CNL(22)63

Report of the Meeting of the Rivers Database Working Group CNL(22)12

The RDWG met virtually November 23-24 & December 02, 2021.
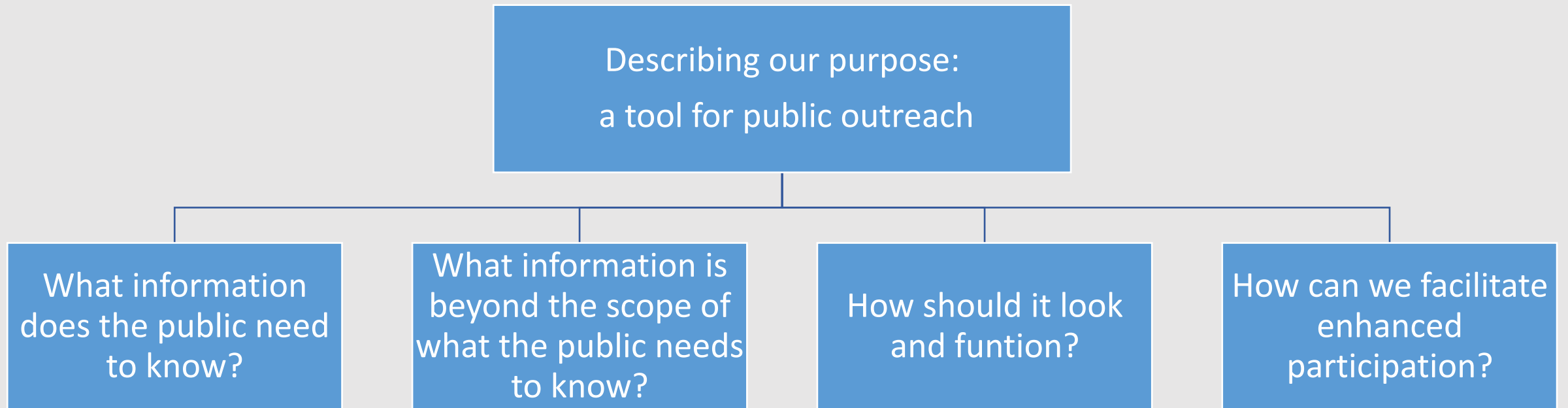
Presented by: RDWG Chair, Livia Goodbrand

Upsalquitch Forks, a historic pool in a changing salmon river, New Brunswick, Canada (photo: L.Goodbrand)

Objectives of the RDWG
From the RDWG Terms of Reference

1. **To describe the purpose or purposes** of the Rivers Database with a view to including this description on the NASCO website and provide guidance for future revisions;

2. With reference to document CNL(16)11, **make a recommendation for the scope of the Rivers Database** and determine a set of succinct and **clearly defined metrics** that are needed to meet the purpose(s) of the Rivers Database;

3. With reference to documents CNL(16)11 and CNL(21)13, **recommend the minimum data needed relative to each metric**, and any flexibility associated with providing those data. In developing these data needs, the Working Group should consider the current fields and current stock classification categories (Annex 3);

4. Develop recommendations as to **how the Rivers Database should be displayed** (for example mapped with html or GIS) on the NASCO website, and whether the data should be made available on the website in other formats (such as a spreadsheet) to allow them to be used, manipulated, and analysed by external stakeholders, Parties / jurisdictions, and others;

5. Develop recommendations as to **how data should be provided and inputted** to the Rivers Database, ensuring that updates may be made efficiently and effectively;

6. With reference to document CNL(16)11, make recommendations on the **frequency of updates** of the Rivers Database, including when it should next be updated; and

7. Make **any other recommendations** relevant to the development and maintenance of the Rivers Database

Conceptualizing the work of the RDWG

Describing our purpose:
a tool for public outreach

What information does the public need to know?

What information is beyond the scope of what the public needs to know?

How should it look and funtion?

How can we facilitate enhanced participation?

Describing the purpose of the Rivers Database

Recommendation 1

The RD is envisioned as a tool to support public education

- ✓ To support a map-based overview of the state of Atlantic salmon populations across the North Atlantic for a public audience.

- ✓ To act as the official NASCO record of the state of river stocks

- ✓ Provide data that can be used in the production of NASCO's State of North Atlantic Salmon Report

What information is needed for public outreach?

Recommendations 2, 4, 5

<u>Metrics on location:</u> River name, Party, country, region/province, latitude & longitude

<u>Metrics on stock:</u> Salmon stock category, year of assessment, trend (Δ since last assessment), stock intervention

<u>Other information:</u> optional, to highlight unique characteristics

Low	Moderate	High	Lost	Unknown
Risks to the population are considered to be low or absent	Risks to the population are considered to be moderate	Risks to the population are considered to be high	Atlantic salmon no longer exist in this river	There are known or believed to be Atlantic salmon. There are not enough data to assess their status or risk

What information is beyond the scope of what the public needs to know?

Recommendations 3

In addition to recommending the retention of 12 metrics, the RDWG recommended that 13 metrics be rejected:

- Removal of metrics that did not fit the purpose of public outreach (e.g. axial river length)

- Removal of metrics that were redundant (e.g. lat/long decimal format)

- Information could be displayed in recommended 'other' category (e.g. special stock characteristics)

How should it look and function?

Recommendations 6 & 7

A flagship product for NASCO, which meets the needs and expectations of its users:

- Interactive and map-based

- Ability to filter through different layers

- Ability to generate 'quick summaries'

- Downloadable, exportable, shareable

- With consideration to issues of compatibility & accessibility

How can we facilitate participation to better serve our purpose

Recommendations 8 & 9

Current situation:
- 11% of rivers contain info on the main factors adversely affecting salmon
- 54% of the stock classification data in based on agreed classification categories

Recommendations to improve uptake:
- Reduced and simplified metrics and data that reflect purpose (from 25 to 12 metrics);
- Clarity on roles of Parties and Secretariate
- Synching updates with existing timelines
    - Annual 'check-ins' corresponding with each Party's respective stock assessments
    - More thorough review of all metrics every 5 years, corresponding with NASCO SoS report
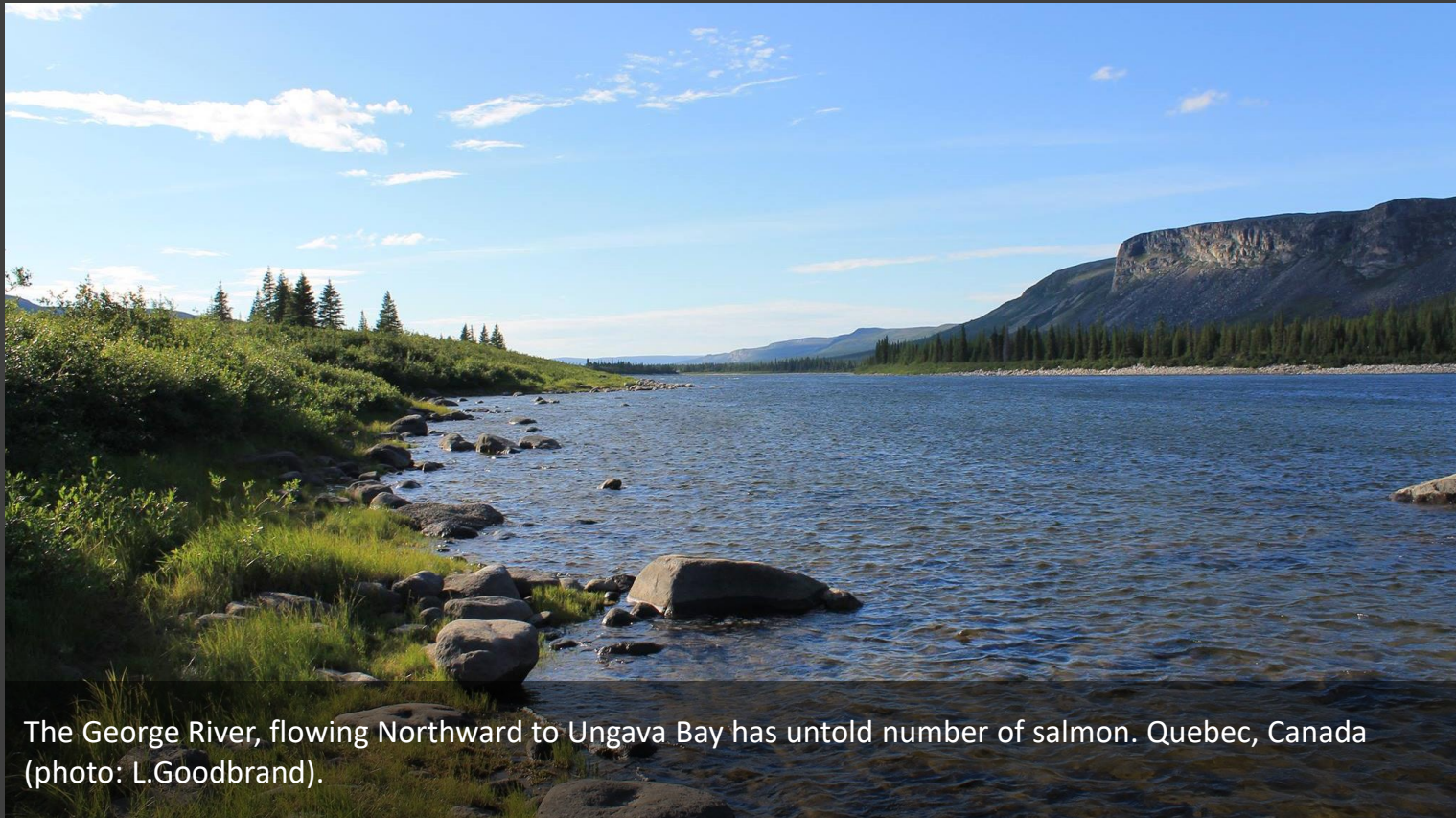
Conclusions and other recommendations

Recommendation 10, 11, 12

The RD can become a flagship NASCO product, raising the profile and relevancy of our work.

Additional suggestions to support this vision:

- Updated name: e.g., "Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas"

- Translation into official Party languages

- Re-purpose the RDWG to act as a Steering Committee for continued development of the WASA.

The George River, flowing Northward to Ungava Bay has untold number of salmon. Quebec, Canada (photo: L.Goodbrand).

Thank you, on behalf of the RDWG

Questions or comments?