



OSPAR Commission
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Arnaud Peyronnet
President

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Date 7 July 2021

Dear Mr Arnaud,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 June 2021 about OSPAR's upcoming status assessment of Atlantic salmon and the related OSPAR assessment workshop on 23 June 2021.

Firstly, I would like to extend my thanks to the NASCO Secretary, Emma Hatfield, for taking the time to join the workshop. Her contributions to the discussions were very valuable, in particular the explanations she was able to provide in relation to the NASCO database which would be used as a source of information for the assessment.

OSPAR recognises and appreciates this type of direct information exchange and dialogue as an important component of work under the Memorandum of Understanding between NASCO and OSPAR.

The status assessments of features included on the OSPAR List of threatened and/or declining features, which includes the Atlantic salmon, contributes to the regular work of OSPAR in bringing together relevant knowledge on the status of the North-East Atlantic. The aim of carrying out regular status assessments of the listed features is to identify any signals in changing status over time, and any change in the intensity of the threats and impacts. The use of third-party assessments is an important part of this process and is highlighted in OSPAR [Agreement 2019-05](#) *Guidance on the Development of Status Assessments for the OSPAR List of Threatened and/or Declining Species and Habitats* with a view to ensuring coherence and the efficient use of resources. For the salmon status assessment, previously completed assessments by NASCO and ICES will be taken into account.

The completion of a status assessment does not pre-empt any future decisions to take measures or other actions. Work to take possible new measures would as relevant be taken through a process of updating OSPAR Recommendation 2016-03 which clearly recalls the complementary competencies of OSPAR and NASCO. As you suggest in your letter, in line with our MoU, we would consult with NASCO on any such proposed measures to avoid duplication and impinging on NASCO's competence. Similarly, we invite NASCO to continue to bring to the attention of OSPAR any work being carried out within NASCO's competence that



would be of relevance to OSPAR, for example by participating in future meetings of the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee.

Thank you for raising these important issues. It is a helpful reminder of the importance of continuing to share information and experience on our shared objective of protecting salmon in the North-East Atlantic.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Richard Cronin".

Richard Cronin

Chair of the OSPAR Commission