

**Presentation of the ICES Advice on North Atlantic Stocks to the Council
CNL(22)56**

sal.oth.nasco

North Atlantic Salmon Stocks in 2021

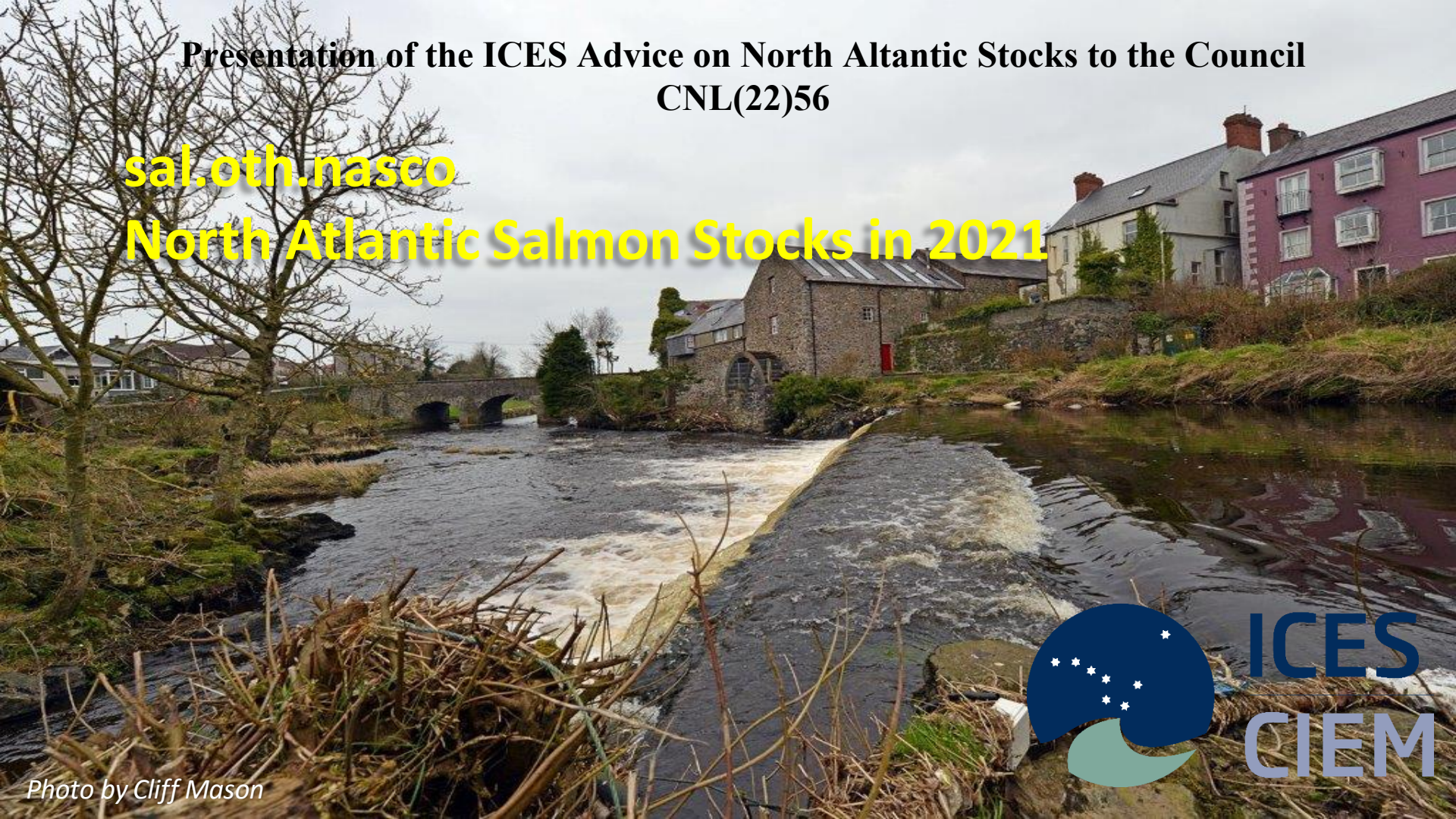


Photo by Cliff Mason



**ICES
CIEM**

The ICES advice for North Atlantic Salmon Stocks is published today, May 6th 2022 in response to the advice requested by NASCO in the CNL(21)14 *Request for Scientific Advice from ICES*. 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.

In response to the crisis in Europe, ICES suspended all meetings in March 2022, including WGNAS. As a result, the WGNAS was not able to respond fully to the 2022 Terms of Reference. While the WGNAS was not able to reschedule their annual meeting, group members met by correspondence in April to discuss existing data, the advice published in 2021, and quality assurance issues, to evaluate recommendations for advice for the North Atlantic Salmon Stocks for the years outlined in the NASCO recurrent advice request. The 2022 WGNAS report will be updated mid-May with sections specifying the process evaluating the re-issued advice. 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.

ICES has been in dialogue with the NASCO Secretariat about the suspension of meetings in March, and also the ramifications of that decision. ICES appreciates the useful and constructive feedback throughout this process from NASCO.

Terms of Reference

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;
- 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management;
- 1.3 provide an update on the distribution and abundance of pink salmon across the North Atlantic and advise on potential threats to wild Atlantic salmon;
- 1.4 provide an overview of the East Greenland stock complex in terms of migration, stock composition, biological characteristics, historical landings, effort etc.;
- 1.5 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2021; and
- 1.6 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements;