



Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic 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 1 – 3 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, [NEA\(21\)01](#), was made available to all members of the Commission. The Draft Agenda is also available, NEA(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, Viktor Rozhnov (Russian Federation) will open the meeting.

Members of the Commission, IGOs, and NGOs 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. Regulatory Measures

The Decision regarding the salmon fishery in Faroese waters adopted in 2018 will no longer apply in 2021 / 2022, [NEA\(18\)12rev_final](#). That paper sets out the decision...

‘Not to set a quota for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone for 2018 / 2019. This decision will also apply in 2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021 unless the application of the Framework of Indicators shows that a reassessment is warranted. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) retains the right to conduct a scientific research fishery in the Faroese Fishery Zone.’

The Commission will discuss a new Decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters.

- a decision on the adoption of a new Decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters is required.

Correspondence is encouraged. Discussion and decisions will be taken during the VC.

5. Report of the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris*

This is important business under the ‘‘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](#).

The Working Group on *G. salaris* met on 17 March 2021, by video conference. The Report of the Working Group on *G. salaris* will be available, NEA(21)05.

Due to the virtual nature of the meeting in 2021, the Working Group recommended that a face-to-face, two day meeting of the Working Group on *G. salaris* take place in March 2022 to facilitate comprehensive information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris*.

Any papers submitted by the members of the Commission will be provided.

- a decision on the recommendation that a face to face, two day meeting of the Working Group on *G. salaris* in the North-East Atlantic Commission Area take place in March 2022, with the same Terms of Reference, is needed;

Correspondence will take place if required by a member of the Commission or NGO Co-Chair. Discussion and decisions will be taken during the VC.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. Other Business

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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	NEA(21)03
4. Regulatory Measures	Adoption of a new Decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters	
5. Report of the Working Group on <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	On the recommendation that a face-to-face, two day meeting of the Working Group on <i>G. salaris</i> take place in March 2022, with the same Terms of Reference	NEA(21)05
7. 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
9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	To hold its next meeting in Edinburgh in 2022	
10. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting