Faroese fishery based on the scientific advice from ICES;

ACKNOWLEDGING that in the past the Faroe Islands have managed the salmon fishery in the area of its fisheries jurisdiction in consideration of the advice from ICES concerning the biological situation and the status of the stocks contributing to the fishery;

AGREEING to continue to work together to establish an agreed mechanism to allocate any exploitable surplus between the Faroe Islands and homewater fisheries on a fair and equitable basis;

NOTING that the Faroe Islands will manage any salmon fishery on the basis of the advice from ICES regarding the stocks contributing to the Faroese salmon fishery in a precautionary manner and with a view to sustainability, taking into account relevant factors, such as socio-economic needs;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Faroese management decisions will be made with due consideration to the advice of ICES concerning the biological situation and the status of the stocks contributing to the fishery;

RECOGNISING that ICES considers it highly unlikely that the catch options provided for the North-East Atlantic Commission will change during the next three years;

NOTING that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will, in case of any decision to open the fishery, inform the NASCO Secretariat and all members of the Commission of that decision and the attached conditions. In that event, other members of the Commission could call for a Commission meeting in accordance with Article 10 (7) of the Convention. In such a case, it is agreed to derogate from the provisions of Rule 16 of Procedure;

RECOGNISING that a Framework of Indicators has been provided by ICES and will be applied in 2019 and 2020 to evaluate if a significant change is signalled by the indicators and therefore that a reassessment is warranted;

HEREBY DECIDES:

Not to set a quota for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone for 2018 / 2019. This decision will also apply in 2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021 unless the application of the Framework of Indicators shows that a reassessment is warranted. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) retains the right to conduct a scientific research fishery in the Faroese Fishery Zone.

NEA(18)08

'Road Map' to enhance information exchange and cooperation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced

Recommendation	Proposed Action
1. Preventive measures and contingency planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Appropriate steps should be taken to prevent the spread of <i>G. salaris</i> on fishing equipment, boats, etc. by use of approved disinfection methods. b) All movements of live fish should be recorded so that movements can be traced in the event of an outbreak of <i>G. salaris</i>. c) The risk of <i>G. salaris</i> introduction through the processing of fish carcasses should be assessed and, where appropriate, mitigated through control of processing. d) Physical barriers to fish migration should be considered as a measure to prevent the spread of <i>G. salaris</i> within a catchment and to uninfected catchments. e) Where possible, routine breaks in production and disinfection on rainbow trout and salmon freshwater aquaculture sites should be implemented as part of a control programme in infected areas. f) Permission to stock fish into infected river catchments should be based on an assessment of the increased risk of transmission of the parasite to non-infected rivers (e.g. through migration and other routes). g) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should have contingency plans in place for treatment, containment or eradication. These plans should be developed in consultation with stakeholders. A legal base for the use of rotenone or other treatments, containment and eradication measures should be put in place. Contingency plans should be tested periodically and updated as required. h) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should endeavour to ensure that adequate resources are available for the implementation of measures to contain and eradicate <i>G. salaris</i>.

2. Cooperation on management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The North-East Atlantic Commission (NEAC) should retain an item on <i>G. salaris</i> on the agendas for its annual meetings. This would facilitate reports by its Parties and their relevant jurisdictions and by the Working Group on measures to prevent the further spread of the parasite and to eradicate it in areas where it has been introduced and on other aspects of this ‘Road Map’. b) The Working Group on <i>G. salaris</i> in the North-East Atlantic Commission Area should meet again in 2018 and then every 3 years thereafter, or more frequently if circumstances require, to provide a forum for more detailed information exchange and review of progress in implementing this ‘Road Map’. c) Contingency plans developed by NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should be made available to the Working Group at its next meeting with the view to sharing information on approaches and challenges. The plans should be made available on the websites of the Competent Authorities with links to them from the NASCO website.
3. Monitoring methods for use in watercourses, lakes and in aquaculture.	<p>The Working Group should review new developments with regard to monitoring for, and detection of, <i>G. salaris</i>, and develop recommendations for their inclusion in international guidelines.</p>
4. Distribution of <i>G. salaris</i> in the NEAC area and adjacent areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Existing monitoring programmes on salmonids in the wild and in aquaculture environments undertaken by NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should be retained and expanded as necessary. They should provide genetic data for all <i>Gyrodactylus</i> species isolated during monitoring. Reports on these programmes should be provided to the Working Group at their next meeting. b) Information should be requested from all NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions which have wild Atlantic salmon but which have not participated in the Working Group to date. c) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should identify <i>G. salaris</i> as an impact factor in the NASCO river database for those rivers infected by the parasite. d) The NASCO Secretariat should make a request to the OIE reference laboratory for <i>G. salaris</i> seeking information on the distribution of <i>G. salaris</i> in countries that have wild and/or farmed susceptible species, but which do not have wild Atlantic salmon.
5. Research to inform the effective management of <i>G. salaris</i>.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should conduct applied research to inform the effective management of <i>G. salaris</i>, particularly the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the distribution and genetics of <i>G. salaris</i>; - the effects of salmon genetics on susceptibility to <i>G. salaris</i>;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the effect of environmental factors on pathogenicity; - to clarify the classification of <i>G. salaris</i> and <i>G. thymalli</i> and then develop a reliable method to distinguish between pathogenic and non-pathogenic strains; - general biology and mechanisms of spread of the parasite; - effect of environmental parameters and ecology on the distribution of <i>G. salaris</i>; - detection and diagnostic methods for <i>G. salaris</i>; - new environmental friendly treatment methods in rivers and lakes, e.g. acid aluminum and chloride. <p>b) The Working Group should keep research requirements and monitoring needs under review and report regularly to the NEAC.</p>
6. Classification of <i>Gyrodactylus</i> species.	NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should only support any future proposal to synomise <i>G. salaris</i> and <i>G. thymalli</i> if, in parallel, OIE standards and national legislation recognize the different pathogenicity and host predilection of these two species.
7. Publicity, education, and awareness.	<p>a) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should develop publicity material on the threat of the parasite to wild Atlantic salmon and specify measures to prevent its spread; strategies for the effective dissemination of this material should be developed particularly with regard to targeting high risk groups. Existing material should be reviewed and updated as appropriate in the light of current knowledge. The NASCO Secretariat should develop standard text as a basis for such publicity material.</p> <p>b) This material should be made available on the web sites and promoted on the social media platforms of the Competent Authorities and NASCO with a view to highlighting the serious risks posed by the spread of the parasite.</p>
8. Continuity of current measures in the EU Animal Health Law.	Relevant NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should seek to ensure continuity in the provisions related to <i>G. salaris</i> in current EU animal health legislation (Regulation 2016/429) which should be retained, in particular with regard to additional guarantees.
9. Criteria for diagnosis and establishing <i>G. salaris</i>-free zones.	NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should implement the diagnostic standards in the OIE Manual of Diagnostic Tests for Aquatic Animals.
10. Trade in live susceptible fish species.	<p>a) Trade in disinfected eggs is preferable to trade in live susceptible fish species. However, where movements of live susceptible fish species are approved, NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should ensure that trade in live susceptible fish species only takes place between areas of equal <i>G. salaris</i> status or from a higher to lower status area.</p>

	b) NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions should ensure the health status of the traded live susceptible fish species and/or their eggs, and the competence of the certifying Authority.
11. Shared catchments.	NEAC Parties and their relevant jurisdictions with shared catchments or having catchments in close proximity should implement appropriate mechanisms for cooperation, including the establishment and strengthening of inter-country working groups and the development of common contingency plans to control and eradicate <i>G. salaris</i> .

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)
Birita í Dali (WGC, manager representative)
Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)
Martha Robertson (ICES representative, Observer)
Patrick Gargan (Coordinator)

Annex 10

NEA(18)00

List of North-East Atlantic Commission Papers

NEA(18)00	List of North-East Atlantic Commission Papers
NEA(18)01	Provisional Agenda
NEA(18)02	Draft Agenda
NEA(18)03	Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in the North-East Atlantic Commission Area
NEA(18)04	Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway)
NEA(18)04rev	Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway)
NEA(18)05	Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the European Union)
NEA(18)06	Mixed Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the Russian Federation)
NEA(18)07	Draft Decision regarding the salmon fishery in Faroese waters in 2019 / 2020, 2020 / 2021 and 2021 / 2022
NEA(18)08	<i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> ‘Road Map’
NEA(18)09	Agenda
NEA(18)10	Presentation of the ICES Advice for the North-East Atlantic Salmon Stocks
NEA(18)11	Draft Report of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NEA(18)12rev_final	Decision regarding the salmon fishery in Faroese waters in 2019 / 2020, 2020 / 2021 and 2021 / 2022
NEA(18)13	Report of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization