



North American Commission

NAC(20)04

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

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In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meeting planned for Edinburgh in June 2020 has been cancelled. Parties agreed that the business of the North American Commission would be conducted through inter-sessional correspondence and video conference.

The Agenda will be adopted on 8 May, via correspondence. This will allow Parties to address all other items. The approach to be used to address each item is set out below.

The video conference for the North American Commission will be held on Monday 1 June 2020.

All papers for the North American [Commission](#) (NAC) meeting will be posted on the NASCO website.

A summary of the decisions to be made is in Annex 1.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Patrick Keliher (USA), will open the meeting during the video conference (VC) on 1 June 2020. He will set out the procedures for the meeting. Any submitted written Opening Statements will be available in advance.

- no decision is required.

No correspondence, other than the written Opening Statements, is expected.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the Chair, a Provisional Agenda, [NAC\(20\)01](#), was made available to all members of the Commission on 3 February 2020. Since then, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic a revised Draft Agenda has been produced, [NAC\(20\)03](#), following discussion with the Parties.

- a decision to adopt the Agenda is required.

The Agenda will be adopted via correspondence by 8 May. This provides the basis for discussions to be held by inter-sessional correspondence prior to the VC on 1 June.

3. Election of Officers

The election of officers is required under Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure for the NAC. Both the current Chair, Patrick Keliher (USA) and Vice-Chair, Tony Blanchard (Canada), are eligible for re-election.

No background papers are produced for this item.

- a decision to (re)elect the Chair and Vice-Chair is required.

Work to determine the candidates' availability for re-election will be conducted by correspondence. The formal process for nominating, seconding, and electing the identified individuals will be undertaken during the VC.

4. Review of the 2019 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(20)10, will be circulated by ICES in early May. ICES will make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available on the ICES website after the scientific advice is released.

- no decision is required.

The ICES advice for all areas will be presented to Council, Commissions and all delegates in a webinar on Monday 1 June 2020.

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

The Parties have agreed that although this Agenda item is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention, it is not required annually.

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.

Each Party with mixed-stock fisheries (MSF) was requested to provide the Secretariat with a short paper on this topic for distribution prior to the meeting. The intention is that each of these papers would include a brief description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs.

Papers submitted by the Parties will be available in advance.

- no decision is required.

Parties have agreed this is not a priority item for 2020. Correspondence is, therefore, unlikely to be needed and will take place only if indicated by a Party or NGO Co-Chair.

6. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery

The Parties have agreed that although this Agenda item is essential business under Article 7 of the Convention, it is not required annually.

Information on the sampling programme will be provided in both the ICES report and in the document 'Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed-Stock Fisheries Context' which is expected to be available in advance.

- no decision is required.

Parties have agreed this is not a priority item for 2020. Correspondence is, therefore, unlikely to be needed and will take place only if indicated by a Party or NGO Co-Chair.

7. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

The Parties have agreed that although this Agenda item is important business under Articles 7 and 9f of the Convention, and is also considered by the Council, it is not required annually.

In recent years, the North American Commission and the Council have been concerned about catches of salmon at St Pierre and Miquelon which, although low, occur at a time when there are serious concerns about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the North American

Commission area.

In 2017, as requested by the Council, the President of NASCO wrote to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noting NASCO's concerns and encouraging France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to become a member of NASCO. In response, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noted that it wished to retain its observer status at NASCO and committed to providing NASCO with information on the fishery and taking NASCO recommendations on catch taken by communities dependent on fishing into account.

Information on the Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery, received from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon), is provided as document [CNL\(20\)24](#) and is available on the NASCO website.

- no decision is required.

Correspondence is unlikely to be needed and will take place only if indicated by a Party or NGO Co-Chair.

8. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

The Parties have agreed that although this Agenda item is essential business under Article 7 of the Convention, the Williamsburg Resolution, and the NAC protocols, it is not required annually.

In 2010, it was agreed 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.

Papers submitted by the Parties will be available in advance.

- no decision is required.

Parties have agreed this is not a priority item for 2020. Correspondence is, therefore, unlikely to be needed and will take place only if indicated by a Party or NGO Co-Chair.

9. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

Parties have agreed that this is not essential business.

The winner of the North American Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme will be announced on the NASCO website and on Twitter. It will be recorded in the Report of the Meeting.

- no decision is required.

No other action is required with respect to this matter in 2020.

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

Parties have agreed that this is required under Article 9 of the Convention which requires a Commission to take into account the best scientific evidence. Advice is provided annually under the ICES / NASCO Memorandum of Understanding.

At its 1992 Annual Meeting, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. The Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations concerning the request to ICES

for scientific advice, CNL(20)13, will be available once its work is complete.

- a decision to accept the SSC's recommendations is required.

Any discussion can be conducted by inter-sessional correspondence; the formal decision will be taken during the VC.

11. Other Business

Any other business may be raised via inter-sessional correspondence or at the start of the VC. Any decisions required with respect to these matters may be approved formally by VC or postponed until 2021.

12. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Commission will be asked to consider the venue for its Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting to be held during 1 – 4 June 2021.

- a decision to hold its next meeting during the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council is required.

Any discussion can be conducted by inter-sessional correspondence; the formal decision will be taken during the VC.

13. Report of the Meeting

Parties have agreed that this is essential business. Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure for the NAC requires that 'A draft report shall be considered by the Commission before the end of the meeting.'

A Draft Report of the meeting will be circulated for review. A summary of business conducted inter-sessionally via correspondence will be annexed to the Report.

- a decision to adopt a Report of the meeting is required.

Proposed changes to the Draft Report will be discussed, agreed revisions incorporated, and a final Report of the meeting adopted during the VC.

14. Close of the Meeting

The Chair will close the meeting at the end of the VC.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
4 May 2020

Summary of North American Commission Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	The Agenda will be adopted via correspondence by 8 May	NAC(20)03
3. Election of Officers	(Re)elect the Chair and Vice-Chair	
10. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	Accept the Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations	CNL(20)13
12. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Hold the next meeting of the NAC during the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council	
13. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting