



Presentation of the ICES Advice on Atlantic Salmon from North America to  
the North American Commission  
NAC(22)08

*sal.nac.all*

# Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission Area in 2021

Photo by Nick Hawkins



# ICES advice letter to NASCO 2022



The ICES advice for North Atlantic Salmon Stocks is published today, May 6<sup>th</sup> 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



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

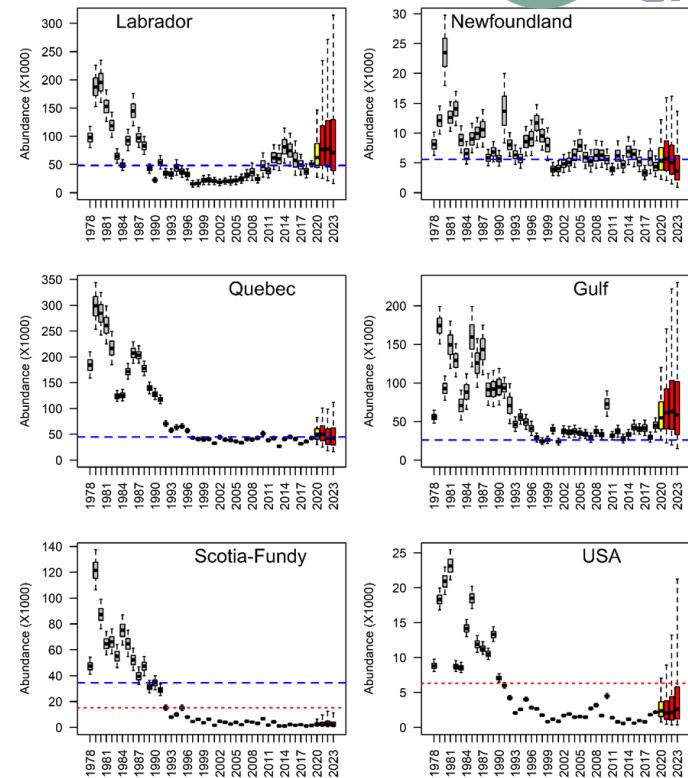
- 3.1 describe the key events of the 2021 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon);
- 3.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
- 3.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;
- 3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2022-2025 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; and
- 3.5 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice.

### 3.4 Catch options or alternative management advice

Figure 15: sal.nac.all

#### Regional PFA 1978-2020 and PFA forecast 2021-2024

- 5<sup>th</sup> percentiles of the posterior distributions of the regional PFAs are less than the management objective reserves for all six regions
- No mixed-stock fishery options on 1SW non-maturing salmon in the period 2021 to 2023
- No mixed-stock fishery options on 2SW maturing salmon in the period 2021 to 2024
- Forecast has very high uncertainty



### 3.4 Catch options or alternative management advice

- Catch options for mixed-stock fisheries are only provided for the non-maturing 1SW and maturing 2SW components as the maturing 1SW component is not fished outside home waters

| Region                        | Region specific 2SW objective | Probability of meeting the 2SW objectives in the absence of fisheries (0 TAC) for the 2SW return year |              |              |              |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|
|                               |                               | 2021  | 2022         | 2023         | 2024         |
| Labrador                      | 34 746                        | 0.645   | 0.632        | 0.573        | <b>0.671</b> |
| Newfoundland                  | 4 022                         | 0.465   | 0.401        | 0.268        | <b>0.300</b> |
| Quebec                        | 32 085                        | 0.534   | 0.413        | 0.419        | <b>0.464</b> |
| Gulf                          | 18 737                        | 0.890   | 0.870        | 0.799        | <b>0.831</b> |
| Scotia-Fundy                  | 10 976                        | 0.013   | 0.030        | 0.026        | <b>0.029</b> |
| USA                           | 4 549                         | 0.094   | 0.144        | 0.213        | <b>0.226</b> |
| Simultaneous to North America |                               | <b>0.004</b>  | <b>0.006</b> | <b>0.006</b> | <b>0.007</b> |

Table 4: sal.nac.all

- No probabilities (close to 0) that the returns of 2SW salmon to the six regions of NAC will meet or exceed the 2SW objectives for the six regions in NAC and simultaneously for all regions at 0 TAC
- No 2022-2024 catch options**