

***Annotated Agenda***

The purpose of this paper is to provide the background, decisions and links to papers for each item on the Agenda for the Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission. No correspondence took place for this Commission during the period of inter-sessional correspondence.

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

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

Timings of the Video Conference (all timings are British Summer Time)

The North-East Atlantic Commission will meet by video conference on:

- Tuesday 1 June: 12:30 – 14:00 hrs
- Wednesday 2 June: 12:30 – 14:30 hrs
- Thursday 3 June: 12:15 – 13:15 hrs

Main Table Participants

Chair	Viktor Rozhnov
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)	Svein Magnason
European Union	Arnaud Peyronnet Clemens Fieseler Ignacio Granell
Norway	Raoul Bierach Helge Dyrendal Heidi Hansen
Russian Federation	Alexander Khatuntsov Ekaterina Kazantseva Sergey Prusov
United Kingdom	Ruth Allin Antje Branding Seamus Connor
NGOs	Paul Knight
IGOs	Cathal Gallagher – EIFAAC Ghislain Chouinard – ICES Laura Poinot – ICPR Darius Campbell – NEAFC Vladimir Radchenko – NPAFC Mark Saunders – NPAFC
Secretariat	Emma Hatfield Wendy Kenyon

Order of Business

Agenda items will be taken in the following order:

1.	Opening of the Meeting
2.	Review of the 2020 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
4.	Regulatory Measures
5.	Report of the Working Group on <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>
3.	Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
8.	Other Business
6.	Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
9.	Date and Place of the Next Meeting
7.	Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
<i>Adjourn to Consider Report Text</i>	
10.	Report of the Meeting
11.	Close of the Meeting

Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, [NEA\(21\)09](#), was adopted by correspondence on 30 April, prior to the inter-sessional correspondence period that ran from 3 – 14 May.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Viktor Rozhnov (Russian Federation) will open the meeting and set out the procedures. Members of the Commission 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.*

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

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. There will be time for questions and discussion after the presentation, therefore, further discussion may not be needed under this Agenda item.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are (or will be) available:

- The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(21\)11](#);

- The [Report](#) of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon is on the ICES website;
- Presentation from the Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon.

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.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway), [NEA\(21\)06](#);
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the United Kingdom), [NEA\(21\)10](#);
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the Russian Federation), [NEA\(21\)11](#); and
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the European Union), [NEA\(21\)12](#).

In addition to the MSF papers above, two statements have been tabled as follows:

- Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse, [NEA\(21\)08](#); and
- Joint Statement on behalf of Norway and Russia on Coastal Fisheries Issues, [NEA\(21\)07](#).

4. **Regulatory Measures**

As set out in [NEA\(20\)04](#), in 2018, the Commission adopted a multi-annual Decision for the Faroese salmon fishery for 2018 / 2019, 2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021, [NEA\(18\)12rev_final](#), together with an updated Framework of Indicators (FWI). This Decision indicated that no quota would be set for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone for 2018 / 2019, and that it would also apply in 2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021, unless the application of the FWI showed that a re-assessment was warranted.

The FWI is used in the intermediate years of a multi-year catch agreement to provide an interim assessment of the robustness of the pre-fishery abundance (PFA) forecasts provided by ICES, and to determine whether a full re-assessment of stock status and new catch advice might be required. NASCO has previously agreed, [NEA\(13\)11](#), that when the Faroese fishery is closed, the FWI should only be used to signal the need for a re-assessment where there is an underestimate of forecast abundance (i.e. when a potential harvest might otherwise be available). The rationale for this is that if the FWI signalled that PFA had been overestimated, any new assessment would be even less likely to signal a fishery option.

No fishery for salmon has been prosecuted at the Faroes since 2000 and no quota for the Faroe Islands fishery has been set since 2000. Since 2013 decisions regarding the salmon fishery in Faroese waters have been agreed for three-year periods, unless the

application of the FWI shows that a re-assessment is warranted.

Details of previous Decisions / regulatory measures can be found [here](#).

The Commission will discuss a new Decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters, together with an updated Framework of Indicators.

In previous years alongside agreement of the regulatory measure, a FWI Working Group has been established, with a representative from each NEAC member. The Group has worked by correspondence, in years where no new regulatory measure is negotiated, to co-ordinate the data collection and apply the FWI. The Group has completed its work in January so that ICES could be advised by the end of January, if re-assessment of the catch advice is required. The Commission will discuss whether a FWI Working Group should again be established for this purpose.

The FWI has been updated and can be applied at the beginning of 2022, using the returns or return rate data for 2021 to evaluate the appropriateness of the advice for 2022 / 2023, and again at the beginning of 2023, using the returns or return rate data for 2022 to evaluate the appropriateness of the advice for 2023 / 2024.

The ICES summary of advice for fishing seasons 2021 / 2022 to 2023 / 2024 for Atlantic salmon from the Northeast Atlantic states ([CNL\(21\)11](#), p 29) states:

'In the absence of specific management objectives, ICES advises that the catch on both NEAC complexes at the Faroes in the fishing seasons 2021/2022 to 2023/2024 should be zero.'

The Commission may wish to:

- ***adopt a new Decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters;***
- ***agree to continue to use the FWI approach, together with the new Decision; and***
- ***agree to establish a FWI Working Group with a representative from each NEAC member.***

The following papers are available:

- The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(21\)11](#).

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 Chair of the Working Group has been invited to attend the Meeting to make a short presentation on the report and the recommendation to the Commission.

- ***the Commission may wish to accept the recommendation of the Working Group that a face-to-face, two-day meeting of the Working Group on *G. salaris* take place in March 2022, with the same Terms of Reference.***

The following paper is available:

- Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris*, [NEA\(21\)05](#).

6. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

NASCO operates a Tag Return Incentive Scheme. Individually identifiable, external

tags (or all tags returned from the West Greenland Commission area) that are returned to the appropriate authorities in the country of capture are eligible for inclusion in the draw. Each year a Grand Prize of £1,500 is awarded together with three prizes of £1,000, one in each of NASCO's three Commission areas.

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

- *no decision is required.*

No action is 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.

At its 1992 Annual Meeting, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. The Co-ordinator of the SSC, Paddy Gargan, will be asked to present the Draft Request if it is ready. If the draft request is not ready, the Commission may wish to defer the decision to the Council.

- *the Commission may wish to agree to the relevant section of the SSC's recommendations, although it may wish to defer the decision to the Council.*

The Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations will be available once its work is complete:

- Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES.

8. Other Business

No other business is expected.

9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council is to be held during 7 – 10 June 2022 in Edinburgh.

- *the Commission may wish to agree to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council.*

10. Report of the Meeting

Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure for the NEAC requires that 'A draft report shall be considered by the Commission before the end of the meeting.'

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

- *the Commission may wish to adopt the Report of the Meeting.*

11. Close of the Meeting

The Chair will close the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
21 May 2021

Summary of Commission Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
Adoption of the Agenda	The Agenda was adopted via correspondence by 30 April	NEA(21)09
4. Regulatory Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to adopt a new Decision for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters; • to agree to continue to use the FWI approach, together with the new Decision; and • to agree to establish a FWI Working Group with a representative from each NEAC Party. 	CNL(21)11
5. Report of the Working Group on <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	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	
9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	To agree to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council	
10. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting