



## ***Explanatory Memorandum on the Draft Agenda***

The 2021 Annual Meeting will be held virtually due to the ongoing restrictions and uncertainty related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Council's Meetings will begin on 27 May and end on 4 June.

Papers for the meeting are posted on the [NASCO website](#), including the Revised Draft Schedule of Meetings.

A summary of the decisions before the Council is contained in Annex 1.

During the meeting, interventions by accredited NGOs shall be in accordance with the Revised Conditions for Attendance by Observers at NASCO Meetings, [CNL\(06\)49](#). The President will recognise such requests on all Agenda items other than item 2.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda, [CNL\(21\)01](#) was made available on 4 February 2021. The Draft Agenda was published on 23 March, CNL(21)03.

Council will adopt its Agenda on 30 April, by correspondence. The period of inter-sessional correspondence will take place from Monday 3 May until Friday 14 May. All Council inter-sessional correspondence will be included in the Annotated Agenda posted on the NASCO website before the start of the first Video Conference (VC).

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

The President, Serge Doucet (Canada), will open the meetings and make a statement on behalf of the Organization.

Parties, IGOs, NGOs and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) may make verbal Opening Statements, as is usual in years when new regulatory measures are negotiated.

- no decision is required.

*No correspondence is expected although written versions of Opening Statements will be requested, for annexation to the report.*

### **2. Financial and Administrative Issues**

#### **a) Report of the Finance and Administration Committee**

Article 16 of the Convention states that 'The Council shall adopt an annual budget for the Organization.'

The report of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), CNL(21)06, will be posted on the website. It will include the Draft Budget for 2022 and the Forecast Budget for 2023. It will be presented to Council by the Chair, Clemens Fieseler (EU).

The decisions required are to:

- accept the Audited Accounts for 2020;
- adopt a budget for 2022;
- appoint auditors for the 2021 – 2023 / 2025 accounts;

- decide on any actions required under NASCO's MoUs with ICES and / or the OSPAR Commission; and
- adopt the report of the FAC.

*Decisions will be taken during the VC.*

### **3. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information**

#### **a) Secretary's Report**

The Secretary's Report provides information on procedural, administrative, financial and other matters, CNL(21)09. It will be posted on the website.

- no decision is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. No discussion is expected during the VC.*

#### **b) Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2020**

This is required under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention. The Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2020, CNL(21)10, will be posted on the website.

- a decision to adopt the report is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. The decision will be taken during the VC.*

#### **c) Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize**

The winner will be announced on the website and twitter and will be recorded in the Meeting Report.

- no decision is required.

*No action required by Council.*

#### **d) Scientific Advice from ICES**

During a webinar on 28 May, the Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Dennis Ensing, will present the ICES advice relating to the North Atlantic area and the individual Commission areas. He will also present the advice relating to item 5g) 'New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management'. The presentation will be made available in advance of the webinar.

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(21)11, will be posted on the website in early May. ICES will make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available on its website after the scientific advice is released.

- no decision is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. Discussion will take place during the webinar, and, at the President's discretion, during the VC.*

#### **e) Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

The Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group ([ICR\(20\)03](#)) state 'Board meeting reports will be considered by the Council for adoption.'

The report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, CNL(21)12, will be

posted on the website. It will be presented to Council by the Chair, Ciaran Byrne (EU). Board papers will be available on the [Board website](#).

- a decision to adopt the report is required.

*The decision will be taken during the VC.*

f) **Consideration of the NASCO Rivers Database**

In 2020, Council agreed that the Secretary should work with Parties / jurisdictions to explore why they had not used the Rivers Database as had been agreed in 2016. The Rivers Database had been used only partially to inform the 2019 State of North Atlantic Salmon Report, instead of providing the sole basis of information as had been envisaged originally.

A paper on the Rivers Database will be provided, CNL(21)13.

- a decision on a way forward for the NASCO Rivers Database is desirable to determine whether it should form the basis for the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report.

*Inter-sessional correspondence is encouraged. Discussion and decisions will take place during the VC.*

g) **Report of the Standing Scientific Committee**

Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention require NASCO to take into account the best scientific evidence and establish working arrangements with ICES. The Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) assists the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. It comprises two representatives from each Commission, ideally one scientist and one administrator. Its work is co-ordinated by Paddy Gargan (EU).

The SSC will work to finalise its recommendations for the draft request for Scientific Advice from ICES once the ICES Advice has been presented by webinar on 28 May.

The recommendations of the Standing Scientific Committee concerning the request to ICES for scientific advice will be available in document CNL(21)14 in time for consideration by the Council on 3 June.

- a decision to adopt a request to ICES for scientific advice is required.

*The decision will be taken during the VC.*

**4. The Third Performance Review: Update to the Council**

At the December 2020 Inter-Sessional Meeting, Council agreed that the third performance review would report in 2023. The President requested an update at the 2021 Annual Meeting on planning for the third performance review. The Secretary will provide a paper, CNL(21)15.

- no decisions are anticipated.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. No discussion is expected during the VC.*

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

- a)(i) **Theme-based Special Session: Minimising Impacts of Salmon Farming on Wild Atlantic Salmon: Supporting Meaningful and More Rapid Progress**

## **Towards Achievement of the International Goals for Sea Lice and Containment**

The half day Theme-based Special Session (TBSS) will take place on 27 May 2021. The overarching objective for the TBSS is to stimulate urgent action to implement further measures to protect wild salmon from the impacts of salmon farming, and to ensure demonstrable progress by Parties / jurisdictions towards achievement of the international goals for sea lice and escaped farmed salmon, taking into account the recommendations from the Steering Committees of the [2016 TBSS](#) and the 2019 IYS Symposium, [CNL\(19\)16](#).

The TBSS will involve:

- reviewing critically the extent to which NASCO Parties / jurisdictions are meeting the international goals for sea lice and escaped farmed salmon;
- updating the current state of scientific knowledge of the adverse impacts of escaped farmed salmon and sea lice on wild Atlantic salmon;
- highlighting advances in best management practices and new technologies (infrastructure / biological etc.), their efficacy in mitigating adverse impacts on wild Atlantic salmon and challenges to their urgent implementation, and how to incentivise industry to move towards implementing these new technologies; and
- exploring in depth how Parties / jurisdictions can move more rapidly towards the achievement of the international goals.

CNL(21)08 sets out the programme for the TBSS. Written papers of the presentations will be available prior to the Annual Meeting. Recommendations from the Steering Committee, in light of the TBSS, will be presented.

A report of the TBSS will be prepared by the Steering Committee following the Annual Meeting.

*Discussion will take place during the TBSS with all delegates. Any decisions will be taken under Agenda item 5a)(ii).*

### **a)(ii) Decisions Taken Following the Theme-based Special Session**

This Agenda item allows for decisions to be taken in light of the Theme-based Special Session, if required.

- decisions on actions arising from the 2021 TBSS, if required; and
- a decision whether to hold a TBSS in 2022, and on what topic.

*Discussion and decision making will take place during the VC.*

### **b) Report of the Inter-Sessional Implementation Plan Special Session**

A Special Session webinar will be held on 5 May to discuss the evaluation of the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans (IPs). A period of inter-sessional correspondence related to the IPs and their review will take place prior to the webinar from 12 – 23 April.

The Chair of the IP / APR Review Group, Cathal Gallagher (EU), will present the reports of the 2020 Meeting of the IP / APR Review Group to review the IPs, CNL(21)07, and of the Special Session webinar, CNL(21)16. Both reports will be posted on the NASCO website.

- decisions on actions arising from the Special Session webinar or report of the IP

Review Group may be required.

*Discussion and decision making will take place during the VC.*

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

c)(i) **Special Session: Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans**

The Chair of the IP / APR Review Group, Cathal Gallagher (EU), will present the report of the 2021 Meeting to review the APRs, CNL(21)17, at a Special Session of the Council.

The purpose of the evaluation of the APRs by the Review Group is to ensure that Parties / jurisdictions have provided a clear account of progress in implementing and evaluating the actions detailed in their IPs. In addition, under Article 15 of the NASCO Convention Parties are required to report catch statistics and other information to Council annually. This is achieved through the submission of Annual Progress Reports (APRs).

[Annual Progress Reports](#) will be available and a Summary of the APRs, CNL(21)18 will also be available.

- no decision is required.

*Discussion will take place during the VC with all delegates. Any decisions will be taken under Agenda item 5c)(ii).*

c)(ii) **Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans**

This Agenda item allows for decisions to be taken in light of the Annual Progress Report Special Session, if required.

- decisions on actions arising from the Special Session may be required.

*Discussion and decision making will take place during the VC.*

d) **International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities**

In 2016, the NASCO Council decided to hold an International Year of the Salmon (IYS) in partnership with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The focal year for the IYS was 2019 with some efforts continuing to 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.

In 2019, Council agreed that:

*‘with regard to the legacy of the IYS, a periodic Symposium and State of Salmon Report should be delivered by the Secretariat. The other work of the Secretariat needs to be considered when determining when to hold the Symposium and update the State of Salmon report’, [CNL\(19\)46](#).*

In 2020 Council agreed that the Secretary would work with the NPAFC informally with a view to holding the IYS concluding Symposium after the 2022 Annual Meeting, [CNL\(20\)51rev](#). Agenda item 3f), Consideration of the NASCO Rivers Database, is also relevant to this Agenda item.

The Secretariat will provide a paper, CNL(21)19.

Decisions may be required in line with Council’s agreement on IYS legacy activities in

2019 and 2020, such as:

- when a second State of North Atlantic Salmon Report will be published; and
- the IYS Concluding Symposium.

*Inter-sessional correspondence is encouraged. Decisions will be taken during the VC.*

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](#)**

A paper, CNL(21)20, will be available on progress in implementing the measures contained in 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’, which was adopted in 2013.

- no decision is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. No discussion is expected during the VC.*

f) **Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry**

In 2013, the Council agreed that the regular meetings of the International Salmon Farming Association (ISFA) / NASCO Liaison Group would not continue but that if a need arose, consideration would be given to convening a joint *ad hoc* group. The Council decided to retain an item on its Agenda during which a representative of the ISFA could be invited to participate in an exchange of information on issues concerning impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon.

ISFA has been invited to contribute a paper which will be made available on the website, if provided. ISFA has also been invited to make a presentation during the TBSS.

- no decision is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. No discussion is expected during the VC.*

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

This is addressed under Agenda item 3d), Scientific Advice from ICES, above.

h) **Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management**

The Council has requested previously that the Parties / jurisdictions advise the Secretariat of any new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon. Any such studies will be referred to in a paper that will be provided if reports are submitted.

Reports, if submitted, will be made available.

- no decision is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. No discussion is expected during the VC.*

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

In recent years, the Council and the North American Commission 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.

In 2017, the President of NASCO wrote to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noting NASCO's concerns and encouraging France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to become a member of NASCO. In response, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noted that it wished to retain its observer status at NASCO and committed to providing NASCO with information on the fishery and taking NASCO recommendations on catch taken by communities dependent on fishing, into account ([CNL\(18\)17](#), Annex 1-3).

The paper on the 2020 fishery will be made available, CNL(21)21.

- no decision is anticipated.

*Inter-sessional correspondence is encouraged. Discussion may take place during the VC.*

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

Under Article 10 of the Convention '*Each Commission, shall, on a timely basis, make a report of its activities to Council.*'

Reports will be produced for each Commission and made available to Council. Brief reports will be presented by the Commission Chairs to the Council.

- no decision is required.

*Questions may be raised during the VC.*

### **6. Other Business**

Any other business may be raised via inter-sessional correspondence or during the VC.

### **7. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

The Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting in 2022 is being planned in Edinburgh. The Secretariat has received no invitations from any Party to host the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting.

The Council will be asked to confirm the dates of, and consider the venue for, its Fortieth Annual Meeting in 2023.

- a decision on dates of the 2023 meeting is required; 6 – 9 June 2023 are proposed.

*It is proposed that any Party / jurisdiction that wishes to offer to host the Annual Meeting in 2023 contact the Secretariat in advance of the Annual Meeting. The decisions will be taken during the VC.*

### **8. Report of the Meeting**

A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review.

- a decision to adopt a Report of the Meeting is required.

*Any proposed changes to the Draft Report will be discussed, agreed revisions incorporated, and a final Report of the Meeting adopted during the VC.*

### **9. Close of the Meeting**

The President will close the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
23 March 2021



*Summary of Council Decisions*

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Paper No.</b>
Adoption of the Agenda	The Agenda will be adopted via correspondence by 30 April	CNL(21)03
2. Report of the Finance and Administration Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accept the Audited Accounts for 2020;</li> <li>• adopt a budget for 2022;</li> <li>• appoint auditors for the 2021 – 2023 / 2025 accounts;</li> <li>• decide on any actions required under NASCO’s MoUs with ICES and / or the OSPAR Commission; and</li> <li>• adopt the report of the FAC.</li> </ul>	CNL(21)06 Issued at meeting
3b. Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2020	Adopt the Report on the Activities of the Organization	CNL(21)10
3e. Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board	Adopt the Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board	CNL(21)12 Issued at meeting
3f. Consideration of the NASCO Rivers Database	A decision on a way forward for the NASCO Rivers Database	CNL(21)13
3g. Report of the Standing Scientific Committee	Adopt the Standing Scientific Committee recommendations	CNL(21)14
5a)(ii) Decisions Taken Following the Theme-based Special Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• decisions on actions arising from the 2021 TBSS, if required;</li> <li>• decision whether to hold a TBSS in 2022, and on what topic</li> </ul>	

5b. Report of the Inter-Sessional Implementation Plan Special Session	Decisions on actions arising from the Special Session webinar or report of the IP Review Group may be required.	CNL(21)07 CNL(21)16
5c)(ii) Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans	Decisions on actions arising from the Special Session may be required.	CNL(21)17
5d. International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• when a second State of North Atlantic Salmon Report will be published;</li> <li>• the IYS Concluding Symposium.</li> </ul>	CNL(21)19
7. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a decision on the dates of the 2023 meeting is required; 6 – 9 June 2023 are proposed.</li> </ul>	
8. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting