



***Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission***

***Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edinburgh, Scotland***

***6 – 9 June 2022***

***Annotated Agenda***

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

Papers for the meeting are on the [website](#).

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 Commission is contained in Annex 1.

**Timings of the Meeting (UK local time)**

The Commission will meet on:

- Monday 6 June: 16:00 – 17:30 hrs
- Wednesday 8 June: 16:45 – 17:45 hrs

**Order of Business**

Business will be taken in the order on the Draft Agenda, except for the Election of Officers. This will be taken as the last item of substantive business before consideration of the Report of the Meeting.

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

The Chair, Kim Blankenkemper (USA), will open the meeting and set out the procedures.

Members of the Commission and NGOs may make verbal Opening Statements, as is usual in years when new regulatory measures are negotiated.

- *no decision is required.*

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

A Provisional Agenda, [NAC\(22\)01](#), was issued on 4 February 2022. No supplementary items have been proposed by the Parties. The Draft Agenda, [NAC\(22\)02](#), is available.

- *the Commission will be asked to adopt its Agenda.*

**3. Nomination of a Rapporteur**

- *the Commission may wish to nominate a Rapporteur.*

**4. Election of Officers**

Kim Blankenkemper's first term as Commission Chair will conclude at the end of this Meeting. She does not wish to stand for re-election. A new Commission Chair, will, therefore, need to be elected. Tony Blanchard has served two terms as Vice-Chair and, therefore, an election for a new Vice-Chair is required.

No background papers are produced for this item. Work to seek candidates and support has been conducted by the Secretary.

- *the Commission may wish to elect a Chair and Vice-Chair.*

## **5. Review of the 2021 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

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 Commission area. He 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](#).

## **6. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission**

This is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention. Additionally, under the Council’s ‘Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, CNL(13)38, it was agreed that there should be an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries.

Each member of the Commission with mixed-stock fisheries (MSF) was requested to provide the Secretariat with a short paper which includes a brief description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data and any changes or developments in

the management of MSFs. The United States will not provide a report because it has no directed wild Atlantic salmon fisheries.

Prior to the Annual Meeting, Canada and the United States shared draft Annual Reports and Canada shared a Draft Report of the 2021 Labrador Mixed-Stock Atlantic Salmon Fisheries. Two informal bilateral meetings were held. This enabled the reports to be reviewed and revised, before being submitted to the Secretariat for circulation to delegates.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed Stock Fisheries Context, [NAC\(22\)03](#).

## **7. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery**

Article 7 of the Convention states that ‘The functions of the North American Commission with regard to its area shall be: (a) to provide a forum for consultation and co-operation between the members: (i) on matters related to minimizing catches in the area of fisheries jurisdiction of one member of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party...’

Information on the sampling programme is available in both the ICES report and in the document ‘Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed Stock Fisheries Context’. It provides information on the interception of U.S.-origin salmon in the Labrador fisheries (amongst other things).

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(22\)09](#); and
- Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed Stock Fisheries Context, [NAC\(22\)03](#).

## **8. 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.](#)

## **9. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers**

Under Article 7 of the Convention, the Williamsburg Resolution, and the NAC protocols, Members of the Commission must report on salmonid introductions and transfers. In 2010, it was agreed that the Parties should provide focused annual reports to the Commission on issues of mutual concern including salmonid disease incidences, breaches of containment, introductions from outside the Commission area and transgenics.

Prior to the NAC Annual Meeting, Canada and the United States shared draft reports and held two informal bilateral meetings. This enabled the reports to be reviewed and revised and questions to be asked and responded to, before being submitted to the Secretariat for circulation to delegates.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- Annual Report (Tabled by Canada), [NAC\(22\)04](#); and
- Annual Report (Tabled by the United States), [NAC\(22\)06](#).

## **10. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme 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 winner will be announced at the Meeting and will be recorded in the Meeting Report.

- *no decision is required.*

## **11. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice**

This item is required under Article 9 of the Convention which requires a Commission to take into account the best scientific evidence. Advice is provided annually under the ICES / NASCO Memorandum of Understanding.

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 Commissions and the Council.

The Commission 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 another new regulatory measure in the West Greenland Commission 2022.

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

- *the Commission will be asked to consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation, although it may wish to defer the decision to the Council.*

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

- Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES.

## **12. Other Business**

No other business is expected.

## **13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

The Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Council is planned to be held during 6 – 9 June 2023. The venue has not yet been confirmed.

- *the Commission may wish to agree to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Council.*

## **14. Report of the Meeting**

Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure for the NAC requires that 'A draft report shall be considered by the Commission before the end of the meeting.'

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

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

## **15. Close of the Meeting**

The Chair will close the Annual Meeting of the North American Commission.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
27 May 2022

*Summary of Commission Decisions*

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Paper No.</b>
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	<a href="#">NAC(22)02</a>
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur	Nominate a Rapporteur	
4. Election of Officers	Elect a Chair and Vice-Chair	
11. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	Consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation or defer the decision to the Council.	Paper issued at the meeting
13. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Agree to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Council.	
14. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report of the Meeting	Issued at meeting