



**Press Release**

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)  
Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting,  
Edinburgh, UK  
6 – 9 June 2022

**Wild Atlantic Salmon Conference Agrees to Innovative Actions to  
Protect Atlantic Salmon and the Environment**

The international body responsible for the conservation and rational management of wild Atlantic salmon just closed its Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting. The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), meeting in a hybrid format in its home city of Edinburgh, Scotland, this week, made important new commitments to enhance the conservation of imperiled wild Atlantic salmon populations and agreed on approaches for its future work aimed at reducing its overall carbon footprint.

After almost two years of negotiations, a key outcome of the meeting was adoption of an innovative approach for the regulation of the salmon fishery at West Greenland. This fishery has experienced overharvests of established limits in recent years. To address this, the evidence-based regulatory measure sets a precautionary upper limit that is well below the catch limit. At the latest, the fishery will be closed when the upper limit is reached. This is a dynamic process that will incorporate future fishery data and information to allow the upper limit to be refined for each year of the four-year measure. The President of NASCO, Arnaud Peyronnet, welcomed the breakthrough, stating,

*‘This agreement is a real step forward in the management of the West Greenland fishery. Without the flexibility and cooperation of all Parties and the hard work of scientists and managers, development of and agreement on this innovative approach would not have been possible. This decision highlights the value of being able to work face-to-face to solve complex issues.’*

In other actions, NASCO considered with alarm the threat that Pacific pink salmon, an invasive species spreading throughout the North Atlantic, is now posing to wild North Atlantic salmon. NASCO adopted a statement highlighting this threat and calling on its members to co-operate and initiate corrective measures without delay.

The threats to the wild stocks posed by salmon farming and how to address them was high on NASCO’s agenda again this year. NASCO adopted a statement on this issue pressing Parties to develop and implement effective innovative salmon farming technologies, both at sea and on land, to advance the implementation and attainment of the international goals for the management of sea lice and containment of farmed salmon agreed by NASCO and the International Salmon Farming Association in 2009.

Finally, NASCO agreed forward-leaning approaches for conducting its work in the future that includes expanded use of electronic meetings to reduce the carbon footprint of the organization. Said the President, “The totality of the decisions made in Edinburgh this week are important to protect the environment and to ensure the future viability of one of the most iconic species in the world. Salmon are an indicator species, and we must continue to take strong actions to ensure they will be around for generations to come.”

The Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of NASCO was held during 6 – 9 June 2022 in Edinburgh, Scotland. The Fortieth Annual Meeting will be held in Canada during 6 – 9 June 2023.

**Notes for Editors:**

NASCO is an intergovernmental organization formed by a treaty in 1984 and is based in Edinburgh, Scotland. Its objectives are the conservation, restoration and rational management of wild Atlantic salmon stocks, which do not recognise national boundaries. It is the only inter-governmental organisation with this mandate which it implements through international consultation, negotiation, and co-operation.

The Parties to the Convention are: Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. There are 45 non-governmental observers accredited to the Organization.

The 2022 Annual Meeting was convened in a hybrid format, with 80 participants joining in-person and 31 joining remotely. The participants included scientists, policy makers and representatives of inter-governmental organisations and non-governmental organisations who met to discuss the status of wild Atlantic salmon and to consider management issues. The Fortieth Annual Meeting will be held in Canada in June 2023.

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