



Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the North American Commission will be held virtually due to the ongoing restrictions and uncertainty related to the Covid-19 pandemic. The video conference for the meeting will be held on Monday 31 May and Wednesday 2 June 2021.

Papers for the Commission meeting are posted on the [NASCO website](#).

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

Adoption of the Agenda

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the Chair, a Provisional Agenda, [NAC\(21\)01](#), was made available to all members of the Commission. The Draft Agenda is also available, NAC(21)03.

The Commission 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 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 Chair, Kim Blankenkemper (United States) will open the meeting.

Members of the Commission, 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 in the West Greenland and North-East Atlantic Commissions.

- no decision is required.

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

2. Review of the 2020 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

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. 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 Chair's discretion, during the VC.

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

This is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention but is not required annually.

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.

Each member of the Commission with mixed-stock fisheries (MSF) was requested to provide the Secretariat with a short paper on this topic. The intention is that each of these papers would include a brief description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs.

Papers submitted by members of the Commission will be provided.

- no decisions are required.

Correspondence will take place if required by a member of the Commission or NGO Co-Chair. A limited exchange on this issue may be possible during the VC, at the discretion of the Chair.

4. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery

This is essential business under Article 7 of the Convention but is not required annually.

Information on the sampling programme will be provided in both the ICES report and in the document ‘Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed-Stock Fisheries Context’ which is expected to be available in advance.

- no decisions are required.

Correspondence will take place if required by a member of the Commission or NGO Co-Chair. A limited exchange on this issue may be possible during the VC, at the discretion of the Chair.

5. 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.

6. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

This is essential business under Article 7 of the Convention, the Williamsburg Resolution, and the NAC protocols but is not required annually.

Papers submitted by members of the Commission will be provided.

- no decisions are required.

Correspondence will take place if required by a member of the Commission or NGO Co-Chair. A limited exchange on this issue may be possible during the VC, at the discretion of the Chair.

7. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme 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 the Commission.

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

This item is required under Article 9 of the Convention which requires a Commission to take into account the best scientific evidence. Advice is provided annually under the ICES / NASCO Memorandum of Understanding.

The Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations concerning the request to ICES for scientific advice will be available once its work is complete, usually carried out in the margins of the Annual Meeting, CNL(21)14.

- a decision to accept the relevant sections of the Draft Request for advice is required.

A limited exchange on this issue may be possible during the VC, at the discretion of the Chair. If the SSC has not completed its work in time for the Commission to accept the relevant sections of the Draft Request, the Commission may wish to defer the decision to the Council.

9. Other Business

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

10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

NASCO's Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting in 2022 is being planned in Edinburgh.

- the Commission may wish to agree to hold its next meeting in Edinburgh in 2022.

A decision will be taken during the VC.

11. 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.

12. Close of the Meeting

The Chair will close the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
23 March 2021

Summary of Commission Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
Adoption of the Agenda	The Agenda will be adopted via correspondence by 30 April	NAC(21)03
8. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	To accept the relevant sections of the Draft Request for advice	CNL(21)14
10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	To hold its next meeting in Edinburgh in 2022	
11. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting