

CNL_IS(20)22

Proposals for the Joint NASCO / NPAFC Concluding IYS Symposium

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to propose a format and set of Terms of Reference for the joint NASCO / NPAFC concluding IYS Symposium.

Decisions

Council may wish to discuss and agree the following:

1. The timing of the joint NASCO / NPAFC concluding IYS Symposium.
2. The proposed format of the joint NASCO / NPAFC concluding IYS Symposium.
3. The Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the joint NASCO / NPAFC concluding IYS Symposium.

Background

At the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO, Council agreed:

‘that the Symposium Steering Committee, originally formed to organize an international scientific symposium to launch the IYS, be re-tasked to deliver a concluding symposium in 2022 and that members of the Committee be agreed by the 2020 Annual Meeting. To enable this, £25,000 shall be ring-fenced from the IYS budget to support the delivery of the 2022 symposium.’

At its 2019 Annual Meeting, Council agreed that:

‘NASCO IYS activities going forward for further investigation beyond the end of the focal year include: the research projects the Likely Suspects Framework and ‘ROAM’ initiative; and the 2022 closing Symposium (in conjunction with the NPAFC).’

During its 2020 Annual Meeting, with respect to the 2022 closing Symposium (in conjunction with the NPAFC), Council agreed:

‘that the Secretary continue to work with the NPAFC informally with a view to holding the IYS concluding Symposium after the 2022 Annual Meeting, with a view to agreeing the Terms of Reference and establishing a Symposium Steering Committee once the timeline for the Symposium is clearer’.

Since June, there have been a number of discussions between the NASCO and NPAFC Secretariats in relation to this topic. Clear agreement was reached on the timing of the Symposium (late autumn 2022) but the location has been difficult to agree given the widely dispersed geography of the Parties to the two Organizations and their ability to obtain travel funds, among other things, beyond their geographical area.

Proposals

Given this, the NASCO and NPAFC Secretariats propose the following:

1. That a joint NASCO / NPAFC concluding IYS Symposium be held in November 2022.
2. Given the wide geographical disparity of the various Contracting Parties that the joint Symposium be held in two locations simultaneously and run as a hybrid virtual meeting between the ‘NASCO location’ and the ‘NPAFC location’ with NASCO listening to NPAFC presentations virtually and vice versa.

3. That the ‘NASCO location’ be located such that there is no more than a three hour time difference between it and the ‘NPAFC location’, to enable the Symposium to be run concurrently. For example, the ‘NASCO location’ could be on the US / Canadian eastern seaboard with the ‘NPAFC location’ on the US / Canadian western seaboard.
4. The programme could then run each day from 11:00 eastern / 08:00 western to 18:00 eastern / 15:00 western, allowing NASCO / NPAFC to organise RFMO-relevant activities before / after the joint sessions each day.
5. The joint Steering Committee will develop the objectives and programme for the overall Symposium as stated in the proposed Terms of Reference. The relevant Steering Committee members will also be responsible for arranging their own RFMO-relevant activities that will take place outside of the core joint hours, i.e. 11:00 to 18:00 eastern time for NASCO / 08:00 to 15:00 western time for the NPAFC.

Having the joint Symposium in two separate venues enables each RFMO to organise the venue / breakouts / social aspects / etc. independently of each other, spending / raising money in accordance with their own financial rules.

Proposed Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the Joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium

NASCO and the NPAFC establish the Steering Committee for the joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium with the following Terms of Reference:

1. The Joint Symposium Steering Committee (hereinafter ‘the SSC’) shall consist of:
 - (a) not more than three representatives from each lead organization, including one representative of the Secretariats of each lead organization, and one representative from any co-convening organization. It would be desirable to have both managers and scientists involved with subject matter for each theme. The SSC will appoint one Co-Chair from among the representatives of each of the two lead organizations; and
 - (b) the SSC may co-opt additional representatives with specific expertise to serve on the SSC as required.
2. The SSC’s mandate is to convene a world class Symposium to report on and synthesise the accomplishments of the IYS and consider its legacy and recommendations for the future. The SSC will work virtually, using an agreed video-conferencing platform, to undertake the following activities:
 - identify the exact Symposium dates in November 2022 as soon as possible, subject to approval by both NASCO and the NPAFC;
 - identify an appropriate platform to enable the hybrid Symposium to take place;
 - develop objectives and the programme, including identifying and inviting keynote (invited) speakers and soliciting contributed papers;
 - develop a Communications Plan including a social media strategy to engage target audiences including scientists, managers, industry, NGOs, fishers, youth and the general public;
 - consider arrangements for, and editing of, scientific and popular publications as well as an on-line video record of the proceedings; and
 - other tasks to ensure a well-run, prestigious and well reported Symposium.

3. The Co-Chairs of the SSC, or their designee, will report to their respective designated points of contact within NASCO and NPAFC on the work of the Symposium Steering Committee.
4. The SSC will operate by consensus of the lead organizations.
5. The costs incurred by each SSC member in participating in the Committee's work, including any fees for service, should be borne by the Party appointing the Committee member.
6. The Symposium Steering Committee may incur costs, including engaging professional support, in accordance with budgetary provision and spending plans made by the lead organizations or funds raised from other sources and made available to the Symposium Steering Committee through the lead organizations. The Executive Director / Secretary of each lead organization shall ensure that the receipt and expenditure of funds are consistent with that lead organization's Financial Rules.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
6 November 2020