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Mr Jóannes V. Hansen  
Acting President of NASCO  
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization  
11 Rutland Square  
Edinburgh  
EH1 2AS  
United Kingdom

21 July 2015

Dear Mr Hansen,

Thank you for your letter of the 4 June regarding our Memorandum of Understanding with NASCO.

I am sorry to hear that the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between our organisations has been disappointing so far.

I am pleased some of the issues that you raise have already been addressed in correspondence between our Secretariats, such as the need to keep NASCO advised on the publication of our annual report and dates of Committee meetings. These issues have been relatively easy to fix through updates to our databases.

The issue which remains of concern to me is that we should have coordinated much better with NASCO in the development of one of our draft Recommendations on threatened and/or declining species; that *on furthering the protection and conservation of the Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) in Regions I, II, III and IV of the OSPAR maritime area*. In order to address this issue more generically we have now introduced some further checks to the process where Contracting Parties raise such recommendations through OSPAR Committees to the Commission itself. Hopefully this would mean issues such as the lack of consultation with NASCO will be spotted sooner in the future.

In terms of the current draft Recommendation on Atlantic salmon, in light of certain Contracting Parties having been alerted to the issue and the receipt of your correspondence, the June 22 OSPAR Commission agreed to postpone the further consideration of the Recommendation. Instead, the Commission requested that such consideration would be carried out through consultation with the NASCO, in accordance with the MoU, and should include sufficient reflection of ongoing activities



being implemented by NASCO. Sweden, as the lead Party on the Recommendations, agreed to work on a revised version of the Recommendation with a small task group, including NASCO representatives. I am aware that our Executive Secretaries have been in touch with each other in June on some of the detail of the Recommendation. I have asked the OSPAR Secretariat to get in touch to facilitate the above engagement process.

In closing I would underline that OSPAR very much values its cooperation with NASCO, we hope after these initial problems, we will make good progress in our work together on common challenges facing the North East Atlantic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victor Escobar', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Victor Escobar  
Chairman