



**Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council
Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edinburgh, Scotland**

6 – 9 June 2022

Annotated Agenda

The purpose of this paper is to provide the background, decisions and links to papers, for each item on the Agenda for the Meeting of the Council.

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

This Annotated Agenda references papers that the Secretariat is aware of, at the time of writing. If additional papers are issued, they will be posted on the website and delegates will be informed by email.

A summary of the decisions before the Council this year is contained in Annex 1.

To assist with decision making, Annex 2 contains a timetable for NASCO work that is expected to be conducted between June 2022 and May 2023 and an indicative schedule of NASCO’s work for the next five years.

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.

Timings of the Meeting (UK local time)

The Council will meet on:

• Monday 6 June	09:00 – 12:00 hrs
• Tuesday 7 June	09:45 – 11:15 hrs Special Session of the Council: Report from the Tromsø Symposium on the Recommendations to Address Future Management Challenges
• Tuesday 7 June	11:30 – 12:15 hrs Special Session of the Council: Evaluation of Implementation Plans Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)
• Tuesday 7 June	12:15 – 13:00 hrs Special Session of the Council: Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports Under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans
• Wednesday 8 June	09:00 – 12:00 hrs
• Thursday 9 June	09:00 – 13:00 hrs

Order of Business

The meeting will begin on Monday 6 June with the ‘Opening of the Meeting’ followed by a break. Delegates will be advised of the daily order of business during the Annual Meeting.

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. Delegates are requested to submit a written version of their Opening Statement for distribution. These 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. Draft Agenda, [CNL\(22\)03](#), was issued on 6 April 2022.

- *the Council may wish to adopt its Agenda.*

3. Financial and Administrative Issues

The Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) will meet on 5 June. The Chair will present the Report of the Meeting of the FAC to the Council, CNL(22)05. The Report will be made 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 may wish to:

- *accept the Audited Accounts for 2021;*
- *consider any recommendations relating to the clarification of the Staff Rules / Staff Fund Rules;*
- *consider any recommendations relating to NASCO’s MoUs with ICES and / or the OSPAR Commission;*
- *approve the budget for 2023 and note a Forecast Budget for 2024; and*
- *adopt the Report of the FAC.*

The following papers are (or will be) available:

- Draft Agenda, [FAC\(22\)01](#);
- Audited Accounts [FAC\(22\)02](#);
- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting(s) of the Finance and Administration Committee, [FAC\(22\)03](#);
- MoU with OSPAR, [FAC\(22\)04](#);
- 2023 Draft Budget 2024 Forecast Budget and Five-Year (2023 - 2027) Budgeting Plan, [FAC\(22\)05](#);
- Report of the Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, CNL(22)05.

Other papers for the FAC are available [here](#).

4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

a) Secretary’s Report

The Secretary's Report provides information on procedural, administrative, financial and other matters. Unusually this year, there is a section (Section 9) that provides information on work that has been undertaken to enable the production of a high-impact scientific review paper on the impact of salmon farming (sea lice and escapes) on wild Atlantic salmon. This follows the Council's adoption of the draft recommendation from the 2021 Theme-based Special Session (TBSS) Steering Committee, [CNL\(21\)62](#) (paragraph 5.10):

'... to establish a Working Group to draft a NASCO report which provides the latest scientific knowledge on the impacts of sea lice and escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon.'

An accompanying paper, CNL(22)07, lays out a proposal to Council to enable this innovative research to be carried out and the paper produced.

- *the Council may wish to approve the approach laid out in the paper and the funding requested, CNL(22)07.*

The following papers are available:

- Secretary's Report, [CNL\(22\)06](#); and
- Proposal for the Production of a Systematic Review of the Effect of Salmon Aquaculture on Wild Atlantic Salmon Populations, [CNL\(22\)07](#).

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 the Council to introduce the Review Panel and present its working methods.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is relevant:

- Terms of Reference for the Third Performance Review of NASCO, [CNL\(21\)22](#).

c) Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2021

Article 5, paragraph 6, of the [Convention](#) states 'The Council shall submit to the Parties an annual report of the activities of the Organization.'

- *the Council may wish to adopt the report.*

The following paper is available:

- Report on the Activities of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization in 2021, [CNL\(22\)08](#).

d) Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

NASCO operates a Tag Return Incentive Scheme. External tags that are returned to the appropriate authorities in the country of capture are eligible for inclusion in the draw. Each year a Grand Prize of £1,500 is awarded together with three prizes of £1,000, one in each of NASCO's three Commission areas.

The Grand Prize winner will be announced in the Meeting and then on the website and twitter; they will be recorded in the Meeting Report.

- *no decision is required.*

e) **Scientific Advice from ICES**

On 4 March 2022 ICES 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’

Despite this, the ICES advice for North Atlantic Salmon Stocks was published on 6 May 2022 in response to the Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, [CNL\(21\)14](#). In a letter accompanying the advice, ICES states that:

‘The advice is based on the full ICES assessments that were conducted in 2021. The assessments are outlined in the [Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon 2021 report](#) along with the Frameworks of Indicators (which were provided in 2021 for use in 2022 and 2023). ICES states that the advice provided in 2022 conforms to the 10 principles that govern ICES advice, which include that the advice is based on the best available science and conforms to our data quality. The advice is suitable and a valid source of information for management actions scheduled in the relevant NASCO Salmon Commission areas...

The requests for advice on Atlantic salmon in the East Greenland area and the provision of an update on the distribution and abundance of pink salmon across the North Atlantic should be released in early September 2022, including underpinning report materials.’

The Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Dennis Ensing, will present the ICES advice relating to the North Atlantic. He will also present the advice relating to item 5g) ‘New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management’. The Chair of WGNAS will answer questions following his presentation.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(22\)09](#);
- the Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon is on the [ICES website](#).

f) **Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) will meet on 5 and 7 June. The Report of the Meeting will be presented to Council by the Chair, Martha Robertson (Canada). The main topic for its consideration will be the Report of the Review of the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections of Relevance to Mortality of Salmon at Sea, [ICR\(22\)03](#).

The Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) and its Scientific Advisory Group state ‘Board meeting reports will be considered by the Council for adoption’ [ICR\(20\)03](#).

- *the Council may wish to adopt the Report of the Meeting of the Board.*

The following paper will be available:

- the Report of the Meeting of the Board, CNL(22)10.

Other papers for the Board meeting are [available here](#).

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

In March 2020 the World Health Organization declared a Covid-19 pandemic. Governments around the world adopted measures to reduce the spread of the virus, such as banning large events and implementing travel restrictions. As a result, in 2020, for the first time ever, and again in 2021 the NASCO Annual Meeting could not be conducted face-to-face. Alternative arrangements were put in place.

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, [CNL\(20\)51](#) (paragraph 8.1). This Agenda item provides an opportunity to explore whether procedures developed during the pandemic, by NASCO and other RFMOs, might be incorporated into NASCO's future operations.

Council will be asked to consider:

- *the format of future NASCO Annual Meetings;*
- *general principles for determining the format of inter-sessional meetings;*
- *whether inter-sessional correspondence should be used prior to the NASCO Annual Meeting and / or inter-sessional meetings; and*
- *whether changes to communications / papers should be considered to improve the functioning of NASCO in the post-pandemic working environment.*

The following paper is available:

- Alternative Ways of Conducting NASCO Business, [CNL\(22\)11](#).

h) Report of the Rivers Database Working Group

At its Annual Meeting in 2021, [CNL\(21\)62](#), the Council agreed that NASCO should retain a website-accessible Rivers Database. The Rivers Database is now available on the website: [NASCO Rivers Database – NASCO](#). The Council also agreed to establish a Working Group to address high-level issues with respect to the Rivers Database, and to report back to the Annual Meeting in 2022. The Rivers Database Working Group met by video conference on 23 and 24 November and 2 December 2021. The Chair of the Working Group, Livia Goodbrand (Canada), will present the report, which includes 12 recommendations to Council.

Please note: Agenda item 5d 'International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities' is linked to this Agenda item. It relates to the timing and format of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report, which will likely be based on data from the Rivers Database.

Council may wish to agree on:

- *the purpose of the Rivers Database (recommendation 1);*
- *the scope of the Rivers Database and the metrics required (recommendations 2 and 3);*
- *the data needed relative to each metric (recommendations 4 and 5);*

- *how the Rivers Database should be displayed (recommendations 6 and 7);*
- *how data should be provided and inputted to the Rivers Database (recommendation 8);*
- *the frequency of updates of the Rivers Database (recommendation 9); and*
- *other recommendations relevant to the development and maintenance of the Rivers Database (recommendations 10, 11, 12).*

The following papers are available:

- Report of the Rivers Database Working Group, [CNL\(22\)12](#);
- The Future for the NASCO Rivers Database, [CNL\(21\)13](#); and
- International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities, [CNL\(22\)18](#).

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. In 1992, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. The SSC comprises two representatives from each Commission, ideally one scientist and one manager. Its work is co-ordinated by Livia Goodbrand (Canada). During the Annual Meeting, the SSC will meet to develop a Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES for consideration by the Council and Commissions.

Council may wish to note that NASCO usually requests ‘full advice’ from ICES every three years. This is to coincide with the negotiation of a new regulatory measure in the West Greenland Commission and a new Decision in the North-East Atlantic Commission. Full advice was requested for 2021 to support such negotiations. However, whilst a three-year Decision was agreed in the North-East Atlantic Commission, only a one-year regulatory measure was agreed in the West Greenland Commission in 2021. Therefore, full advice was requested from ICES again in 2022, to support negotiation of a new regulatory measure in the West Greenland Commission in 2022.

Depending on the outcome of the agreement on a regulatory measure in the West Greenland Commission, the Standing Scientific Committee and the Council may need to consider the timing of the next request for full advice from ICES.

- *the Council may wish to adopt a request to ICES for scientific advice.*

The Standing Scientific Committee’s recommendations will be available once its work is complete:

- Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES.

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 made a number of recommendations to NASCO in its report.

The Chair of the Symposium Steering Committee, Eva Thorstad (Norway) has been invited to present the report and its recommendations. Her presentation will be followed by a discussion of the issues raised.

This is a ‘Special Session’ when all delegates are encouraged to participate.

- ***any decisions related to this Special Session will be taken under Agenda Item 5a(ii).***

The following paper is available:

- Managing the Atlantic Salmon in a Rapidly Changing Environment – Management Challenges and Possible Responses: [Report of the NASCO Symposium for the International Year of the Salmon](#) (includes recommendations from the Steering Committee, CNL(19)16).

Hard copies of the report will be available at the meeting.

(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 discussion in the Special Session. The Council will be asked to consider the recommendations of the Tromsø Symposium Steering Committee.

Whilst considering the recommendations of the Tromsø Symposium Steering Committee, Council may wish to note that the third performance review of NASCO will take place in 2022 and will report to the 2023 Annual Meeting. The Terms of Reference for the performance review, [CNL\(21\)22](#), state that:

‘In carrying out this work special attention should be given to ... The ‘Recommendations to NASCO to Address Future Management Challenges in the Report from the Tromsø Steering Committee’, CNL(19)16, ... including the Council’s responses to these recommendations....’

Council may wish to consider:

- ***any possible overlap between work resulting from the Tromsø Symposium Steering Committee recommendations and the forthcoming third performance review; and***
- ***if, how and when to address the issues raised in each of the 11 recommendations from the Tromsø Symposium Steering Committee.***

The following papers are available:

- Managing the Atlantic Salmon in a Rapidly Changing Environment – Management Challenges and Possible Responses: [Report of the NASCO Symposium for the International Year of the Salmon](#) (includes recommendations from the Steering Committee, CNL(19)16).
- Proposals for Addressing the IYS Symposium Recommendations, [CNL\(22\)14](#).

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' / jurisdictions' 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. His presentation will be followed by a discussion of the issues raised.

This is a 'Special Session' when all delegates are encouraged to participate.

- *any decisions related to this Special Session will be taken under Agenda Item 5b(ii).*

The following paper is available:

- Fourth Interim Report of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Implementation Plans under the Third Cycle of Reporting (2019 – 2024), [CNL\(22\)15](#).

Implementation Plans, Annual Progress Reports and related papers are available on the [Third Reporting Cycle \(2019 – 2024\) webpage](#).

(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.

In its report, the Review Group noted that, in line with the IP Guidelines, any revised IPs should be submitted by 1 November in 2022 (and 2023). It also requested that no further guidance on the review of IPs be forthcoming from Council.

The Council may wish to:

- *request that the Chair and Secretary of the IP / APR Review Group arrange a meeting in November 2022 to review any revised IPs; and*
- *consider any actions arising from the Special Session.*

The following papers are available:

- Fourth Interim Report of the IP / APR Review Group for the Review of Implementation Plans, [CNL\(22\)15](#).

Implementation Plans, Annual Progress Reports and related papers are available on the [Third Reporting Cycle \(2019 – 2024\) webpage](#).

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 of the IP / APR Review Group to review the APRs. His presentation will be followed by a discussion of the issues raised.

This is a 'Special Session' when all delegates are encouraged to participate.

- *any decisions related to this Special Session will be taken under Agenda Item 5c(ii).*

The following papers are available:

- Report of the Meeting of the IP / APR Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports, [CNL\(22\)16](#); and
- Annual Progress Report Summary, [CNL\(22\)17](#).

Implementation Plans, Annual Progress Reports and related papers are available on the [Third Reporting Cycle \(2019 – 2024\) webpage](#).

(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, and in light of the report.

In section 5.1 of its report, [CNL\(22\)16](#), the Review Group requested some minor APR template changes for subsequent years to promote more effective reporting by Parties / jurisdictions.

The Council may wish to:

- *agree the minor changes to the APR template requested by the Review Group;*
- *request that the Chair of the IP / APR Review Group and Secretary arrange a meeting in April 2023 to review the 2022 APRs; and*
- *consider actions arising from the Special Session.*

The following papers are available:

- Report of the Meeting of the IP / APR Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports, [CNL\(22\)16](#); and
- Annual Progress Report Summary, [CNL\(22\)17](#).

Implementation Plans, Annual Progress Reports and related papers are available on the [Third Reporting Cycle \(2019 – 2024\) webpage](#).

d) International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities

In 2016, the 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 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.

In 2020, Council agreed that a joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium should be held, [CNL\(20\)51rev](#). The IYS Concluding Symposium is now called the [IYS Synthesis Symposium](#): ‘Salmon in a Rapidly Changing World: Synthesis of the International Year of the Salmon and a Roadmap to 2030’. It will take place in Vancouver, Canada, from 4 – 6 October 2022.

Additionally, at the 2021 Annual Meeting, the Secretariat was asked to ‘consider the timing and structure of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report, once the Rivers Database Working Group has reported...’

Please note: Agenda item 4h ‘Report of the Rivers Database Working Group’ is linked to this Agenda item.

- *Council may wish to consider and agree to the proposed purpose, format and indicative timetable for planning and publication of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report.*

The following papers are available:

- International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities Update, [CNL\(22\)18](#);
- Report of the Rivers Database Working Group, [CNL\(22\)12](#); and
- NASCO’s first [State of North Atlantic Salmon Report](#), published in 2019.

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

In 2013, following NASCO’s Second (external) Performance Review, [CNL\(12\)11](#), the Council adopted an ‘Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, [CNL\(13\)38](#). Comprehensive progress reports on the recommendations contained in the Action Plan have been submitted to the Council each year since 2014.

As set out above, the Council has agreed that the third performance review of NASCO will take place in 2022. The Chair of the Performance Review Panel, Erik Molenaar, will make a presentation under Agenda item 4b. The purpose of the Third Performance Review of NASCO as set out in its Terms of Reference, [CNL\(21\)22](#), is to assess the ‘performance of NASCO since its previous review in 2012,...’ The report of NASCO’s Third Performance Review Panel will be published prior to the 2023 Annual Meeting and considered at that meeting. Therefore, this agenda item (5e) may not be required in 2023.

- *Council may wish to agree that the Agenda item ‘Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan ...’ is not required in 2023.*

The following paper is available:

- External Performance Review Action Plan, [CNL\(22\)19](#).

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 ISFA

could be invited to participate in an exchange of information on issues concerning impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon.

ISFA has informed the Secretariat that it will not send a representative to attend the NASCO Annual Meeting in 2022. It has been invited to contribute a paper or written statement 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

This is addressed under Agenda item 4e), Scientific Advice from ICES, above.

- *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. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has provided a Report on the 2021 Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon.

In 2021, the Council agreed to write to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to invite them to join NASCO. The [President's letter on 31 January 2022](#) emphasised how NASCO's Implementation Plan process would enable France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to highlight their positive actions for salmon management. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) [replied on 22 April 2022](#) stating, among other things, that:

'France has, therefore, decided to strengthen the framework around the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon, shortening the fishing season to 1 May – 21 July and capping the number of recreational licenses issued at 80 in 2021... France therefore wishes to retain its status as observer to NASCO.'

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery, [CNL\(22\)20rev.](#)

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 President will ask the Chairs of each of the regional Commissions of NASCO to report to the Council on the work of their Commission.

- *no decision is required.*

6. Other Business

Proposal for NASCO Statements on Salmon Farming

In 2021, NASCO held a Theme-based Special Session (TBSS) on aquaculture. The overarching objective was to stimulate urgent action to implement further measures to protect wild salmon from the impacts of salmon farming, and to ensure demonstrable

progress by Parties / jurisdictions towards achievement of the international goals for sea lice and escaped farmed salmon, taking into account the recommendations from the Steering Committees of the [2016 TBSS](#) and the 2019 IYS Symposium, [CNL\(19\)16](#).

The 2021 TBSS Steering Committee made three draft recommendations to the Council of NASCO. One of them was that:

‘A NASCO statement be issued to:

a) promote adoption of innovative and alternate technologies, at sea and on land, to help achieve 100% containment of farmed fish and for 100% of farms to have effective sea lice management such that there is no increase in sea lice loads, for the protection of wild salmon and sea trout; and

b) that any wild salmon smolt mortality or genetic introgression of salmon stocks caused by salmon farming is unacceptable when referenced as part of an Implementation Plan action and cannot be considered under the review process as progressing the relevant party or jurisdiction towards achieving NASCO’s goals.’

In response, discussions were held on the wording to be used in such a statement, and whether it would be for an internal or external audience. Additionally, during the discussions following the TBSS, the European Union proposed the following statement:

‘Parties / jurisdictions should consider adopting a policy of phasing out open net pen salmon aquaculture over a specified period or licence term and restrict any new licences to those utilising alternative technologies in order to make significant progress towards achievement of the International Goals for sea lice and containment. This policy should be prioritised in sensitive areas such as the estuaries of NASCO Class I salmon rivers or salmon rivers in Special Areas of Conservation and other protected areas and along salmon migration routes.’

Council agreed that the Secretariat would prepare a draft statement, taking its discussions into account, and that the statement would be agreed, inter-sessionally, by correspondence. As agreed, the Secretary prepared a draft statement and discussions between Heads of Delegations, the Secretary and the President took place between October 2021 and February 2022. A number of versions of a draft NASCO statement on salmon farming have been considered. The most recent version of the text was made available on 13 January 2022 to the Parties, privately via the Heads of Delegations, and to the NGO Co-Chairs. Agreement on the text has yet to be reached.

Council may wish to:

- ***agree the text for the statement.***

The following paper is available publicly:

- Report of the Theme-based Special Session - Minimising Impacts of Salmon Farming on Wild Atlantic Salmon: Supporting Meaningful and More Rapid Progress Towards Achievement of the International Goals for Sea Lice and Containment, [CNL\(21\)65](#).

7. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Fortieth Annual Meeting will be held during 6 – 9 June 2023. At this time, there are no firm invitations from any of the Parties and jurisdictions to host the meeting.

- *Council will be asked to confirm the dates of, and consider the venue for, its Fortieth Annual Meeting in 2023; and*
- *Council may wish to agree on the dates of 4 – 7 June for the 2024 Annual Meeting.*

8. Press Release

A draft Press Release will be circulated during the meeting.

- *Council may wish to agree the Press Release.*

9. Report of the Meeting

Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure for Council requires that ‘A draft report shall be considered by the Council before the end of the meeting.’ A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review.

- *the Council may wish to adopt the Report of the Meeting.*

10. Close of the Meeting

The President will close the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
27 May 2022

Summary of Council Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	CNL(22)03
3 Financial and Administrative Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accept the Audited Accounts for 2021; • consider any recommendations relating to the clarification of the Staff Rules / Staff Fund Rules; • consider any recommendations relating to NASCO's MoUs with ICES and / or the OSPAR Commission; • approve the budget for 2023 and to note a Forecast Budget for 2024; and • adopt the Report of the FAC. 	CNL(22)05 (Issued at meeting)
4a. Secretary's Report	With reference to Section 9 of the Secretary's Report approve the approach laid out in the paper and the funding requested, CNL(22)07 (on the production of a paper on the impact of salmon farming on wild Atlantic Salmon).	CNL(22)06 CNL(22)07
4c. Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2021	Adopt the Report on the Activities of the Organization	CNL(22)08
4f. Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board	Adopt the Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board	CNL(22)10 (Issued at meeting)
4g. Consideration of Alternative Ways of Conducting NASCO Business Following the Covid-19 Pandemic	<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the format of future NASCO Annual Meetings; • general principles for determining the format of inter-sessional meetings; • whether inter-sessional correspondence should be used prior to the NASCO Annual Meeting and / or inter-sessional meetings; and • whether changes to communications / papers should be considered to improve the functioning of NASCO in the post-pandemic working environment. 	CNL(22)11

4h. Report of the Rivers Database Working Group	<p>Agree on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the purpose of the Rivers Database (recommendation 1); • the scope of the Rivers Database and the metrics required (recommendations 2 and 3); • the data needed relative to each metric (recommendations 4 and 5); • how the Rivers Database should be displayed (recommendations 6 and 7); • how data should be provided and inputted to the Rivers Database (recommendation 8); • the frequency of updates of the Rivers Database (recommendation 9); and • other recommendations relevant to the development and maintenance of the Rivers Database (recommendations 10, 11, 12). 	CNL(22)12
4i. Report of the Standing Scientific Committee	Adopt the Standing Scientific Committee recommendations	Issued at meeting
5a(ii) Decisions Taken Following the Special Session on the Tromsø Symposium Recommendations	<p>Consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any possible overlap between work resulting from the Tromsø Symposium Steering Committee recommendations and the forthcoming third performance review; and • if, how and when to address the issues raised in each of the 11 recommendations from the Tromsø Symposium Steering Committee. 	CNL(19)16 CNL(22)14
5b(ii) Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Implementation Plans Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • request that the Chair and Secretary of the IP / APR Review Group arrange a meeting in November 2022 to review any revised IPs; and • consider any actions arising from the Special Session. 	CNL(22)15

5c)(ii) Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports Under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree the minor changes to the APR template requested by the Review Group; • request that the Chair of the IP / APR Review Group and Secretary arrange a meeting in April 2023 to review the 2022 APRs; and • consider actions arising from the Special Session. 	CNL(22)16
5d. International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider and agree to the purpose, format and indicative timetable for planning and publication of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report 	CNL(22)18
5e. Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan...	Council may wish to agree that the Agenda item ‘Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan ...’ is not required in 2023.	CNL(22)19
6. Other Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree the text for the statement. 	
7. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will be asked to confirm the dates of, and consider the venue for, its Fortieth Annual Meeting in 2023; and • Council may wish to agree on the dates of 4 – 7 June for the 2024 Annual Meeting. 	
8. Press Release	Agree the Press Release	
9. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report of the Meeting	Issued at meeting

Indicative Timetable of NASCO Work, June 2022 to May 2023

Date	Description	Location
12–13 September (TBC)	Steering Committee Meeting for the 2023 TBSS on Climate Change	Virtual
3 October	Pink Salmon Workshop	Vancouver
4 – 6 October	IYS Synthesis Symposium	Vancouver
26 – 27 October	Meeting of the Working Group on <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>	Edinburgh
14 – 18 November (TBC)	Meeting to Review Revised Implementation Plans (IP / APR Review Group)	Virtual
5 – 9 December	Third Performance Review Panel Meeting (logistical support provided by the Secretariat)	Edinburgh
10 – 14 April (TBC)	Meeting to Review Annual Progress Reports (IP / APR Review Group)	Virtual

Timetable of Likely NASCO Work for the Next Five Years

Date	Description
2022	Work in Response to the Recommendations from the IYS Tromsø Symposium Steering Committee
2023	Work in Response to the Report of the Third Performance Review
2023	Planning for the Fourth Reporting Cycle (2025 – 2030) – arranging / supporting the Working Group on Future Reporting;
2024	Negotiation of a New Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters for 2024 onwards
2024	Working to Finalise the Documentation for the Fourth Reporting Cycle
2024	Publication of the next State of Salmon Report (to be confirmed)
2024 / 2025	Work inter-sessionally towards the recruitment of the next NASCO Secretary
2025	Negotiation of a new Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland from 2024 (depending on the duration of the regulatory measure agreed in 2022)
2025	Next NASCO Secretary to Commence Work in the Secretariat in Second Half of Year.
2025	Supporting the Review of the Implementation Plans for the Fourth Reporting Cycle
2025	Meeting of the Working Group on <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>