



CNL(22)13

***Request for Scientific Advice from ICES***

- 1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:**
  - 1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings by country, including unreported catches and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2021 and 2022<sup>1</sup>;
  - 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management<sup>2</sup>;
  - 1.3 provide information on causes of variability in return rates between rivers within regions in the North Atlantic;
  - 1.4 provide a summary of the most recent findings of ongoing research projects investigating the marine phase of Atlantic salmon (e.g. SeaSalar, SeaMonitor, SAMARCH, satellite tagging at Greenland);
  - 1.5 provide a summary of the current state of knowledge on freshwater and marine predation by cormorants and impact on stocks;
  - 1.6 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2021 and 2022; and
  - 1.7 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.
- 2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:**
  - 2.1 describe the key events of the 2021 and 2022 fisheries<sup>3</sup>;
  - 2.2 review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
  - 2.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;
  - 2.4 advise on the risks of salmon bycatch occurring in pelagic and coastal fisheries, and report on effectiveness and adequacy of current bycatch monitoring programs;  
*In the event that NASCO informs ICES (response requested by 31 January) that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:*
  - 2.5 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2023/2024 - 2025/2026 fishing seasons, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding<sup>4</sup> and;
  - 2.6 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice; and

**3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:**

- 3.1 describe the key events of the 2021 and 2022 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)<sup>3</sup>;
- 3.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
- 3.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;

**4. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:**

- 4.1 describe the key events of the 2021 and 2022 fisheries<sup>3</sup>;
- 4.2 describe the status of the stocks<sup>5</sup>;

**Notes:**

- 1. *With regard to question 1.1, for the estimates of unreported catch the information provided should, where possible, indicate the location of the unreported catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Numbers of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries should be provided.*
- 2. *With regard to question 1.2, ICES is requested to include reports on any significant advances in understanding of the biology of Atlantic salmon that is pertinent to NASCO.*
- 3. *In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Information on any other sources of fishing mortality for salmon is also requested. For 4.1, if any new surveys are conducted and reported to ICES, ICES should review the results and advise on the appropriateness of incorporating resulting estimates into the assessment process.*
- 4. *In response to question 2.5 provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice and report on any developments in relation to incorporating environmental variables in these models. Also provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any concerns with salmon data collected in 2022 which may affect the catch advice considering the restrictions on data collection programmes and fisheries due to the COVID 19 pandemic.*
- 5. *In response to question 4.2, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.3 and 3.3.*

**Attendees:**

Sergey Prusov (NEAC, manager representative); regrets sent for meeting of June 06.

Peder Fiske (NEAC, scientist representative)

Isabelle Morisset (NAC, manager representative)

Tim Sheehan (NAC, scientist representative)

Sissel Fredsgaard (WGC, manager representative)

Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)

Dennis Ensing (ICES representative, Observer)

Livia Goodbrand (Co-ordinator)

**New questions, originator:**

- 1.3: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
- 1.4: EU- Finland
- 1.5: EU- Denmark
- 2.6: NGO