

## CNL(20)58

### *Report of the December 2020 Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization*

#### *By Video Conference*

*10 December 2020*

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

- 1.1 The President, Serge Doucet (Canada), opened the meeting. He thanked participants for attending and for all their work engaging so constructively with NASCO in this extraordinary year.
- 1.2 The President noted that on 27 November 2020, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) became a Contracting Party to NASCO. He welcomed the UK as NASCO's newest Contracting Party and looked forward to the contribution the UK would make.
- 1.3 A written Opening Statement was tabled by the United Kingdom (Annex 1).
- 1.4 A list of participants at the December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council is given in Annex 2.

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

- 2.1 The Council adopted its Agenda, [CNL IS\(20\)26](#) (Annex 3).

#### **3. Adoption by the Council of the Terms of Reference for the Third Performance Review**

- 3.1 The President noted that in 2018, Council agreed that the process to consider conducting the third performance review of NASCO should begin in 2019, with a view to holding the review in 2021 ([CNL\(18\)45](#)). At its Annual Meeting in 2020, Council agreed to delay the performance review by one or more years. The Council also 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.
- 3.2 The President reminded Council that initial discussion of the Terms of Reference for the performance review had taken place during the September Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council, guided by a Strawman document drawn up by the United States. The President noted that, since then, Parties and the Secretariat had worked to refine the draft Terms of Reference. Additionally, paper [CNL IS\(20\)23](#) had been circulated, regarding further decisions that were needed to plan the third performance review.
- 3.3 Council agreed that:
  - due to the impacts of Covid-19 the third performance review will be deferred, with reporting in 2023 for consideration at the 2023 NASCO Annual Meeting;
  - the Review Panel will be composed of three external experts who are 'not directly affiliated' with NASCO, and who, together, have expertise in the three categories: fisheries science, salmon management and conservation, and marine / fisheries law;

- ‘not directly affiliated’ generally means – not a current or former NASCO officer, not members of NASCO delegations or accredited NGOs, and not working in an industry related to salmon;
  - ‘officer’ means - individuals who have held an office such as President, Vice-President, Chair, Vice-Chair etc.
  - the following process and timeline for agreeing the Review Panel was adopted<sup>1</sup>:
    - Parties and the NGO Co-Chairs may nominate up to three candidates for the Review Panel, in the categories stated above, to the Secretariat, by 31 January 2021;
    - the Secretariat will compile and circulate the list of proposed Review Panel candidates as quickly as possible;
    - Parties will rank the experts, by 28 February 2021;
    - the proposed Review Panel candidates with the highest rankings in each category of expertise will be contacted by the Secretariat for their availability, in March 2021. Alternatives to be contacted if necessary;
    - the final Review Panel members will be agreed by Council, by April 2021, by correspondence.
  - the maximum length of time allocated to Panel members to conduct the review will be 30 working days, which may be reviewed by Council if necessary; and
  - the daily consulting fee for any Panel member requiring one will be £650, with a maximum of £750, if requested. All Panel members will receive the same fee. The maximum daily fee may be reviewed by Council if necessary.
- 3.4 Council also discussed the Terms of Reference for the performance review and agreed that:
- a small Working Group will be convened quickly to finalise the Terms of Reference, including the review criteria;
  - the Secretariat will work with Heads of Delegations from the EU, the Russian Federation, the UK, the US, and the NGO Co-Chairs to identify the members of the Working Group and agree on meeting dates before 18 December 2020. The Heads of Delegations of the European Union, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the NGO Co-Chairs all indicated they intended to nominate a member;
  - the Working Group will finalise the Terms of Reference, including the review criteria, by the end of January 2021;
  - the Council will approve the draft Terms of Reference, including the review criteria, by correspondence by the end of February 2021.
- 3.5 The President asked the Secretariat to take forward the arrangements for the third performance review based on the decisions taken at the Meeting. He requested that an update of progress be provided to Council at the Annual Meeting in June 2021.

---

<sup>1</sup> N.B. This process was not Norway’s preferred alternative for agreeing the Review Panel. However, Norway accepted this as the view of the majority of Parties.

#### **4. Adoption of the 2019 Audited Accounts**

4.1 Council agreed to adopt the 2019 Audited Accounts, [FAC\(20\)04](#).

#### **5. Decisions by the Council on the Proposals for the IYS Concluding Symposium**

5.1 The President reminded Parties that in 2019 Council agreed that ‘NASCO IYS activities going forward for further investigation beyond the end of the focal year include... the 2022 closing Symposium (in conjunction with the NPAFC).’ Additionally, he said that in 2020 Council agreed ‘*that the Secretary continue to work with the NPAFC informally with a view to holding the IYS concluding Symposium after the 2022 Annual Meeting, with a view to agreeing the Terms of Reference and establishing a Symposium Steering Committee once the timeline for the Symposium is clearer*’..

5.2 Council agreed:

- that, although NASCO and NPAFC had different objectives for the IYS, a joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium should be held in Vancouver, Canada, in September 2022, if possible, or October 2022 at the latest;
- to accept the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium (Annex 4), modified to reflect the change in preferred date and venue;

5.3 Canada, the EU and the NGOs offered to nominate individuals to serve on the Steering Committee, who would ensure that the NASCO contributions and priorities were part of the Symposium programme. It was also agreed that the scale of the Symposium should remain commensurate with the budget allocated by NASCO, and that its preparation should not have a disproportionate impact on the Secretariat resources. Parties also agreed that the possibility of recording parts of the Symposium should be explored so that it might have as wide a reach as possible. The EU (supported by Norway) expressed the view that it was unfortunate that this Symposium could not take place in the North-East Atlantic and that this would restrict the participation of the NASCO Parties as well as the impact of the Symposium.

#### **6. Other Business**

6.1 Two items of other business were raised.

6.2 First, the President raised the matter of the UK’s application for membership of the West Greenland Commission and the North-East Atlantic Commission. He referred to the letter to NASCO from Minister Prentis (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs) ([CNL IS\(20\)24rev](#)).

6.3 The President noted that the UK meets one of the conditions set out in Article 10(3) of the NASCO Convention.

6.4 Council agreed unanimously that the UK may become a member of the West Greenland Commission and the North-East Atlantic Commission.

6.5 Second, the President raised the issue of the format of the 2021 Annual Meeting. He noted that restrictions due to the global pandemic were likely to remain for some time. In light of the ongoing uncertainty, he proposed that the 2021 Annual Meeting be held virtually.

6.6 Council agreed that the 2021 Annual Meeting be held virtually and that the Secretariat

will explore the best technological option for the meeting.

**7. Report of the Meeting**

7.1 The Council agreed the report of its Meeting by correspondence.

**8. Close of the Meeting**

8.1 The President closed the December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council of NASCO.

## **List of Annexes**

- Annex 1      Opening Statement from the United Kingdom
- Annex 2      List of Participants
- Annex 3      Agenda, CNL\_IS(20)26
- Annex 4      Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the Joint NASCO / NPAFC  
IYS Concluding Symposium, IYS(20)02

***Opening Statement to Council submitted by the United Kingdom to the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council***

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

The UK is delighted to have joined NASCO as an independent Contracting Party and the delegation is very pleased to be attending this intersessional meeting. I would like to thank the Council for having approved the UK's application and the Secretariat for their patience and support through the application process.

The UK will seek to contribute fully to the important work carried out by NASCO. Our aim will be to ensure NASCO can act as a best-in-class RFMO, to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage Atlantic salmon.

As NASCO's 2019 'state of North Atlantic Salmon' report showed, despite major reductions in fisheries exploitation salmon numbers have declined significantly over the past four decades and UK picture mirrors this overall trend. We welcome the rigour that NASCO bring to domestic salmon management and recognise the opportunities it presents for co-ordinated international action.

We look forward to a productive meeting, and to playing our full part in a bright future for this valuable organisation.

Ruth Allin  
Head of Delegation, U.K.  
10 December 2020

**2020 List of Participants  
for the December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council**

\* Denotes Head of Delegation

**CANADA**

Mr Serge Doucet – 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
Ms Melanie Ang	<i>melanie.ang@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, New Brunswick
Ms Cindy Breau	<i>Cindy.breau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, New Brunswick
Ms Shelley Denny	<i>shelley.denny@uinr.ca</i>	Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Eskasoni, Nova Scotia
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
Ms Isabelle Morisset	<i>Isabelle.Morisset@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
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

**DENMARK (In respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)**

*Ms Katrine Kærsgaard - Representative	<i>katk@nanoq.gl</i>	Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Nuuk, Greenland
Ms Sissel Fredsgaard - Representative	<i>sifr@nanoq.gl</i>	Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, Nuuk, Greenland

**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 Christiane Pilz - Representative	<i>christiane.pilz@bmel.bund.de</i>	Bundesministerium für Ernährung und Landwirtschaft, Berlin, Germany
Dr Ciaran Byrne	<i>ciaran.byrne@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Ms Vanessa Barros	<i>vbarros@dgrm.mm.gov.pt</i>	Portugal

Mr Håkan Carlstrand	<i>hakan.carlstrand@havochvatten.se</i>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Gothenburg, Sweden
Ms Sonja Østerlund Feldthaus	<i>sonfel@mfvm.dk</i>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark - Fisheries Policy Unit, Copenhagen, Denmark
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
Mr Paddy Gargan	<i>paddy.gargan@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin
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@dcae.gov.ie</i>	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Cavan, Ireland
Mr John McCartney	<i>john.mccartney@loughs-agency.org</i>	Loughs Agency, Northern Ireland
Dr Michael Millane	<i>michael.millane@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin
Ms Carmen Ochoa	<i>Carmen.ochoa@consilium.europa.eu</i>	Secretariat General of the Council of the European Union, Brussels
Mr Neil Ó Maoiléidigh	<i>niall.omaoleidigh@marine.ie</i>	Marine Institute of Ireland
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 - Representative	<i>helge.axel.dyrendal@miljodir.no</i>	Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim
Ms Heidi Hansen - Representative	<i>heidi.hansen@miljodir.no</i>	Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim
Dr Peder Fiske	<i>peder.fiske@nina.no</i>	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Trondheim
Ms Julie-Christine Svendsen	<i>Julie-Christine.Svendsen@kld.dep.no</i>	Ministry of Climate and Environment, Oslo

#### RUSSIAN FEDERATION

*Mr Alexander Khatuntsov - Representative	<i>Khatuntsov.a@tsuren.ru</i>	Federal Agency for Fisheries, Moscow
Ms Ekaterina Kazantseva – Representative	<i>kazanceva_EO@fishcom.ru</i>	Federal Agency for Fisheries, Moscow

Ms Maria Amelina	<i>a.mariya@tsuren.ru</i>	Federal State Budgetary Establishment, Moscow
Mr Vladimir Belyaev	<i>belyaev@vniro.ru</i>	TBC
Mr Andrey Tsarev	<i>avts2011@gmail.com</i>	Federal State Budgetary Establishment, Moscow

#### UNITED KINGDOM

*Ms Ruth Allin - Representative	<i>Ruth.Allin@defra.gov.uk</i>	DEFRA, London, UK
Ms Antje Branding - Representative	<i>Antje.Branding@gov.scot</i>	Scottish Government, Scotland, UK
Mr Seamus Connor - Representative	<i>Seamus.Connor@daera-ni.gov.uk</i>	DAERA, Belfast, UK
Mr Julian Bray	<i>Julian.Bray2@gov.wales</i>	Welsh Government
Mr Lawrence Talks	<i>Lawrence.talks@environment- agency.gov.uk</i>	Environment Agency, UK
Mr Simon Toms	<i>Simon.toms@environment- agency.gov.uk</i>	Environment Agency, UK
Dr Alan Walker	<i>Alan.walker@cefas.co.uk</i>	CEFAS, UK

#### 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>sgephard@gmail.com</i>	US Commissioner, Deep River, Connecticut
Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker	<i>kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov</i>	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland
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
Mr Mavish Madad	<i>MadadMZ@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

#### NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

##### \*\*Denotes NGO Co-Chairs

##### Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada

Mr Dave Meerburg	<i>dmeerburg@sf.ca</i>
------------------	------------------------

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

**The Connecticut River Salmon Association**

Mr Thomas Chrosniak *president@ctriversalmon.org*

**Norske Lakseelver, Norway**

Dr Torfinn Evensen *torfinn@lakseelver.no*

Mr Sigurd Hytterød *Sigurd.Hytterod@lakseelver.no*

**North Atlantic Salmon Fund Iceland**

Mr Elvar Örn Fridriksson *elvar@nasf.is*

**Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers, Norway**

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

**Salmon and Trout Conservation UK**

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

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

**Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland**

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

**Salmon Watch Ireland**

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

**SECRETARIAT**

Dr Emma Hatfield	Secretary	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Dr Wendy Kenyon	Assistant Secretary	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Mr Graeme Whyte	I.T. Advisor	<i>graeme@j7mis.co.uk</i>

**CNL\_IS(20)26**

***December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council***

***By Video Conference***

***10 December 2020***

***Agenda***

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Adoption by the Council of the Terms of Reference for the Third Performance Review
4. Adoption of the 2019 Audited Accounts
5. Decisions by the Council on the Proposals for the IYS Concluding Symposium
6. Other Business
7. Report of the Meeting
8. Close of the Meeting

**IYS(20)02**

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

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

1. The Joint Symposium Steering Committee (hereinafter ‘the SSC’) shall consist of:
  - (a) not more than three representatives from each lead organization, including one representative of the Secretariats of each lead organization, and one representative from any co-convening organization. It would be desirable to have both managers and scientists involved with subject matter for each theme. The SSC will appoint one Co-Chair from among the representatives of each of the two lead organizations; and
  - (b) the SSC may co-opt additional representatives with specific expertise to serve on the SSC as required.
2. The SSC’s mandate is to convene a world class Symposium to report on and synthesise the accomplishments of the IYS and consider its legacy and recommendations for the future. The SSC will work virtually, using an agreed video-conferencing platform, to undertake the following activities:
  - identify the exact Symposium dates in autumn 2022, as soon as possible, subject to approval by both NASCO and the NPAFC;
  - identify an appropriate venue for the Symposium;
  - develop objectives and the programme, including identifying and inviting keynote (invited) speakers and soliciting contributed papers;
  - develop a Communications Plan including a social media strategy to engage target audiences including scientists, managers, industry, NGOs, fishers, youth and the general public;
  - consider arrangements for, and editing of, scientific and popular publications as well as an on-line (and possibly streamed) video record of the proceedings; and
  - other tasks to ensure a well-run, prestigious and well reported Symposium.
3. The Co-Chairs of the SSC, or their designee, will report to their respective designated points of contact within NASCO and NPAFC on the work of the Symposium Steering Committee.
4. The SSC will operate by consensus of the lead organizations.
5. The costs incurred by each SSC member in participating in the Committee’s work, including any fees for service, should be borne by the Party appointing the Committee member.
6. The Symposium Steering Committee may incur costs, including engaging professional support, in accordance with budgetary provision and spending plans made by the lead organizations or funds raised from other sources and made available to the Symposium Steering Committee through the lead organizations. The Executive Director / Secretary of

each lead organization shall ensure that the receipt and expenditure of funds are consistent with that lead organization's Financial Rules.