



Mr. Serge Doucet, President
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
11 Ruthland Square
Edinburgh, Scotland UK
EH1 2AS

Dear Mr. Doucet:

Thank you for your October 16, 2020, correspondence with regard to Canada's submission of its revised 2019-2024 Implementation Plan (IP) to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).

In your letter, you requested that Canada: provide a revised IP to the NASCO Secretariat; indicate which sections/responses have been modified from its previous IP; and, explain if the review group's suggestions on modifications have not been, or could not be, addressed. Attached you will find Canada's revised IP, in keeping with the existing IP process as well as the enhanced guidance attached to your letter.

The focus of Canada's revision is on the sections and responses that were identified by the review group as requiring further information or clarification, as per the detailed feedback it provided in the last review. In some cases the revisions have been relatively minor, in order to make a small point of clarification requested by the review group; In others, however, more substantial revision to the information is provided. The main areas where more significant revision is made are: Section 2.3, where more complete and precise information about fisheries on stocks that are below their conservation limits is provided; and, Section 4, where substantially revised responses to questions about aquaculture, as well as the actions being undertaken in response to threats is included.

In several cases, the comments of the review group point to the need to outline actions that more completely meet the "SMART" criteria, especially with respect to specificity, measurability, and relevance. Canada has made every effort to do so, especially in an effort to make more clear how the actions noted will respond to threats to wild salmon. In some cases, however, quantifiable measurability of these actions is likely to prove challenging, especially when provincial privacy law prohibits the release of some information required for such measurability. On this note, Canada is pleased that the enhanced guidance allows flexibility with respect to the application of the SMART criteria where actions will support wild salmon conservation, and I trust that the review group will engage this flexibility in considering the actions outlined in Canada's IP.

As we have worked through the above-noted focal areas, we have taken opportunities to make minor adjustments and updates to some elements of Canada's IP that were seen as acceptable by the review group in its last review. In other cases, however, where the information provided in earlier versions is still accurate, no update has been provided. Canada's annual progress report in 2021 is where we will provide a progress update for all actions on a temporally consistent basis.

Should you or others have any questions about the IP or the information above, please contact [REDACTED] International Relations and Fisheries Management.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

International and Intergovernmental Affairs

Attachment:

- Canada's revised IP for 2019-2024