



APR43.098

21 June 2021

Mr Richard Cronin
Chair
The OSPAR Commission
The Aspect
12 Finsbury Square
London EC2A 1AS
United Kingdom

Dear Mr Cronin,

I am writing on behalf of the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), with regard to OSPAR's upcoming status assessment of salmon, together with a number of other diadromous species, to be examined at a workshop on 23 June 2021.

NASCO welcomes the opportunity to participate as an observer in this status assessment workshop and appreciates the continuing co-operation between our Organizations under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NASCO and the OSPAR Commission, which came into effect on 5 August 2013.

Our co-operation is based on the respective and distinct competences of NASCO and the OSPAR Commission as articulated in our MoU and in accordance with our respective Conventions. That is, NASCO is the Regional Fisheries Management Organization charged with the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks throughout their range in the North Atlantic Ocean, whilst the OSPAR Commission has a complementary role to play in taking measures to protect the marine environment in the North-East Atlantic from adverse effects of human activities to safeguard human health, conserve marine ecosystems and their biological diversity and, where practicable, restore marine areas that have been adversely affected.

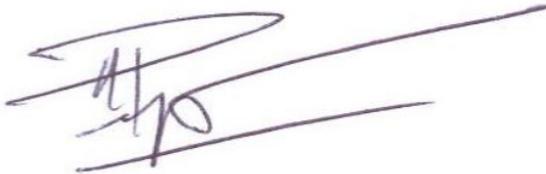
The Council has noted the actions OSPAR has identified in relation to Atlantic salmon. The Council feels it is important that NASCO remains close to this work so that our Organizations' efforts can reinforce each other's and to mitigate the risk of the development of contradictory information, potentially bringing the two Organizations into conflict. This letter brings these considerations to OSPAR's attention. Similar concerns were expressed in 2016, through correspondence in relation to OSPAR's draft recommendation on salmon, and NASCO's concerns expressed at that time remain.

To avoid duplication of work, we suggest that OSPAR's status assessment reflects, as far as possible, the existing work and advice provided by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) for Atlantic salmon populations in the OSPAR area and encourage you to ensure that any additional scientific work be carried out in consultation with ICES. We also request that, following the outcome of the status assessment, OSPAR ensures that any additional conservation measures that may be considered related to Atlantic salmon fall squarely under OSPAR's authority and avoid infringing upon the competence of NASCO.

Further, as foreseen in our MoU, the Council would appreciate an opportunity to review and consult with OSPAR on any such measures prior to their finalisation. In particular, it may be that we are aware of work being carried out within NASCO's competence that would be of relevance to OSPAR and that may need to be taken into account by OSPAR.

Thank you for considering these important matters, and I look forward to your response and hope the upcoming status assessment workshop goes well.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'A. Peyronnet', written over a horizontal line.

Arnaud Peyronnet
President