

NASCO 11 Rutland Square Edinburgh EH1 2AS Scotland UK
Telephone: (Int+44) 131 228 2551 Fax: (Int+44) 131 228 4384
e-mail: hq@nasco.int website: www.nasco.int

APR43.049

4 June 2015

Mr Victor Escobar
Chairman
The OSPAR Commission
Victoria House
37-63 Southampton Row
London
WC1B 4DA
United Kingdom



Dear Mr Escobar,

I am writing on behalf of the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) in connection with the operation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NASCO and the OSPAR Commission that entered into force on 5 August 2013. This MoU recognises that NASCO and the OSPAR Commission have complementary competences for the conservation and rational management of Atlantic salmon, and the protection of marine ecosystems in the North-East Atlantic, respectively.

The MoU states that the Secretariats of NASCO and the OSPAR Commission will *inter alia*: invite each other to participate as observers in meetings of common interest that each may organise; share information, including annual reports and data and, where appropriate, coordinate on matters concerning the conservation and rational management of salmon and the protection of marine ecosystems in the North-East Atlantic; and report to their respective organizations on the actions taken pursuant to the MoU.

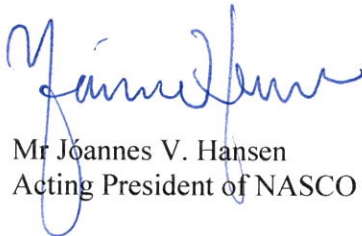
The Council of NASCO welcomes the e-mail from the Secretary of the OSPAR Commission dated 7 May 2015, providing a link to the OSPAR Commission's Annual Reports and inviting NASCO to attend the OSPAR Commission's 2015 Annual Meeting in Ostende, Belgium. This is the first such communication received from the OSPAR Commission's Secretariat since the MoU entered into force and NASCO is concerned that a Draft Recommendation on Furthering the Protection and Conservation of Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) in Regions I, II, III and IV of the OSPAR Maritime area has been developed without any consultation. The Council of NASCO believes that it would have been consistent with the MoU for an invitation to have been extended to NASCO to participate in the meeting of the OSPAR Commission's Biodiversity Committee at which the Draft Recommendation was developed.

While we would welcome the support of the OSPAR Commission for the work of NASCO and its Parties, in its current form the Draft Recommendation fails to recognise the measures, agreements and practices developed and implemented by NASCO, the Regional Fisheries Management Organization charged with conserving, restoring and rationally managing the Atlantic salmon, and by its Parties. There is only one reference to NASCO in the Draft

Recommendation and it is, unfortunately, factually incorrect. In its present form, there is scope for considerable duplication of effort that might have been avoided if the cooperation envisaged under our MoU between our two Organizations had been followed.

The Council of NASCO looks forward to closer cooperation with the OSPAR Commission consistent with our MoU that recognises our Organisations' complementary competences. However, we are concerned that the OSPAR Commission would develop a Draft Recommendation relating to Atlantic salmon without any consultation with NASCO. Consequently, we would appreciate an opportunity for proper consultation and comment before the Draft Recommendation is submitted for adoption.

Yours sincerely



Mr Jóannes V. Hansen
Acting President of NASCO

CC Dr Darius Campbell, Secretary of the OSPAR Commission