

CNL(22)50

Statement from the Council of NASCO to Parties / jurisdictions with Salmon Farming Following the IP Reviews in November 2021

In 2020, Parties confirmed their commitment to a strengthened Implementation Plan process in the third reporting cycle and acknowledged that some revision was needed to enable it to work better. Council agreed its 'Enhanced Guidance from the Council of NASCO for the Review of Implementation Plans', [CNL\(20\)55](#), to, among other things, provide further Guidance to the IP / APR Review Group.

Among other things, the Enhanced Guidance stated:

'Council recognises the use, and review, of SMART actions as recommended in the IP Guidelines. Where the Review Group considers that an action moves the Party / jurisdiction clearly towards the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines even if the action is not entirely in line with the SMART criteria, the Review Group may consider such an action as satisfactory.'

and:

'However, where the elements of an action may appear to adhere to the SMART criteria but the action is considered by the Review Group not to move the Party / jurisdiction towards the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines, it should be deemed unsatisfactory. The Review Group should give a clear explanation of their assessment in their feedback.'

The NASCO Theme-based Special Session on 'Minimising Impacts of Salmon Farming on Wild Atlantic Salmon', held at NASCO's Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting in June 2021, made clear that there is an increasing body of evidence that continues to point to the significant adverse impacts of salmon farming on wild Atlantic salmon, where farming is conducted, both from sea lice and escaped farmed salmon. Given this evidence, the Council of NASCO has agreed that:

- all Parties and jurisdictions with salmon farming should produce SMART actions in their Implementation Plans (IPs) for the management of sea lice and escapes from aquaculture facilities. These actions should reflect sustained progress towards meeting the international goals of 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 or lice-induced mortality of wild salmonids attributable to the farms. Monitoring of sea lice of farmed fish and escapes should be a secondary activity to help better assess the effectiveness of the SMART management actions with the primary objective being the assessment and mitigation of impacts on wild fish; and
- IPs where such management actions are not forthcoming will not be considered under the review process as progressing the relevant Party or jurisdiction towards achieving the international goals.