



**North-East Atlantic Commission**

**NEA(20)05**

*Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda*



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### ***Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda***

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 East Atlantic 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 conferences for the North East Atlantic Commission will begin on Tuesday 2 June 2020.

All papers for the North East Atlantic [Commission](#) (NEA) 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, Viktor Rozhnov (Russian Federation), will open the meeting during the video conference (VC) on 2 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 Commission's Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the Chair, a Provisional Agenda, [NEA\(20\)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 agreed, [NEA\(20\)03](#).

- 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 beginning on 2 June.*

#### **3. Election of Officers**

The election of officers is required under Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure for the NEA. Both the Chair, Viktor Rozhnov (Russian Federation) and Vice-Chair, Svein Magnason (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), 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 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. Regulatory Measures**

This is essential business under Articles 13 and 14 of the Convention which require an '*annual statement of the actions*' on the regulatory measure, [NEA\(18\)12rev\\_final](#).

No quota for this period was set, on the understanding that the Faroe Islands would 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.

The continuation of the decision in 2020 / 2021 is dependent on the outcome of running the Framework of Indicators in 2020.

The NEA Framework of Indicators paper, [NEA\(20\)04](#), is available. It concludes that the FWI assessment in 2020 (based on indicator values for 2019) does not suggest that the pre-fishery abundance (PFA) forecast for 2019 has been underestimated. Therefore, the FWI Working Group concludes that no reassessment of the existing management advice for the Faroese fishery is required from ICES in 2020.

- no decision is therefore required.

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

## **7. Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area**

This is important business under the ‘‘Road Map’ to enhance information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced’ [NEA\(18\)08](#).

In addition, in 2019 it was agreed that Chair of the Working Group on *G. salaris* would contact the Working Group to discuss the of synonymisation of the *Gyrodactylus* species *G. thymalli* and *G. salaris*. A paper on this topic, [NEA\(20\)06](#), from the Chair of the Working Group on *G. salaris*, is available.

Any other papers submitted to the Secretariat will be available in advance of the meeting.

Furthermore, for your information, the Commission agreed in 2018, [NEA\(18\)13](#), that the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* should meet again in 2021 and confirmed its Terms of Reference. The Secretariat will work with the Working Group Chair to organize and conduct the meeting. Parties will again be asked to confirm their nominations for the Working Group for 2021.

- 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. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize**

Parties have agreed that this is not essential business.

The winner of the North East Atlantic 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.*

## **9. 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.*

## **10. 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.

## **11. 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.*

## **12. Report of the Meeting**

Parties have agreed that this is essential business. Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure for the NEA 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.*

## **13. Close of the Meeting**

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

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
4 May 2020

**Annex 1***Summary of North-East Atlantic Commission Decisions*

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