

***Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic 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-East Atlantic 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 by video conference on:

- Tuesday 7 June: 14:30 – 16:30 hrs
- Wednesday 8 June: 13:30 – 15:00 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

Neither the Chair, Viktor Rozhnov (Russian Federation) nor the Vice-Chair, Svein Magnason (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), are able to attend the meeting. The Secretary will therefore open the meeting and oversee the election of a Chair to serve out the remainder of Mr Rozhnov's term.

- *the Commission may wish to elect a Chair to serve out the remainder of Mr Rozhnov's term.*

The Chair 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.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

A Provisional Agenda, [NEA\(22\)01](#), was issued on 4 February 2022. The Draft Agenda was issued on 6 April 2022, [NEA\(22\)02](#). It includes an additional Agenda item, 'Presentation by Norway on the Issue of Pink Salmon in the Commission Area' at the request of Norway, [NEA\(22\)03](#).

- *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

Viktor Rozhnov's second term in office as Commission Chair concludes at the end of the Meeting. Svein Magnason's second term in office as Commission Vice-Chair also concludes at the end of the Meeting. Therefore, an election will take place for both Offices.

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 new Chair and a new 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.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway), [NEA\(22\)05](#);
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the Russian Federation), [NEA\(22\)04rev](#); and
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the United Kingdom), [NEA\(22\)06](#).

In addition to the MSF papers above, a statement has been tabled as follows:

- Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse, [NEA\(22\)08](#).

7. Regulatory Measures

In 2021 the Commission adopted 'Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters in 2021 / 2022, 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024', [NEA\(21\)16](#). Under this Decision, the Commission agreed:

'Not to set a quota for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone for 2021 / 2022. This decision will also apply in 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024 unless the application of the Framework of Indicators shows that a re-assessment is warranted. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) retains the right to conduct a scientific research fishery in the Faroese Fishery Zone.'

In 2021, although the North-East Atlantic Commission agreed a multi-year catch decision, the West Greenland Commission agreed a one year 'Interim Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland in 2021', [WGC\(21\)18](#). Therefore, the advice request to ICES for 2022, [CNL\(21\)14](#), was for a 'full assessment' for a three-year period for each Commission. This means that there was no need for the Framework of Indicators to be run prior to the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) meeting in 2022. The accompanying letter (dated 6 May 2022) from ICES explaining the advice provision for 2022 stated that:

'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 Commission may wish to confirm that the Decision will continue to apply in 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024, given the full advice from ICES.*

The following papers are available:

- Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters in 2021 / 2022, 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024, [NEA\(21\)16](#).

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

8. Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area

This Agenda item allows for information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced.

In 2021, the Commission agreed to hold a two-day meeting of the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* in 2022, at a time when a face-to-face meeting would be possible. In consultation with the Chair of the Working Group, a face-to-face meeting is being planned on 26-27 October 2022, in Edinburgh.

Parties were invited to submit papers to report on their work on the ‘Road Map’ to enhance information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced, [NEA\(18\)08](#).

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- *Gyrodactylus salaris* in Norwegian Rivers (Tabled by Norway), [NEA\(22\)09](#).

9. Presentation by Norway on the Issue of Pink Salmon in the Commission Area

Norway requested that this supplementary item be added to the Draft Agenda. Eirik Frøiland (Norwegian Environment Agency) will make a short presentation, which is likely to include information on the introduction of pink salmon into Norwegian Rivers; the increasing trend over the last six years in the abundance of pink salmon in Norwegian Rivers; the latest information on pink salmon for 2021; the potential threat pink salmon poses to other Parties; possible measures that could be taken in response; and the role that NASCO could play.

- *a decision may be required.*

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 28 of the Rules of Procedure for the North-East Atlantic Commission 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-East Atlantic Commission.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
27 May 2022

Summary of Commission Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
1. Opening of the Meeting	Elect a Chair to serve out the remainder of Mr Rozhnov's term	
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	NEA(22)02
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur	Nominate a Rapporteur	
4. Election of Officers	Elect a new Chair and a new Vice-Chair	
7. Regulatory Measures	Confirm that the Decision will continue to apply in 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024, given the full advice from ICES	NEA(21)16 CNL(22)09
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