



**REPORT OF THE
THIRTY-SEVENTH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC COMMISSION**

By Video Conference

1 – 5 June 2020

Chair: Viktor Rozhnov (Russian Federation)

Vice-Chair: Svein Magnason (Denmark in respect of the
Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Secretary: Emma Hatfield

NEA(20)18

NEA(20)18

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

By Video Conference

1 – 5 June 2020

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair, Victor Rozhnov (Russian Federation), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the video conference.
- 1.2 The Chair 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 thanked all delegates for their flexibility and willingness to participate in this extraordinary year.
- 1.3 The Chair reminded participants that the period for inter-sessional correspondence had run from 8 May until 27 May. Members of the Commission had been able to use this time to consider the documents issued under each Agenda item and ask, and respond to, questions. The aim of this inter-sessional correspondence had been to streamline the work of the video conference to enable Commission members to work as effectively as possible under the circumstances. An Annotated Agenda, [NEA\(20\)09A](#) was issued to all delegates to help in their planning for the meeting.
- 1.4 No inter-sessional correspondence was received in relation to the North-East Atlantic Commission Agenda.
- 1.5 A list of participants at the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO is included as Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda via correspondence on 8 May, [NEA\(20\)09](#) (Annex 2).

3. Election of Officers

- 3.1 The Commission re-elected Victor Rozhnov (Russian Federation) as its Chair (proposed by the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), seconded by the representative of Norway) and Svein Magnason (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)) as its Vice-Chair (proposed by the representative of the Russian Federation, seconded by the representative of the European Union).

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

- 4.1 The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(20\)10rev](#), that contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, was circulated in mid-May. ICES also

made the [Report](#) of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) available on the ICES website.

- 4.2 A representative of ICES, Martha Robertson, presented the ICES advice for the North-East Atlantic Commission in a webinar. Her presentation on the advice relevant to the North-East Atlantic Commission is available as document [NEA\(20\)16](#) (Annex 3). The discussions held on the presentation during the webinar are contained in document [CNL\(20\)53](#) (Annex 4). The Chair thanked Dr Robertson for the presentation.
- 4.3 The representative of the NGOs noted his appreciation that EU – UK (England and Wales) had now closed its last big mixed-stock fishery. He also asked the representative of Norway whether there were any plans for Norway to review their mixed-stock fisheries regulations.
- 4.4 The representative of Norway replied that they review their fishery regulations annually and that every five years a major revision is conducted. He reported that the five-year revision process had begun and new regulations would be in place from 2021. The representative of Norway stated that new instructions from their Ministry required that the process focus particularly on the risk of overharvesting small stocks. This applies to both coastal and in-river fisheries. He reported that the proposal for the revised regulations would be laid before a public hearing in June 2020.

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

- 5.1 Under the Council’s ‘Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, [CNL\(13\)38](#), it was agreed that there should be an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries (MSFs).
- 5.2 The European Union, [NEA\(20\)10](#), Norway, [NEA\(20\)08](#) and the Russian Federation, [NEA\(20\)11](#), submitted papers providing an update on the information on MSFs, including a description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data, and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs to implement NASCO’s agreements.
- 5.3 A Joint Statement was provided on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse, [NEA\(20\)13](#) (Annex 5). This concerned the status of work implementing the bilateral agreement between Norway and Finland on the fisheries in the Tana / Teno river, which include MSFs.
- 5.4 A Joint Statement on behalf of Norway and the Russian Federation on Coastal Fisheries Issues, [NEA\(20\)14](#) (Annex 6), was also provided. It relates to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Climate and Environment (Norway) and the Federal Agency for Fishery (Russian Federation) on co-operation in management of, and monitoring and research on, wild Atlantic salmon in Finnmark County (Norway) and the Murmansk region (Russian Federation).
- 5.5 The Chair thanked the European Union, Norway and the Russian Federation for their reports.

6. Regulatory Measures

- 6.1 The Chair reminded the Commission that at its Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting (2018), it adopted a ‘Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters in 2018 / 2019, 2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021’, [NEA\(18\)12rev_final](#). Under this Decision, the Commission agreed not to set a quota for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries

Zone for 2018 / 2019, acknowledging that Faroese management decisions will be made with due consideration to the ICES advice concerning the biological situation and the status of the stocks contributing to the fishery. The Decision would also apply in 2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021 unless application of the Framework of Indicators (FWI) showed that a reassessment was warranted. The Commission agreed that the procedure used for applying the FWI previously should continue under the new Decision.

- 6.2 The Chair referred to the North-East Atlantic Commission FWI paper, [NEA\(20\)04](#). He noted the conclusion, that the FWI assessment in 2020 (based on indicator values for 2019) does not suggest that the Pre-Fishery Abundance (PFA) forecast for 2019 has been underestimated. Therefore, the FWI Working Group concluded that no reassessment of the existing management advice for the Faroese fishery is required from ICES in 2020. The Chair thanked Michael Millane (EU – Ireland), Co-ordinator of the FWI Working Group for 2020, and his colleagues for their work.
- 6.3 The Commission confirmed that the Decision adopted in 2018 will, therefore, continue to apply to the fishery in 2020 / 2021.

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

- 7.1 At its 2018 Annual Meeting, the North-East Atlantic Commission adopted a ‘Road Map’ to enhance information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced’, [NEA\(18\)08](#). Under this ‘Road Map’, the Commission retains an item on *G. salaris* on the agenda for its Annual Meetings to facilitate reports by Commission members / jurisdictions and the Working Group on *G. salaris* on measures to prevent the further spread of the parasite and to eradicate it in areas where it has been introduced, and on other aspects of the ‘Road Map’.
- 7.2 The ‘Report on *G. salaris* Roadmap in 2019’ was tabled by EU – UK (England and Wales), [NEA\(20\)07](#). Norway tabled paper, ‘*Gyrodactylus salaris* in Norwegian Rivers’, [NEA\(20\)12](#), and EU – Ireland tabled a ‘Report on progress in relation to the recommendations in NEA(18)08 concerning *Gyrodactylus salaris*’, [NEA\(20\)15](#).
- 7.3 The Chair thanked EU – Ireland, EU – UK (England and Wales) and Norway for their papers.
- 7.4 In 2019 it was agreed that Chair of the Working Group on *G. salaris* would contact the Working Group to discuss the of synonymisation of the *Gyrodactylus* species *G. thymalli* and *G. salaris*. This discussion took place inter-sessionally. A paper [NEA\(20\)06](#), from the Chair of the Working Group on *G. salaris*, had been made available prior to the meeting.
- 7.5 The Chair noted the conclusion of the paper, that what was formerly *G. thymalli* (parasites from grayling) would not be diagnosed as *G. salaris* by the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE), and that the synonymisation will, therefore, have no practical consequences for NASCO Parties / jurisdictions.
- 7.6 The Chair thanked Haakon Hansen, Chair of the Working Group on *G. salaris*, and his colleagues for their work.
- 7.7 The Chair reminded the Commission that it had agreed in 2018 that the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* should meet again in 2021. Terms of Reference were also agreed in 2018 and the Chair referred the Commission to these. He further noted that the Secretariat will work with the Working Group Chair to organize and conduct the meeting. Members of the Commission would be asked to confirm their nominations for

the Working Group for 2021, inter-sessionally.

8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 8.1 The winner of the North-East Atlantic Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Sergey Bystrov from the Russian Federation.
- 8.2 This salmon entered the Ponoï River in autumn 2018, overwintered in the river, and was tagged on 29 May 2019 during catch-and-release fly fishing at the Gold Beach beat about 73 km from the river outlet. The fish was recaptured on 6 June 2019 in the same part of the river.
- 8.3 The Chair offered congratulations to the prize winner.

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

- 9.1 The Chair noted that the recommendations of the Standing Scientific Committee were not yet available.
- 9.2 The Commission therefore agreed to defer any recommendation on the request to ICES for Scientific Advice to the Council. The request to ICES, as agreed by the Council, is contained in document [CNL\(20\)13](#) (Annex 7).

10. Other Business

- 10.1 The representative of the NGOs noted that in their Opening Statement, the European Union had expressed disappointment at the cancellation of the Special Session on aquaculture planned for the NASCO Annual Meeting this year. Their Statement said

‘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.’

The representative of the NGOs asked first that the representative of the European Union expand on this aspect of their Opening Statement, and second whether the NGOs might consult him after the meeting on this issue, because the NGOs were concerned by the recently published document ‘[Second Recommendation on the Future Strategic Guidelines for the Sustainable Development of EU Aquaculture](#)’ from the Aquaculture Advisory Council.

- 10.2 The representative of the European Union replied that the European Union’s Opening Statement reflected the general view within the EU delegation that if progress is to be made on the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon there is a need to examine issues around aquaculture, and that this is not a view only held by the European Union, but also further afield. He noted that each year the knowledge base on the interaction between wild and farmed salmon grows. He stated that an update on this knowledge was required, along with an assessment of how NASCO can utilise it, in order to progress with its work.
- 10.3 The representative of the European Union also replied that he was happy to engage with the NGOs after the meeting on this issue.

11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

- 11.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council.

12. Report of the Meeting

12.1 The Commission agreed a report of the Meeting.

13. Close of the Meeting

13.1 The Chair thanked the members of the Commission and observers for their contributions and closed the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission.

Note. The annexes mentioned above begin after the French translation of the report of the Meeting. A list of North-East Atlantic Commission papers is included in Annex 8.

NEA(20)18

Compte rendu de la trente-septième session annuelle de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est 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, Victor Rozhnov (Fédération de Russie), a ouvert la session et accueilli les participants à la vidéoconférence.
- 1.2 Le Président 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 menées via une correspondance en intersessions, par vidéoconférence et une réunion d'intersessions du Conseil qui aurait lieu à l'automne. Il a remercié tous les délégués pour leur flexibilité et leur disponibilité pour participer en cette année extraordinaire.
- 1.3 Le Président a rappelé aux participants que la période pour la correspondance en intersessions avait couru du 8 au 27 mai. Les membres de la Commission avaient été à même d'employer ce temps pour étudier les documents émis en vertu de chaque point d'ordre du jour et poser et répondre à des questions. L'objectif de cette correspondance en intersessions avait été de rationaliser le travail de vidéoconférence pour permettre aux membres de la Commission de travailler de façon aussi efficace que possible dans ces circonstances. Un ordre du jour annoté, NEA(20)09A a été remis à tous les délégués pour les aider à planifier la session.
- 1.4 Aucune correspondance en intersessions n'a été reçue concernant l'ordre du jour de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est.
- 1.5 Une liste des participants aux trente-septièmes sessions annuelles du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN est incluse en Annexe 1.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

- 2.1 La Commission a adopté l'ordre du jour via correspondance le 8 mai, NEA(20)09F.

3. Election des Membres du Bureau

- 3.1 La Commission a réélu Victor Rozhnov (Fédération de Russie) en tant que Président (proposé par le représentant du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland), secondé par le représentant de la Norvège) et Svein Magnason (Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland)) en tant que Vice-Président (proposé par le représentant de la Fédération de Russie secondé par le représentant de l'Union européenne).

4. Examen de la pêche de 2019 et du rapport du Comité d'Avis du CIEM (ACOM) sur les stocks de saumons dans la zone de la Commission

- 4.1 Le rapport du comité d'Avis du CIEM (ACOM), CNL(20)10rev, qui contient les

conseils scientifiques pertinents pour toutes les Commissions, a été communiqué mi-mai. Le CIEM a aussi rendu le Rapport du Groupe de travail du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord (WGNAS) disponible sur le site internet du CIEM.

- 4.2 Une représentante du CIEM, Martha Robertson, a présenté les conseils du CIEM pour la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est dans un webinaire. Sa présentation sur les conseils pertinents pour la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est est disponible dans le document NEA(20)16 (Annexe 3). Les discussions ayant eu lieu sur la présentation pendant le webinaire se trouvent dans le document CNL(20)53 (Annexe 4). Le Président a remercié le Dr Robertson pour sa présentation.
- 4.3 Le représentant des ONGs a dit apprécier la fermeture UE – Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles) de sa dernière grosse pêcherie de stocks mixtes. Il a aussi demandé au représentant de la Norvège si la Norvège prévoyait de réviser ses réglementations en matière de pêcherie de stocks mixtes.
- 4.4 Le représentant de la Norvège a répondu qu'ils révisent les règlements de leur pêcherie tous les ans et qu'une révision importante est effectuée tous les cinq ans. Il a rapporté que le processus de révision tous les cinq ans avait commencé et que de nouveaux règlements seraient en place à partir de 2021. Le représentant de la Norvège a déclaré que de nouvelles instructions de leur Ministère exigeaient que le processus se concentre en particulier sur les risques de surpêche des stocks de petite taille. Ceci était valable aussi bien dans les pêcheries côtières que les pêcheries en rivière. Il a rapporté que la proposition de révision de règlement passerait en audition publique en juin 2020.

5. Pêcheries de stocks mixtes menées par des Membres de la Commission

- 5.1 Selon le '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, il était convenu qu'il devrait y avoir des points d'ordre du jour dans chacune des Commissions pour permettre de se concentrer sur les pêcheries de stocks mixtes (MSFs).
- 5.2 L'Union européenne, NEA(20)10, la Norvège, NEA(20)08 et la Fédération de Russie, NEA(20)11, ont enregistré des articles apportant des mises à jour sur les informations relatives aux pêcheries de stocks mixtes encore en opération, les données les plus récentes relatives aux prises, et tous changements ou développements dans la gestion des pêcheries de stocks mixtes pour mettre en œuvre les accords de l'OCSAN.
- 5.3 Une déclaration jointe a été fournie au nom de l'Union européenne et de la Norvège concernant la gestion des pêcheries dans le cours d'eau du Teno, NEA(20)13 (Annexe 5). Ceci concernait le statut du travail mettant en œuvre l'accord bilatéral entre la Norvège et la Finlande dans les pêcheries de la rivière Tana / Teno qui inclut les MSFs.
- 5.4 Une déclaration jointe au nom de la Norvège et de la Fédération de Russie sur les questions des pêcheries côtières, NEA(20)14 (Annexe 6), a aussi été fournie. Elle est liée au Protocole d'entente entre le Ministère du Climat et de l'Environnement (Norvège) et l'Agence fédérale de la pêche (Fédération de Russie) sur la coopération pour la gestion et le suivi de et la recherche sur le Saumon atlantique sauvage dans le Comté de Finnmark (Norvège) et la région de Mourmansk (Fédération de Russie).
- 5.5 Le Président a remercié l'Union européenne, la Norvège et la Fédération de Russie pour leurs rapports.

6. Mesures de réglementation

- 6.1 Le Président a rappelé à la Commission que lors de sa trente-cinquième session annuelle (2018), elle a adopté la ‘Décision pour la pêche au saumon dans les eaux féringiennes’ en 2018 / 2019, 2019 / 2020 et 2020 / 2021’, NEA(18)12rev_final. En vertu de cette Décision, la Commission a convenu de ne pas fixer de quota pour la pêche au saumon dans la Zone des pêcheries féringiennes pour 2018 / 2019, reconnaissant que les décisions de gestion féringiennes seront effectuées en tenant compte des recommandations du CIEM concernant la situation biologique et le statut des stocks contribuant à la pêche. La Décision s’appliquerait aussi pour 2019 / 2020 et 2020 / 2021 à moins que l’application du Cadre d’Indicateurs (FWI) montre qu’une réévaluation est justifiée. La Commission avait convenu que la procédure employée auparavant pour appliquer le FWI devrait se poursuivre en vertu de la nouvelle Décision.
- 6.2 Le Président a fait référence à l’article sur la FWI de la Commission de l’Atlantique du Nord-Est, NEA(20)04. Il a noté la conclusion que l’évaluation du FWI en 2020 (basée sur des valeurs d’indicateur pour 2019) ne suggère pas que la Prévion d’abondance avant pêcheries (PFA) pour 2019 avait été sous-estimée. Par conséquent le Groupe de travail FWI a conclu qu’aucune réévaluation des conseils de gestion existant pour la pêche féringienne n’était requise de la part du CIEM en 2020. Le Président a remercié Michael Millane (UE - Irlande), Coordinateur du Groupe de travail FWI pour 2020, et ses collègues pour leur travail.
- 6.3 La Commission a confirmé que la Décision adoptée en 2018 restera par conséquent en vigueur pour la pêche en 2020 / 2021.

7. Risque de transmission du *Gyrodactylus salaris* dans la zone de la Commission

- 7.1 Lors de sa session annuelle de 2018, la Commission de l’Atlantique du Nord-Est a adopté une ‘Feuille de route’ pour renforcer l’échange d’informations et la coopération en matière de surveillance, de recherche et de mesures visant à prévenir la propagation du *G. salaris* et à l’éradiquer dès son apparition’, NEA(18)08. Dans le cadre de cette ‘Feuille de route’, la Commission conservera un point à l’ordre du jour de ses sessions annuelles sur le *G. salaris* afin de faciliter les rapports des membres de la Commission / juridictions et le Groupe de travail sur le *G. salaris* sur les mesures à prendre pour empêcher la propagation du parasite et de l’éradiquer dans les zones où il a été introduit et sur d’autres aspects de la ‘Feuille de route’.
- 7.2 Le ‘Rapport sur la feuille de route sur le *G. salaris* en 2019’ a été déposé par l’UE – Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles), NEA(20)07. La Norvège a déposé un article, ‘Le *Gyrodactylus salaris* dans les rivières norvégiennes’, NEA(20)12, et l’UE – Irlande a déposé un ‘Rapport sur le progrès relatif aux recommandations en NEA(18)08 concernant le *Gyrodactylus salaris*’, NEA(20)15.
- 7.3 Le Président a remercié l’UE – Irlande, l’UE – Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles) et la Norvège pour leurs articles.
- 7.4 En 2019 il a été convenu que le Président du Groupe de travail sur le *G. salaris* contacterait le Groupe de travail pour discuter de la synonymisation des espèces de *Gyrodactylus*: *G. thymalli* et le *G. salaris*. Cette discussion a eu lieu en intersessions. Un article NEA(20)06, du Président du Groupe de travail sur le *G. salaris*, a été mis à disposition préalablement à la réunion.

- 7.5 Le Président a noté la conclusion de l'article, qui était auparavant *G. thymalli* (parasites d'ombre commun) ne serait pas diagnostiquée en tant que *G. salaris* par l'Organisation mondiale de la santé animale (OIE), et que la synonymisation n'aura, par conséquent pas de conséquences pratiques pour les Parties / juridictions de l'OCSAN.
- 7.6 Le Président a remercié Haakon Hansen, Président du Groupe de travail sur le *G. salaris*, et ses collègues pour leur travail.
- 7.7 Le Président a rappelé à la Commission qu'il avait été convenu en 2018 que le Groupe de travail sur le *Gyrodactylus salaris* devrait se réunir à nouveau en 2021. Les Termes de référence ont aussi été convenus en 2018 et le Président a référé la Commission à ceux-ci. Il a par ailleurs souligné que le Secrétariat travaillerait avec le Président du Groupe de travail pour organiser et diriger la réunion. Il serait demandé aux membres de la Commission de confirmer leurs nominations pour le Groupe de travail pour 2021, en intersessions.

8. Annonce du gagnant du prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes

- 8.1 Le gagnant du prix de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est de £1,000 du Programme incitatif de l'OCSAN au renvoi des étiquettes est Sergey Bystrov de la Fédération de Russie.
- 8.2 Le saumon est entré dans la rivière Ponoï en automne 2018, a hiverné dans la rivière et a été étiqueté le 29 mai 2019 pendant une pêche à la mouche avec remise à l'eau dans la chute de Gold Beach à environ 73 km de l'embouchure de la rivière. Le poisson a été recapturé le 6 juin 2019 dans la même section de la rivière.
- 8.3 Le Président a adressé ses félicitations au gagnant.

9. Recommandations au Conseil concernant la demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM

- 9.1 Le Président a noté que les recommandations du Comité scientifique permanent n'étaient pas encore disponibles.
- 9.2 La Commission a par conséquent accepté de déférer toute recommandation sur la demande au CIEM pour des conseils scientifiques au Conseil. La demande auprès du CIEM, comme convenu par le Conseil, est incluse dans le document CNL(20)13 (Annexe 7).

10. Divers

- 10.1 Le représentant des ONGs a noté que dans leur déclaration d'ouverture, l'Union européenne a exprimé la déception provoquée par l'annulation de la séance spéciale sur l'aquaculture prévue pour la session annuelle de l'OCSAN cette année. Leur déclaration stipulait :

'Nous sommes particulièrement déçus qu'il n'ait pas été possible de procéder à la séance spéciale sur l'aquaculture et nous sommes convaincus qu'un nouvel élan est nécessaire pour réfléchir au rôle de l'OCSAN concernant la gestion de ces activités.'

Le représentant des ONGs a commencé par demander que le représentant de l'Union européenne développe cet aspect de sa déclaration d'ouverture, et ensuite si les ONGs pourraient le consulter après la réunion concernant cette question, parce que les ONGs étaient préoccupées par la récente publication du document

‘Deuxième recommandation sur les orientations stratégiques à venir pour le développement durable de l’aquaculture dans l’UE’ par le Conseil consultatif de l’aquaculture.

- 10.2 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a répondu que la déclaration d'ouverture de l'Union européenne reflétait l'opinion générale au sein de la délégation de l'UE selon laquelle, si des progrès devaient être réalisés en matière de conservation du Saumon atlantique sauvage, il était nécessaire d'examiner les problèmes liés à l'aquaculture, et que cette opinion était partagée au-delà de l'Union européenne. Il a souligné que la base de connaissances sur l'interaction entre le saumon sauvage et le saumon d'élevage augmente chaque année. Il a déclaré qu'il était nécessaire de mettre ces connaissances à jour, et d'évaluer comment l'OCSAN peut les utiliser, afin de progresser dans ses travaux.
- 10.3 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a aussi répondu qu'il était prêt à travailler avec les ONGs après la réunion sur cette question.

11. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

- 11.1 La Commission a convenu de tenir sa prochaine session annuelle à la même période et lieu que la trente-huitième session annuelle du Conseil.

12. Compte rendu de la session

- 12.1 La Commission a accepté un compte rendu de la session.

13. Clôture de la session

- 13.1 Le Président a remercié les Parties et observateurs pour leurs contributions et a clôturé la trente-septième session annuelle de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est.

Note. Une liste des articles de la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est est incluse en Annexe 8.

List of Annexes

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- Annex 4 Summary of Discussions held on the Presentation during the ICES Advice Webinar, CNL(20)53
- Annex 5 Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the fisheries in the Teno Watercourse, NEA(20)13
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- Annex 7 Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, CNL(20)13
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2020 List of Participants

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NEA(20)09

Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission

By Video Conference

1 – 5 June 2020

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Review of the 2019 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
5. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
6. Regulatory Measures
7. Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area
8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
10. Other Business
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
12. Report of the Meeting
13. Close of the Meeting



North-East Atlantic Commission

NEA(20)16

***Presentation of the ICES Advice on Atlantic Salmon to the North-East
Atlantic Commission***

sal.neac.all

Atlantic salmon from Northeast Atlantic

Photo by Alan Walker

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ICES
CIEM

Terms of Reference



2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:

- 2.1 describe the key events of the 2019 fisheries;
 - 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
-
- 
- ICES advises that when the Framework of Indicators (FWI) was applied in early 2020, a full reassessment was not required and the 2018 ICES advice remains valid
 - no mixed stock fisheries options on the NEAC complexes at the Faroes for the fishing seasons 2020/2021
 - 2020 marks the final year of NASCO's three year decision regarding the salmon fishery in the Faroese Waters

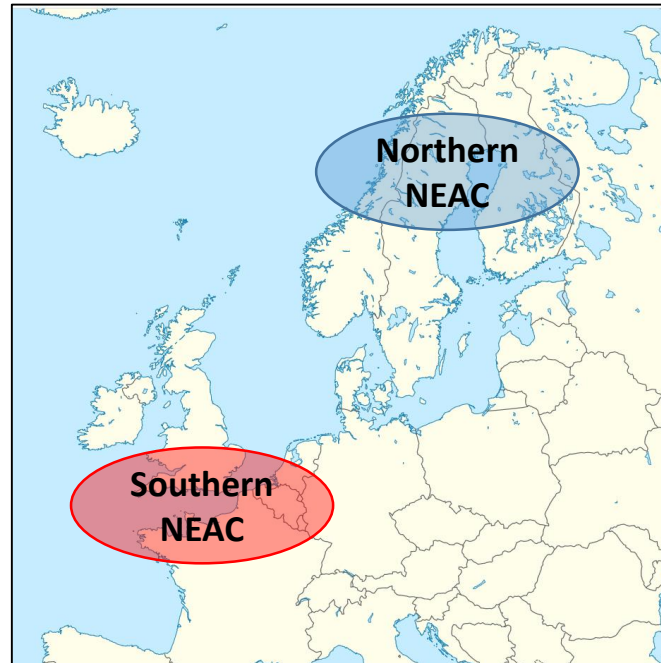
Background

- Northeast Atlantic Commission (NEAC) stocks are combined into two groups for the provision of management advice for fisheries at West Greenland and Faroes

Southern group (Southern NEAC) :

- UK (Scotland)
- UK (England and Wales)
- UK (N. Ireland)
- Ireland
- France
- Spain
- Iceland (south/west region)

- Total of 7 stock units



Northern group

(Northern NEAC) :

- Russia
- Finland
- Norway
- Sweden
- Denmark
- Iceland (north/east region)

- Total of 11 stock units

2.1 Key Events 2018 Fisheries: Catch

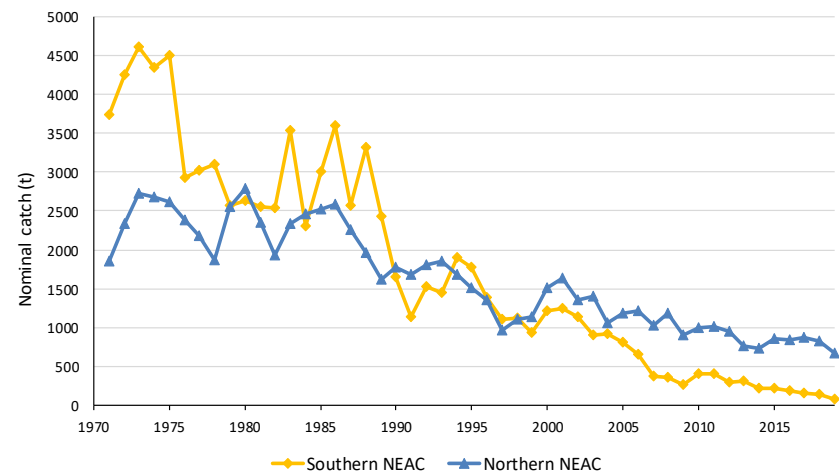


- No significant changes in the gear types used
- No fishery Faroes since 2000
- Unreported catch: 237 t
- NEAC Reported Nominal Catch: 743 t
 - 77 t Southern NEAC (lowest in time series) (63% 1SW)
 - 666 t Northern NEAC (44% 1SW)

Table 1: sal.neac.all

2019	Southern NEAC	Northern NEAC	Faroes	Total NEAC
Catch (t)	77	666	-	743
Catch as % of NEAC total	10%	90%	-	
Unreported catch	6	231	-	237
Location of catches			-	
% in-river	68%	64%	-	64%
% in estuaries	32%	0%	-	3%
% coastal	0%	36%	-	33%

Figure 1: sal.neac.all



2.2 Stock Conservation Limits (CLs)

- Nine jurisdictions with river-specific CLs
- Time-series of CLs
- Iceland – one river since 2000

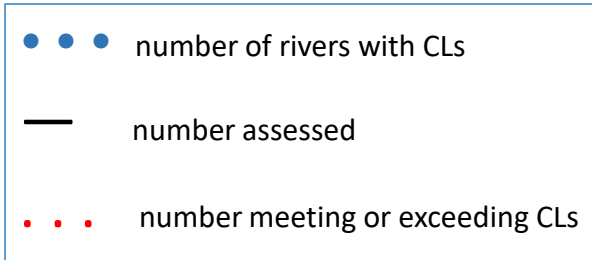
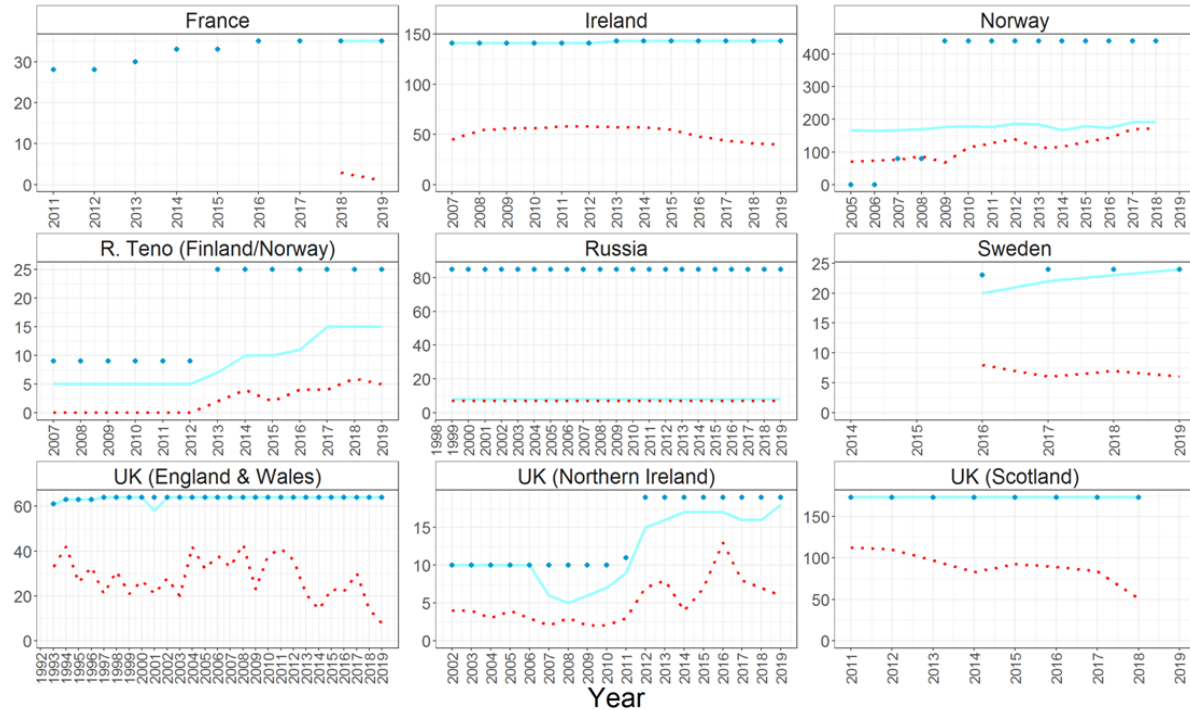


Figure 4: sal.neac.all



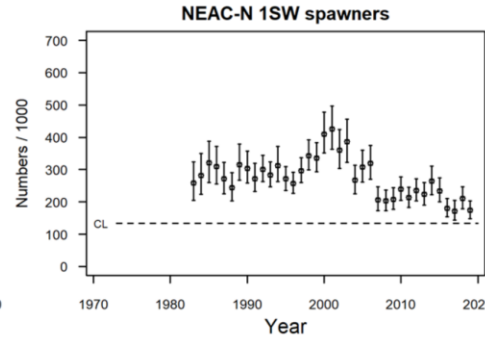
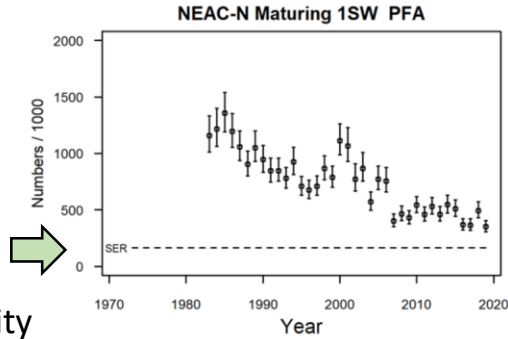
2.3 Stock Status: 2019 Northern NEAC (N-NEAC)



Figure 5: sal.neac.all

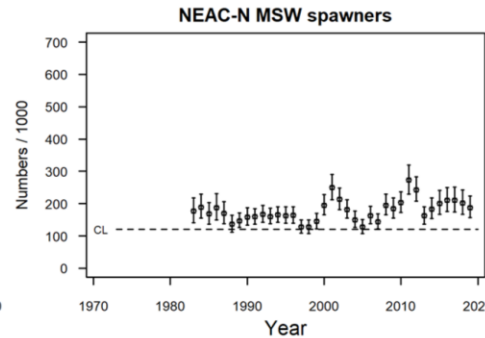
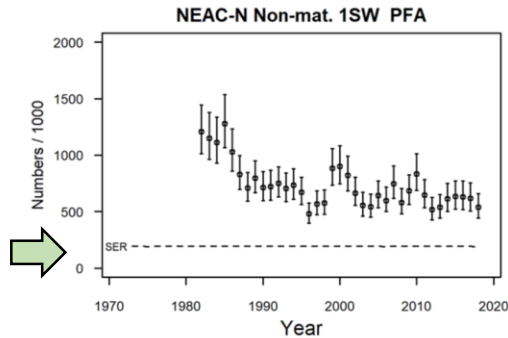
PFA N-NEAC:

- Declining trend
- PFA > SER
- Both complexes at full reproductive capacity



Spawners N-NEAC:

- Spawners > CLs
- Both complexes at full reproductive capacity

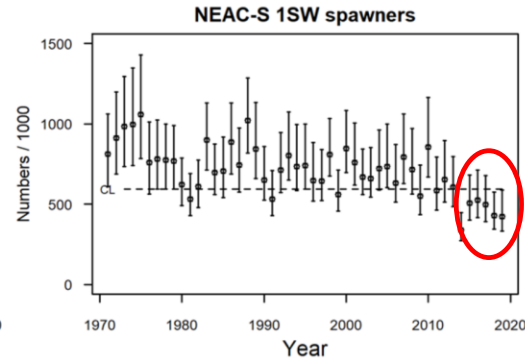
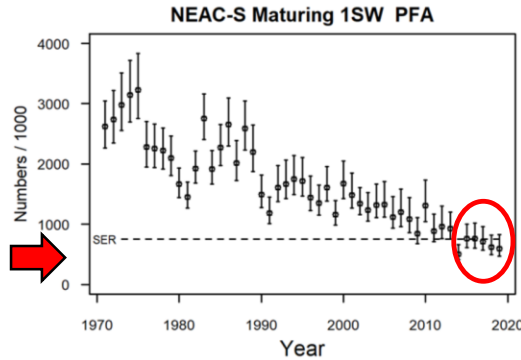


2.3 Stock Status: 2019 Southern NEAC (S-NEAC)

Figure 5: sal.neac.all

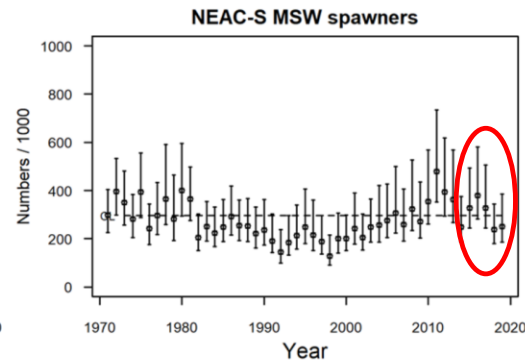
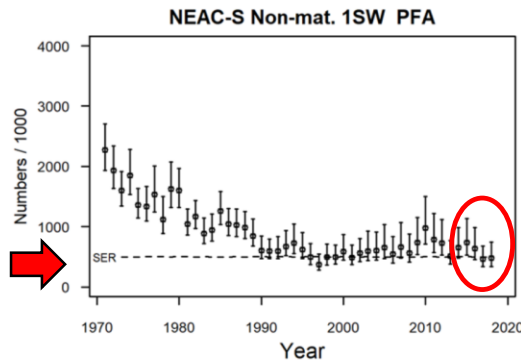
PFA S-NEAC:

- Declining trend
- PFA < SER
- Both complexes suffering reduced reproductive capacity



Spawners S-NEAC:

- Declining trend since 2016
- Spawners < CLs
- Both complexes suffering reduced reproductive capacity



2.3 Stock Status: 2019 PFA by Jurisdiction

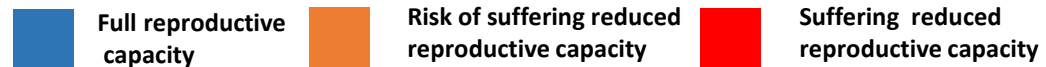
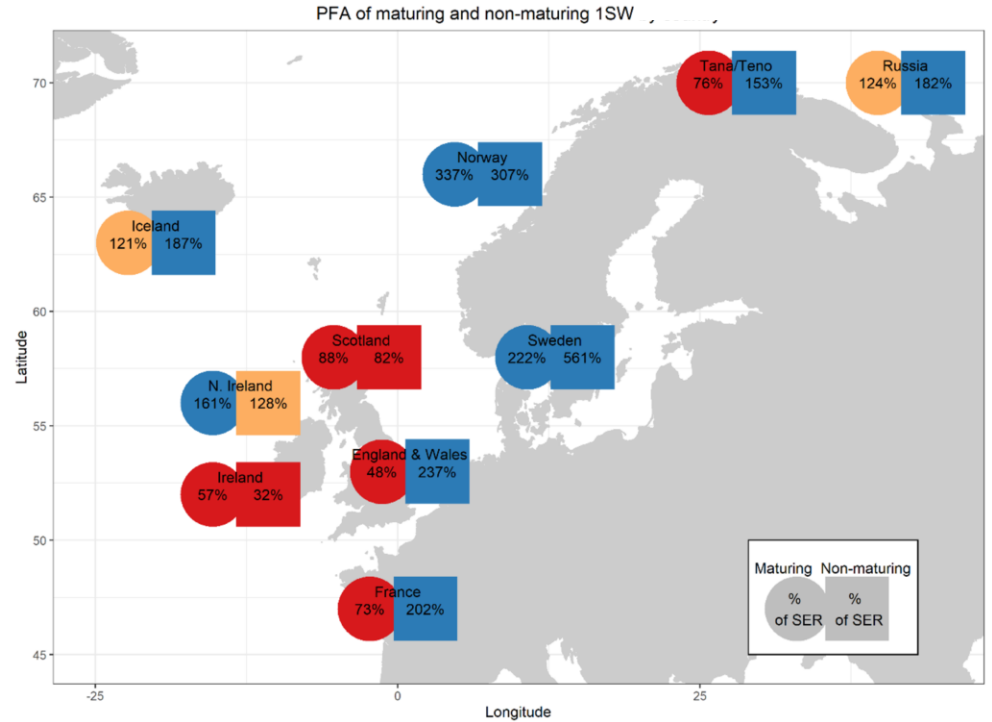
Northern NEAC PFA

- All at full reproductive capacity except:
 - maturing 1SW at risk Russia and Iceland, and suffering Tana/Teno

Southern NEAC PFA

- Mat. 1SW:
 - full reproductive capacity in UK (N. Ireland)
 - others at risk or suffering
- Non-mat. 1SW:
 - full reproductive capacity in UK (E&W) and France
 - others at risk or suffering

Figure 6: sal.neac.all

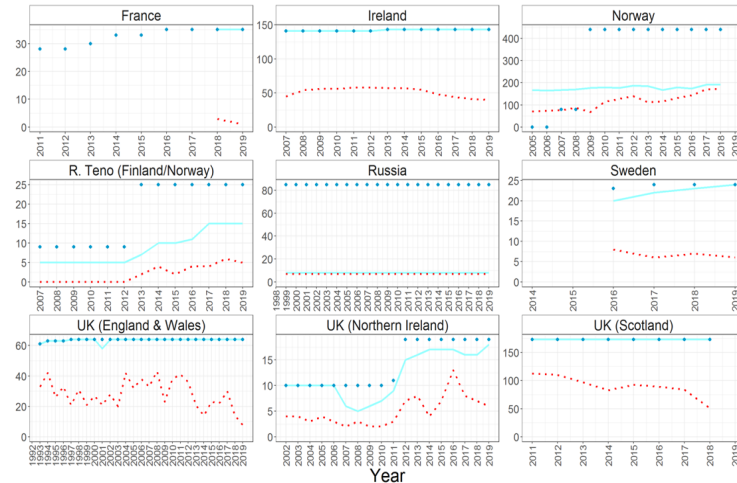


2.3 Stock Status: Trends in Rivers Meeting CLs

Table 4: sal.neac.all Spawners assessed against CLs

Country /Jurisdiction	Number with CLs	Number assessed	Number attaining CL	% attaining CL	Trend statement
Northern NEAC					
Russia	85	8	7	88	No trend
Teno/Tana	25	15	5	33	Stable
Norway	439	193	171	89	Increasing
Sweden	24	24	6	25	Stable (data for 2016 to 2019 only)
Iceland	13	1	1	100	only one river assessed
Southern NEAC					
UK (Scotland)	173	173	51	29	Decreasing
UK (NI)	19	18	6	33	Decreasing
UK (E&W)	64	64	8	13	Decreasing
Ireland	143	143	40	28	Decreasing
France	35	35	1	3	No trend (2018 and 2019 data only)

Figure 4: sal.neac.all



- number of rivers with CLs
- number assessed
- ... number meeting or exceeding CLs

2.3 Stock Status: Return Rates (Marine Survival)

- 1SW declining trend since 1980
- 2SW no trend
- Little improvement of stock status over time
- Mainly a consequence of continuing poor survival in the marine environment

Figure 9: sal.neac.all

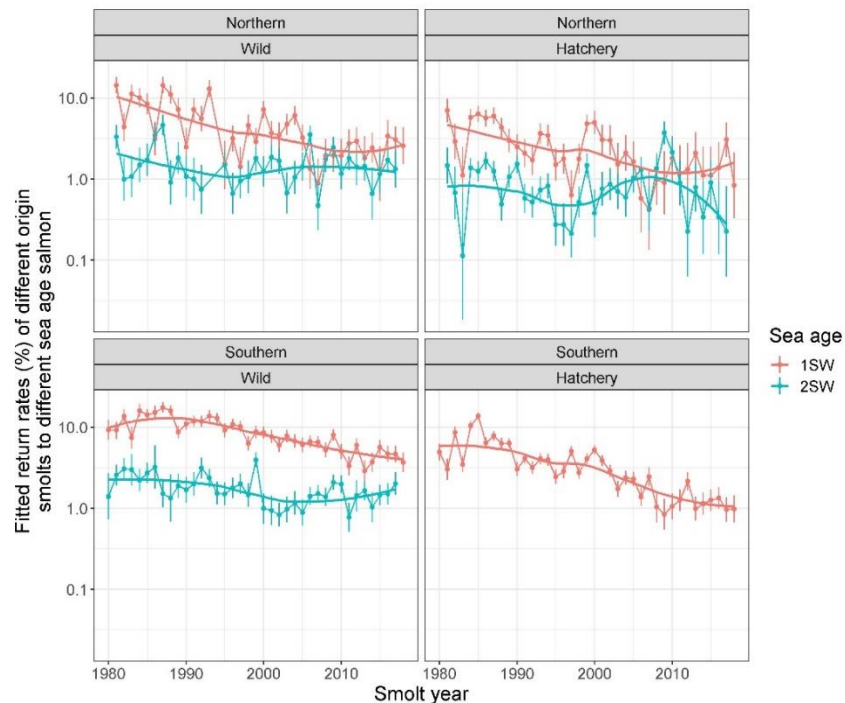




Photo by Stephen Gregory

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 fresh water 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.

NEA(20)13

Joint statement on behalf of European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse

The Agreement between Norway and Finland on the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse came into force in 2017. There are multiple genetically unique salmon stocks in the river, and regulations under the agreement aim to reduce the fishing mortality by one third. This is expected to improve the status of weak stocks within a 15 year-period. In addition to ensuring the sustainability of the stocks, the regulations are designed to allow traditional Sami fishery to continue with reduced fishing days per season, and to reduce the tourist rod fishery substantially by setting an annual maximum number of angling licenses available. To safeguard fishing rights of the Sami and the local population in the negotiations, the Sami Parliaments of Norway and Finland, as well as local fishing rights holders, whom largely are Sami, were represented throughout the whole negotiation process.

The common working group for monitoring and research on the salmon stocks in the river, established by the Finnish and Norwegian Governments, coordinates the monitoring and research on the stocks, and provides continuously stock status evaluations and science-based advice to the Teno river salmon management.

In the latest annual report of the group, the main result stayed the same, that the new fishing agreement has reduced the fishing mortality at an expected rate. The observed reduction rate will enable recovery of the weak salmon stocks in the estimated time frame, two to three salmon generations, as planned. The monitoring group shall also integrate traditional knowledge into its evaluations and it has started regular meetings with local stakeholders to increase the exchange of information. The reports of the group are written in English and translated to Finnish, Norwegian and northern Sami, and are available on-line.

The work with the common management plan by Norwegian and Finnish Governments has proceeded, and the draft plan is on a public hearing during the summer. The plan has been developed through a bilateral working group, with participation and contributions from local stakeholders. The management targets and stock development trajectories will be used to estimate how the management targets can be achieved, besides many other elements of management, including traditional knowledge.

Finland and Norway have started a process to renew the periodic fishing rule for years 2022-2028, with an important starting point to ensure the recovery of the weak salmon stocks also when using the renewed fishing rule.

Local stakeholders are involved in the management processes as well as in the renewal process of the fishing rule.

NEA(20)14

Norway – Russia update on Coastal Fisheries Issues

The history of Norway – Russia cooperation on the issues of coastal fisheries was presented in Annex 5 of the Report of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NEA(19)10).

As a follow-up of agreements at the joint Working Group on Atlantic Salmon in Finnmark County and the Murmansk Region in March 2019 regarding further process of cooperation, a proposal for general guidelines for the upcoming fisheries regulation in Norway was sent by the Norwegian Environment Agency to the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation in December 2019 for comments.

In February 2020 the general guidelines for the upcoming regulations were finished and sent to the Federal Agency for Fisheries of the Russian Federation for feedback to be considered in the decision process.

Due to COVID-19 situation the 2020 meeting of the joint Working Group on Atlantic Salmon in Finnmark County and the Murmansk Region was cancelled. The group will meet in 2021.

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)

NEA(20)00

List of North-East Atlantic Commission Papers

NEA(20)00	List of North-East Atlantic Commission Papers
NEA(20)01	Provisional Agenda (English and French)
NEA(20)02	Covid-19 NEAC Agenda Planning
NEA(20)03	Draft Agenda (English and French)
NEA(20)04	Report on the Use of the Framework of Indicators in 2020
NEA(20)05	Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda
NEA(20)06	Paper on the synonymisation of <i>G. salaris</i> and <i>G. thymalli</i>
NEA(20)07	Report on <i>G salaris</i> Roadmap in 2019 (Tabled by EU – UK (England and Wales))
NEA(20)08	Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway)
NEA(20)09	Agenda (English and French)
NEA(20)10	Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the European Union)
NEA(20)11	Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Russian Federation)
NEA(20)12	<i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in Norwegian Rivers (Tabled by Norway)
NEA(20)13	Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse
NEA(20)14	Joint Statement on behalf of Norway and Russia on Coastal Fisheries Issues
NEA(20)15	Report on Progress in relation to the recommendations in NEA(18)08 concerning <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> (Tabled by EU – Ireland)
NEA(20)16	Presentation of the ICES Advice on Atlantic Salmon from the North-East Atlantic to the North-East Atlantic Commission
NEA(20)17	Draft Report of the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
NEA(20)18	Report of the Thirty- Seventh Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization