



**REPORT OF THE
THIRTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL**

By Video Conference

1 – 5 June 2020

President: Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the
Faroe Islands and Greenland))

Vice-President: Serge Doucet (Canada)

Secretary: Emma Hatfield

CNL(20)51rev

Report of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

By Video Conference

1 – 5 June 2020

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Acting President, Serge Doucet (Canada), opened the meeting and made a statement on behalf of the Organization (Annex 1).
- 1.2 He noted that for the first time ever, NASCO's face-to-face Annual Meeting had been cancelled, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Parties had agreed that NASCO's business would be conducted through inter-sessional correspondence, video conference and an inter-sessional meeting of the Council to be held in the autumn. He indicated that some business had been cancelled or postponed until 2021. He thanked all delegates for their flexibility and willingness to participate in this extraordinary year.
- 1.3 The Acting President reminded delegates that the period for inter-sessional correspondence had run from 8 May until 27 May. Parties had been able to use this time to consider the documents issued under each Agenda item and ask, and respond to, questions on the various Agenda items. The aim of this inter-sessional correspondence had been to streamline the work of the video conference as much as possible to enable Parties and jurisdictions to work as effectively as possible under the circumstances. An Annotated Agenda, [CNL\(20\)46A](#), which included a summary of the inter-sessional correspondence, was issued to all delegates on 1 June to help Parties in their planning for the meeting. The discussion conducted during the inter-sessional correspondence period ([CNL\(20\)54](#)) can be found in Annex 2.
- 1.4 Written Opening Statements were tabled by Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States (Annex 3).
- 1.5 Written Opening Statements were tabled by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) (Annex 4).
- 1.6 A written Opening Statement was tabled on behalf of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) (Annex 5).
- 1.7 A written Opening Statement was tabled on behalf of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) (Annex 6).
- 1.8 A list of participants at the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO is given in Annex 7.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Council adopted its Agenda via correspondence on 8 May, [CNL\(20\)46](#) (Annex 8).

3. Election of Officers

- 3.1 The Council elected Serge Doucet (Canada) as its President, proposed by the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), seconded by the representative of the Russian Federation, and Arnaud Peyronnet (European Union) as its Vice-President, proposed by the representative of the Russian Federation, seconded by the representative of Norway.
- 3.2 Both have been elected to serve for a two-year period from the close of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting.

4. Financial and Administrative Issues

a) Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

- 4.1 The report of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), [CNL\(20\)06](#), was introduced by the Chair of the FAC, Kim Blankenkaker (USA). Ms Blankenkaker noted that, while NASCO's 2019 accounts were audited, due to administrative delays by NASCO's bank the auditors had not been able to sign off the audited accounts. The Secretary had, therefore, circulated financial statements to the President, Heads of Delegations and FAC Members for consideration. Ms Blankenkaker noted that these statements indicate that NASCO is in a strong financial state.
- 4.2 On the recommendation of the Committee, the Council took the following decisions:
- to accept the financial statements presented to the FAC, noting that once the audited accounts are received these will be forwarded to the FAC for consideration by correspondence. The Council will consider the FAC's recommendations on the audited accounts at the autumn Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council assuming they are available by that time;
 - to adopt a Budget for 2021 and to note a Forecast Budget for 2022, [CNL\(20\)52](#) (Annex 9);
 - to extend the MoU with ICES for one additional year (i.e. through 2021) to ensure there is no gap in the provision of scientific advice and that the Secretary will confirm this arrangement with ICES through appropriate means;
 - the Secretary will circulate the revised MoU to the Committee for inter-sessional review and comment as soon as it is available, to facilitate its adoption at the latest in 2021;
 - to adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee, [CNL\(20\)06](#).
- 4.3 The Council considered document [CNL\(20\)48](#), which contained recommendations from the Committee to the Council on the establishment of a new Special Fund. In light of the Committee's recommendations in that paper, the Council agreed to establish the Special Fund – to be called the 'Periodic Projects Special Fund' – in 2020, in accordance with Financial Rule 6.1. Its purpose is to help avoid large swings in NASCO's budget from year-to-year where monies are needed to support necessary and higher cost intermittent activities, such as future performance reviews, International Year of the Salmon (IYS) legacy activities such as those agreed by Council in 2019 (i.e. the updates to the State of North Atlantic Salmon report and follow up Symposia), and other costly special projects. The Council agreed that the ceiling for the new Special Fund would be £100,000 (which may be adjusted in the future) and initial funding would include:

- 1) the IYS Fund surplus of £60,800;
 - 2) any surplus funds available at the end of the 2020 financial year (and subsequent financial years) which are not needed for the Working Capital Fund or Contractual Obligation Fund; and
 - 3) the sum of £15,000 included in the 2021 budget.
- 4.4 The Council acknowledged that additional budgetary contributions could also be authorised in the future, as needed and appropriate.
- 4.5 The Acting President thanked the outgoing Chair of the FAC and the Committee for their work.

b) Future Status of the UK Within NASCO

- 4.6 The NASCO Convention had applied to the UK by virtue of its membership of the EU. However, the UK left the EU on 31 January 2020. The UK is in an ‘Implementation Period’ due to end on 31 December 2020, during which EU law continues to apply to the UK under the terms set out in ‘The EU-UK Withdrawal Agreement’. Under this Agreement, the NASCO Convention continues to apply to the UK during the Implementation Period.
- 4.7 The UK has indicated its wish to accede to the Convention, although no application has yet been received.
- 4.8 The Acting President indicated that, during the Covid-19 planning process, the Parties agreed to postpone decisions on this item until the autumn Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council. The Council noted this formally.

5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

a) Secretary’s Report

- 5.1 The Secretary’s report to the Council, [CNL\(20\)08](#), had been circulated prior to the meeting. This document contained information on: the status of ratifications of, and accessions to, the Convention and membership of the regional Commissions; the receipt of contributions for 2020; observers to NASCO; fishing for salmon in international waters; scientific research fishing; the Rivers Database; NASCO’s public relations work; the meeting of the All London Based International Organizations; and new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon.
- 5.2 The Acting President noted that, since the document had been issued, there had been an application for NGO status from the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) Iceland (see document [CNL\(20\)47](#) for details). Following consultation with the Acting President, NASF Iceland had been granted NGO status. NASCO now has 45 accredited NGOs.
- 5.3 The Acting President thanked the Secretary for the report and noted that there had been no inter-sessional correspondence on this item.

b) Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2019

- 5.4 In accordance with Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention, the Council adopted the Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2019, [CNL\(20\)09](#).

c) Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

- 5.5 The Acting President announced that the winner of the 2020 Grand Prize of £1,500 in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme is Ståle Brevik from Trondheim, Norway.

5.6 The winning tag was applied to an adult female salmon at Agdenes at the mouth of the Trondheimsfjord, Norway on 25 May 2019, as part of a project to estimate the number of adult salmon entering the Trondheimsfjord. When returning it measured 77 cm and weighed 4.1 kg. A scale reading revealed that it was a two-year-old smolt and had been at sea for two winters before returning. It was recaptured by angling in Nordelva, a river draining into the same fjord (Trondheimsfjord) on 23 June 2019.

5.7 The Council offered its congratulations to the winner.

d) Scientific Advice from ICES

5.8 The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(20\)10rev](#), had been circulated prior to the Annual Meeting. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ICES had advised inter-sessionally that the meeting of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) had to be carried out by correspondence and this had impacted the capacity of the Group to respond fully to the Terms of Reference. Advice production was, therefore, prioritised over other tasks. Changes had to be made to section 1.2: Report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management; and 1.4: Identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements. Information on these issues was not included in the advice in 2020. However, some information on emerging threats to salmon conservation and management was included in the [Report](#) of the WGNAS, found on the ICES website.

5.9 A representative of ICES, Martha Robertson, presented the advice relating to the North Atlantic area and the individual Commission areas in a webinar. The ICES presentation related to the North Atlantic area is available as document [CNL\(20\)49](#) (Annex 10). The discussions held on the presentation during the webinar are contained in document [CNL\(20\)53](#) (Annex 11).

5.10 The Acting President thanked Dr Robertson for her presentation.

e) Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area

5.11 Under Article 2 of the NASCO Convention, fishing of salmon is prohibited beyond areas of fisheries jurisdiction of coastal States and within areas of fisheries jurisdiction beyond 12 nautical miles except in the West Greenland Commission area (up to 40 nautical miles) and in the North-East Atlantic Commission area (within the area of fisheries jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands). In these areas, scientific research fishing may be undertaken in accordance with NASCO's Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing, [CNL\(96\)60](#). The annex to [CNL\(96\)60](#) states that 'the results of this scientific research fishing shall be made available to the Council of NASCO and to ICES as soon as practicable, including details of any catches.'

5.12 The NASCO Secretariat received a proposal regarding scientific research fishing from the Norwegian Environment Agency in August 2019. Parties were informed and no objections were received. Document [CNL\(20\)11](#) reports on the scientific research fishing conducted, including its results.

f) Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

5.13 The Report of the Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board), [CNL\(20\)12](#) (Annex 12), was introduced by the Board's Chair, Ciaran Byrne (European Union). He noted in particular, that the Board had approved all of the recommendations of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research, and that the Board had agreed that the metadatabase be reviewed

preferably in advance of the 2021 Annual Meeting, with the timing to be agreed by the Secretary and the Chair of the Board depending on the wider NASCO workload.

- 5.14 The representative of Canada noted that the Board had agreed that the SALSEA-Track Programme, in its current form, should be closed, and that any successor to SALSEA-Track should have particular attributes. He asked what timeframe had been established for developing a successor to SALSEA-Track.
- 5.15 Dr Byrne replied that the ROAM (RAFOS Ocean Acoustic Monitoring) approach to marine tracking had been identified as a potential successor to SALSEA-Track. He reported that field trials for ROAM have been delayed because of Covid-19. Decisions on field work for 2020 are currently being debated and it is unclear if the ROAM field trials will occur as planned. If the field trials do not occur in 2020, project collaborators will work to organize trials in 2021. Once the trials had taken place it could be determined if ROAM would indeed be a feasible successor to SALSEA-Track, hopefully by the end of 2020. The ROAM progress will be reported to the Board in 2021. If ROAM does not prove to be feasible, Board members could seek out alternative appropriate projects.

g) Report of the Standing Scientific Committee

- 5.16 The Chair of the Standing Scientific Committee (SSC), Paddy Gargan (European Union), presented the draft request to ICES for scientific advice. The Council adopted the Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, [CNL\(20\)13](#) (Annex 13).
- 5.17 The Acting President thanked Dr Gargan and the Committee for their work.

6. The Third Performance Review

a) Decisions by the Council on the Process for the Third Performance Review

- 6.1 In 2018, the Council of NASCO agreed that the process to consider conducting the third performance review of NASCO should commence in 2019, with a view to holding the review in 2021. At NASCO's 2019 Annual Meeting, the Council agreed that the President would develop a process for arranging NASCO's next performance review for inter-sessional agreement by the Parties.
- 6.2 It was subsequently agreed that the process for arranging NASCO's next performance review would be considered at a meeting in March 2020. However, this meeting was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 6.3 Paper [CNL\(20\)15](#) provided information on the process and decisions needed to arrange the third performance review of NASCO. The Acting President noted that during the Covid-19 planning process, the Parties agreed to postpone decisions on this item until the autumn Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council. However, there was inter-sessional correspondence on this Agenda item, which is included in Annex 2.
- 6.4 During the inter-sessional correspondence the representative of the United States reported that the United States supported at least a one year delay in conducting the performance review given the circumstances. This was supported by Canada, the European Union and Norway. The representative for the NGOs agreed that a year's delay was required, but that the NGOs would not support a longer postponement.
- 6.5 The Council agreed to delay the performance review by one or more years.

6.6 The Council agreed to postpone discussion of the process and decisions needed to arrange the third performance review, including a decision on the length of the delay, until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.

7. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach

a) Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)

7.1 In 2019, the Council agreed a revised schedule for review of Implementation Plans (IPs). Following this schedule, the second review of IPs under the Third Reporting Cycle by the IP / APR Review Group took place in November 2019. The Second Interim Report of the IP / APR Review Group is available, [CNL\(20\)17](#). All IPs are available on the [NASCO website](#). Two IPs (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland and EU – Sweden) had been fully accepted by the Review Group.

7.2 A Special Session on the Evaluation of the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans had been scheduled for the 2020 Annual Meeting. However, during the Covid-19 planning process the Parties agreed that it was no longer possible to hold this Special Session then.

7.3 The Acting President noted that the Parties had agreed that discussion of the IPs and the IP process should be postponed until the autumn Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council, to enable a full discussion of this important matter. He noted inter-sessional correspondence from the NGOs and assured them that they would be involved in that discussion and that he looked forward to their contribution.

7.4 The representative of the European Union stated that it would be challenging to conduct the IP reviews by correspondence and suggested a physical meeting in late autumn of at least four days for the task. The representative of the United States agreed and asked whether delaying the IP review beyond autumn was possible. She also proposed that the meeting be held in NASCO headquarters in Edinburgh, so that meeting room deposits would not be lost, should the meeting be cancelled. The representative of Norway agreed that flexibility would be required and proposed that the Chair and Secretary find a way forward depending on the circumstances at the time.

7.5 The representative for the NGOs asked whether the IP / APR Review Group meeting planned for November was contingent upon the Council Inter-Sessional Meeting in the autumn, where a discussion of the IP process is on the agenda. The Secretary responded that for many of the 18 IPs that had not yet been fully accepted, only a small amount of work may be required. For others, especially regarding sea lice and containment, it appeared that it may not be possible to meet the requirements agreed in the IP Guidelines. She indicated, therefore, that it would be preferable to have a discussion about the process before the IPs were reviewed again. The representative for the NGOs said the IP review would not be credible if the Council decided, now, that the bar had been set too high. The NGOs did not believe it had been set too high, since it is in line with NASCO's Resolutions on aquaculture.

7.6 The Council noted discussion of the IP process would be postponed until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.

7.7 Council agreed that the IP / APR Review Group would meet in November 2020 for four days to review the Implementation Plans. The Secretary will work with the Chair

of the IP / APR Review Group to plan the meeting, including contingency planning, which is likely to require virtual meetings on more than four days, should a face-to-face meeting not be possible.

- 7.8 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted the importance of having a transparent process for reviewing the IPs. She proposed that a webinar be held in spring 2021, which would replace the IP Special Session at the 2021 Annual Meeting. The representatives of Canada, Norway, and the United States supported this proposal.
- 7.9 The Council agreed that a webinar would be held following the November meeting of the IP Review Group, likely in spring 2021, to discuss the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans fully. This webinar will be held as an inter-sessional Special Session, in which NASCO’s Parties and accredited NGOs will be able to participate. There will be a time-limited period for inter-sessional correspondence prior to the Special Session to facilitate questions and answers, with the aim of making the webinar as efficient as possible. However, questions may still be raised during the webinar. The Chair of the IP / APR Review Group will present the report of the November IP / APR Review Group meeting at the inter-sessional IP Special Session. He will present the outcome of the webinar to the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Council. The Secretary will work with the Chair of the IP / APR Review Group to plan the webinar and with the Parties to arrange a suitable date for the webinar.

b) Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans

- 7.10 The Annual Progress Reports (APRs) submitted in 2020 are the first to be submitted under the third reporting cycle and are available on the [NASCO website](#). The APR summary document, [CNL\(20\)19](#), which provides information on stock status and catches and additional information as required under the Convention is also on the NASCO website.
- 7.11 It had been the Council’s intention that the APRs submitted in 2020 would be reviewed by the IP / APR Review Group and discussed at a Special Session at the 2020 Annual Meeting. However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meeting of the IP / APR Review Group, scheduled for April 2020, was cancelled. Alternative plans for the meeting proved impossible. During the Covid-19 planning process, the Parties also agreed to cancel the Special Session on the evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans. Furthermore, the Parties agreed, inter-sessionally, that the APRs submitted in 2020 would not be reviewed and the schedule would resume as normal in 2021, including a Special Session at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
- 7.12 The representative of the United States thought it likely that travel restrictions would be lifted by April 2021, in time for the IP / APR Review Group Meeting, but suggested that a back-up plan should be formulated in case they were not, and a face-to-face meeting again proved impossible. The representative of the European Union noted that utilising video conference for the review of APRs would be a challenge. He noted that the resource requirements placed on individuals and organizations was already, in some cases, significant, and that this would add to it. He suggested that, if video conference must be used, the Secretary liaise with the Chair of the IP / APR Review Group to determine what can be expected and is realistic to achieve. The representative for the NGOs noted that some of the IP review by video conference in 2019 had worked well.

7.13 The Council agreed that the Review Group should meet for four days in April 2021 to undertake the review of the APRs submitted in 2021.

7.14 The Council agreed that the Chair and Secretary should work together to put in place alternative plans to review the APRs in 2021, should travel restrictions still be in place.

c) Addressing the Recommendations to NASCO to Address Future Management Challenges in the Report from the Tromsø Symposium

7.15 As part of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS), a two-day international Symposium entitled ‘Managing the Atlantic Salmon in a Rapidly Changing Environment’ was held in Tromsø, immediately prior to the 2019 Annual Meeting of NASCO. The Symposium focused on the challenges facing the Atlantic salmon and possible responses that can help conserve the resource in a rapidly changing environment. The Symposium was structured around two main themes: climate change and state of the salmon, with scientific overviews being provided on these subjects; and management challenges and solutions. Perspectives were provided from a number of different viewpoints, including managers, scientists, NGOs and Indigenous Peoples. In addition to the presentations and discussions surrounding those, a poster session was also held. The [Report](#) of NASCO’s IYS Symposium is on the website. The report includes the Report from the Symposium Steering Committee (pp 3-16) which includes 11 recommendations to NASCO.

7.16 The Acting President noted that during the Covid-19 planning process the Parties agreed to postpone decisions on how to address the recommendations of the Symposium Steering Committee, until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting. The Council noted this formally.

d) The International Year of the Salmon: Consideration of the Final Report

7.17 The focal year of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) was 2019, with some efforts continuing into 2022. The aim of the IYS was to raise awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance, the environmental and anthropogenic challenges they face and the measures being taken to address these.

7.18 The Acting President thanked the Parties and all the many NGOs who had undertaken activities in support of the IYS.

7.19 At its 2019 Annual Meeting, the Council took a number of decisions relating to the IYS ([CNL\(19\)46](#)), including that a final activity report should be delivered by the Parties in early 2020 to capture a full record of the activities delivered during the focal year of the IYS. On the basis of the activity reports, a final report on the IYS was to be delivered at the 2020 NASCO Annual Meeting. The Parties’ final activity reports are available on the [NASCO website](#). The Final Report on the Activities in the International Year of the Salmon, [CNL\(20\)21](#), was circulated prior to the Annual Meeting and highlighted some of the activities which took place under the IYS banner.

7.20 The Acting President noted that some further decisions were required in 2020 to conclude IYS business and referred to paper [CNL\(20\)22](#) which contained information relevant to these decisions. He also referred to inter-sessional correspondence related to this Agenda item, contained in Annex 2. The decisions include:

- whether the IYS website stay operational;
- whether the IYS twitter account should be repurposed to a NASCO twitter account;

- planning for the IYS concluding Symposium; and
 - planning for the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report, among other activities.
- 7.21 In discussion regarding the future of the IYS website, the representative of the United States asked whether the NASCO content would be retained, if, in future, the website were to be funded solely by the NPAFC. The Secretary confirmed it would. The representative of the European Union asked whether there were plans to migrate some of the content of the IYS website to the new NASCO website. The Assistant Secretary said this was possible and she would consider how it could be integrated with other content on the new NASCO website. The representative of the NPAFC said they were hoping to keep the IYS website in perpetuity.
- 7.22 In discussion on the IYS concluding Symposium, the representative of Canada suggested that given the volume of NASCO business to be conducted in 2020 and 2021, and that the performance review is likely to take place in 2022, Canada's preference was for the concluding Symposium to be held at some point after the 2022 NASCO Annual Meeting. The representative of Norway asked about the planned focus of the concluding Symposium. The Secretary responded that initial discussions with NPAFC were that it would be a scientific Symposium based on projects of interest across the northern hemisphere such as the Likely Suspects Framework. The representative of the United States asked that the Secretary maintain contact with NPAFC to initiate discussions about the timing and location of the Symposium. The representative of the NGOs reported that NGO scientists would like to hold the Symposium in 2022 because scientists from both the Pacific and Atlantic regions were showing enthusiasm for the Likely Suspects Framework and they felt 2022 would be an ideal time to report on the co-ordinated panoceanic approach to the initiative.
- 7.23 The Acting President reminded the Council that there had been a proposal in paper [CNL\(20\)22](#) for the Secretary to investigate the Rivers Database as the basis for the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report and asked for comment.
- 7.24 The representative of Canada thought it might be worthwhile to have a new look at the metrics in the Rivers Database through a technical group, to inform the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report.
- 7.25 The Secretary responded that the metrics of the Rivers Database had been agreed relatively recently and that she had understood rather that Parties had had other issues with the Rivers Database and that an exploration of what those issues were might be more productive in the first instance. The representative of Norway supported the Secretary's understanding and thought that an exploration to understand why the Parties had not used the Rivers Database as had been agreed in 2016 would be a more useful exercise than looking at different stock status metrics.
- 7.26 The Council made the following decisions:
- that the IYS website stays operational until at least the end of 2022, funded solely by the NPAFC;
 - that the Secretariat repurposes the IYS twitter account to a NASCO twitter account;
 - 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; and

- that the Secretary work with the Parties / jurisdictions to explore why they had not used the Rivers Database as had been agreed in 2016.

e) Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, CNL(13)38

7.27 In 2013, the Council adopted an ‘Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’ ([CNL\(13\)38](#)). The Acting President referred to the report on progress in implementing the recommendations in the Action Plan, [CNL\(20\)23](#).

7.28 The Acting President referred to inter-sessional correspondence from the NGOs regarding Theme-based Special Sessions (TBSS) under this item. This stated that whilst the NGOs understood the reasons for cancelling the TBSS on aquaculture in 2020, they recommended that this be held, instead, at the 2021 Annual Meeting over a full day. The representative of the NGOs stated that open net salmon farming was now perhaps the most important issue for NASCO jurisdictions across the North Atlantic and that 2021 would be an opportune time for a TBSS on the issue.

7.29 The representative of Norway noted that if the TBSS were a whole day, rather the half day planned for 2020, its scope could be widened. He welcomed the opportunity to examine the new knowledge gained in this area since the last TBSS on this topic, in 2016. The representative of Canada supported a proactive and mutual problem solving TBSS.

7.30 The Council agreed to hold a full day’s Theme-based Special Session on aquaculture in 2021, and agreed to add an extra day to the 2021 Annual Meeting to enable the TBSS to be held in a regulatory measure year.

7.31 The Council agreed that the Steering Committee convened to plan the 2020 TBSS be repurposed to plan the 2021 TBSS and conduct its business in the usual way. The following representatives on the Steering Committee were confirmed: Paddy Gargan (European Union) and Heidi Hansen (Norway). The representatives of Canada and the United States confirmed that they wished to continue to be represented on the Steering Committee and agreed to nominate their representatives in due course. The NGOs confirmed their participation and agreed to provide the names of their representatives too.

7.32 Following a request from the International Salmon Farmers Association to sit on the Steering Committee, Council agreed that only Parties and accredited NGOs could be represented, but that the Steering Committee may take up ISFA’s offer of support and advice, and may invite ISFA to make a presentation at the Special Session.

7.33 Council asked the Secretariat to work with the Steering Committee to plan the 2021 Theme-based Special Session. The Secretariat and Steering Committee will decide whether this work can be carried out by correspondence, or if an in-person or virtual meeting is necessary.

f) Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

7.34 In 2013, the Council agreed that an item should be retained on its Agenda entitled ‘Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry’, during which a representative of the

International Salmon Farmers' Association (ISFA) would be invited to participate in an exchange of information on issues concerning impacts of aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon. The regular meetings of the Liaison Group would not continue, but, if a specific need arose, consideration could be given to convening a joint *ad hoc* group. ISFA was represented at the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting by Mark Lane, who submitted a short statement to the Council (Annex 14).

- 7.35 The representative of the NGOs asked the Secretary about NASCO's relationship with ISFA, to understand whether the Association was invited to participate in NASCO meetings. He noted that although the Guidance on Best Management Practices to address impacts of sea lice and escaped farmed salmon had been agreed jointly between ISFA and NASCO, it did not appear to be on the ISFA website. The Secretary replied that each year ISFA was invited to observe at the NASCO Annual Meeting and to table a paper.

g) New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management

- 7.36 In accordance with the 'Strategic Approach for NASCO's Next Steps', this item is included on the Council's Agenda annually and ICES is requested to provide relevant information. However, this year, as set out in paragraph 5.8 above, ICES had advised that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, it was not able to provide a full response to the request for advice in 2020. Changes had to be made to section 1.2: 'Report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management.' The WGNAS had focused on red skin disease, which is reported in the [WGNAS report](#) in Section 2.3 but not included in the ACOM Report, [CNL\(20\)10rev](#).

- 7.37 The representative of ICES confirmed that this year the WGNAS had less time than usual to carry out its work, due to having to work virtually because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, not all elements of the ICES advice could be provided. However, they hoped to include all elements in their advice next year.

- 7.38 A representative of ICES, Martha Robertson, presented the advice relevant to this Agenda item in a webinar on 1 June. The ICES presentation is available as document [CNL\(20\)49](#) (Annex 10).

- 7.39 Relevant information is also presented in the summary of Annual Progress Reports, [CNL\(20\)19](#).

h) Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

- 7.40 In 2014, the Socio-economics Sub-Group recommended that Parties / jurisdictions be requested to advise the Secretariat of any new studies related to the socio-economic values of wild salmon. European Union – UK (England and Wales) had provided a paper entitled 'Update on socio-economic issues from UK (England and Wales)', [CNL\(20\)45](#). Additionally, the [Socio-Economic study](#) commissioned to support some of the content in the State of North Atlantic Salmon Report had been published by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA).

i) Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

- 7.41 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.

- 7.42 A report on the Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery had been submitted by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon), [CNL\(20\)24](#) and circulated prior to the Annual Meeting. This report had also been considered in the North American Commission.
- 7.43 The inter-sessional correspondence on this Agenda item is included in Annex 2.
- 7.44 The representative of the United States expressed appreciation for the response provided by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) during the period of inter-sessional correspondence. She welcomed the improved sampling and management effort discussed in their response and looked forward to co-operation in 2021.

j) Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions

- 7.45 The activities of the Commissions were reported to the Council by the Vice-Chair of the North American Commission, and the Chairs of the North-East Atlantic and West Greenland Commissions.
- 7.46 The Acting President thanked the Commissions for their work.

8. Other Business

- 8.1 During the period of inter-sessional correspondence, the NGOs noted that this year's virtual Annual Meeting had provided an opportunity to explore alternative procedures for doing business, some of which they suggested NASCO may want to use more regularly in future. The NGOs recommended an agenda item for the next face-to-face meeting of Council to discuss if and how any of the procedures developed to conduct the 2020 Annual Meeting could be incorporated into NASCO's future operations. This was supported by all Parties. The representative of Norway suggested, and the representative of the European Union concurred, that this item could be added to the Agenda for the 2021 Annual Meeting, which would allow a longer period to digest the full impact of working in this way.
- 8.2 The Council agreed to add an Agenda item to the next face-to-face meeting of the Council, to discuss the use of alternative procedures for NASCO's business. The Council asked the Secretary to prepare a paper to support this, drawing on the practices of other RFMOs during the pandemic. The NGOs have offered to provide their perspective on the methods used to host this year's meeting to the Secretariat.
- 8.3 Council agreed to encourage Parties to continue bilateral discussions with Iceland, with a view to them rejoining the Convention.

9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

- 9.1 During the Covid-19 contingency planning the Parties agreed to hold an Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council in Edinburgh during 9 – 11 September 2020, with a decision to confirm these dates to be made on 29 July in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Council agreed that there would need to be flexibility on the dates in the light of the continuing Covid-19 situation. The Acting President noted that a contingency plan is in place whereby Agenda items would be addressed in dedicated video conference meetings.
- 9.2 The Council agreed that the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting would be held in Edinburgh during 1 – 5 June 2021.
- 9.3 The Council confirmed the dates for its Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting as 7 – 10 June 2022.

10. Report of the Meeting

10.1 The Council agreed the report of its Meeting.

11. Close of the Meeting

11.1 The Acting President closed the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of NASCO.

Note. The annexes mentioned above begin after the French translation of the report of the meeting. A list of Council papers is included in Annex 15.

CNL(20)51

Compte rendu de la trente-septième session annuelle du Conseil de l'Organisation pour la conservation du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord

Par vidéoconférence

1 – 5 juin 2020

1. Ouverture de la session

- 1.1 Le Président en exercice, Serge Doucet (Canada), a ouvert la session et effectué une déclaration au nom de l'Organisation (Annexe 1).
- 1.2 Le Président en exercice a souligné que pour la toute première fois, la session annuelle en face-à-face de l'OCSAN avait été annulée du fait de la pandémie de Covid-19. Les Parties ont convenu que les affaires de l'OCSAN seraient traitées via une correspondance en intersessions, par vidéoconférence et une réunion d'intersessions du Conseil qui aurait lieu à l'automne. Il a indiqué que certaines affaires avaient été annulées ou reportées à 2021. Il a remercié tous les délégués pour leur flexibilité et leur disponibilité pour participer en cette année extraordinaire.
- 1.3 Le Président en exercice a rappelé aux participants que la période pour la correspondance en intersessions avait couru du 8 au 27 mai. Les Parties avaient été à même d'employer ce temps pour étudier les documents émis en vertu de chaque point d'ordre du jour et de poser et répondre à des questions sur les différents points de l'ordre du jour. L'objectif de cette correspondance en intersessions avait été de rationaliser le travail de vidéoconférence pour permettre aux Parties et juridictions de travailler de façon aussi efficace que possible dans ces circonstances. Un Ordre du jour annoté, CNL(20)46A, incluant un résumé de la correspondance en intersessions, a été remis à tous les délégués le 1^{er} juin pour aider les Parties à planifier la session. La discussion menée pendant la période de correspondance en intersessions se trouve en Annexe 2.
- 1.4 Des déclarations d'ouverture écrites ont été déposées par le Canada, le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland), l'Union européenne, la Norvège, la Fédération de Russie et les États-Unis (Annexe 3).
- 1.5 Des déclarations d'ouverture écrites ont été déposées par la Commission du poisson anadrome du Pacifique Nord (CPAPN) et la Commission européenne consultative pour les pêches et l'aquaculture dans les eaux intérieures (CECPAI) (Annexe 4).
- 1.6 Une déclaration d'ouverture écrite a été déposée au nom de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) (Annexe 5).
- 1.7 Une déclaration d'ouverture écrite a été déposée au nom des Organisations non gouvernementales (ONGs) (Annexe 6).
- 1.8 Une liste des participants à la trente-septième session annuelle du Conseil de l'OCSAN est donnée en Annexe 7.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

2.1 Le Conseil a adopté son ordre du jour via correspondance le 8 mai, CNL(20)46F.

3. Election des Membres du Bureau

3.1 Le Conseil a élu Serge Doucet (Canada) en tant que Président, proposé par la représentante du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland), secondé par le représentant de la Fédération de Russie et Arnaud Peyronnet (Union européenne) en tant que Vice-président proposé par le représentant de la Fédération de Russie, secondé par le représentant de la Norvège.

3.2 Ils ont tous deux été élus pour servir un mandat de deux ans à compter de la clôture de la trente-septième session annuelle.

4. Questions financières et administratives

a) Rapport du Comité financier et administratif

4.1 Le rapport du Comité financier et administratif (CFA), CNL(20)06, a été présenté par la Présidente du CFA, Kim Blankenkemper (États-Unis). Mme Blankenkemper a noté que, tandis que les comptes de l'OCSAN pour 2019 ont été vérifiés, les commissaires aux comptes n'ont pas été à même de signer les comptes du fait de retards administratifs de la banque de l'OCSAN. La Secrétaire avait, par conséquent, communiqué les déclarations financières au Président, aux chefs de Délégations et aux membres du CFA pour qu'ils les consultent. Mme Blankenkemper a souligné que ces déclarations indiquaient que l'état des finances de l'OCSAN était fort.

4.2 Sur les conseils du Comité, le Conseil a pris les décisions suivantes:

- accepter les déclarations financières présentées au CFA, soulignant qu'une fois les comptes vérifiés reçus, ils seront transmis au CFA pour consultation par correspondance. Le Conseil étudiera les recommandations du CFA sur les comptes vérifiés lors de la réunion d'intersessions du Conseil à l'automne en supposant qu'ils seront disponibles d'ici là;
- adopter un Budget pour 2021 et noter un Budget prévisionnel pour 2022, CNL(20)52 (Annexe 9);
- étendre le Protocole d'accord avec le CIEM pour une durée d'une année supplémentaire (i.e. jusqu'à fin 2021) pour s'assurer qu'il n'y a pas d'écart dans la fourniture de conseils scientifiques et la Secrétaire confirmera cette disposition avec le CIEM via des moyens appropriés;
- la Secrétaire communiquera le Protocole d'accord révisé au Comité pour qu'il fasse l'objet d'une révision et de commentaire en intersessions dès qu'il sera disponible, pour faciliter son adoption au plus tard en 2021;
- adopter le rapport du Comité financier et administratif, CNL(20)06.

4.3 Le Conseil a consulté le document CNL(20)48, qui contenait des recommandations du Comité au Conseil sur la mise en place d'un nouveau Fonds spécial. À la lumière des recommandations du Comité contenues dans ce document, le Conseil a convenu de créer le Fonds spécial - appelé 'Fonds spécial pour les projets périodiques' - en 2020, conformément au règlement financier 6.1. Son objectif est d'aider à éviter de grandes fluctuations du budget de l'OCSAN d'une année sur l'autre lorsque des fonds sont nécessaires pour soutenir les activités intermittentes nécessaires aux coûts plus élevés,

telles que les futures évaluations de performance, les activités liées à l'Année internationale du saumon (IYS) telles que celles convenues par le Conseil en 2019 (c'est-à-dire les mises à jour du rapport sur l'état du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord et Symposia de suivi) et autres projets spéciaux coûteux. Le Conseil a convenu un plafond de £100 000 pour le nouveau Fonds spécial (qui pourrait être ajusté à l'avenir) et que le financement initial comprendrait:

- 1) le surplus de £60 800 du fonds de l'IYS;
- 2) tout surplus de financement disponible à la fin de l'exercice fiscal 2020 (et les exercices fiscaux ultérieurs) qui ne sont pas nécessaires pour le Fond de roulement ou le Fonds d'obligation contractuelle; et
- 3) la somme de £15 000 incluse dans le Budget 2021.

4.4 Le Conseil a reconnu que des contributions budgétaires supplémentaires pourraient également être autorisées à l'avenir, selon les besoins.

4.5 Le Président en exercice a remercié la Présidente sortante du CFA et le Comité pour leur travail.

b) Futur statut du Royaume Uni au sein de l'OCSAN

4.6 La Convention de l'OCSAN s'appliquait au Royaume Uni en vertu de son appartenance à l'UE. Cependant, le Royaume Uni a quitté l'UE le 31 janvier 2020. Le Royaume Uni est dans une 'Période de transition' dont la fin est prévue au 31 décembre 2020, durant laquelle la loi européenne reste en vigueur au Royaume Uni en vertu des conditions présentée dans 'l'Accord de retrait entre l'UE et le Royaume Uni'. Conformément à cet Accord, la Convention de l'OCSAN reste en vigueur au Royaume Uni pendant la Période de transition.

4.7 Le Royaume Uni a indiqué qu'il souhaitait accéder à la Convention, même si aucune demande n'a encore été reçue.

4.8 Le Président en exercice a indiqué que, pendant le processus de planification du Covid-19, les Parties ont convenu de reporter les décisions sur ce point jusqu'à la réunion d'intersessions du Conseil à l'automne. Le Conseil a formellement pris note de ceci.

5. Informations scientifiques, techniques, juridiques et autres

a) Rapport de la Secrétaire

5.1 La Secrétaire a fait un rapport au Conseil, CNL(20)08, qui a été communiqué préalablement à la session. Ce document contenait des informations sur: les statuts de ratification de la Convention et d'accession à celle-ci, et le statut de membre des Commissions régionales; la réception des contributions pour 2020; observateurs de l'OCSAN; pêche au saumon en eaux internationales; pêche à des fins de recherche scientifique; la Base de données des rivières; travail de relations publiques de l'OCSAN; la réunion de Toutes les Organisations Internationales Basées à Londres; et des nouvelles études relatives aux valeurs socio-économiques du Saumon atlantique sauvage.

5.2 Le Président en exercice a noté que depuis que le document a été produit, il y a eu une demande de statut d'ONG de la part du Fonds pour le saumon de l'Atlantique Nord (NASF) en Islande (voir le document CNL(20)47 pour plus d'informations). Suite à consultation avec le Président en exercice, le statut d'ONG a été accordé au NASF Islande. L'OCSAN a maintenant 45 ONGs accréditées.

- 5.3 Le Président en exercice a remercié la Secrétaire pour le rapport et a noté qu'aucune correspondance en intersessions n'avait eu lieu sur ce point.
- b) Rapport sur les activités de l'Organisation en 2019**
- 5.4 Conformément à l'Article 5, paragraphe 6 de la Convention, le Conseil a adopté un rapport sur les activités de l'Organisation en 2019, CNL(20)09.
- c) Annonce du gagnant du Grand Prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes**
- 5.5 Le Président en exercice a annoncé que le gagnant du Grand Prix de 2020 de £1 500 du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes était Ståle Brevik de Trondheim, en Norvège.
- 5.6 L'étiquette gagnante a été appliquée sur un saumon femelle à Agdenes à l'embouchure de Trondheimsfjord, en Norvège le 25 mai 2019, dans le cadre d'un projet pour estimer le nombre de saumons adultes entrant dans le Trondheimsfjord. A son retour, il mesurait 77 cm et pesait 4,1 kg. Une lecture d'écaille a révélé qu'il s'agissait d'un saumoneau de deux ans qui avait passé deux hivers en mer avant de rentrer. Il a été repris le 23 juin 2019 par un pêcheur à la ligne dans la Nordelva, une rivière s'écoulant dans le même fjord (Trondheimsfjord).
- 5.7 Le Conseil a adressé ses félicitations au gagnant.
- d) Conseils scientifiques du CIEM**
- 5.8 Le rapport du Comité d'Avis du CIEM (ACOM), CNL(20)10rev, avait été communiqué antérieurement à la session annuelle. Du fait de la pandémie de Covid-19, le CIEM avait conseillé en intersessions que la réunion du Groupe de Travail du Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord (WGNAS) soit menée par correspondance et cela avait impacté la capacité du Groupe pour répondre pleinement aux Termes de référence. La production de conseils a donc pris la priorité sur d'autres tâches. Les changements devaient être effectués sur la section 1.2: Rapport sur les nouvelles menaces importantes ou menaces émergentes à l'encontre de, ou opportunités pour, la conservation et la gestion du saumon; et 1.4: Identifier les manques de données pertinentes, besoins adéquats en matière de suivi et exigences en matière de recherche. Aucune information sur ces questions n'étaient incluses dans les conseils en 2020. Cependant, certaines informations relatives à des menaces émergentes pour la conservation et la gestion du saumon ont été incluses dans le Rapport du WGNAS, qui se trouve sur le site du CIEM.
- 5.9 Une représentante du CIEM, Martha Robertson, a présenté dans un webinaire les conseils relatifs à la zone de l'Atlantique Nord et les zones des Commissions individuelles. La présentation du CIEM concernant la zone de l'Atlantique Nord est disponible dans le document CNL(20)49 (Annexe 10). Les discussions ayant eu lieu sur la présentation pendant le webinaire se trouvent dans le document CNL(20)53 (Annexe 11).
- 5.10 Le Président en exercice a remercié le Dr Robertson pour sa présentation.
- e) Les pêcheries à des fins de recherches scientifiques dans la zone de la Convention**
- 5.11 En vertu de l'Article 2 de la Convention de l'OCSAN, la pêche du saumon est interdite au-delà des limites des zones de juridiction de pêche des États côtiers et, à l'intérieur des zones de juridiction de pêche, au-delà de 12 milles marins, sauf dans la zone de la Commission du Groenland occidental (jusqu'à 40 milles marins) et dans la zone de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est (à l'intérieur de la zone de juridiction de pêche

des îles Féroé). Dans ces zones, la pêche à des fins de recherche scientifique peut être entreprise conformément à la Résolution de l'OCSAN sur la Pêche à des fins de recherche scientifique, CNL(96)60. L'annexe au document CNL(96)60 stipule que 'les résultats de cette pêche à des fins de recherche scientifique seront mis à la disposition du Conseil de l'OCSAN et du CIEM dès que cela sera pratiquement faisable y compris des informations relatives aux prises quel qu'elles soient.'

- 5.12 Le secrétariat de l'OCSAN a reçu une proposition relative à la pêche à des fins de recherche scientifique de l'Agence pour l'environnement norvégienne en août 2019. Les Parties ont été informées et aucunes objections n'avaient été reçues. Le document CNL(20)11 rend compte de la pêche à des fins de recherche scientifique menée, et inclut ses résultats.

f) Rapport de la Commission internationale de recherche sur le Saumon atlantique

- 5.13 Le rapport de la session de la Commission internationale de recherche sur le Saumon atlantique (la Commission), CNL(20)12 (Annexe 12), a été présenté par le Président de la Commission, Ciaran Byrne (Union européenne). Il a en particulier noté que la Commission avait approuvé toutes les recommandations du Groupe de travail pour la Révision du SALSEA-Track et l'Inventaire des recherches, et que la Commission avait convenu que la méta-base de données soit révisée de préférence préalablement à la Session annuelle de 2021, la Secrétaire et le Président de la Commission devant se mettre d'accord sur le calendrier, en fonction de la charge de travail générale de l'OCSAN.

- 5.14 Le représentant du Canada a noté que la Commission avait convenu que le programme SALSEA-Track, dans sa forme actuelle, devait être fermé et que tout successeur de SALSEA-Track devrait avoir des attributs particuliers. Il a demandé quel délai avait été fixé pour développer un successeur à SALSEA-Track.

- 5.15 Le Dr Byrne a répondu que l'approche ROAM (RAFOS Ocean Acoustic Monitoring) du suivi maritime avait été identifiée comme un successeur potentiel de SALSEA-Track. Il a signalé que les essais sur le terrain pour ROAM ont été retardés en raison du Covid-19. Les décisions relatives aux travaux sur le terrain pour 2020 sont actuellement en discussion et il n'est pas clair si les essais de ROAM sur le terrain auront lieu comme prévu. Si les essais sur le terrain n'ont pas lieu en 2020, les collaborateurs du projet s'emploieront à organiser les essais en 2021. Une fois les essais effectués, on pourrait déterminer si ROAM serait en effet un successeur possible de SALSEA-Track, si tout va bien d'ici la fin de 2020. Les progrès du ROAM seront signalés à la Commission en 2021. Si le ROAM ne s'avère pas réalisable, les membres de la Commission pourraient rechercher des projets alternatifs appropriés.

g) Compte rendu du Comité scientifique permanent

- 5.16 Le Président du Comité scientifique permanent (CSP), Paddy Gargan (Union européenne), a présenté le projet de demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM. Le Conseil a adopté la Demande de Conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM, CNL(20)13 (Annexe 13).

- 5.17 Le Président en exercice a remercié le Dr Gargan et le Comité pour leur travail.

6. Le troisième examen des performances

a) Décisions prises par le Conseil concernant le processus pour le troisième examen des performances

- 6.1 En 2018, le Conseil de l'OCSAN a convenu que le processus visant à envisager la réalisation de la troisième évaluation des performances de l'OCSAN devrait commencer en 2019, afin qu'elle ait lieu en 2021. Lors de la session annuelle de l'OCSAN en 2019, le Conseil a convenu que le Président élaborerait un processus d'organisation du prochain examen des performances de l'OCSAN en vue d'un accord en intersessions entre les Parties.
- 6.2 Il a été convenu par la suite que le processus d'organisation du prochain examen des performances de l'OCSAN serait examiné lors d'une réunion en mars 2020. Cependant, cette réunion a été annulée en raison de la pandémie de Covid-19.
- 6.3 L'article CNL(20)15 fournissait des informations sur le processus et les décisions nécessaires pour organiser la troisième révision des performances de l'OCSAN. Le Président en exercice a noté que pendant le processus de planification liée au Covid-19, les Parties ont convenu de reporter les décisions relatives à ce point jusqu'à la réunion d'inter sessions du Conseil à l'automne. Cependant, une correspondance en intersessions sur ce point de l'Ordre du jour a eu lieu. Elle est incluse en Annexe 2.
- 6.4 Au cours de la correspondance en intersessions, la représentante des États-Unis a reporté que les États-Unis soutenait un report d'au moins un an pour mener la révision des performances compte tenu des circonstances. Elle a en ceci reçu le soutien du Canada, de l'Union européenne et de la Norvège. Le représentant des ONGs a accepté la nécessité de ce report d'un an, mais que les ONGs ne soutiendraient pas un report plus long.
- 6.5 Le Conseil a accepté de reporter d'au moins une année la révision des performances.
- 6.6 Le Conseil a accepté de reporter la discussion du processus et des décisions nécessaires pour organiser la troisième révision des performances, y compris une décision sur la durée du report, jusqu'à la réunion d'intersessions du Conseil en automne.

7. Conservation, restauration, accroissement et gestion rationnelle du Saumon atlantique dans le cadre de l'approche préventive

a) Évaluation des programmes d'application dans le cadre du troisième cycle de reporting (2019 – 2024)

- 7.1 En 2019, le Conseil a convenu d'un calendrier révisé pour la révision des programmes d'application (IPs). Suite à ce calendrier, la seconde révision des IPs en vertu du troisième cycle de rapports par le Comité de révision des IPs / APRs a eu lieu en novembre 2019. Le Second rapport intermédiaire du Comité de révision des IPs / APRs est disponible dans le document, CNL(20)17. Tous les IPs sont disponibles sur le site de l'OCSAN. Deux IPs (Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) – Groenland et Union européenne – Suède) ont été pleinement approuvés par le Comité de révision.
- 7.2 Une séance spéciale sur l'évaluation des programmes d'application de 2019 – 2024 était prévue pour la session annuelle de 2020. Cependant, pendant le processus de planification liée au Covid-19, les Parties ont convenu qu'il n'était plus possible de tenir cette séance spéciale.
- 7.3 Le Président en exercice a noté que les Parties avaient convenu que la discussion des

- IPs et du processus IP devait être reportée à la réunion d'intersessions du Conseil à l'automne, afin de permettre une discussion approfondie de cette question importante. Il a pris note de la correspondance en intersessions des ONGs et les a assuré qu'elles participeraient à cette discussion et qu'il attendait leur contribution avec intérêt.
- 7.4 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a déclaré qu'il serait difficile de procéder à la révision des IPs par correspondance et a suggéré une réunion en face-à-face sur au moins quatre jours à la fin de l'automne pour ce travail. La représentante des États-Unis a dit être d'accord et a demandé s'il était possible de retarder la révision des IPs au-delà de l'automne. Elle a également proposé que la réunion se tienne au siège de l'OCSAN à Édimbourg, afin que les acomptes sur les salles de réunion ne soient pas perdus en cas d'annulation de la réunion. Le représentant de la Norvège a reconnu qu'une souplesse serait nécessaire et a proposé que le président du Comité de révision des IPs / APRs et le secrétaire trouvent une voie à suivre en fonction des circonstances à l'époque.
- 7.5 Le représentant des ONGs a demandé si la réunion du Comité de révision des IPs / APRs prévue pour novembre était subordonnée à la réunion d'intersessions du Conseil à l'automne, où une discussion du processus des IPs était à l'ordre du jour. La Secrétaire a répondu que pour nombre des 18 IPs n'ayant pas encore été pleinement acceptés, seul un peu de travail suffirait peut-être. Pour d'autres, en particulier concernant le pou du poisson et le confinement, il est apparu qu'il ne serait peut-être pas possible de satisfaire aux exigences convenues dans les directives proposées pour les IPs. Elle a donc indiqué qu'il serait préférable de discuter du processus avant de réexaminer les IPs. Le représentant des ONGs a déclaré que la révision des IPs ne serait pas crédible si le Conseil décidait, maintenant, que la barre avait été fixée trop haut. Les ONGs ne pensent pas qu'elle avait été fixée trop haut, puisqu'elle est conforme aux résolutions de l'OCSAN sur l'aquaculture.
- 7.6 Le Conseil a noté que la discussion du processus d'IP serait reportée jusqu'à la réunion d'intersessions du Conseil à l'automne.
- 7.7 Le Conseil a convenu que le Comité de révision IPs / APRs se réunirait en novembre 2020 sur quatre jours pour examiner les programmes d'application. La Secrétaire travaillera avec le Président du Comité de révision des IPs / APRs pour planifier la réunion, y compris la planification alternative, ce qui induira probablement des réunions virtuelles sur plus de quatre jours, si une réunion en face-à-face n'est pas possible.
- 7.8 La représentante du Danemark (pour les îles Féroé et le Groenland) a souligné l'importance d'un processus transparent pour l'examen des IPs. Elle a proposé qu'un webinaire ait lieu au printemps 2021, qui remplacerait la séance spéciale sur les IPs lors de la session annuelle de 2021. Les représentants du Canada, de la Norvège et des États-Unis ont appuyé cette proposition.
- 7.9 Le Conseil a convenu qu'un webinaire aurait lieu à la suite de la réunion de novembre du Comité de révision des IPs, probablement au printemps 2021, pour discuter en détail des programmes d'application de 2019 – 2024. Ce webinaire aura lieu comme une séance spéciale en intersessions, à laquelle les Parties de l'OCSAN et les ONGs accréditées pourront participer. Il y aura une période de correspondance en intersessions avant la séance spéciale qui sera limitée dans le temps afin de faciliter les questions et réponses, dans le but de rendre le webinaire aussi efficace que possible. Cependant, des questions pourront encore être soulevées au cours du webinaire. Le Président du Comité de révision des IPs / APRs présentera le rapport de la réunion du Comité de révision

des IPs / APRs de novembre lors de la séance spéciale en intersessions sur les IPs. Il fera un compte rendu du webinaire à la session annuelle de 2021 du Conseil. La Secrétaire travaillera avec le Président du Comité de révision des IPs / APRs pour planifier le webinaire et avec les Parties pour fixer une date appropriée pour le webinaire.

b) Évaluation des Rapports de progrès annuels réalisés dans le cadre des programmes d'application de 2019 – 2024

7.10 Les Rapports de progrès annuels (APRs) soumis en 2020 sont les premiers à être soumis dans le cadre du troisième cycle de rapports et sont disponibles sur le site de l'OCSAN. Le résumé des APRs, CNL(20)19, qui fournit des informations sur le statut des stocks et des prises et autres informations supplémentaires requises en vertu de la Convention se trouve aussi sur le site de l'OCSAN.

7.11 L'intention du Conseil était que les APRs soumis en 2020 seraient révisés par le Comité de révision des IPs / APRs et discutés lors d'une séance spéciale pendant la session annuelle de 2020. Cependant, du fait de la pandémie de Covid-19, la réunion en face-à-face du Comité de révisions des IPs /APRs, prévu pour avril 2020, a été annulé. Il a été impossible de faire des plans alternatifs. Au cours du processus de planification liée au Covid-19, les Parties ont aussi convenu d'annuler la séance spéciale sur l'évaluation des Rapports de progrès annuel dans le cadre des Programmes d'application de 2019 – 2024. De plus, les Parties ont convenu, entre les sessions, que les APRs soumis en 2020 ne seraient pas révisés et que le programme retournerait à la normale en 2021, y compris une séance spéciale lors de la session annuelle de 2021.

7.12 La représentante des États-Unis a estimé qu'il était probable que les restrictions sur les voyages seraient levées d'ici avril 2021, à temps pour la réunion du Comité de révision des IPs / APRs, mais a suggéré qu'un plan B soit formulé au cas où dans le cas contraire, une réunion en face-à-face s'avérerait à nouveau impossible. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a noté que l'utilisation de la vidéoconférence pour la révision des APRs constituerait un défi. Il a noté que les besoins en matière de ressources imposés aux personnes et aux organisations étaient déjà importants, dans certains cas, et que cela s'y ajouterait. Il a suggéré, si la vidéoconférence devait être utilisée, que la Secrétaire consulte le Président du Comité de révision des IPs /APRs pour déterminer ce à quoi on peut s'attendre et ce qui est réalisable de façon réaliste. Le représentant des ONGs a noté qu'une partie de la révision des IPs en vidéoconférence en 2019 avait bien fonctionné.

7.13 Le Conseil a convenu que le Groupe de révision devrait se réunir sur quatre jours en avril 2021 pour entreprendre la révision des APRs soumis en 2021.

7.14 Le Conseil a convenu que le Président du Comité de révision et la Secrétaire devraient travailler ensemble pour mettre en place des plans alternatifs pour réviser les APRs en 2021, si des restrictions sur les déplacements étaient toujours en place.

c) Traiter les recommandations à l'OCSAN pour traiter les défis à venir en matière de gestion suggérés dans le rapport du symposium de Tromsø

7.15 Dans le cadre de l'Année internationale du saumon (IYS), un symposium international de deux jours intitulé 'Gérer le Saumon atlantique dans un environnement qui change rapidement' s'est tenu à Tromsø, juste avant la session annuelle 2019 de l'OCSAN. Le symposium s'est concentré sur les défis auxquels est confronté le Saumon atlantique et les réponses possibles qui peuvent aider à conserver la ressource dans un environnement en évolution rapide. Le symposium était structuré autour de deux

thèmes principaux: le changement climatique et l'état du saumon, avec des aperçus scientifiques sur ces sujets; et les défis et solutions de gestion. Des perspectives ont été fournies à partir d'un certain nombre de différents points de vue, y compris ceux des gestionnaires, des scientifiques, des ONGs et des peuples autochtones. En plus des présentations et des discussions qui les ont entourées, une séance poster a également eu lieu. Le Rapport du Symposium sur l'IYS de l'OCSAN se trouve sur le site internet. Le rapport inclut le Rapport du Comité de direction du symposium (pp 3-16) qui inclut 11 recommandations à l'OCSAN.

- 7.16 Le Président en exercice a noté que pendant le processus de planification liée au Covid-19 les Parties avaient convenu de reporter les décisions relatives à comment traiter les recommandations du Comité de direction du symposium jusqu'à la réunion d'intersessions du Conseil à l'automne. Le Conseil a pris note de ceci formellement.

d) L'Année internationale du saumon : Considération du rapport final

- 7.17 2019 était l'année centrale pour l'Année internationale du saumon (IYS) et certains efforts se poursuivent en 2022. L'objectif de l'IYS était la sensibilisation aux facteurs entraînant l'abondance du saumon, aux défis environnementaux et anthropogéniques auxquels ils sont confrontés et les mesures qui sont prises pour y faire face.

- 7.18 Le Président en exercice a remercié les Parties et l'intégralité des nombreuses ONGs qui avaient entrepris des activités en soutien à l'IYS.

- 7.19 Lors de sa session annuelle de 2019, le Conseil a pris un certain nombre de décisions concernant l'IYS (CNL(19)46), y compris la livraison par les Parties d'un rapport final d'activité au début de 2020 pour donner un aperçu de l'intégralité des activités réalisées durant l'année centrale de l'IYS. Sur la base des rapports d'activité, un rapport final sur l'IYS devait être remis lors de la session annuelle de 2020 de l'OCSAN. Les rapports finaux d'activité des Parties sont disponibles sur le site de l'OCSAN. Le Rapport Final sur les Activités durant l'Année internationale du saumon CNL(20)21, a été communiqué avant la session annuelle et soulignait certaines des activités ayant eu lieu sous la bannière de l'IYS.

- 7.20 Le Président en exercice a noté que des décisions supplémentaires sont nécessaires en 2020 pour conclure l'activité de l'IYS et a fait référence à l'article en CNL(20)22 qui contenait des informations pertinentes pour ces décisions. Il a aussi fait référence à la correspondance en intersessions relative à ce point de l'ordre du jour et incluse en Annexe 2. Les décisions incluent:

- si le site internet de l'IYS reste opérationnel;
- si le compte Twitter de l'IYS devrait être réaffecté à un site Twitter pour l'OCSAN;
- planification pour le Symposium final de l'IYS; et
- planification pour le prochain rapport sur l'État du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord entre autres activités.

- 7.21 Lors d'un débat sur l'avenir du site internet de l'IYS, la représentante des États-Unis a demandé si le contenu de l'OCSAN serait conservé si, à l'avenir, le site internet devait être financé uniquement par la CPAPN. La Secrétaire a confirmé que tel serait le cas. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a demandé s'il était prévu de transférer une partie du contenu du site internet de l'IYS sur le nouveau site de l'OCSAN. La Secrétaire adjointe a déclaré que cela était possible et qu'elle examinerait comment cela pourrait

être intégré à d'autres contenus sur le nouveau site de l'OCSAN. Le représentant de la CPAPN a déclaré qu'il espérait conserver le site internet de l'IYS à perpétuité.

- 7.22 Lors de discussion sur le Symposium de clôture de l'IYS, le représentant du Canada a suggéré que compte tenu de la quantité de travail devant être effectué pour l'OCSAN en 2020 et 2021, et que la révision des performances aura probablement lieu en 2022, le Canada préfère que la date pour le Symposium de clôture soit après la session annuelle de l'OCSAN de 2022. Le représentant de la Norvège a demandé sur quoi il était prévu de se concentrer lors du Symposium de clôture. La Secrétaire a répondu qu'il avait été initialement discuté avec la CPAPN qu'il s'agirait d'un Symposium scientifique fondé sur des projets constituant un intérêt pour l'ensemble de l'hémisphère Nord tel que le *Likely Suspects Framework*. La représentante des États-Unis a demandé que la Secrétaire reste en contact avec la CPAPN pour initier des discussions sur la date et le lieu du Symposium. Le représentant des ONGs a signalé que les scientifiques des ONGs aimeraient organiser le Symposium en 2022 parce que les scientifiques des régions du Pacifique et de l'Atlantique montraient de l'enthousiasme pour le *Likely Suspects Framework* et ils estimaient que 2022 serait le moment idéal pour faire un rapport de l'approche panocéanique coordonnée de l'initiative.
- 7.23 Le Président en exercice a rappelé au Conseil qu'une proposition avait eu lieu dans l'article CNL(20)22 pour que la Secrétaire étudie la Base de données des rivières comme base pour le prochain rapport sur l'état du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord et a fait une demande de commentaires.
- 7.24 Le représentant du Canada a estimé qu'il pourrait être utile de revoir les paramètres de la Base de données sur les rivières via un groupe technique, pour informer le prochain rapport sur l'état du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord.
- 7.25 La Secrétaire a répondu que les paramètres de la Base de donnée des rivières avaient été acceptés relativement récemment et qu'elle avait compris que les Parties avaient plutôt d'autres problèmes avec la Base de données des rivières et qu'il pourrait être productif d'explorer quels étaient les problèmes dans un premier lieu. Le représentant de la Norvège a soutenu la remarque de la Secrétaire et considérait que chercher à comprendre pourquoi les Parties n'avaient pas utilisé la Base de données des rivières comme cela avait été convenu en 2016 serait un exercice plus utile que de regarder d'autres paramètres de statut de stocks.
- 7.26 Le Conseil a pris les décisions suivantes:
- que le site internet de l'IYS reste opérationnel jusqu'à la fin 2022, financé par la seule CPAPN;
 - que le Secrétariat réaffecte le compte Twitter de l'IYS à un site Twitter pour l'OCSAN;
 - que la Secrétaire poursuive le travail avec la CPAPN de façon informelle en vue de la tenue du Symposium final de l'IYS après la session annuelle de 2022, afin de convenir des Termes de référence et établir un Comité de direction du Symposium une fois que le calendrier pour le Symposium est plus clair; et
 - que la Secrétaire travaille avec les Parties / juridictions pour explorer pourquoi elles n'avaient pas utilisé la Base de données des rivières comme cela avait été convenu en 2016.

e) Progrès effectué dans l'application du 'Plan d'action pour mettre en œuvre les conseils de l'étude externe des performances et la révision des 'Prochaines Etapes' pour l'OCSAN', CNL(13)38

- 7.27 En 2013, le Conseil a adopté un '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). Le Président en exercice a fait référence au rapport des progrès de la mise en œuvre des conseils dans le Plan d'action, CNL(20)23.
- 7.28 Le Président en exercice a fait référence à la correspondance en intersessions des ONGs concernant les sessions spéciales thématiques (TBSS) en vertu de ce point. Ceci déclarait que tandis que les ONGs comprenaient les raisons de l'annulation de la TBSS sur l'aquaculture en 2020, elles recommandaient que celle-ci ait plutôt lieu lors de la session annuelle de 2021 sur une journée complète. Le représentant des ONGs a annoncé que l'élevage de saumon en filet ouvert était peut-être actuellement la question la plus urgente pour les juridictions de l'OCSAN sur l'ensemble de l'Atlantique Nord et que 2021 serait un moment opportun pour une TBSS sur cette question.
- 7.29 Le représentant de la Norvège a noté que si la TBSS avait lieu sur une journée complète plutôt que sur la demi-journée prévue pour 2020, sa portée pourrait être élargie. Il a apprécié l'opportunité d'examiner les nouvelles connaissances acquises dans ce domaine depuis la dernière TBSS sur ce sujet, en 2016. Le représentant du Canada a soutenu une session spéciale thématique proactive et de résolution mutuelle des problèmes.
- 7.30 Le Conseil a convenu de tenir une session spéciale thématique relative à l'aquaculture sur une journée complète en 2021 et a décidé d'ajouter une journée supplémentaire à la session annuelle de 2021 pour permettre à la TBSS d'avoir lieu durant le courant d'une année de mesure réglementaire.
- 7.31 Le Conseil a convenu que le Comité directeur réuni pour planifier le TBSS 2020 soit réaffecté pour planifier le TBSS 2021 et mener ses activités comme il le fait d'habitude. Les représentants suivants au sein du groupe de travail ont été confirmés: Paddy Gargan (Union européenne) et Heidi Hansen (Norvège). Les représentants du Canada et des États-Unis ont confirmé qu'ils souhaitaient continuer à être représentés au Comité directeur et ont convenu de nommer leurs représentants en temps voulu. Les ONGs ont confirmé leur participation et ont accepté de fournir les noms de leurs représentants.
- 7.32 À la suite d'une demande de l'Association des producteurs de saumons internationaux (ISFA) pour siéger au Comité directeur, le Conseil a convenu que seules les Parties et les ONGs accréditées pouvaient être représentées, mais que le Comité directeur pourrait accepter l'offre de soutien et de conseils de l'ISFA et inviter l'ISFA à faire une présentation lors de la session spéciale.
- 7.33 Le Conseil a demandé au Secrétariat de travailler avec le Comité directeur pour planifier la session spéciale thématique de 2021. Le Secrétariat et le Comité directeur décideront si ce travail peut être effectué par correspondance, ou si une réunion en personne ou virtuelle est nécessaire.

f) Liaison avec l'industrie salmonicole

- 7.34 En 2013, le Conseil a convenu qu'un point devrait être maintenu dans son ordre du jour intitulé 'Liaison avec l'industrie salmonicole', au cours duquel un représentant de l'ISFA serait invité à participer à un échange d'informations sur des questions relatives à l'impact de l'aquaculture sur le Saumon atlantique sauvage. Les réunions régulières

du Groupe de liaison ne se poursuivraient pas, mais, si un besoin particulier se présentait, on pourrait envisager de convoquer un groupe mixte *Ad hoc*. L'ISFA a été représentée lors de la trente-septième session annuelle par Mark Lane, qui a soumis une courte déclaration au Conseil (Annexe 14).

- 7.35 Le représentant des ONGs a interrogé la Secrétaire sur les relations de l'OCSAN avec l'ISFA, pour savoir si l'Association était invitée à participer aux réunions de l'OCSAN. Il a noté que bien que les Lignes directrices sur les Meilleures Pratiques de gestion pour traiter les impacts du pou de poisson et les fuites de saumon d'élevage échappé avaient été convenues conjointement entre l'ISFA et l'OCSAN, il ne semblait pas figurer sur le site internet de l'ISFA. La secrétaire a répondu que l'ISFA était invitée chaque année à assister à la session annuelle de l'OCSAN et à déposer un document.

g) Nouvelles opportunités ou opportunités naissantes pour, ou menaces contre, la conservation et la gestion du saumon

- 7.36 Conformément à 'l'Approche stratégique des Prochaines étapes de l'OCSAN' ; ce point a été inclus dans l'ordre du jour du Conseil chaque année and il a été demandé au CIEM de fournir des informations adéquates. Cependant, cette année, comme décrit dans au paragraphe 5.8 ci-dessus, le CIEM avait informé que du fait de la pandémie de Covid-19, ils n'étaient pas à même d'apporter une réponse complète à la demande de conseils en 2020. Des changements ont dû être effectués sur la section 1.2: 'Rapport sur les nouvelles menaces importantes ou menaces émergentes à l'encontre de, ou opportunités pour, la conservation et la gestion du saumon.' Le WGNAS s'est concentré sur la maladie de la peau rouge qui est rapportée dans le rapport WGNAS en Section 2.3 mais n'est pas incluse dans le Rapport ACOM, CNL(20)10rev.

- 7.37 Le représentant du CIEM a confirmé que cette année, le WGNAS avait moins de temps que d'habitude pour mener à bien ses travaux, car il devait travailler virtuellement en raison de la pandémie de Covid-19. Par conséquent, tous les éléments de conseil du CIEM n'ont pas pu être fournis. Cependant, ils espèrent inclure tous les éléments dans leurs conseils l'année prochaine.

- 7.38 Une représentante du CIEM, Martha Robertson, a présenté les conseils pertinents pour ce point d'ordre du jour dans un webinaire le 1^{er} juin. La présentation du CIEM est disponible en document CNL(20)49 (Annexe 10).

- 7.39 Des informations pertinentes sont aussi présentées dans le résumé des Rapports de progrès annuels, CNL(20)19.

h) Incorporation des facteurs sociaux et économiques dans la gestion du saumon

- 7.40 En 2014, le Sous-groupe socio-économique a recommandé qu'il soit demandé aux Parties / juridictions d'informer le Secrétariat de toutes nouvelles études relatives aux valeurs socio-économiques du saumon sauvage. L'Union européenne – Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles) avait fourni un article intitulé 'Mise à jour des questions socio-économiques du Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles), CNL(20)45. De plus, l'étude socio-économique commandée pour soutenir une partie du contenu présent dans le rapport sur l'état du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord avait été publiée par l'Institut norvégien de recherche sur la nature (NINA).

i) Pêcherie de saumons à St Pierre et Miquelon - Gestion et Échantillonnage

- 7.41 Ces dernières années, la Commission nord-américaine et le Conseil se sont inquiétés des captures de saumon à Saint Pierre et Miquelon qui, bien que faibles, se produisent à un moment où de sérieuses préoccupations au sujet de l'abondance des stocks nord-

américains existent et où des restrictions strictes de récolte ont été imposées sur l'ensemble de la zone de la Commission nord-américaine.

- 7.42 Un rapport sur la gestion et l'échantillonnage de la pêcherie au saumon à St Pierre et Miquelon a été présenté par la représentante de la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon), CNL(20)24 et communiqué préalablement à la session annuelle. Ce rapport a aussi été étudié par la Commission Nord-américaine.
- 7.43 La correspondance en intersessions concernant ce point de l'ordre du jour est incluse en Annexe 2.
- 7.44 La représentante des États-Unis s'est félicitée de la réponse fournie par la France (pour Saint Pierre et Miquelon) au cours de la période de correspondance en intersessions. Elle a accueilli l'amélioration des efforts d'échantillonnage et de gestion discutés dans leur réponse et attend avec intérêt la coopération en 2021.

j) Rapports des trois Commissions régionales concernant leurs activités de conservation

- 7.45 Le Vice-Président de la Commission Nord-américaine et les Présidents des Commissions de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est et du Groenland occidental ont rendu compte des activités de leurs commissions au Conseil.
- 7.46 Le Président en exercice a remercié les Commissions pour leur travail.

8. Divers

- 8.1 Pendant la période de correspondance en intersessions, les ONGs ont noté que la session annuelle virtuelle de cette année avait permis d'explorer d'autres procédures pour l'activité, et ils ont suggéré que l'OCSAN pourrait souhaiter utiliser certaines plus régulièrement à l'avenir. Les ONGs ont recommandé un point d'ordre du jour pour la prochaine réunion du Conseil en face-à-face pour examiner si et comment l'une des procédures élaborées pour réaliser la session annuelle de 2020 pourrait être intégrée dans le futur mode opératoire de l'OCSAN. Cette proposition a été appuyée par toutes les Parties. Le représentant de la Norvège a suggéré que ce point pourrait être ajouté à l'ordre du jour de la session annuelle de 2021, ce qui laisserait une période plus longue pour digérer pleinement l'impact du travail de cette manière. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a apporté son accord.
- 8.2 Le Conseil a convenu d'ajouter un point à l'ordre du jour à la prochaine réunion en face-à-face du Conseil, afin de discuter de l'utilisation de procédures alternatives pour les activités de l'OCSAN. Le Conseil a demandé à la Secrétaire de préparer un document à l'appui de cela, en s'inspirant des pratiques des autres ORGPs pendant la pandémie. Les ONGs ont proposé de donner au Secrétariat leur point de vue sur les méthodes utilisées pour accueillir la session de cette année.
- 8.3 Le Conseil a convenu d'encourager les Parties à poursuivre les discussions bilatérales avec l'Islande, en vue de leur ré-adhésion à la Convention.

9. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

- 9.1 Au cours de la planification alternative relative au Covid-19, les Parties ont convenu de tenir une réunion d'intersessions du Conseil à Édimbourg du 9 au 11 septembre 2020, la décision de confirmer ces dates devant être prise le 29 juillet en fonction de la pandémie de Covid-19. Le Conseil a convenu de l'importance de la flexibilité des dates compte tenu de la persistance de la situation liée au Covid-19. Le Président en exercice

a noté qu'un plan alternatif était en place pour traiter les points de l'ordre du jour lors des réunions de vidéoconférence spécifiques.

9.2 Le Conseil a convenu que la trente-huitième session annuelle aurait lieu à Édimbourg du 1^{er} au 5 juin 2021.

9.3 Le Conseil a confirmé les dates de sa trente-neuvième session annuelle du 7 au 10 juin 2022.

10. Compte rendu de la session

10.1 Le Conseil a accepté le compte rendu de la session.

11. Clôture de la session

11.1 Le Président en exercice a clos la trente-septième session annuelle de l'OCSAN.

Note. Une liste d'articles du Conseil est incluse en Annexe 15.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1 Opening Statement from the Acting President, Serge Doucet
- Annex 2 Council Inter-Sessional Correspondence, CNL(20)54
- Annex 3 Written Opening Statements submitted by the Parties
- Annex 4 Written Opening Statements submitted by Inter-Governmental Organizations
- Annex 5 Written Opening Statement submitted on behalf of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon)
- Annex 6 Written Opening Statement submitted by NASCO's accredited Non-Government Organizations (NGOs)
- Annex 7 List of Participants
- Annex 8 Agenda, CNL(20)46
- Annex 9 2021 Budget and 2022 Forecast Budget, CNL(20)52rev
- Annex 10 Presentation of the ICES Advice on North Atlantic Salmon Stocks to the Council, CNL(20)49
- Annex 11 Summary of Discussions held during the ICES Advice Webinar, CNL(20)53
- Annex 12 Report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, CNL(20)12
- Annex 13 Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, CNL(20)13
- Annex 14 Statement to Council submitted by the International Salmon Farmers Association
- Annex 15 List of Papers

Opening Statement made by the Acting President of NASCO

Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of NASCO in these very unusual circumstances.

For the first time in its history, NASCO's face-to-face Annual Meeting has been cancelled, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This led to considerable planning, at short notice and over a short period of time, in which Parties agreed that NASCO's business would, instead, be conducted through inter-sessional correspondence and video conferences with an inter-sessional meeting of the Council to be held in the autumn. The aim of this inter-sessional correspondence has been to streamline the work of the video conferences as much as possible to enable Parties and jurisdictions to work as effectively as possible under the circumstances. Some business has been cancelled, and some postponed until 2021.

I would like to thank you all sincerely for your flexibility and willingness to participate in this extraordinary year.

Council's business has, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, necessarily had to be pared down as the opportunity afforded by meeting face-to-face, and to discuss business in the margins of the Annual Meeting, is not available to us this year. The Agenda items included in this series of video conferences are those that are essential under the Convention, and / or vital to enable NASCO to function. Where decisions are not required under the Convention or under NASCO's Rules of Procedure then the papers have been circulated and it is not anticipated that any discussion will be taken for those Agenda items.

Those Agenda items where Parties felt it was necessary to meet face-to-face, to enable in-depth discussions, have been postponed to an autumn inter-sessional meeting of the Council. Although we hope this will be in September, the continuing uncertainty caused by the Covid-19 pandemic means that this date will be reviewed in July. These substantive Agenda items include discussions on the future status of the UK in NASCO, NASCO's third performance review, addressing the recommendations to NASCO in the report from the Tromsø Symposium and a discussion on the Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024).

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Secretariat for their hard work and composure during this time. They have had to plan this Annual Meeting twice this year, firstly by relocating it to Edinburgh and organizing a physical meeting over one week at the Dalmahoy Hotel and Country Club and secondly having to organize this virtual meeting, that is lasting over a month, after it became increasingly likely that the face-to-face meeting was not going to be possible.

I would ask for your forbearance through this series of video conferences where the level of discussion we would like to have is, inevitably, likely to be hampered by the technology. We will do our very best to accommodate all of your questions and comments but ask for your patience.

With the pandemic issues foremost in our minds at this time, I hope you will allow me to conclude these remarks with a reminder of why we are here, and why NASCO is needed. As you are fully aware, NASCO's objective is to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon through international co-operation taking account of the best available scientific information. You will have noted from Martha's presentation yesterday that our

mission is as important as ever. In his foreword to NASCO's State of North Atlantic Salmon Report, His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales said 'As human beings, we have an immense responsibility for the stewardship and wellbeing this precious planet and everything that shares it with us.' He goes on to say '... wild Atlantic salmon are a powerful symbol of the health of our rivers and oceans and of our relationship with the natural environment.'

I look forward to a productive meeting, and will hand over the Secretary for some housekeeping remarks.

CNL(20)54

Council Inter-Sessional Correspondence

The Council's inter-sessional correspondence took place from 8 – 27 May. It is set out below, under the relevant Agenda item. If an Agenda item is not listed, no inter-sessional correspondence took place.

6a. Decisions by the Council on the Process for the Third Performance Review

- 6.1 The representative of the United States understood that the discussion regarding the performance review had been postponed to the autumn inter-sessional Council meeting but noted concern that this could impact the ability to agree a budget given there are significant budgetary implications associated with conducting a performance review. As such, the United States would like to recommend that a conversation about whether to delay the performance review is had now, during the inter-sessional correspondence period. She proposed that this decision could be agreed informally prior to the FAC meeting next week and agreed formally during the Council video conference.
- 6.2 The representative reported that the United States supports at least a one-year delay in conducting the performance review given the circumstances. She said if we are able to hold an autumn inter-sessional meeting, it might be possible to discuss the process for setting up the performance review then with the aim to agree a process at the 2021 Annual Meeting.
- 6.3 There has been some relevant discussion under inter-sessional correspondence for the Finance and Administration Committee, relating to possible postponement of the performance review. The representative of Norway was concerned about the cost of the performance review and commented '*...If the EPR is delayed until 2022 or 2023 then the cost of the review could be budgeted for over more than one year.*' The United States representative to the FAC wrote '*To help ease the financial burden, we agree with Norway's comment concerning a possible delay in the timing of the next Performance Review. We note that if the Council could decide in the near-term on the sole question of postponing the Performance Review for at least one year, that would ease the work of the FAC in 2020.*' The representative of the European Union to the FAC noted '*the Norwegian proposal to establish a dedicated fund for performance reviews should be given full consideration. It has been proposed that the performance review could be postponed by one year and this would possibly provide some flexibility in starting such fund.*'
- 7a. Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)**
- 7.1 The representative of the NGOs noted that this would be discussed at the autumn inter-sessional meeting of the Council, but reiterated points made in emails from the NGO Co-Chairs on 23 October 2019 and 6 December 2019, circulated to all Heads of Delegation, referring to NGO concerns over a decline in the transparency and inclusivity of NASCO's decision-making over the Implementation Plan reporting process. The representative stated that the NGOs look forward to being involved in a full and frank discussion of their concerns at that meeting.

7d. The International Year of the Salmon: Consideration of the Final Report

- 7.2 IYS Funds: The representative of Norway referred to CNL(20)22 and made a number of points. He noted that developing the Rivers Database may be a good idea if that is what is needed to get all Parties / jurisdictions to report into the database, as a basis for future State of Salmon Reports. He said it was not entirely clear what was required and would like a clearer picture before deciding what was needed. He thought the issue could be postponed if needed.
- 7.3 The representative of Canada stated that further discussion is required on appropriate projects to support the IYS and reported that Canada is not convinced that the Rivers Database, as currently constructed and used, is a system that should be maintained or enhanced without a review of the approach and the metrics used for the database. He suggested a technical discussion on what metrics would be essential for the state of salmon reporting is required after the Annual Meeting.
- 7.4 The representative of Norway reported that they did not think a shorter version of the State of North Atlantic Salmon Report is needed. He also reported that Norway had already commissioned a translation into the Norwegian and Sami languages, and that other Parties could do the same if needed. The representative of Canada supported Norway's view on this.
- 7.5 The representative of the United States agreed that funds in the IYS account should be used to support initiatives related to the goals of IYS. She commented that of the three options identified for using these funds, the United States support further consideration of using these funds to improve the Rivers Database, as outlined (i.e., building a proper database incorporating GIS aspects to enable full data display compatibility). However, more information was needed on the scope of the work and associated costs. The United States would support a proposal for the Secretariat to develop a budget, scope of work, and anticipated results for improvement of the Rivers Database to be considered at the autumn inter-sessional meeting of the Council.
- 7.6 IYS Website: The representative of Canada made comments on the surplus in the IYS fund and asked whether there was agreement from NPAFC to solely fund the IYS website, and whether NASCO would be removed as a partner in this effort, if so? The representative of the United States reported that the United States anticipates supporting the proposal that the IYS website stay operational until at the least the end of 2022 and be solely funded by the NPAFC. However, she also requested clarification on whether there would be any changes to the website as a result of NPAFC being the sole funder.
- 7.7 Twitter: The representative of Canada agreed that the IYS Twitter account should be repurposed to an all-NASCO account, including IYS activities. The representative of the United States also supported the proposal to rebrand NASCO's IYS Twitter account to a NASCO Twitter account.
- 7.8 Concluding Symposium: The representative of Canada agreed to establishing a Symposium Steering Committee and suggested the need to be clear about the objectives and whether a face-to-face global event should be planned versus a more virtual format. He agreed that having the Symposium Steering Committee start in 2020 is appropriate if a face-to-face meeting is not proposed i.e. video conferences.
- 7.9 The representative of the United States noted previous agreement of the Parties to support a Concluding Symposium in 2022 as well as the commitment of £25,000 that has been reserved as NASCO's contribution. She said that the United States had reviewed the draft Terms of Reference and suggested including a contingency plan

should a site inspection trip not be feasible due to travel restrictions. She also suggested that it may be appropriate to indicate that such a trip may be carried out by a subset of the Steering Committee rather than the Committee as a whole. The representative of the United States agree that the Secretariat should work with NPAFC to establish a joint Symposium Steering Committee.

- 7.10 IYS Legacy Activities: The representative of Canada supported the State of North Atlantic Salmon Report as an IYS legacy activity and suggested that the appropriate recurrence period be five years. The representative of the United States agreed with Canada that an update to the State of North Atlantic Salmon Report and a future Symposium are appropriate legacy activities and likewise suggested that a three to five-year interval may be appropriate. She suggested that the report and Symposium not coincide in the same year and supported consideration of the workload associated with developing these activities when proposing any schedule / interval. The representative of the United States supported a recommendation that the Secretariat develop a proposal for the scope and timing for IYS Legacy Activities to be presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting, noting that such legacy activities may also be an appropriate use of any remaining funds in the IYS account should any funds be available following consideration of other activities.
- 7e) **Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, CNL(13)38**
- 7.11 The representative of the NGOs referred to their statement under Agenda item 7a above but added that one of the actions taken forward from CNL(13)38 was the implementation of Theme-based Special Sessions (TBSS) held at Annual Meetings. He reported that the NGOs understood the reasons for cancelling the TBSS on aquaculture planned for 2020, but would like to recommend that this is postponed until the 2021 Annual Meeting and that a full day be put aside for presentations and discussion around the current actions taken by NASCO Parties and jurisdictions to protect wild salmon from the adverse impacts of open-net salmon farming. To facilitate this TBSS, and as 2021 is a year in which regulatory measures will need to be discussed, the NGOs would support an extra day being added to the 2021 Annual Meeting if required.
- 7i) **Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**
- 7.12 The representative of the United States said it appreciated the report provided by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) on the outcome of its 2019 fishery but that they continued to be concerned about the potential harvest of endangered United States-origin salmon in the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery, as even small harvests of United States-origin salmon in that fishery could have significant impacts on United States stocks given their current low abundance. The representative of the United States noted concern that the sampling design for the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery is not sufficient to adequately detect endangered salmon populations, including those of United States origin, that may be taken there. She also noted that ICES has again recommended improved catch statistics and sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery to improve information on, among other things, stock origin of harvested salmon. With this in mind, the representative of the United States asked a number of questions of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon).
- 7.13 First, the representative of the United States noted that catches in the 2019 St Pierre and Miquelon fishery were very similar to those reported for 2018. Last year, France (in

- respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) reported this was due to a reduction in effort by commercial fishermen as they were targeting other species and to poor weather affecting recreational catches. The representative of the United States asked if this was the case again this year or whether something else affected catches?
- 7.14 The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) confirmed that professional fishermen's effort was significantly reduced because at that time of the year, most of them are busy targeting other species (snowcrab and lobster). She reported that weather was average in the 2019 season, with 11 days of strong wind in June (the month with the highest recorded catches).
- 7.15 Second, the representative of the United States asked what management measures were in place for the 2020 St Pierre and Miquelon fishery and whether catch and / or effort limits had been set.
- 7.16 The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) reported that there should not be substantial changes to management measures in 2020 compared to 2019. She said that there has been a change of person in the position of Head of Maritime Affairs in the summer of 2019 and that he or the relevant staff from St Pierre and Miquelon would aim to attend the NAC and Council meetings, together with Herlé Goraguer (Ifremer).
- 7.17 Third, in line with ICES advice, the representative of the United States asked what steps were being taken to improve the completeness and timely reporting of detailed catch statistics on the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery to ICES, such as the proportion of large versus small salmon in the total catch and other catch characteristics.
- 7.18 The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) replied that it would be possible to provide ICES with the catch statistics next March via the French representative to the WGNAS (Mathieu Buoro), and that, from 2020 onwards, the proportion of small versus large salmon would be detailed. She reported that the percent of small salmon (<63cm) in the total catch was calculated (66.5%) and included in the St Pierre and Miquelon Annual Report, but too late for the WGNAS meeting because of a few late logbook returns (health-related). She also reported that 66.5% in the total catch is consistent with 70% small in the 63 salmon sample (WGNAS report). She noted that in previous years the percentage in the sample was as much as 92% because there was a gap when Herlé was away on the first week of June for the NASCO meeting - a time when more large salmon were present. She added that several volunteers were now contributing.
- 7.19 Fourth, the representative of the United States asked what steps France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) is taking to address the ICES recommendations to provide improved sample characteristics to allow ICES to better characterise the impact of the fishery on contributing stocks and to ensure it is representative of all aspects of the fishery across the fishing season into the future. The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) referred to the response above that from 2020 onward, the detailed sampling scheme across the whole fishing season would be available via the French representative to the ICES WGNAS.
- 7.20 Finally, the representative of the United States asked whether France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) had given additional consideration to the question of joining NASCO. The representative of the United States encouraged France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to do so.
- 7.21 The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) reported that for

now, France wishes to retain its observer status to NASCO and continues, as previously committed, co-operation with NASCO, its members and the scientific community.

8. Other Business

- 8.1 The representative of the NGOs noted, with appreciation, the efforts of the Secretariat and President to develop a plan to conduct this year's Annual Meeting when travel and face-to-face meetings are not possible. He stated that while this situation is not ideal and limits NASCO's ability to conduct its business, it has provided an opportunity to explore alternative procedures for doing business, some of which NASCO may want to consider using more regularly going forward. Accordingly, he said that the NGOs would like to recommend an agenda item for the next face-to-face meeting of Council to discuss if and how any of the procedures developed to conduct the 2020 Annual Meeting could be incorporated into NASCO's future operations.

Opening Statements Submitted by the Parties

Opening Statement to Council submitted by Canada

Mr. Acting President, Distinguished Delegates, and Observers:

It is a pleasure for the Canadian delegation to participate in the 37th Annual North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) Meeting, being held in a virtual setting this year due to the challenging circumstances of which we're all aware. As Serge Doucet, the Head of the Canadian Delegation to NASCO, is currently Acting President, I am serving this year as Acting Head of the Canadian Delegation. I know many fellow delegates and Secretariat members from recent NASCO meetings and from other settings, and I'm looking forward to working with you all in this new role despite the challenges that may arise due to meeting in a way that is so new for all of us.

Atlantic salmon hold cultural, economic and environmental significance for Canada. It is a vital species that provides sustainable wild food, and cultural connections for the Indigenous peoples of eastern Canada. It supports a large globally recognized recreational fishery. It is a harbinger of the cascading effects of climate alteration. However, despite the implementation of fisheries management and habitat remediation measures to support conservation and stock rebuilding, annual counts of returning Atlantic salmon, especially in southern Canadian rivers, continued their long-term decline in 2019. This reinforces the relevance of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, NASCO, and this, the 37th annual meeting. There is still lots to be done.

Domestically, Canada continues to demonstrate its commitment to Atlantic salmon conservation both from a policy and an investment perspective. In 2019 we completed the three-year Wild Atlantic Salmon Implementation Plan, fulfilling a key requirement of Canada's Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy, which had been revised in 2017. The goal of the plan ultimately is to restore and maintain healthy Atlantic salmon populations by rebuilding stocks and protecting the biological foundation supporting wild Atlantic salmon.

In 2019 Canada modernized its *Fisheries Act*, restoring protections for fish and fish habitat. Significant investments have been made to support freshwater habitat science and freshwater habitat restoration, which are critical activities for restoring salmon populations.

Work continued in 2019 under the Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture, an international collaboration between scientists in Canada and the United States. During the International Year of the Salmon, in March in Quebec City, the Atlantic Salmon Ecosystem Forum attracted over 150 participants from across North America to examine "salmon and people in a changing world." In December 2019, the research joint venture finalized and published its five-year strategic salmon science plan, which will guide the strategic planning and implementation of science initiatives leading to improved understanding of the trends and causes of variation and/or decline in the abundance and distribution of wild anadromous Atlantic salmon.

We want to thank NASCO for the small-grant program during the International Year of the Salmon, which allowed many Canadian groups to help raise understanding of Atlantic salmon throughout Canada.

The conservation and rebuilding of wild Atlantic salmon stocks is a shared responsibility, making cooperation through forums like NASCO that much more important. Canada will continue investing in science and habitat conservation while working locally, with provincial

governments and internationally on sustainable conservation solutions. Our goal is to work together to ensure we can continue to enjoy the benefits of Atlantic salmon for generations to come.

In the upcoming year, as we have done in the past, Canada is committed to work with other parties to reach decisions on NASCO regulatory measures that are effective, practical, and above all address our common conservation objectives for wild Atlantic salmon with mutually agreeable catch limits and effective monitoring regimes.

We appreciate the extensive work that Greenland has done in recent years, notably eliminating factory landings, and introducing mandatory licence requirements for everyone fishing for Atlantic salmon. Canada will work through the West Greenland Commission to support Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to further strengthen its monitoring, control, reporting, and sampling measures going forward to ensure that agreed total allowable catches are respected.

Canada would like to thank France in respect of Saint Pierre and Miquelon for its continued collaboration in sharing information on its Atlantic salmon sampling program for its mixed-stock fishery which draws heavily on Canadian-origin fish. Important genetic stock information has been attained through this program. Strong collaboration continued in 2019 and the analysis of scale samples and genetic samples has been completed and reported to NASCO by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES).

Though Canada is pleased with the initial reports from France that Saint Pierre and Miquelon's reported catch for 2019 remained close to the lowest it has been in recent years, we continue to be concerned with the ongoing harvest of the mixed stocks of wild Atlantic salmon produced exclusively outside its territory. We note, in particular, the increased number of recreational licences implemented in 2017, that harvest occurs with gillnets, and that there continues to be no limit established on the number of fish permitted per licence. This is in sharp contrast to the severe measures that have been applied in the recreational fisheries of the neighbouring area of Newfoundland, measures that include closures of rivers, reduced daily and season bag limits, and mandatory carcass tagging. The Indigenous peoples of the south coast of Newfoundland have also suspended their Canadian constitutional right to food, social, and ceremonial fisheries for Atlantic salmon due to low stock abundance. We look forward to working bilaterally with France (in respect of Saint Pierre and Miquelon) and hope to see progress on improved controls of this fishery that harvest salmon from eastern Canada, as difficult decisions continue to be taken in Canada to further reduce harvests.

In conclusion, I look forward to working closely with all of you, despite the extraordinary circumstances, and to productive meetings throughout the week and continued cooperation in the months and years to come.

Thank you

***Opening Statement to Council submitted by
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)***

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Denmark in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland would like to begin by thanking the NASCO Secretariat for the huge efforts they have done to make this annual meeting work in spite of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Fisheries is the most important industry in both the Faroe Islands and Greenland and it was therefore at great expense to our small communities that the Faroese and Greenlandic governments decided to take responsibility and refrain from all commercial fishing of wild salmon in our waters with a view to re-building the stocks. Still, even though we have stopped our commercial salmon fisheries, we retain our rights to conduct fishing in accordance with NASCO's guidelines. Therefore the Faroe Islands have retained the right to practise scientific based catch, if need be, and Greenland continues to set a small quota for the subsistence fishery that has been going on for generations in Greenland and is of high importance for the livelihood in namely small and remote communities.

It is not our belief that it is the limited subsistence fishery in Greenland that is preventing the recovery of the Atlantic salmon. Despite the extensive reductions in catch, strict management regimes and increased monitoring and control, with great sacrifices made by our small coastal communities, we have not seen any significant recovery of the stocks and it must thus be concluded that we need to consider other factors and measures in order to improve the stocks.

It is important to focus on all aspects of the lifecycle of the salmon. Therefore, Greenland and the Faroe Islands want to emphasise the importance of focusing on the external factors that affect the Atlantic salmon stock such as pollution, climate change, obstacles and predation. The number of Grey seals, harp seals, harbour seals, cormorants and other birds and cetaceans predators has increased substantially in the North Atlantic in the last 20 years. It is also the conclusion of ICES that other factors besides fisheries are constraining production. Thus, Greenland and the Faroe Islands urge NASCO and States of Origin to increase focus on how to address these factors. Denmark has proven that it is possible to obtain a ten-fold increase in returning Atlantic salmon once the in-river problems are taken care of. We therefore call on all States of Origin to look towards Denmark for inspiration and start acting!

Salmon farming in the North Atlantic has increased significantly since NASCO was established. The industry has become a central part of the economies of several North Atlantic countries, including the Faroe Islands. The aquaculture industry may pose a threat to the wild salmon stocks, if the industry is not regulated carefully. The impacts of salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon is therefore of great interest to all countries in the region with aquaculture industries, as it is important to implement and maintain high regulation standards in our industry in order to safeguard wild salmon stocks and ensure sustainable aquaculture.

Mr President, the Faroe Islands and Greenland are looking forward to a productive week, although the settings this year differ substantively from our usual annual meetings. Nonetheless, we are of course prepared to work in a constructive way so that we collectively can contribute to a successful outcome of this 37th Annual NASCO Meeting.

Thank you

Opening Statement to Council submitted by the European Union

Mr. President, Mrs Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The European Union is particularly pleased to participate to this year's NASCO annual meeting. The scheduling and preparation of this meeting were no small feats, considering the global challenges we all face, and our appreciation goes to the Secretariat whose very proactive approach and considerable efforts made this possible. As many RFMOs still contemplate the possibility of organizing their annual meetings, this week their eyes are on NASCO to see if this is possible and how it can be done.

This year, we will dearly miss engaging with all the individuals and friends who make NASCO so special. Unfortunately, the current circumstances mean that it will not be possible to be as ambitious as we would have liked and that important discussions and events will have to be postponed. We are particularly disappointed that it was not possible to go ahead with the special session on aquaculture and we believe that a new impetus is required to reflect on the role of NASCO with respect to the management of these activities. Other important discussions had to be postponed to an autumn intersessional meeting, including the follow-up to the Tromsø symposium and the decisions on the scope and format of the next performance review. These are both critical matters for the future of NASCO and for wild Atlantic salmon.

Nevertheless, we are recomforted with the indications from early meetings that, despite the distance, this annual meeting should provide an opportunity to continue making important progress towards salmon conservation. We are looking forward to prepare as best as we can the intersessional discussions taking place later this year.

The discussions in the West Greenland Commission also feature high on the European Union list of priorities. We are looking forward to constructive exchanges with the other Parties and to an objective assessment of the level of success of the implementation of the current regulatory measure. We recall the hard work and efforts made by all in reaching an agreement two years ago and we are confident that we can count on the strong cooperation of all the Parties involved to further capitalise on this achievement.

The European Union would like, once again, to warmly thank the NASCO Secretariat for its hard work, support and assistance throughout the year, but especially in the context of the preparation of this extraordinary annual meeting. Finally, the European Union would like to express its gratitude to the acting President for stepping in at a very challenging time, and to wish him the best for this meeting.

Opening Statement Submitted by Norway

Mr. President, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen. On behalf of Norway, I would like to thank the Secretariat for hosting the Thirty- Seventh Annual Meeting of NASCO from Edinburgh as a videoconference under this very special circumstances due to the covid19 pandemic.

In Norway, the pre-fishery abundance of wild Atlantic salmon remains reduced by more than half compared to historic levels. One of the main reasons continues to be reduced survival at sea. However, local and regional differences suggest that adverse human impacts strongly influence the development and status of stocks.

The classification of wild salmon stocks following the Norwegian Quality Norm has continued, and now comprises 176 rivers representing approximately 90 % of the total spawning target in

Norway. Only 20 percent of the stocks are within norms requirements of good or very good status.

The fishery regulations adopted over the last decade or so have - to a large extent - compensated for the reduction in salmon runs. Therefore, in general, overexploitation is no longer considered a major threat to larger populations. A major revision of regulatory measures for the salmon fisheries for the period 2021-2025 is ongoing, and the process has followed the milestones as set in the IP in 2018.

Pink salmon is a new threat, and there is need for national and international measures to reduce the risk of negative impacts on native salmonids, including Atlantic salmon. The Norwegian Environment Agency and the Norwegian Food Safety Authority commissioned a risk assessment on pink salmon by the Norwegian Scientific Committee for Food and Environment (NSCFE). Based on the findings by the NSCFE, monitoring and measures to remove pink salmon in 2019, an action plan will be drawn up in 2020.

Of a total of 51 infected rivers by *Gyrodactylus salaris*, 38 are treated and the parasite successfully eradicated. In November 2019, all the previously infected rivers in the Rauma region (6 rivers) were declared free of parasites after successful combatting in 2013/2014. If all the eradication measures implemented are successful, the number of infected rivers is reduced to 8.

A new "live gene bank" is established to try to rescue the remains of approximately 20 stocks of salmon and sea-trout from the Hardanger region in Western Norway. Negative impacts from aquaculture activities were the main triggering factor for establishing the gene bank.

The work on developing new IPs has proven to be challenging, as it should be. It is our strong belief that NASCO, in part by introducing the IP scheme, has played a vital role in the better protection and rational management of Atlantic salmon internationally and nationally. We hope NASCO is able to fulfill this role also in the future, and in order to do so NASCO has to be efficient, innovative, relevant, and challenging.

In closing, the Norwegian delegation would like to thank the Secretariat for its efforts in all the preparations for this meeting under these very extraordinary conditions, and we look forward to a productive and successful meeting.

Opening Statement to Council submitted by the Russian Federation

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates and Observers of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of NASCO, Ladies and Gentlemen!

Today we are faced with a really challenging situation affecting the whole world. The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the world in really dramatic way. When the epidemic is over, we will witness the emergence of a new world, in particular it may concern the protection, conservation, and recovery of wild salmon stocks.

In this opening statement I would like to raise awareness of the new factors driving salmon abundance. The SARS-CoV-2 virus is highly dangerous for human being and thankfully not harmful for Atlantic salmon. However, it does not mean that wild salmon do not sick. They do and they die before spawning. In 2019 adult Atlantic salmon in the Kola and the Tuloma rivers of the Kola Peninsula continued to show disease, diagnosed in 2015 as Ulcerative Dermal

Necrosis (UDN). Sick salmon were also found in other rivers draining both in the Barents and in the White seas. Salmon in Irish, Scottish, Norwegian, Swedish and Danish rivers have shown the same symptoms of the disease in recent years. In Europe it was diagnosed as Red Skin Disease.

The mortality rate of sick salmon from secondary infection can be very high. All salmon broodstock in the Kola River, the Uмба River (Murmansk region) and the Keret River (Republic of Karelia) died in 2019. Unlike Covid-19 the UDN/Red Skin Disease causative agent is unknown. The disease has again appeared in European salmon rivers in 2020.

Atlantic salmon is an important resource for the Russian Federation, highly valued by anglers, generating income and providing employment to local communities. The Federal Law on Recreational Fishery comes in force from January 2020. The Law introduces regulations of recreational fisheries at fishing sites for valuable fish species such as Atlantic salmon and make it possible to established new fishing sites. Russia focuses on recreational catch-and-release salmon fisheries in order to conserve Atlantic salmon and other valuable fish species.

Of the issues in the focus of NASCO's attention we continue to be concerned about high mortality of salmon at sea. However the UDN/Red Skin Disease may significantly affect the adult salmon abundance in rivers. We fully realize that without international cooperation, without combined efforts in developing the approaches and strategy for future actions no nation could expect to be successful at home.

Mr President we wish everyone good health and we are looking forward to having fruitful work throughout the Web-conference.

Thank you!

Opening Statement to Council submitted by the United States

Mr. President, Secretary Hatfield, Assistant Secretary Kenyon, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The United States is pleased to participate in the 37th annual meeting of NASCO. We sincerely thank the NASCO Secretariat for the tremendous amount of work required to pivot to a virtual meeting format in this extraordinary year. We are looking forward to a productive process working together with our international partners to effectively conserve and manage wild Atlantic salmon across the North Atlantic.

The United States remains committed to the success of NASCO as the work we do collectively as an organization is essential to ensuring the future viability of wild salmon. As in past years, we are keenly interested in mixed-stock fisheries that intercept U.S.- origin salmon since even small numbers of U.S. salmon harvested in these fisheries could have significant impacts on U.S. stocks given their current low abundance. We anticipate a robust discussion in the West Greenland Commission regarding the implementation of the current regulatory measure, and we thank Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) for once again providing detailed information on both the outcome of the 2019 fishery at West Greenland as well as plans for improving management in 2020. We are encouraged by the steps being taken and look forward to exchanging views on those and other ideas, including those aimed at ensuring the quota overharvests seen during the first two years of the regulatory measure do not continue in 2020. Review of the effectiveness of the measures in place for the monitoring and control of

the mixed-stock fisheries in Labrador and St. Pierre and Miquelon will also be important discussions this year, and we appreciate the helpful information on those fisheries provided by both Canada and France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon), respectively. We are particularly keen to explore improvements to the sampling programs implemented in these fisheries to enhance information on stock origin of harvested salmon, including salmon of U.S. origin and other stocks of low abundance.

In this extraordinary year, NASCO has appropriately adapted its business operations for the annual meeting to focus on ensuring its essential work can be successfully completed in the time and through the means available. Several important activities, such as the special sessions on the 2020 APR and other topics, unfortunately, have been cancelled. Still others, such as the evaluation of the Implementation Plans, consideration of recommendations from the Tromsø Symposium, and the process for the next external performance review, have been deferred to a proposed fall 2020 intersessional meeting of the Council. Other matters have been deferred entirely to the 2021 Annual Meeting. The deferral of those activities, while necessary due to the extraordinary circumstances, should not be confused with a lack of support from the United States for these important processes and decisions. We also note the NGOs have expressed concern regarding the transparency of recent decision-making, and we remain committed to discussing this issue with the aim to ensure processes are as transparent as possible moving forward. We look forward to working with our NASCO partners this year and next to advance those issues that would have been taken up at the 2020 Annual Meeting in a normal year but could not under the circumstances. In that regard, we note that 2021 is shaping up to be quite busy in light of deferred business as well as the need to consider new regulatory measures given that the current ones expire after this year. We sincerely hope that by that time, we will again be able to conduct regular, in-person NASCO meetings so we can focus on all of the important work of this organization.

In closing, on behalf of the United States, I would like to acknowledge Secretary Hatfield, Assistant Secretary Kenyon, and the rest of the Secretariat staff, who have worked tirelessly during this unique and trying time to ensure we can conduct our priority work efficiently and successfully this year. We greatly appreciate their dedication and professionalism.

Thank you.

Opening Statements submitted by Inter-Governmental Organizations

Opening Statement submitted by the representative of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC)

Mr President, Madame Secretary, delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen. I am grateful for the opportunity to provide an opening statement on behalf of the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission (EIFAAC) at this the 37th Annual meeting of NASCO.

By way of background EIFAAC is a statutory, advisory fishery body under the Constitution of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations. Established in 1957, it is an inter-governmental forum for collaboration and information exchange on inland fisheries and aquaculture across European countries. EIFAAC has currently 34 members including the European Union.

Governments, institutions and agencies, including NASCO, can benefit from international advice derived from the EIFAAC's network linking policy-makers, managers, scientists and others working on inland fisheries and aquaculture issues.

EIFAAC's mission is to promote the long-term sustainable development, utilization, conservation, restoration and responsible management of European inland fisheries and aquaculture and to support sustainable economic, social, and recreational activities through:

- providing advice and information;
- encouraging enhanced stakeholder participation and communication; and
- the delivery of effective research.

EIFAAC has currently active project groups looking at a number of prioritised research areas that maybe of interest to NASCO parties, these include:

- the monitoring the performance of fish passes; developing CEN standard;
- the development of advice on sustainable management actions on cormorant populations;
- the welfare of fishes in aquaculture;
- citizen science in Inland Fisheries; and
- the downstream passage of fish at hydropower dams.

Another EIFAAC project, supported by the Irish Government, is the delivery of the EIFAAC symposium, to be held in Ireland from the 20 – 22 of September 2010. This symposium presents a unique opportunity to develop and advance inter- and transdisciplinary approaches to pressing issues facing, commercial and recreational inland fishers, fisheries managers, inland aquaculture farmers and conservationists.

EIFAAC and NASCO share the common goal of wild Atlantic salmon conservation while respecting the social, economic and cultural value of this unique species. EIFAAC is well positioned to offer expert advice and support to NASCO on issues affecting the Atlantic salmon in the freshwater element of its lifecycle.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and yours all the best during these extraordinary times. Finally, may I wish all of you a productive and effective NASCO session.

Dr. Cathal Gallagher – EIFAAC

Opening Statement to Council submitted by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC)

Distinguished delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen.

First of all, let me extend my gratitude to Secretary Dr. Emma Hatfield and the Council for the invitation to the 37th NASCO Annual Meeting. On behalf of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) I am pleased to be able to meet with you virtually. We have found that over the past three months that our international communication and collaboration have been sustained if not improved as most organizations and staff are now quite proficient with the virtual platforms. The NPAFC Working Groups and main Committees met virtually over the past month and our plenary session of the Commission will take place June 9-11, 2020. We are very pleased to have Ms. Kim Damon-Randall, United States Head of Delegation to NASCO, join us.

We are pleased that the relationship between our two Secretariat's is effective most recently sharing information on technology and procedures for virtual meetings.

Regarding the International Year of the Salmon, we congratulate NASCO and parties who had a very impressive focal year of 2019. In particular, the outputs from the annual meeting and symposium in Tromso were excellent. NPAFC appreciates the importance of linking the science of changing ocean and freshwater systems to management actions that will sustain salmon in light of an ongoing decline in abundance and productivity. The NPAFC is considering how to build on the Tromso symposium in the Pacific. In the Pacific we are focused on three priorities a Pan-Pacific high seas expedition in 2021 to close gaps in our understanding of high seas distribution and mechanisms affecting survival, the Likely Suspects Framework (LSF) to model and provide meaningful advice to managers that is informed by factors affecting the entire life cycle and a data mobilization effort to provide standardized and integrated data internationally to support research such as the LSF. Our partnership with NASCO resulted in connections with scientists that have directly improved our work. Perhaps the best example is the joint development of the Likely Suspects Framework with ICES WKSALMON and the Atlantic Salmon Trust and partners in the Missing Salmon Alliance. We appreciate the efforts of Dr. Hatfield in establishing the connection to ICES. We are extending this effort to the Pacific with discussion between ICES and PICES. In October 2019, we held a workshop in Victoria BC and greatly appreciated the attendance of Dr. Kjell Utne from Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, Norway who we invited to assist us in developing large scale surveys based on his experience in the North Atlantic.

The NPAFC looks forward to continuing to work with the Council and the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board on the topics of mutual interest including the connecting of scientists from both basins, collaboration on Signature projects including ROAM and the Likely Suspects Framework, managing the IYS website and joint planning for the 2022 Wrap-up Symposium. Based on our cooperation in the IYS activity last several years, I think that we two organizations should think of the legacy of the IYS together in the future.

In closing I wish you well in your deliberations. I look forward to ongoing engagement with all of you through the International Year of the Salmon.

Thank you.

***Opening Statement to Council submitted by France in respect of
Saint Pierre & Miquelon***

Dear acting president Serge Doucet, Secretary Emma Hatfield, delegates, observers, ladies and gentlemen,

France in respect of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon (SPM) thanks warmly NASCO secretariat for successfully organizing meetings in visioconference, enabling our delegation to join the meetings of the North American Commission and the Council in the difficult context of the Covid pandemia. The ICES Webinar presentation yesterday was very clear and informative, thanks to Dr Martha Robertson.

We noted the appreciation by parties to the North American Commission, Canada and the United States of America, of the continued cooperation by France in respect of SPM in the form of the annual report and the electronic correspondence, but also their concern with the ongoing harvest of mixed stocks of wild Atlantic salmon produced outside the territory of SPM at a time when their own populations are implementing conservation measures to protect the species.

While the fishing season was shortened in 2017, the number of recreational licences in SPM increased but a significant part of them are inactive, which is also the case for professional licences : fishermen ask for them because they fear they might lose their traditional right to fish if they miss one year. Fishing effort remains limited and we are working to make this more precise with the addition to the logbook of a mandatory declaration of the number of effective net setting days.

The sampling scheme is progressing with the coverage of the whole fishing season, involving the participation of a dozen recreational fishermen in 2020. As each permit holder is assigned with a specific site for the season, geographical coverage should be wider and more adequate for the determination of salmon origin. We hope this addresses concern by parties for the impact of the SPM fishery on low abundance stocks.

Last, we join the delegation of the United States of America in appreciating the information provided by Canada on aquaculture and asking for some on significant projects under consideration such as the Placentia Bay project, given the proximity of this site with the islands of SPM. We look forward to NASCO's future work on aquaculture once the conditions for meeting are improved.

We thank again the secretariat for all their support and hard work and give our kind regards to all the friends we have been meeting for years on this first week of June.

Thank you

NGO Opening Statement submitted to NASCO Council 2020

Mr President, Heads of Delegation, Delegates and Colleagues – the NGOs are very pleased to take part in this unique ‘virtual’ Annual Meeting and look forward to playing a full part in Council and Commission debate.

Mr President, the NGOs are concerned about several important issues which, we understand, will not be fully discussed at this meeting but will rather be postponed to the planned intersessional meeting in the autumn. However, we would like to take this opportunity to keep these issues in front of all delegates, because we believe they go to the very heart of NASCO’s principle objectives which cannot be lost in the drive to merely get the process right.

We have lost count of the number of times we have reminded delegates that NASCO exists to protect wild salmon. However, our involvement in the protracted nature of the 3rd cycle of Implementation Plans (IPs) where, after two review meetings and an extended period where parties and jurisdictions were encouraged to revise unacceptable plans, all but two IPs are still classified as unsatisfactory. We understand that some jurisdictions consider the whole IP process to be too demanding of their resources, but the NGOs believe that if those jurisdictions had policies at home designed to genuinely protect wild fish, it would be relatively easy to fill in the IP template and present 5-year plans that would easily pass Review Group scrutiny. As it is, all too often we see verbosity employed to skirt around the fact that plans are obviously not in place to protect wild salmon. This was perfectly portrayed by two ‘revised’ IPs from countries with major open-net salmon farming industries actually admitting that they had no actions to regulate sea lice or escapes, despite all parties and jurisdictions being signed up to NASCO goals of no increase in wild fish mortality from sea lice emanating from salmon farms and no escapes of farmed salmon from cages.

My President, the NGOs consider this lack of political ambition and commitment to be totally unacceptable against a background of declining wild salmon stocks around the north Atlantic, yet we have to say the same words each year we attend the Annual Meeting. We do appreciate that some good work has been done – amongst other actions, both Scotland and England have recently closed down their coastal mixed stock fisheries, Greenland is working hard to control and report the catch on its west coast and the Faroe Islands have not released any licenses to fish for salmon for the past two decades. However, overall progress is painfully slow, despite NASCO having excellent guidelines and resolutions to which all parties and jurisdictions are signed – and wild salmon stocks continue to suffer.

The NGOs look forward to a full participation in the imminent external performance review (EPR). While re-reading the recommendations of the previous EPR in 2012, and NASCO’s subsequent plans for the ‘Next Steps Process’ in 2013, we look back on seven years when comparatively little has been achieved at a time when wild fish most urgently needed our protection. We are therefore left with the undeniable truth that we need to act now, as a matter of the greatest urgency, if a subsequent EPR, perhaps in 2030, is not to report the extinction of Atlantic salmon across much of its present range, and ask the question, *Why did NASCO parties and jurisdictions not do more to protect the species when they had the chance?* Indeed, we refer back to the report from the IYS Symposium at last year’s meeting in Tromsø, where it was clearly stated that we had to change our attitude from managing wild salmon to actually conserving them.

Mr President, the NGOs appreciate that these are all issues which, along with NASCO’s need for full transparency and openness, and the role of NGOs in the Forum’s future, will be

discussed at the planned autumn intersessional Council meeting, and so we will keep our powder dry on a more forensic analysis until then. However, what we would urge is that all NASCO parties and jurisdictions undergo some soul-searching, both during this Annual Meeting and leading up to the intersessional event, and articulate through the revision of their IPs – due for re-reviewing in November – their re-kindled and genuine commitment to protecting wild Atlantic salmon so that, in the words of Sir David Attenborough in the NASCO IYS video from last year, we are not to lose the King of Fish for ever!

2020 List of Participants

* Denotes Head of Delegation

CANADA

Mr Serge Doucet – Acting President	<i>Serge.Doucet@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, New Brunswick
*Mr Doug Bliss - Representative	<i>doug.bliss@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Moncton, New Brunswick
Mr David Dunn - Representative	<i>dunnd@nb.sympatico.ca</i>	Canadian Commissioner, Shediac, New Brunswick
Mr Carl McLean - Representative	<i>mcleanc351@gmail.com</i>	Canadian Commissioner, North West River, Newfoundland and Labrador
Dr Blair Adams	<i>blairadams@gov.nl.ca</i>	Department of Fisheries and Land Resources, Gander, Newfoundland and Labrador
Dr Julien April	<i>julien.april@mffp.gouv.qc.ca</i>	Ministère des Forêts de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec, Québec
Mr Tony Blanchard	<i>Tony.blanchard@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St John's, Newfoundland & Labrador
Mr John Campbell	<i>John.Campbell@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Francois Caron	<i>Frlcaron@gmail.com</i>	Fédération québécoise pour le Saumon atlantique, Québec, Québec
Mr Kevin Case	<i>Kevin.Case@gnb.ca</i>	Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Mr Gérald Chaput	<i>gerald.chaput@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Moncton, New Brunswick
Mr Chris Connell	<i>Chris.Connell@gnb.ca</i>	Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Ms Shelley Denny	<i>shelley.denny@uinr.ca</i>	Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Eskasoni, Nova Scotia
Ms Alexandra Dostal	<i>Alexandra.Dostal@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr James Goudie	<i>Jim.Goudie@nunatsiavut.com</i>	Government of Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland & Labrador
Ms Susan A. Farquharson	<i>s.farquharson@atlanticfishfarmers</i>	Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association, Letang, New Brunswick
Mr Dale Marsden	<i>Dale.Marsden@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Alan McNeill	<i>alan.mcneill@novascotia.ca</i>	Nova Scotia Fisheries and Aquaculture, Pictou, Nova Scotia
Mr Dave Meerburg	<i>dmeerburg@asf.ca</i>	Atlantic Salmon Federation, St. Andrews, New Brunswick

Dr Martha Robertson	<i>martha.robertson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St. Johns, Newfoundland & Labrador
Mr George Russell, Jr	<i>grussell@nunatukavut.ca</i>	Nunatukavut Community Council, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador
Ms Robynn-Bella Smith-Laplante	<i>Robynn-Bella.Smith-Laplante@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, New Brunswick
Mr Jamie Snook	<i>Jamie.snook@torngatsecretariat.ca</i>	Torngat Secretariat, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador
Dr Steve Sutton	<i>ssutton@asf.ca</i>	Atlantic Salmon Federation, St. Andrews, New Brunswick
Mr Craig Taylor	<i>craig.taylor@torngatsecretariat.ca</i>	Torngat Secretariat, Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Newfoundland and Labrador

DENMARK (In respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Ms Katrine Kærgaard	<i>katk@nanoq.gl</i>	Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Nuuk, Greenland
Ms Sissel Fredsgaard	<i>sifr@nanoq.gl</i>	Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Nuuk, Greenland
*Mr Svein Magnason - Representative	<i>sveinm@uvmr.fo</i>	Faroese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Tinganes, Faroe Islands

EUROPEAN UNION

*Dr Arnaud Peyronnet - Representative	<i>arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu</i>	European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
Mr Ignacio Granell - Representative	<i>ignacio.granell@ec.europa.eu</i>	European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
Ms Laurene Bertand	<i>Laurene.bertand@agriculture.gouv.fr</i>	French Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Paris, Sea Fisheries Department, France
Dr Ciaran Byrne	<i>ciaran.byrne@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Håkan Carlstrand	<i>hakan.carlstrand@havochvatten.se</i>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Gothenburg, Sweden
Mr Francisco Javier De Las Peñas Rivero	<i>fjdelaspenas@mapa.es</i>	EU - Spain
Dr Jaakko Erkinaro	<i>jaakko.erkinaro@luke.fi</i>	Natural Resources Institute Finland (Luke), Oulu, Finland
Mr Clemens Fieseler	<i>clemens.fieseler@ble.de</i>	Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Bonn, Germany
Dr Cathal Gallagher	<i>cathal.gallagher@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Julián García Baena	<i>jgbaena@mapa.es</i>	Spanish General Secretariat of Fisheries, Madrid

Dr Paddy Gargan	<i>paddy.gargan@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Tapio Hakaste	<i>tapio.hakaste@mmm.fi</i>	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki, Finland
Ms Teodora Ivanova-Staykova	<i>Teodora.Ivanova-Staykova@consilium.europa.eu</i>	Secretariat General of the Council of the European Union, Brussels
Mr Denis Maher	<i>denis.maher@dccae.gov.ie</i>	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Cavan, Ireland
Mr John McCartney	<i>john.mccartney@loughs-agency.org</i>	Loughs Agency, Derry, Northern Ireland
Dr Michael Millane	<i>michael.millane@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Dr Niall Ó Maoiléidigh	<i>niall.omaoleidigh@marine.ie</i>	Marine Institute, Newport, Ireland
Ms Carmen Ochoa	<i>Carmen.ochoa@consilium.europa.eu</i>	Secretariat General of the Council of the European Union, Brussels
Mr João Pereira	<i>jpereira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt</i>	EU Portugal
Ms Christiane Pilz	<i>christiane.pilz@bmel.bund.de</i>	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, Berlin, Germany
Ms Soizic Schwartz	<i>Soizic.schwartz@agriculture.gouv.r</i>	French Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Aquaculture department, Paris, France
Ms Isabel Teixeira	<i>iteixeira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt</i>	EU - Portugal
Ms Bénédicte Valadou	<i>benedicte.valadou@ofb.gouv.fr</i>	OFB (Office français de la Biodiversité), Direction Générale, Montpellier, France

NORWAY

*Mr Raoul Bierach - Representative	<i>raoul.bierach@miljodir.no</i>	Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim
Mr Helge Dyrendal	<i>helge.axel.dyrendal@miljodir.no</i>	Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim
Ms Heidi Ekstrøm	<i>heidi.ekstrom@kld.dep.no</i>	Ministry of Climate and Environment, Oslo
Dr Peder Fiske	<i>peder.fiske@nina.no</i>	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Trondheim
Ms Heidi Hansen	<i>heidi.hansen@miljodir.no</i>	Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

*Dr Alexander Khatuntsov Representative	<i>Khatuntsov.a@tsuren.ru</i>	Federal State Budgetary Establishment, Moscow
Mr Ivan Kolobanov	<i>Kolobanov_II@fishcom.ru</i>	Federal Agency for Fisheries, Moscow

Ms Maria Amelina	<i>a.mariya@tsuren.ru</i>	
Mrs Kristina Belogurova	<i>krismel@pinro.ru</i>	Polar Branch of VNIRO (PINRO named after N.M.Knipovich), Murmansk
Dr Sergey Prusov	<i>prusov@pinro.ru</i>	Polar Branch of VNIRO (PINRO named after N.M.Knipovich), Murmansk
Mr Victor Rozhnov	<i>rozhnov@bbtu.ru</i>	Severomorskoe Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, Murmansk
Mr Andrey Tsarev	<i>avts2011@gmail.com</i>	Federal State Budgetary Establishment, Moscow
Mr Gennady Zharkov	<i>lottaolt@gmail.com</i>	Russian Salmon Association

UNITED STATES

*Ms Kimberly Damon-Randall Representative	<i>kimberly.damon-randall@noaa.gov</i>	National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, Massachusetts
Mr Stephen Gephard Representative	<i>steve.gephard@ct.gov</i>	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries Division, Old Lyme, Connecticut
Mr Patrick Keliher Representative	<i>patrick.keliher@maine.gov</i>	Main Department of Marine Resources, Augusta, Maine
Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker	<i>kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov</i>	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland
Mr Sebastian Belle	<i>sebastian@maineaqua.org</i>	Maine Aquaculture Association, Hallowell, Maine
Mr John Burrows	<i>jburrows@asfmaine.org</i>	Atlantic Salmon Federation, US
Mr Mark Capone	<i>mark.capone@noaa.gov</i>	NOAA Office of General Counsel
Ms Julia Crocker	<i>julie.crocker@noaa.gov</i>	National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, Massachusetts
Mr Dan Kircheis	<i>dan.kircheis@noaa.gov</i>	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Orono, Maine
Ms Alexi Ortiz	<i>OrtizAJ@state.gov</i>	US Department of State, Washington DC
Mr Tim Sheehan	<i>tim.sheehan@noaa.gov</i>	National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Ms Rebecca Wintering	<i>WinteringRJ@state.gov</i>	US Department of State, Washington DC

STATES NOT PARTY TO THE CONVENTION

France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon)

*Ms Christiane Laurent-Monpetit	<i>christiane.laurent-monpetit@outre-mer.gouv.fr</i>	Ministère des Outre-Mer, Paris, France
Mr Herlé Goraguer	<i>Herle.Goraguer@ifremer.fr</i>	IFREMER, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, France

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Dr Cathal Gallagher	<i>cathal.gallagher@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission
Mr Ghislain Chouinard	<i>ghislain@ices.dk</i>	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Copenhagen, Denmark
Dr Martha Robertson	<i>martha.robertson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St. Johns, Newfoundland & Labrador
Mr Mark Saunders	<i>msaunders@yearofthesalmon.org</i>	North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, Vancouver, Canada

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

**Denotes NGO Co-Chairs

Association Internationale de Défense du Saumon Atlantique, France

Mr Philippe Méry *philippemery@yahoo.fr*

Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada

Mr Dave Meerburg *dmeerburg@asf.ca*

Dr Stephen Sutton** *ssutton@asf.ca*

Atlantic Salmon Trust, UK

Mr Mark Bilsby *mark@atlanticsalmontrust.org*

Professor Ken Whelan *Ken.whelan@hotmail.com*

Connecticut River Salmon Association

Mr Thomas Chrosniak *president@ctriversalmon.org*

Der Atlantische Lachs

Mr Heinz Ackmann *team@lachsverein.de*

Downeast Salmon Federation

Mr Dwayne Shaw *dwayne@mainesalmonrivers.org*

Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers, Ireland

Mr Noel Carr *fissta2017@gmail.com*

Fisheries Management Scotland

Dr Alan Wells *Alan@fms.org*

Institute of Fisheries Management, UK

Dr Nigel Milner *n.milner@apemltd.co.uk*

Norske Lakseelver, Norway

Dr Torfinn Evensen *torfinn@lakseelver.no*

North Atlantic Salmon Fund Iceland

Mr Elvar Örn Fridriksson *elvar@nasf.is*

North Atlantic Salmon Fund US

Mrs Kateryna Rakowsky *kateryna@northatlanticsalmonfund.org*

Ms Lisa Nelson *lisa@northatlanticsalmonfund.org*

Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers, Norway

Mr Oyvind Fjeldseth *o.f@njff.no*

Salmon and Trout Conservation Scotland, UK

Mr Andrew Graham-Stewart *director@salmon-troutscotland.org*

Salmon and Trout Conservation UK

Mr William Hicks *william.hix@btinternet.com*

Mr Paul Knight ** *paul@salmon-trout.org*

Salmon Watch Ireland

Mr Niall Greene *niall.b.greene@gmail.com*

Sami Parliament, Norway

Mr Jon Petter Gintal *jon.petter.gintal@samediggi.no*

Scottish Anglers National Association, UK

Dr Andy Walker *andywalker231@aol.com*

INTERNATIONAL SALMON FARMERS ASSOCIATION (ISFA)

Mr Mark Lane *mark@naia.ca*

SECRETARIAT

Dr Emma Hatfield	Secretary	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Dr Wendy Kenyon	Assistant Secretary	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Ms Kim Gibson	PA to the Secretary	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Ms Vicky Newton	PA	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Ms Louise Forero Segovia	Information and Publications Assistant	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>

CNL(20)46

Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council

By Video Conference

1 – 5 June 2020

Agenda

- 1. Opening of the Meeting**
- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Election of Officers**
- 4. Financial and Administrative Issues**
 - a) Report of the Finance and Administration Committee
 - b) Future Status of the UK Within NASCO
- 5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information**
 - a) Secretary's Report
 - b) Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2019
 - c) Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize
 - d) Scientific Advice from ICES
 - e) Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area
 - f) Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board
 - g) Report of the Standing Scientific Committee
- 6. The Third Performance Review**
 - a) Decisions by the Council on the Process for the Third Performance Review
- 7. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach**
 - a) Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)
 - b) Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans
 - c) Addressing the Recommendations to NASCO to Address Future Management Challenges in the Report from the Tromsø Symposium
 - d) The International Year of the Salmon: Consideration of the Final Report
 - e) Progress in Implementing the 'Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO', CNL(13)38

- f) Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry
- g) New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management
- h) Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management
- i) Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery
- j) Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions

8. Other Business

9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

10. Report of the Meeting

11. Close of the Meeting

CNL(20)52rev

**North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
2020 Budget, 2021 Budget and 2022 Forecast Budget
(Pounds Sterling)**

		Budget 2020	Budget 2021	Forecast 2022
Expenditure				
1.	Staff-related costs	353,180	383,080	393,800
2.	Travel and subsistence	39,500	32,500	39,750
3.	Research and advice	65,700	61,100	62,200
4.	Contribution to Working Capital Fund	0	0	0
5.	Meetings	12,750	43,000	13,250
6.	Office supplies, printing and translation	26,500	26,500	27,000
7.	Communications	19,750	20,300	20,750
8.	Headquarters Property	44,250	44,250	45,000
9.	Office furniture and equipment	17,000	17,000	6,500
10.	Audit and other expenses	13,500	13,500	13,750
11.	Tag Return Incentive Scheme	4,500	4,500	4,500
12.	International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund	0	0	0
13.	Contribution to Contractual Obligation Fund	35,000	0	0
14.	Contribution to Recruitment Fund	5,000	5,000	0
15.	Contribution to Periodic Projects Special Fund	0	15,000	0
Total Expenditure		636,630	665,730	626,500
Income				
16.	Contributions - Contracting Parties	583,630	612,730	573,500
17.	General Fund – Interest	1,000	1000	1,000
18.	Income from Headquarters Property	52,000	52,000	52,000
19.	Surplus or Deficit (-) from 2019	0	0	0
Total Income		636,630	665,730	626,500

2021 Budget & 2022 Forecast Budget (Pounds Sterling) – Expenditure by Sub-section

	Budget 2021	Forecast 2022
1. Staff related costs		
1.1 Secretariat members	239,470	246,200
1.2 Temporary and part-time staff costs	58,200	59,800
1.3 Staff Fund, allowances, insurances and other costs	85,410	87,800
Total	383,080	393,800
2. Travel & subsistence		
2.1 Travel to Annual Meeting	4,500	11,750
2.2 Official travel and subsistence	28,000	28,000
Total	32,500	39,750
3. Research and advice		
3.1 Contribution to ICES	61,100	62,200
3.2 Other research & advice	0	0
Total	61,100	62,200
4. Contribution to Working Capital Fund	0	0
5. Meetings		
5.1 Costs of Annual Meeting	35,000	5,250
5.2 Costs of other meetings	8,000	8,000
Total	43,000	13,250
6. Office supplies, printing and translation		
6.1 Office supplies	16,000	16,250
6.2 Printing	8,000	8,250
6.3 Translations	2,500	2,500
Total	26,500	27,000
7. Communications		
7.1 Telecommunications	5,000	5,250
7.2 Postage and courier services	3,500	3,500
7.3 IT Support & Website	11,800	12,000
7.4 Communications, professional support and design	0	0
Total	20,300	20,750
8. Headquarters Property		
8.1 Capital and interest payments	0	0
8.2 Maintenance, services and other building related costs	44,250	45,000
Total	44,250	45,000
9. Office furniture and equipment		
9.1 Furniture	0	0
9.2 Equipment	17,000	6,500
Total	17,000	6,500
10. Audit and other expenses		
10.1 Audit and accountancy fees	8,000	8,250
10.2 Bank charges and insurances	1,000	1,000
10.3 Miscellaneous	4,500	4,500
Total	13,500	13,750
11. Tag Return Incentive Scheme	4,500	4,500
12. Contribution to IASRF	0	0
13. Contribution to Contractual Obligation Fund	0	0
14. Contribution to Recruitment Fund	5,000	0
15. Contribution to Periodic Projects Special Fund	15,000	0
Total Expenditure	665,730	626,500

2020 Budget Contributions (Pounds Sterling) Adjusted for Confirmed rather than Provisional 2018 Catches (tonnes)

Party	2018 catch (provisional)	2018 catch (confirmed)	2020 contribution (provisional)	2020 contribution (confirmed)	Adjustment
Canada	90	79	66,061	62,420	-3,641
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	40	40	45,572	46,011	439
European Union ¹	192	178	107,857	104,074	-3,784
Norway	595	594	272,995	279,103	6,108
Russian Federation	80	80	61,963	62,841	878
USA	0	0	29,182	29,182	0
Total	997	971	583,630	583,630	0

¹. The UK's 2018 catch is included in the EU's 2018 catch for the purposes of calculating the adjustment.

Note. A positive adjustment represents an underpayment in 2020.

Revised NASCO Budget Contributions for 2021 and Forecast Budget Contributions for 2022 (Pounds Sterling)

Party	2019 catch (provisional)	2021 contribution	Adjustment from 2020	Adjustment accounting for UK 2020 accession	2021 adjusted contribution	2022 forecast contribution
Canada	94	75,428	-3641	-347	71,440	70,598
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	29	41,429	439	-347	41,520	38,776
European Union	109	83,274	-3784	-347	79,143	77,942
Norway	510	293,022	6108	-347	298,782	274,261
Russian Federation	57	56,074	878	-347	56,605	52,484
United Kingdom ¹	21	37,244	-	2,084	39,329	34,860
USA	0	26,260	0	-347	25,912	24,579
Total	820	612,730	0	0	612,730	573,500

¹. The UK is now an independent Contracting Party to NASCO and has agreed that, in line with Article 16(2) of the NASCO Convention, its 2019 provisional catch should be used as the basis for its 2021 Budget Contribution. This figure is no longer, therefore, included in the EU's 2019 provisional catch.

Contributions are based on the official returns. Column totals in both tables can be in error by a few pounds due to rounding.

Five-year NASCO Budgeted Expenditure and Income Projections 2021 – 2025

		Budget 2021	Forecast 2022	Forecast 2023	Forecast 2024	Forecast 2025
Expenditure						
1.	Staff related costs	383,080	393,800	404,826	416,162	427,814
2.	Travel & Subsistence	32,500	39,750	40,000	40,250	40,500
3.	Research & advice	61,100	62,200	63,300	64,450	65,500
4.	Contribution to Working Capital	0	0	0	0	0
5.	Meetings	43,000	13,250	13,500	13,750	14,000
6.	Office supplies, printing and translations	26,500	27,000	27,500	27,500	27,500
7.	Communications	20,300	20,750	21,000	21,250	21,500
8.	Headquarters Property	44,250	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
9.	Office furniture & equipment	17,000	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
10.	Audit & other expenses	13,500	13,750	14,000	14,250	14,500
11.	Tag return incentive scheme	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
12.	International Cooperative Research	0	0	0	0	0
13.	Contribution to Contractual Obligation Fund	0	0	0	0	0
14.	Contribution to Recruitment Fund	5,000	0	0	0	0
15.	Contribution to Periodic Projects Special Fund	15,000	0	0	0	0
Total		665,730	626,500	640,126	653,612	667,314
Income						
16.	Contributions of Contracting Parties	612,730	573,500	587,126	600,612	614,314
17.	Interest Received on General Fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
18.	Income from HQ property	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000	52,000
Total		665,730	626,500	640,126	653,612	667,314



Council

CNL(20)49

***Presentation of the ICES Advice on
North Atlantic Salmon Stocks to the Council***



sal.oth.nasco

North Atlantic Salmon Stocks

Photo by Nick Hawkins

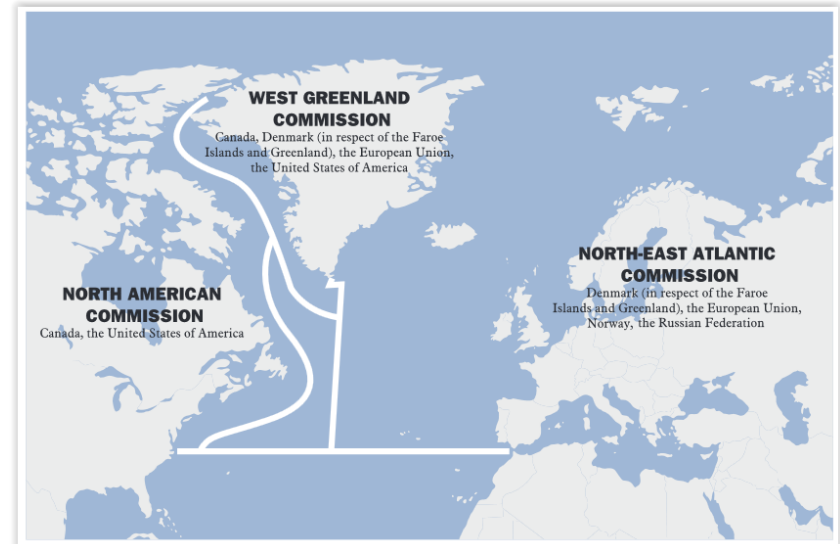


ICES
CIEM

Background



- NASCO Commissions: North American (NAC), West Greenland (WGC) and North-East Atlantic (NEAC)
- Management framework for Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic



ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS)



- Web Conference
- 24 March–02 April 2020
- 33 participants
- 14 jurisdictions
- 25 working documents

Terms of Reference



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 2019
- 1.2 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2019

ICES WGNAS 2020 Report

- Report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management
- Identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements

1.1 Nominal Catch



- 868 t
 - whole weight of fish caught and retained (harvest)
 - released fish not included

Area	Catch (t)	
	2018	2019
NEAC	927 (88%)	743 (86%)
NAC	80 (8%)	95 (11%)
WGC	40 (4%)	30 (3%)
Total	1047	868

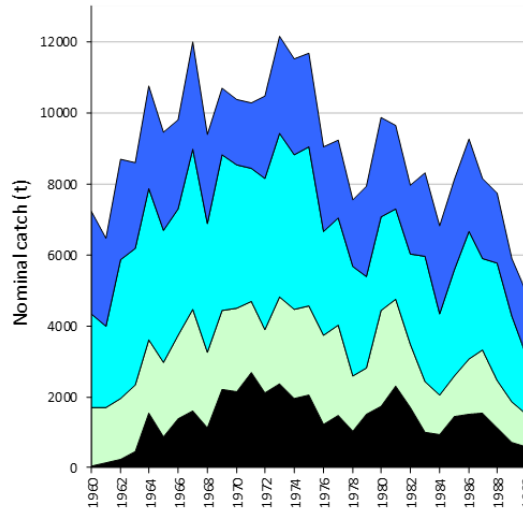
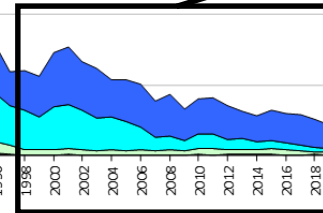
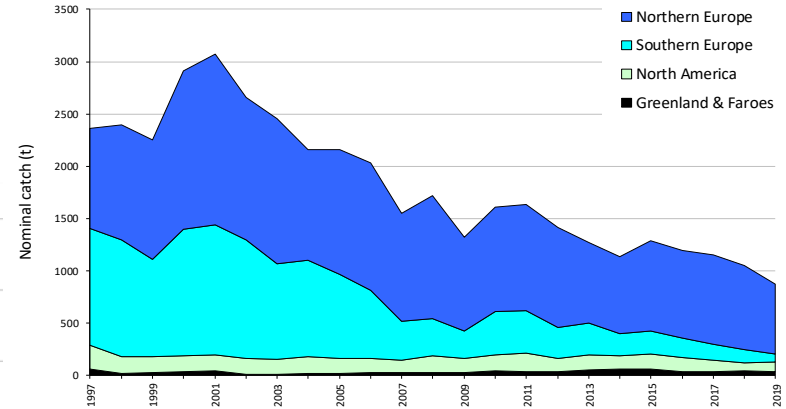


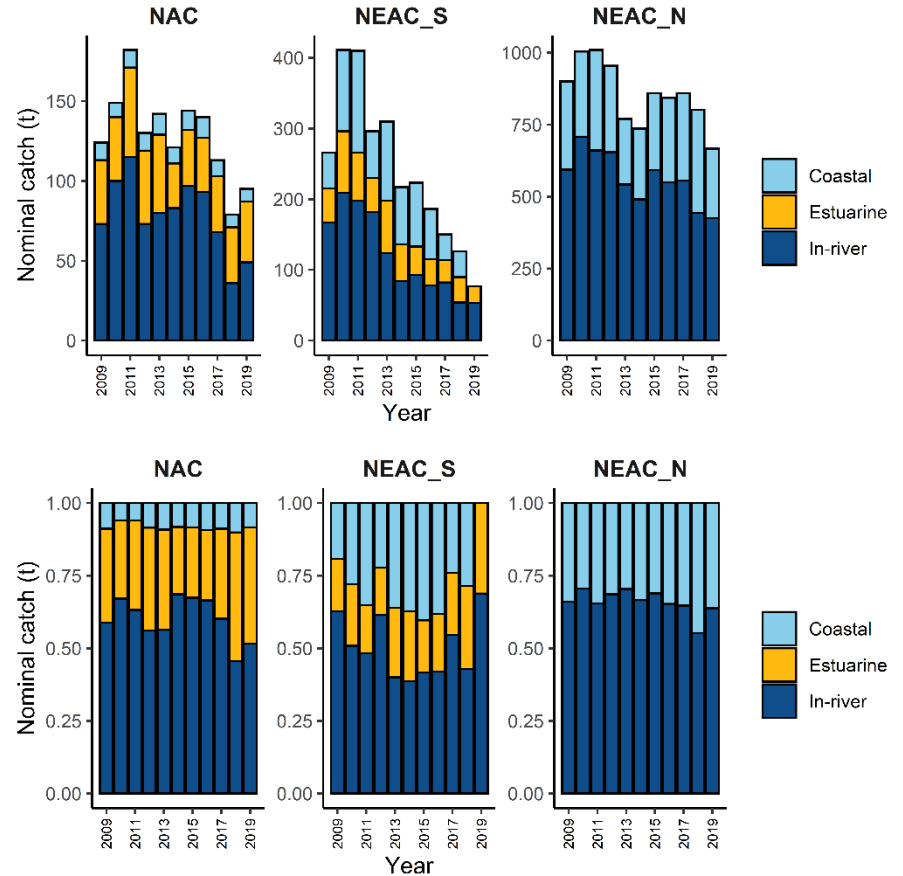
Figure 1: sal.oth.nasco



1.1 Location of Catches

- Coastal Catches
 - N-NEAC: 30% - 40% since 2008
 - S-NEAC: 0%
(2019 change in management measures)
 - NAC: 8% (< 10% since 2007)
- location of catches by country presented in Figure 3: sal.oth.nasco

Figure 2: sal.oth.nasco



1.1 Unreported Catches

- 258 t
 - Legal under-reporting, non-reporting and illegal catch
 - 29% of total nominal catch
 - no estimate: Russia, France, Spain, and Saint Pierre and Miquelon

Table 3: sal.oth.nasco

Year	2018	2019
NEAC	279 t	237 t
NAC	24 t	12 t
WGC	10 t	10 t
Total	313 t	258 t



1.1 Catch-and-Release (C&R)

- 162 000 salmon released
(Table 8: sal.oth.nasco)
- Percentage released ranges from:
 - 20% in Sweden
 - 92% in UK (Scotland)
- Reflects varying management practices and angler attitudes
- Practice of C&R generally increasing

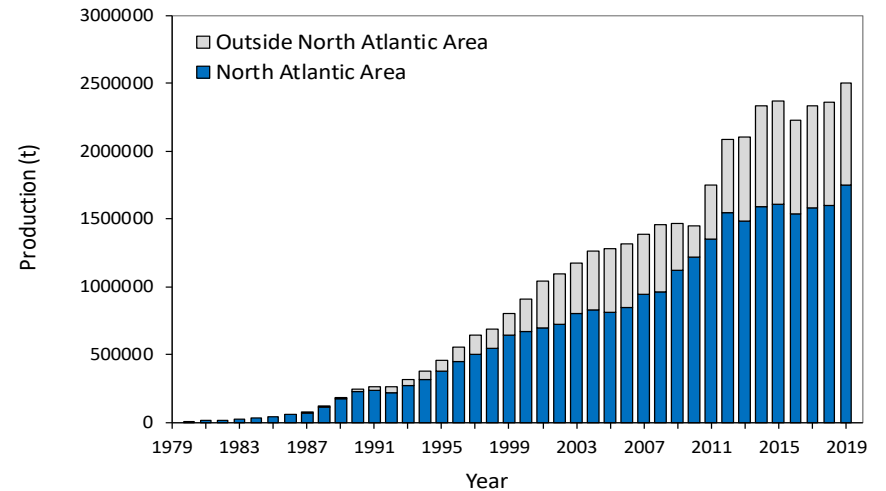


1.1 Production Farmed Salmon



- 1750 kt: Norway (78%) and UK (Scotland) (11%)

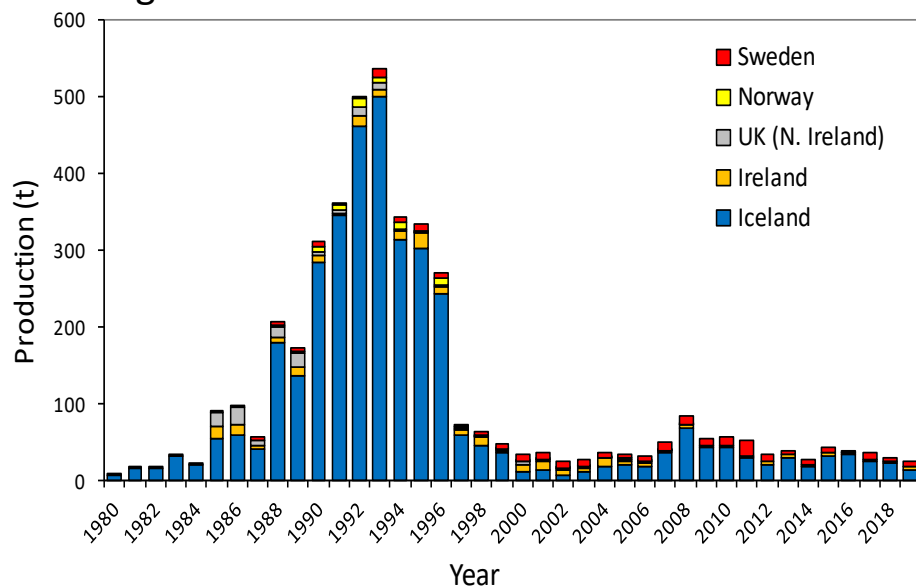
Figure 4: sal.oth.nasco



1.1 Production Ranched Salmon

- 26 t: Iceland 14.8 t, Sweden 7.7 t, Ireland 3.6 t

Figure 5: sal.oth.nasco



1.2 Tag Releases

- Data on tagged or marked salmon are compiled as a separate report (ICES, 2020b)
- Summary in Table 4: sal.oth.nasco
 - 2.2 million salmon were marked in 2019 (2.7 million in 2018)
 - Hatchery: ~ 2 million juveniles and 14 000 adults Wild: 93 000 juveniles and 6600 adults
 - adipose clip (1.7 million) and coded wire microtags (CWT) (280 000)
 - 162 000 internal electronic tags (PIT, DSTs, radio, acoustic)



ICES WGNAS 2020 Report:

Report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management

2.3 Diseases and Parasites - Red Skin Disease

- external haemorrhaging on returning salmon noted in at least five European countries
- associated mortality due to secondary fungal infections
- workshop hosted by the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) concluded that, despite extensive investigations, no attributable cause could be established

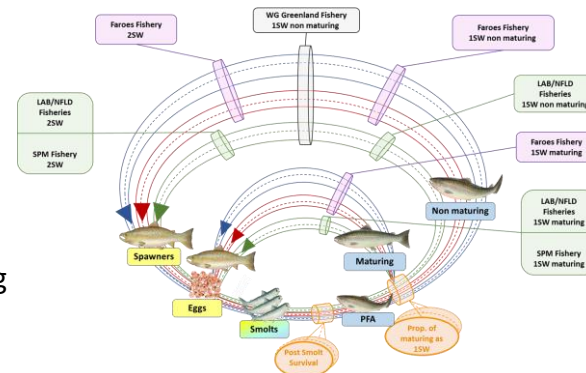


2.4 Data Call Review and Update

- The 2019 Data Call for Atlantic Salmon catch data from the North Atlantic to ICES Member Countries was reviewed and updated for clarity and consistency for the 2020 Data Call.

2.5 Progress in stock assessment models

- Life Cycle Model – one model that includes all stock units and provides catch options for West Greenland and Faroes salmon fisheries simultaneously has been developed
- Next step: a workshop of jurisdictional experts is required to formalise the new modelling framework prior to applying and comparing model outputs during the 2021 WGNAS annual meeting



ICES WGNAS 2020 Report – Annex 7

Identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements



The ICES WGNAS Working Group recommends:

1. Creation of a ICES coordinated PIT tag database to facilitate the identification of tagged fish taken in marine fisheries or surveys.
2. Complete and timely catch statistic reporting from Canadian fisheries.
3. Improved catch statistics and sampling of the Labrador subsistence and Saint Pierre and Miquelon fisheries.
4. Consideration be given to additional monitoring in Labrador to estimate stock status for that region.
5. Continued effort by the Government of Greenland to improve the reporting system of catch in the Greenland fishery.
6. Consideration be given to expanding the West Greenland sampling programme to provide improved spatial and temporal coverage.
7. Conducting a modelling workshop with jurisdictional experts of the WGNAS ahead of the 2021 WGNAS meeting to formalize the workflow of the proposed life cycle modelling framework and train participants.



ICES
CIEM

Photo by Nick Hawkins

CNL(20)53

*Summary of Discussions held during the ICES Advice Webinar**Monday 1 June 2020*

Dave Meerburg (Atlantic Salmon Federation): noted Dr Robertson's conclusion that factors other than fisheries were affecting stocks. He stated that Dr Robertson had mentioned that the returns of two-sea-winter (2SW) salmon in 2019 were the lowest in the time series from 1971. However, the graph on the 'Exploitation Rate' slide appeared to show a steadily increasing exploitation rate on 2SW North American salmon at West Greenland since around 2001. The most recent year assessed showed the highest level of exploitation of these fish at West Greenland since 2001, yet the home waters had the second lowest returns they have ever had. He questioned the conclusion that the fisheries are not having an effect if there is an increase in exploitation rate in one place, yet a decrease in returns at another. He felt that there may be a problem there.

Martha Robertson (ICES): agreed that fisheries is one component but that survival of salmon at sea has a large unexplained component.

Dave Meerburg (Atlantic Salmon Federation): agreed with Dr Robertson, but pointed out that she had not highlighted the fact that the exploitation at Greenland was the highest it has been since 2001 on North American stocks, despite the fact that that year, 2018, saw a much reduced fishery from some previous years. He also indicated that the quota was exceeded by about a third in the year 2000.

Gennady Zharkov (Russian Federation): asked whether there were any estimates of escaped farmed fish.

Martha Robertson (ICES): responded that the ICES advice does mention the production of farmed salmon, but the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) does not provide a summary of reports of escapees. This is not within the Working Group's Terms of Reference.

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): noted that the NGOs are extremely worried about introgression and asked whether this is something that could be modelled or calculated so that it could come through the advice models in future. He stated that Norwegian rivers are becoming more and more 'polluted' with introgression, and lots of NGOs believe that many other European rivers are the same. He asked if this would be a reasonable or credible question to ask of ICES.

Martha Robertson (ICES): advised that there is already a separate Working Group within ICES looking at the impacts of introgression on wild Atlantic salmon. She noted that Ian Bradbury, a geneticist, and member of the WGNAS, is also part of that Group.

Arnaud Peyronnet (European Union): thanked Dr Robertson for her presentation. He noted that Dr Robertson had shown the reproductive stock complex in North America, and that there is reduced reproductive status for all the different rivers. However, a large number of those rivers were shown to be attaining their conservation limits. He found it difficult to reconcile these two elements, how it was possible to have attained conservation limits while also having reduced reproductive status and asked Dr Robertson for further clarification.

Martha Robertson (ICES): agreed that this is difficult to understand.

Gérald Chaput (Canada): commented that the conservation limit attainment for individual rivers is for all sea-ages, whereas the reduced reproductive capacity shown in Figure 3.3 in the presentation is specifically for 2SW salmon.

Martha Robertson (ICES): reiterated this point, indicating that a river may have lots of one-sea-winter (1SW) fish returning, but may not have many 2SW fish returning. So the river is healthy, but the MSW fish component is not so healthy. MSW fish are the only fish from North America that travel to Greenland, so while, in general, North American stocks are healthy with 1SW fish, the MSW stock component that travels to Greenland is not as healthy.

Alan McNeill (Canada): asked whether the recreational catch included caught and released fish or only harvested salmon?

Martha Robertson (ICES): replied that in North America ‘catch’ or ‘harvest’ means those fish that are retained, and that the advice document includes how many fish were released. She noted that a large number of fish are released, but they are not considered part of the harvest.

Katrine Kærgaard (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)): noted that ICES concludes that factors other than fisheries must affect the decline in the stock and asked if it would be possible for ICES to map which other factors affect the stock.

Martha Robertson (ICES): stated that the end of the advice document contains an ‘other factors for consideration’ section, which she believes requires updating. She indicated that she would raise this with the WGNAS in 2021. The advice document does not specify the other factors, although given the poor returns and restrictions on fisheries, we know that there must be other factors. There is a large at-sea mortality but at this point, the mechanisms of that mortality cannot be explained.

Gennady Zharkov (Russian Federation): asked whether there was any progress in respect of new measures concerning mixed-stock fisheries in Norway.

Martha Robertson (ICES): stated that she was unaware of new management measures for coastal fisheries in Norway, and that this would be a question for Norway.

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): noted Dr Robertson’s comment about at-sea mortality, and that most people are in agreement that this is a problem. He felt that some scientists now think that more fish are lost in the freshwater environment than was previously thought, before they go to sea. He asked if this were something that ICES was aware of and whether it could be investigated further.

Martha Robertson (ICES): replied that ICES does have estimates of smolt production on many rivers. There is a decline in output for some rivers, and this is going to become a bigger concern as populations decline and they go below the point at which freshwater production will decline. At the moment, most of the focus is still on the marine environment as there are rivers which are considered to be at full reproductive capacity, but to which the fish are not returning. This is the key issue for many populations at present. The good thing about freshwater is that freshwater issues can be managed. Most freshwater declines are site specific, although some relate to climate change in the south. Different jurisdictions are looking at the freshwater issues in their own rivers, and there is a wide range of issues such as predation, warm water, or hydro dams. From the North Atlantic perspective, the focus is on impacts in the marine environment.

Dave Meerburg (Atlantic Salmon Federation): thanked Dr Robertson for her very informative presentation. He noted that this would be the last year she presented the ICES

advice to NASCO as her term as Chair of the WGNAS was coming to an end; he thanked her for her work over the past three years in this role.

Gennady Zharkov (Russian Federation): noted that a complete ban on netting was being discussed in Norway.

Martha Robertson (ICES): indicated that she was not part of those discussions but stated that there are constant reductions in marine fisheries. Each year there seem to be more and more restrictions on marine fishing.

Katrine Kærgaard (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)): asked whether the planned predation workshop had taken place in 2019, and if ICES could use that information in its advice.

Martha Robertson (ICES): stated that she recalled there being a predation workshop in 2019, but it was not part of the ICES WGNAS. She suggested it may have been part of the Likely Suspects Project.

Ken Whelan (Atlantic Salmon Trust): noted that while predation is being looked at in the context of the Likely Suspects Framework, he was not aware of any workshop being held or planned on the issue. He indicated that there was extensive work planned in the Moray Firth in Scotland which would specifically look at predatory birds. Marine Scotland would also be involved in this work.

Martha Robertson (ICES): noted that there are now a lot of jurisdictions looking at predation in the freshwater environment. She thanked everyone for their comments and questions.

Emma Hatfield (NASCO and Webinar Chair): thanked Dr Robertson for her presentation and for her sterling work as the Chair of the WGNAS in recent years. She also thanked everyone for being willing to participate in this unusual way of presenting the advice from ICES in this unusual year.

CNL(20)12

***Report of the Nineteenth Meeting of the
International Atlantic Salmon Research Board******By Video Conference******27 May 2020*****1. Opening of the Meeting**

- 1.1 The Chair, Ciaran Byrne (European Union), opened the meeting and welcomed members of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board), their scientific advisers and observers to the video conference. He thanked all participants for their flexibility and willingness to participate in this extraordinary year.
- 1.2 The Chair explained that in light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meeting planned for Edinburgh in June 2020 was cancelled. Business for 2020 was being conducted through inter-sessional correspondence and video conference. The Chair reminded participants that the period for inter-sessional correspondence had run from 8 May until 22 May. Board members had been able to use this time to consider the documents issued under each Agenda item and ask, and respond to, questions on the various Agenda items. The aim of this inter-sessional correspondence had been to streamline the work of the video conference as much as possible to enable Board members to work as effectively as possible under the circumstances. An Annotated Agenda, ICR(20)10A, was issued on 26 May to Heads of Delegations, members of the Board and their advisors, SAG nominees, and those who attended the 2019 Board and SAG meetings, to help planning for the meeting. No issues were raised during the inter-sessional correspondence period.
- 1.3 A list of participants is contained in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Board adopted its Agenda via correspondence on 8 May, ICR(20)10 (Annex 2).

3. Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research

- 3.1 At the Annual Meeting of the Board in 2019 it was agreed that a Working Group would be established to review both the Inventory and the SALSEA-Track programme and to consider how the Inventory could be best updated and managed going forward. The Working Group to Review the SALSEA-Track Programme and the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea met in London from 18 – 20 February 2020.
- 3.2 The Chair introduced document ICR(20)07, which contained the Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research.
- 3.3 The Board agreed that:

- 1) the SALSEA-Track Programme, in its current form, should be closed. A final report should be written and circulated to Parties / jurisdictions and the co-ordinators of projects linked to the SALSEA-Track programme;
 - 2) any successor to SALSEA-Track should have the following attributes: be problem focused with a clearly defined internationally relevant question, which is not solely developed based on the newest technology available; have clear SMART objectives; have clear timelines; have a clear budget; be at the basin-scale; and have an identified owner / co-ordinator. Additionally, it should address issues such as: data gaps / climate change / commonalities across the jurisdictions / mechanisms for supporting new technologies;
 - 3) survival at sea is still a principle focus for the Board's work. The representative of the European Union asked whether the word 'sea' needed to be clarified. The Chair stated that this meant from estuarine waters to the ocean;
 - 4) the Inventory will no longer be presented on the website in a series of static PDF documents, but that a single spreadsheet be posted so that users can more easily interrogate the Inventory;
 - 5) in order to update the Inventory, the relevant portion of the spreadsheet be sent to the Parties in early November with a request that they update it. Parties should be asked to return the update by the end of December. The Secretariat should post an updated Inventory spreadsheet on the website at the end of January. The Board also agreed that this process begins in November 2020;
 - 6) only the following categories are included in the Inventory: Country; Title; Status (completed / ongoing / new); Summary of Objectives (which the Parties will provide); Start Date; Topic Area; Geographic Area (of the research); Collaborating Countries; Contact Point (the relevant member of the Board); Project Hyperlinks (where available);
 - 7) should the new process of updating the Inventory be implemented, Parties be asked that particular care is taken when a new project is added. Additionally, that the current Board member of the submitting Party verifies that the project meets the criterion of relating broadly to marine mortality prior to its submission to the Secretariat;
 - 8) the Secretariat engages with the web designer and works to improve the prominence, searchability and utility of the new Board website and the presentation of the Inventory on that site;
 - 9) the Secretariat considers how the utility of the updated website can best be evaluated with the use of hit statistics and related metrics, and that these statistics should be presented to the Board annually to understand the extent to which the Inventory is used; and
 - 10) the metadatabase be reviewed and consideration be given as to whether other areas of the Board's work require review, and that this review be conducted by the Board.
- 3.4 The Board member for Norway asked when and how a review of the metadatabase might take place. The Chair suggested that it could take place before the next meeting of the Board, but that it would depend on the wider NASCO workload.
- 3.5 The Board agreed that the timing of the review of the metadatabase should be agreed by the Chair and the Secretary, as and when NASCO business allows. The review will

be conducted by correspondence, preferably before the next Annual Meeting of the Board.

- 3.6 The Chair informed the Board members that the Working Group had proposed that Board members could canvass colleagues on a potential successor to SALSEA-Track if the ROAM programme was not deemed a feasible candidate successor.
- 3.7 The member for the European Union enquired whether the Board had a timeline in mind for canvassing for other programmes. In this regard, he asked the member for the United States for a progress update on the ROAM programme. The United States member said that there had been some delays in starting field trials. He noted that the trials were intended to piggyback on a survey of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution but with the pandemic, all field activities have been cancelled or delayed. He reported that as long as the original plan moved forward as the restrictions were lifted, there was no reason why the ROAM trials would not happen, but he could provide no clear schedule as to when the trials would take place, as these discussions are currently underway.
- 3.8 The Board recognised that the process of considering a new programme can happen alongside developments of the ROAM programme.
- 3.9 The Chair thanked the member for the United States and said the Board could revisit progress under this Agenda item at its meeting in 2021.

4. Final Report on Projects / Workshops during the International Year of the Salmon

- 4.1 2019 was the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS), with some efforts continuing into 2022. The aim of the IYS was to raise awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance, the environmental and anthropogenic challenges they face and the measures being taken to address these.
- 4.2 The Chair referred to the following reports which had been submitted in 2020 on projects and workshops that took place during the IYS:
 - Report on Pacific Projects and Workshops during the International Year of the Salmon, ICR(20)09;
 - Progress Report on the Likely Suspects Framework Project, ICR(20)11;
 - Summary of the ICES / NASCO Workshop for North Atlantic Salmon at Sea Mortality (WKSalmon), ICR(20)12;
 - Report on Inland Fisheries Ireland's National Salmon Scale Project during the International Year of the Salmon, ICR(20)13; and
 - Report on the SAMARCH Project International Salmonid Coastal and Marine Telemetry Workshop, 5-6 November, 2019, ICR(20)14.
- 4.3 The Chair thanked the authors for their efforts in writing and submitting the reports.
- 4.4 Further, the Chair noted that the Council of NASCO had agreed in 2018 that the Likely Suspects Framework Project could be considered as a signature project of the IYS. Council noted in 2019 that it would be an IYS activity that would continue beyond the end of the 2019 focal year. The Board had asked the Secretary in 2018 to investigate joint ICES / NASCO workshops to inform the work of the Likely Suspects Framework Project.

5. Review of the 2020 Updated Inventory of Research and the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections

Research Inventory

- 5.1 The Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea is updated annually. It is a tool that may be used in the development of research priorities for potential funding and in better co-ordinating existing research efforts.
- 5.2 The Chair asked the Secretary to provide an update on the Inventory. The updated Inventory, ICR(20)06, showed that for 2020 the total annual expenditure on the 62 ongoing projects (2 of which are uncosted) is approximately £8.7 million. 12 new projects were included in the Inventory in 2020 as follows:

Canada

- Potential bottom-up effects on survival of Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) inferred by contrasted marine growth profiles of salmon feeding at West Greenland to salmon survivors to homewaters;
- Synoptic of Fish Health of Atlantic Salmon;
- Expanding acoustic tracking to Labrador coast;
- Tag retention and survival of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) smolts surgically implanted with dummy acoustic transmitters during the transition from fresh to salt water;
- Marine migration and survival of smolt and kelt from Newfoundland and Labrador Rivers;
- Identifying genomic evidence of ecologically induced genetic change associated with Atlantic Salmon aquaculture in Newfoundland;
- Identifying the genomic basis of age at maturity in salmon in Atlantic Canada: applications for fisheries and aquaculture management;
- Interactions between migration, marine survival, and disease susceptibility in Atlantic salmon;
- Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture – Survival, distribution and environmental preferences of Atlantic Salmon smolts (*Salmo salar*), post-smolts and kelts, from the inner Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia; and
- Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture – ‘A seafood diet’ – using stable isotopes to reveal fifty-year trends in the marine feeding ecology of Atlantic salmon.

European Union

Denmark

- SMOLTrack III.

Ireland

- 5.3 Currane Sea Trout Assessment And Monitoring Plan 2019-2022 (STAMP). The Board agreed that the Secretary should ask members to update and check the information held in the Inventory relevant to their Party / jurisdiction in November 2020. Board members should return their updates to the Secretariat by 31 December 2020. The Secretary should then post an updated Inventory spreadsheet on the website

by 31 January 2021.

Metadatabase

- 5.4 The Board decided previously that it could play an important role with regard to marine salmon survey data and sample co-ordination by establishing a metadatabase of existing datasets and sample collections of relevance to mortality of salmon at sea. A metadatabase was established in 2014. In 2015, the Board agreed that information on archival scale collections should also be included in the Board's metadatabase. The SAG had noted that these collections may be lost when individual scientists retire, unless appropriate arrangements are in place to archive them and ensure their safe storage so that they may be available for analysis. Even if the scales themselves are not lost, the information accompanying them could be or they could be damaged while in storage. In 2017, it was recognised that the Board could play a role in identifying such scale collections, raising their profile with a view to safeguarding them for future use. The Board agreed that information on these scale collections should, as a first step, be included in the Board's metadatabase. The Board also agreed that information on the West Greenland Sampling Programme Biological Characteristics database should be included in the metadatabase. Accordingly, Parties / jurisdictions were requested to provide details to the Secretariat of any archival scale collections.
- 5.5 Four jurisdictions had responded to the Secretariat's request for updates to the metadatabase in 2020. Three jurisdictions provided requests to update the metadatabase, with accompanying data on scale collections, these were EU – Sweden, EU – UK (England and Wales) and EU – UK (Northern Ireland). The Board noted that the metadatabase would be updated accordingly in due course.
- 5.6 The Board encouraged Parties and jurisdictions to contribute information on scale collections of relevance to the mortality of salmon at sea for inclusion in the metadatabase.
- 5.7 As set out above in paragraph 3.5, the Board agreed that the timing of the review of the metadatabase should be agreed by the Chair and the Secretary, as and when NASCO business allows. The review will be conducted by correspondence, preferably before the next Annual Meeting of the Board.

6. Developments in relation to SALSEA-Track

- 6.1 In 2014, the Board endorsed the need for an international telemetry programme and adopted a Resolution (ICR(14)10) encouraging Parties to continue the development of local collaborative telemetry projects, encouraging the development of large international collaborative projects building on local efforts and encouraging Parties to make efforts to identify funding sources. The Board noted that the telemetry programme should build on the success and identity of the SALSEA Programme and recognised that there may be a role for the Board in co-ordinating efforts and supporting fund raising initiatives. A Telemetry Workshop organized by the Board developed 12 outline project proposals utilising telemetry. In 2015, the Board had recognised the high value of the SALSEA brand and the strong impact of NASCO as the international forum for consultation and co-operation on wild Atlantic salmon. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to an international telemetry project under the SALSEA brand, namely SALSEA-Track. Specifically, the Board agreed to support SALSEA-Track as a continuing commitment to understanding the factors affecting the mortality of salmon at sea, to make funds available to prepare a vision statement for SALSEA-Track and to advance existing initiatives towards an integrated collaborative telemetry programme.

In 2016, the Board confirmed that it endorsed the 12 projects.

- 6.2 In 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019, the Board had received updates on the outline project proposals and additional projects related to SALSEA-Track. The Chair referred to document ICR(20)05, which contained updates for 2020 on the 12 outline project proposals and the four projects funded under the European Union's 'Grants for an Action' which include the three SMOLTrack projects: SMOLTrack I: Understanding and comparing early mortality of European salmon populations at sea; SMOLTrack II: Comparing mortality of European salmon populations at sea using multiple-method telemetry studies; and SMOLTrack III: Quantifying smolt survival from source to sea: informing management strategies to optimise returns, and the LICETrack project 'Sea lice model for the sustainable development of Atlantic salmon fisheries and aquaculture.
- 6.3 The Chair noted that, given the decision taken under Agenda item 3, the SALSEA-Track Programme would be closed. The Secretary would produce a final report and circulate it to Parties and jurisdictions, and the co-ordinators of projects linked to the SALSEA-Track programme. The Board agreed that this item would, therefore, be removed from its Agenda in future years.
- 6.4 The Chair also noted that this Agenda item has provided the opportunity in recent years to report on the various EU-grant funded projects on smolt mortality. The Board discussed that they would like to continue to receive updates on these and other projects of interest and agreed, in future, to retain an Agenda item to enable this.
- 6.5 The member for the European Union asked whether project leaders should offer updates or the Board should request updates from project leaders. The Secretary noted that ahead of the Review Group meeting in February she had sought information from relevant projects, but little information was received. She asked how the Secretariat should canvass for information and from whom, for this proposed Agenda item. She further asked how the Secretariat would know which projects to seek information from.
- 6.6 The member for the United States suggested that the Board might seek updates for projects it has direct involvement in, such as ROAM and the SMOLTrack projects, and he proposed that updates from other projects are not sought. His view was that if the Board became relevant within the scientific community, researchers would come to the Board and information would be provided.
- 6.7 The NGO representative noted two good conduits for obtaining project updates: firstly, Board members who would, in any case, be checking and supporting submissions related to the Inventory; secondly, SAG members and their network. He proposed that the Board ask SAG members about new and emerging projects.
- 6.8 The members for the European Union and the United States agreed that it can be a burden to provide updates, especially if researchers have no link to NASCO and that the Board needs to respect the effort that would be involved.
- 6.9 The members agreed that the Board should retain an Agenda item, focused on projects where NASCO has some ownership (such as EU-funded projects, the SALSEA-Track successor and the Likely Suspects Framework) and that if SAG and Board members know relevant projects, those researchers can be invited to contribute information.
- 6.10 The Board asked the Secretary to provide updates on the first category of projects (i.e. where NASCO has some ownership), and, through the Board and SAG members to seek information on new and emerging projects that would be of interest to the Board

and its work.

7. Finance and Administrative Issues

Rules of Procedure

- 7.1 At its 2019 Annual Meeting, the Board had discussed proposed revisions to its Rules of Procedure. The Board had proposed that it would work inter-sessionally to consider and revise further the proposed revisions. This was agreed by Council. The Board agreed and Council adopted revised 'Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group' ICR(20)03, during the inter-sessional period. This formalises the structure of the Board and sets out that the SAG will meet at the request of the Board and not every year.

Accounts

- 7.2 The Secretary referred to the Board's 2019 accounts, ICR(20)02. The decision had been taken not to have the 2019 accounts audited. The total value of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund as at 31 December 2019 was £480,090.04. Of this, approximately £428,877 was ring-fenced for the EU-funded projects. Of the remaining £51,212, £40,150 was a voluntary contribution from the United States to fund projects under the SALSEA-Track or ROAM initiatives. The Grand Prize Tag winner had again donated their winnings to the Fund in 2019. After accounting for an adjustment for an incorrectly paid bill in 2019, the Board had an available balance of £12,044.30. In 2018 the Board had agreed to make a sum of up to £4,000 of the Board's funds available towards a second ROAM workshop if needed. This money is yet to be spent. The Board had previously indicated that it was desirable to retain a reserve of £4,000 - £5,000.
- 7.3 The Board agreed to adopt the 2019 accounts.
- 7.4 At its 2006 Annual Meeting, the Board recognised that it was not necessary to have the accounts audited annually and agreed that, in future, the Board's accounts should be audited as required in relation to the funds held. For years in which an audit is not conducted, details of the Board's income and expenditure statements would be circulated to the members of the Board and discussed at its Annual Meeting.
- 7.5 The Board agreed that it should have its 2020 accounts audited, noting that it would likely involve costs of around £2,500. The Board decided that it would have its 2020 accounts audited by NASCO's auditors, Saffery Champness (Edinburgh).

8. Other Business

- 8.1 There was no other business.

9. Report of the Meeting

- 9.1 The Board agreed a report of its meeting.

10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

- 10.1 The Board agreed to hold its next meeting in advance of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

11. Close of the Meeting

- 11.1 The Chair thanked participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

2020 Board List of Participants

Canada

**Tony Blanchard
Martha Robertson

Denmark (In respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

**Sissel Fredsgaard

European Union

Ciaran Byrne (Chair)
**Cathal Gallagher
Jaako Erkinaro
Niall Ó Maoiléidigh

Norway

**Raoul Bierach
Helge Dyrendal
Heidi Hansen
Peder Fiske

Russian Federation

**Alexander Khatuntsov
Maria Amelina
Sergey Prusov

United States

**Tim Sheehan
Dan Kircheis

IGOs

Mark Saunders

NGOs

Ken Whelan (nominated NGO representative)
Dave Meerburg
Nigel Milner

Secretariat

Emma Hatfield
Wendy Kenyon

**Nominated Board Member



ICR(20)10

Nineteenth Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

By Video Conference

Wednesday 27 May 2020

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research
4. Final Report on Projects / Workshops during the International Year of the Salmon
5. Review of the 2020 Updated Inventory of Research and the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections
6. Developments in Relation to SALSEA-Track
7. Finance and Administrative Issues
8. Other Business
9. Report of the Meeting
10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
11. Close of the Meeting

CNL(20)13

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 2020¹;
 - 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 2020;
 - 1.4 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements;
 - 1.5 review and update the General Considerations section (Annex 2) of the ICES Commissions' advice documents to include 'Environmental and other influences on the stock'.
- 2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:**
 - 2.1 describe the key events of the 2020 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;
 - 2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2021 / 2022 – 2023 / 2024 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 2020 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;
 - 3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2021 – 2024 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 2020 fisheries³;
- 4.2 describe the status of the stocks⁵;
- 4.3 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2021 – 2023 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 surveys are conducted and reported to ICES, ICES should review the results and advise on the appropriateness of incorporating resulting estimates 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. Also provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any concerns with salmon data collected in 2020 which may affect the catch advice considering the restrictions on data collection programmes and fisheries due to the Covid-19 pandemic.*
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)

Sissel Lindhart Fredsgaard (WGC, manager representative)

Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)

Martha Robertson (ICES representative, observer)

Patrick Gargan (Co-ordinator)

New questions, originator:

1.5 Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Statement to Council after its Initial Meeting

Submitted by the International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA)

On behalf of Trond Davidson, President of ISFA and its member country's I want to thank you for allowing us to participate once again this year.

It's an honour and privilege to represent the International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA) at this year's NASCO meetings.

This is my first time attending. To be amongst fellow salmon enthusiasts and conservationists is a privilege. Thank you for allowing me to join.

The meetings that I have participated to date; ICES Webinar, North East Atlantic Commission, North American Commission and this initial meeting of Council have been informative and insightful.

I want to sincerely congratulate NASCO, its leaders and members on being able to execute these meetings with absolute precision using technology as an alternative to face-to-face meetings in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

I also want to assure delegates that I am listening attentively and will take away mutual items of interest regarding the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon to the global salmon farming industry.

The liaison between our industry and NASCO has been long standing and productive. Our goal is to maintain the dialogue and build our relationship.

ISFA and its members look forward to working with NASCO in the future and encourage you to reach out at any time.



CNL(20)00

List of Papers

CNL(20)00	List of Papers
CNL(20)01	Provisional Agenda (English and French)
CNL(20)02	COVID-19 Council Agenda Planning
CNL(20)03	Draft Agenda (English and French)
CNL(20)04	Draft Schedule of Meetings
CNL(20)04rev	Draft Schedule of Meetings
CNL(20)05	Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda
CNL(20)06	Report of the Finance and Administration Committee (issued at meeting)
CNL(20)07	Future Status of the UK Within NASCO
CNL(20)08	Secretary's Report
CNL(20)09	Report on the Activities of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization in 2019
CNL(20)10	ICES Advice
CNL(20)11	Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area
CNL(20)12	Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (issued at meeting)
CNL(20)13	Request for Scientific Advice from ICES (issued at meeting)
CNL(20)14	Performance Review Special Session Programme
CNL(20)15	Consideration of the Process for Arranging a Third Performance Review in 2021
CNL(20)16	TBSS Programme
CNL(20)17	Second Interim Report of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Implementation Plans under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024)
CNL(20)18	Report of the Meeting of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports – NOT PRODUCED

CNL(20)19	Summary of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019-2024 Implementation Plans
CNL(20)20	Proposals for Addressing the Future Management Challenges to NASCO in the Report from the Tromsø IYS Symposium
CNL(20)21	Final Report on the Activities in the International Year of the Salmon
CNL(20)22	Decisions required to conclude IYS business
CNL(20)23	Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, CNL(13)38
CNL(20)24	Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery
CNL(20)25	Summary of Council Decisions
CNL(20)26	Annual Progress Report: Russian Federation
CNL(20)27	Annual Progress Report: United States
CNL(20)28	Annual Progress Report: EU – Ireland
CNL(20)29	Annual Progress Report: EU – Spain (Asturias)
CNL(20)30	Annual Progress Report: EU – Spain (Cantabria)
CNL(20)31	Annual Progress Report: EU – Spain (Galicia)
CNL(20)32	Annual Progress Report: EU – Spain (Navarra)
CNL(20)33	Annual Progress Report: EU – Sweden
CNL(20)34	Annual Progress Report: EU – Finland
CNL(20)35	Annual Progress Report: EU – France
CNL(20)36	Annual Progress Report: EU – Germany
CNL(20)37	Annual Progress Report: EU – UK (England and Wales)
CNL(20)38	Annual Progress Report: EU – Denmark
CNL(20)39	Annual Progress Report: Norway
CNL(20)40	Annual Progress Report: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) – Greenland
CNL(20)41	Annual Progress Report: EU – UK (Northern Ireland)
CNL(20)42	Annual Progress Report: EU – UK (Scotland)
CNL(20)43	Annual Progress Report: EU – Portugal
CNL(20)44	Annual Progress Report: Canada
CNL(20)45	Update on Socio-Economic Issues from EU - UK (England and Wales)
CNL(20)46	Agenda (English and French)
CNL(20)47	Application for NGO Observer Status to NASCO
CNL(20)48	Recommendation from the Finance and Administration Committee to the Council on the Establishment of a Periodic Projects Special Fund

CNL(20)49	Presentation of the ICES Advice on North Atlantic Salmon Stocks to the Council
CNL(20)50	Draft Report of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council
CNL(20)51	Report of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council
CNL(20)52	2021 Budget and 2022 Forecast Budget
CNL(20)53	Summary of Discussions held during the ICES Advice Webinar
CNL(20)54	Council Inter-Sessional Correspondence