

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities</i></p>	<p>CNL(22)18</p> <p>Agenda item: 5d</p>
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International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to update Council on the IYS Concluding Symposium (now called the IYS Synthesis Symposium) and to provide information relating to planning the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report.

Decisions

Council may wish to agree:

- the purpose and outlined format of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report; and
- an indicative timetable for planning and publication of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report.

Background

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), [CNL\(16\)68](#). 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.

In 2019, Council agreed, with regard to the legacy of the IYS, that ‘a periodic Symposium and State of Salmon Report should be delivered by the Secretariat’, [CNL\(19\)46](#). They stated that ‘the other work of the Secretariat needs to be considered when determining when to hold the Symposium and update the State of Salmon report.’

IYS Synthesis Symposium

In 2020, Council agreed that a joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium should be held in Vancouver, Canada, in autumn 2022, [CNL\(20\)51rev](#). The Steering Committee was formed in 2020 with a mandate to plan a world-class Symposium to report on and synthesise the accomplishments of the IYS and consider its legacy and recommendations for the future. Detail of the planning for the Symposium was presented to Council in 2021, [CNL\(21\)19](#), and the Council agreed to approve the NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium Steering Committee’s choice of venue and Symposium dates.

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. The Symposium will have a strong focus on forward looking perspectives, with the goal of developing a roadmap for the resilience of salmon and people through to 2030. Presentations will be organized under five of the IYS themes: Status of Salmon, Information Systems, Salmon in a Changing Salmosphere, New Frontiers, and Human Dimensions.

The Symposium will be held in-person and provide an opportunity for salmon scientists, managers, and knowledge holders from across the salmosphere to build connections. Plans will be adapted if public health restrictions prevent international travel or large gatherings.

Full details can be found on the [IYS Synthesis Symposium webpages](#).

The Next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report

NASCO's first [State of North Atlantic Salmon Report](#) was published in 2019. That year, Council agreed that a:

'State of Salmon Report should be delivered by the Secretariat. ... The State of Salmon report statistics should be populated with data from sources including the Rivers Database and ICES data. To this end, Parties / jurisdictions should be encouraged to update their data in the Rivers Database on a regular basis. To enable this, the Secretariat will explore working towards a database that can be updated by Parties and jurisdictions' [CNL\(19\)46](#).

Statistics from the Rivers Database were used for the 2019 State of North Atlantic Salmon Report. These data were provided by Parties / jurisdictions in response to a request from the Secretariat, based on the recommendations for the 2016 Working Group on Stock Classification, [CNL\(16\)11](#). However, many Parties / jurisdictions were not able to provide the full data requested. In response to the September 2016 request for updates, a total of 2,359 rivers were reported on. However, not all fields in the spreadsheet were completed and the data provided were inconsistent between Parties / jurisdictions. For example, of the 2,359 rivers reported:

- the main impact factors were reported only for 264 rivers (11%);
- no data were available for 830 of the rivers (35%);
- contributions from two Parties / jurisdictions were received in late 2018 / early 2019 after agreement that a 'read across' from national river assessments, rather than NASCO's agreed stock classification, would be acceptable; and
- data for a number of Parties / jurisdictions were taken from the Implementation Plan submissions.

Given the need for stock classification data to provide the basis for the State of North Atlantic Salmon Report in 2019, the updates provided by Parties / jurisdictions were used, despite concerns about consistency and robustness. However, rather than using the 2016 Stock Classification Categories in full, it was decided to consolidate the categories to provide a more robust and less problematic interpretation.

Acknowledging this issue, in 2020, Council agreed, [CNL\(20\)51](#), that the Secretary would work with the Parties / jurisdictions to explore why they had not used the NASCO Rivers Database as had been agreed in 2016. A paper exploring this issue was presented to Council in 2021, [CNL\(21\)13](#). In response, in 2021, the Council agreed, [CNL\(21\)62](#), to establish a Working Group to address high-level issues with respect to the Rivers Database, and to report back in 2022.

The Rivers Database Working Group 2021

The Rivers Database Working Group met in November and December 2021. Its report, [CNL\(22\)12](#), will be considered by Council at the 2022 Annual Meeting under Agenda item 4h. The Report and the associated Agenda item are directly relevant to the planning of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report.

The Rivers Database Working Group recommendations seek to simplify the task of Parties / jurisdictions in providing data for inclusion in the Rivers Database (and therefore data for the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report), by:

- reducing the number of fields that would require data from Parties / jurisdictions;

- allowing a Party / jurisdiction to be free to use its own approach to categorising stocks – likely via a translation of its own assessment method; and
- enabling Parties / jurisdictions to input some data to the Rivers Database directly themselves, securely (if technically feasible).

The Rivers Database Working Group also noted that (paragraph 7.2):

‘a specialist would likely need to be contracted to develop the mapping for the website in order to meet the new requirements. Specialist knowledge would also be needed to enable the Rivers Database to be as searchable and accessible as possible.’

The Terms of Reference asked the Working Group to ‘make recommendations on the frequency of updates of the Rivers Database, including when it should next be updated.’ Addressing this, Recommendation 9 states that:

- a) the Secretariat should be requested to send an annual reminder to Parties / jurisdictions to update the stock classification category in the Rivers Database following their national salmon stock assessment. This may mean an annual update for some Parties / jurisdictions and less frequent updates for others;*
- b) a more thorough review of all metrics in the Rivers Database should be carried out every five years, giving Parties / jurisdictions the opportunity to change or update any information contained within the database; and*
- c) if the recommendations of the Working Group are accepted, the next full five-yearly review should take place once the initial design of the new Rivers Database platform is complete.*

Planning of the Next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report

Planning for the next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report will depend on how Council responds to the Rivers Database Working Group recommendations.

Council has also agreed that *‘the other work of the Secretariat needs to be considered when determining when to hold the Symposium and update the State of Salmon report’*, [CNL\(19\)46](#). As we have seen in recent years, it is difficult to predict the ‘other work of the Secretariat’. However, the following is likely:

- 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: working to finalise the documentation for the Fourth Reporting Cycle;
- 2025: supporting the review of the Implementation Plans for the Fourth Reporting Cycle;
- 2025: next NASCO Secretary to commence work in the Secretariat in second half of year.

It is unclear, at the time of writing, when a new regulatory measure will need to be negotiated for the West Greenland Commission.

Proposals for Purpose, Format and Timing of the Next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report

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

1. Purpose: to provide an update on the state of North Atlantic salmon stocks, since the 2019 Report, using the Rivers Database to focus on providing maps and statistics that illustrate the status of salmon stocks (over time where possible) in the rivers of the NASCO Parties / jurisdictions.
2. Format: a simpler and shorter report than the inaugural 2019 version, to be produced by the Secretariat, based on the Rivers Database time series statistics and including any additional information provided by Parties on impacts on stock status to fulfil the purpose set out above.
3. Timetable: taking account of decisions by Council on the Rivers Database Working Group recommendations and other work of the Secretariat:
 - 2022: initial design of the new Rivers Database platform;
 - 2023: request for data from Parties / jurisdictions;
 - 2024: finalise and launch the new Rivers Database; and
 - 2024: use the new Rivers Database statistics to populate the next State of Salmon Report.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
6 May 2022