



Explanatory Memorandum on the Draft Agenda

Papers for the meeting are posted on the [NASCO website](#), including the Draft Schedule of Meetings.

A summary of the decisions before the Council will be detailed in the Annotated Agenda, which will be available prior to the meeting.

During the meeting, interventions by accredited NGOs shall be in accordance with the Revised Conditions for Attendance by Observers at NASCO Meetings, [CNL\(06\)49](#). The President will recognise such requests on all Agenda items other than item 3.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President, Arnaud Peyronnet (EU), will open the meeting and make a statement on behalf of the Organization. Parties, IGOs, NGOs and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) may make verbal Opening Statements, as is usual in years when regulatory measures are negotiated. Participants are encouraged to submit a written version of their Opening Statement for distribution. These statements will be annexed to the report of the meeting.

- no decision is required.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda, [CNL\(22\)01](#), was issued on 4 February 2022. No supplementary items have been proposed by the Parties so a Draft Agenda, [CNL\(22\)03](#), is now available. A Draft Schedule of Meetings, [CNL\(22\)02](#), has also been issued.

- the Council will be asked to adopt its Agenda.

3. Financial and Administrative Issues

a) Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC), Clemens Fieseler (EU), will present the Report of the Meeting of the FAC to the Council, CNL(22)05. The Report will be available on the website and will include the Draft Budget for 2023 and the Forecast Budget for 2024.

Article 16 of the Convention states that *'The Council shall adopt an annual budget for the Organization.'* The Council will be asked to:

- accept the Audited Accounts for 2021;
- adopt a budget for 2023;
- decide on any actions required relating to NASCO's Rules Relating to Finance and Administration Matters;
- decide on any actions required under NASCO's MoUs with ICES and / or the OSPAR Commission;
- decide on any actions required under 'Appointment of Auditors'; and
- adopt the Report of the FAC.

4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

a) Secretary's Report

The Secretary's Report provides information on procedural, administrative, financial and other matters, CNL(22)06. It also contains a proposal for the production of a high-impact scientific review paper on the impact of salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon, CNL(22)07, in line with the decision of the Council in 2021 following the Theme-based Special Session on aquaculture, see [CNL\(21\)62](#) (paragraph 5.10).

- Council may wish to approve the approach proposed.

b) The Third Performance Review: Presentation to the Council from the Chair of the Performance Review Panel

The Council has agreed that the third performance review of NASCO will take place in 2022, [CNL\(21\)15](#). The Chair of the Performance Review Panel, Erik Molenaar, will make a presentation to Council.

- no decision is required.

c) Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2021

The 'Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2021' is available, [CNL\(22\)08](#). This is required under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention.

- the Council will be asked to adopt the report.

d) Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

NASCO runs a Tag Return Incentive Scheme to encourage and improve the return of tags and recapture information. The President will announce the winner of the Grand Prize of £1,500. The winners of the Commission prizes of £1,000 will be announced in each Commission.

- no decision is required.

e) Scientific Advice from ICES

ICES has informed NASCO that:

'all Committee and Expert Group meetings, whether in-person, online or hybrid, scheduled between 7 March and 1 April 2022 will be cancelled or postponed. This will have implications for the timing and delivery of advice. This is in response to the crisis in Europe which is compromising the participation of experts and making collaboration across the network difficult or impossible'

(email to NASCO on 4 March 2022).

At the time of writing, it is unclear what ICES will be able to offer NASCO as advice in 2022. The Secretariat is in a dialogue with ICES to discuss the different options available and Council will be informed once the position is clear.

- no decision is required.

f) Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

The Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board Meeting will be presented to Council by the Chair, Martha Robertson (Canada), CNL(22)10. Board papers will be available on the [Board website](#). The Terms of Reference for the Board,

[ICR\(20\)03](#), state ‘Board meeting reports will be considered by the Council for adoption.’

- the Council will be asked to adopt the report.

g) **Consideration of Alternative Ways of Conducting NASCO Business Following the Covid-19 Pandemic**

In 2020, the representative of the NGOs noted the efforts made to conduct the Annual Meeting when travel and face-to-face meetings were not possible due to the Covid-19 pandemic, [CNL\(20\)51](#) (paragraph 8.1). This agenda item provides an opportunity to explore whether the procedures developed for the ‘virtual’ 2020 and 2021 Annual Meetings might be incorporated into NASCO’s future operations, CNL(22)11.

- the Council will be asked to consider proposals on this matter.

h) **Report of the Rivers Database Working Group**

In 2021, the Council agreed to establish a Working Group to address issues related to the future of the Rivers Database, and to report back to the Annual Meeting in 2022 [CNL\(21\)62](#). The Report of the Meeting of the Rivers Database Working Group will be available, [CNL\(22\)12](#). The Rivers Database is on the [NASCO website](#).

- the Council will be asked to consider the recommendations of the Rivers Database Working Group.

i) **Report of the Standing Scientific Committee**

Articles 3 and 4 of the Convention require NASCO to take into account the best scientific evidence and establish working arrangements with ICES. The Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) assists the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. The draft request for Scientific Advice from ICES will be developed during the meeting and presented by the Chair of the SSC, Livia Goodbrand (Canada), CNL(22)13.

- the Council will be asked to adopt a request to ICES for scientific advice.

5. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach

a) **Report from the Tromsø Symposium on the Recommendations to Address Future Management Challenges**

(i) Special Session: Report from the Tromsø Symposium on the Recommendations to Address Future Management Challenges

To mark the International Year of the Salmon (IYS), a two-day symposium titled ‘Managing the Atlantic salmon in a rapidly changing environment - management challenges and possible responses’ was held immediately prior to the 2019 NASCO Annual Meeting. The IYS Symposium Steering Committee identified areas where NASCO could either start new initiatives, update and modernise existing guidelines, work with the Parties, or facilitate the development and dissemination of information to promote the future conservation of Atlantic salmon. The Chair of the Symposium Steering Committee, Eva Thorstad (Norway) will present the recommendations. The Report of the Symposium, includes the recommendations of the Steering Committee, [CNL\(19\)16](#).

(ii) Decisions taken in light of the Special Session on the Report from the

Tromsø Symposium on the Recommendations to Address Future Management Challenges

This Agenda item allows for decisions to be taken in light of the recommendations of the IYS Symposium Steering Committee, if required. A paper exploring how the recommendations could be addressed will be available, CNL(22)14.

- the Council will be asked to consider the recommendations of the IYS Symposium Steering Committee.

b) Evaluation of Implementation Plans Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)

(i) Special Session: Evaluation of Implementation Plans Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)

NASCO has adopted Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines that address the Organization's principal areas of concern for the management of salmon stocks. In 2005 it was agreed that 'NASCO will be committed to the measures and agreements it develops and actively review progress with implementation plans', [CNL\(05\)49](#). Parties' revised Implementation Plans (IPs) under the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024) were reviewed by the IP / APR Review Group in November 2021. The Chair of the IP / APR Review Group, Cathal Gallagher (EU), will present the report of the 2021 Meeting of the IP / APR Review Group to review the IPs, [CNL\(22\)15](#).

Implementation Plans, their reviews and Annual Progress Reports are on the [website](#).

(ii) Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Implementation Plans Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)

This Agenda item allows for decisions to be taken in light of the Implementation Plan Special Session, if required.

- the Council will be asked to consider any actions arising from the Special Session.

c) Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans

(i) Special Session: Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans

Parties / jurisdictions submit an Annual Progress Report (APR) to NASCO each year. APRs are the primary medium through which NASCO assesses Parties' / jurisdictions' progress towards the achievement of its Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Additionally, under Article 15 of the NASCO Convention, Parties are required to report catch statistics and other information to Council annually. This is achieved through the submission of APRs. The Chair of the IP / APR Review Group, Cathal Gallagher (EU), will present the report of the 2022 meeting to review the APRs, CNL(22)16.

Implementation Plans, their reviews and the Annual Progress Reports are on the [website](#). A summary of the APRs will also be available, CNL(22)17.

(ii) Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans

This Agenda item allows for decisions to be taken in light of the Annual Progress Report Special Session, if required.

- the Council will be asked to consider any actions arising from the Special Session.

d) **International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities**

In 2016, the NASCO Council decided to hold an International Year of the Salmon (IYS) in partnership with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The focal year for the IYS was 2019 with some efforts continuing to 2022. The aim of the IYS was to raise awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance, the environmental and anthropogenic challenges they face, and the measures being taken to address these.

The [IYS Synthesis Symposium](#) will take place in Vancouver, Canada, on 4 – 6 October 2022. Additionally in 2021, the Council agreed to consider the timing and structure of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report once the Rivers Database Working Group has reported. A paper updating the Council on these issues will be available, CNL(22)18.

- the Council will be asked to consider when a second State of North Atlantic Salmon Report should be published.

e) **Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, [CNL\(13\)38](#)**

NASCO’s second performance review reported in 2012, [CNL\(12\)11](#). A paper reporting on progress in implementing the measures contained in the associated ‘Action Plan for taking forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO, CNL(13)38’ will be available, CNL(22)19.

- the Council will be asked to consider whether this paper will be required in 2023, as the Report of NASCO’s third performance review will be available.

f) **Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry**

In 2013, the Council agreed that the regular meetings of the International Salmon Farming Association (ISFA) / NASCO Liaison Group would not continue but that if a need arose, consideration would be given to convening a joint *ad hoc* group. The Council decided to retain an item on its Agenda during which a representative of the ISFA could be invited to participate in an exchange of information on issues concerning impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon. ISFA has been invited to contribute a paper which will be made available on the website, if provided.

- no decision is required.

g) **New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management**

ICES has informed NASCO that:

‘all Committee and Expert Group meetings, whether in-person, online or hybrid, scheduled between 7 March and 1 April 2022 will be cancelled or postponed. This will have implications for the timing and delivery of advice. This is in response to the crisis in Europe which is compromising the participation of experts and making collaboration across the network difficult or impossible’

(email to NASCO on 4 March 2022).

At the time of writing, it is unclear what ICES will be able to offer NASCO as advice in 2022. The Secretariat is in a dialogue with ICES to discuss the different options available and Council will be informed once the position is clear.

- no decision is required.

h) Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

In recent years, the Council and the North American Commission have been concerned about catches of salmon at St Pierre and Miquelon which, although low, occur at a time when there are serious concerns about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the North American Commission area.

As requested by the Council in 2021, the President of NASCO wrote to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) inviting them to join NASCO. The [President's letter](#) is on the website and any response will be made available.

The paper 'Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery' is available, CNL(22)20.

- no decision is required.

i) Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions

Under Article 10 of the Convention '*Each Commission, shall, on a timely basis, make a report of its activities to Council.*' The Commission Chairs will present a report of their activities to Council.

- no decision is required.

6. Other Business

Any other business may be raised.

7. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Secretariat has received no invitations from any Party to host the Fortieth Annual Meeting, which will be held on 6 – 9 June 2023.

- the Council will be asked to confirm the dates of, and consider the venue for, its Fortieth Annual Meeting in 2023.
- the Council will be asked to consider the dates for its Forty-First Annual Meeting in 2024: 4 – 7 June 2024 are proposed.

8. Press Release

A Draft Press Release will be prepared for consideration by the Council.

- the Council will be asked to agree to issue the Press Release.

9. Report of the Meeting

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

- the Council will be asked to adopt a Report of the Meeting.

10. Close of the Meeting

The President will close the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
5 April 2022