

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Draft Terms of Reference for the NASCO Working Group on Pink Salmon</i></p>	<p>CNL(23)26</p> <p>Agenda item: f(ii)</p>
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Draft Terms of Reference for the NASCO Working Group on Pink Salmon

Purpose

To propose Terms of Reference for the NASCO Working Group on Pink Salmon.

Decision

Council may wish to:

- agree the Terms of Reference for the NASCO Working Group on Pink Salmon; and
- request that the Secretary seek nominations from Parties to sit on the Working Group and facilitate inter-sessional meetings.

Background

At the 2022 Annual Meeting, the Council agreed to adopt a ‘Statement of the Council Regarding Pink Salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, in the NASCO Convention Area’, [CNL\(22\)47](#). This included agreement to establish a Standing NASCO Working Group on pink salmon.

The ‘Statement of the Council Regarding Pink Salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, in the NASCO Convention Area’, [CNL\(22\)47](#), states that:

‘The Council of NASCO urges each Party to take the following actions, consistent with the Williamsburg Resolution:

- *co-operate to minimise adverse effects of pink salmon on wild Atlantic salmon. Such co-operation could include data sharing and exchange of information on monitoring and surveillance programmes, scientific understanding of impacts and best practice on methods to prevent the spread and establishment of populations of pink salmon without damage to wild Atlantic salmon stocks;*
- *initiate corrective measures, without delay, when significant adverse effects on wild Atlantic salmon stocks are identified, and that these should be designed to achieve their purpose promptly;*
- *encourage research and data collection in relation to pink salmon in the Convention area;*
- *develop and distribute educational materials to increase awareness of the risks that pink salmon pose to wild Atlantic salmon and the need for the measures to control their spread; and*

The Council of NASCO agrees to establish a Standing NASCO Working Group on the threat of pink salmon with the aim to agree Terms of Reference for this Group at the Annual Meeting in 2023, taking into consideration the advice from ICES on pink salmon, expected in September 2022, and relevant recommendations of the External Performance Review.’

The advice from ICES on pink salmon ‘Distribution and abundance of pink salmon across the North Atlantic’, [CNL\(22\)64](#), was published in September 2022.

The Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review, [CNL\(23\)17](#), states:

‘The Panel commends NASCO for its recent steps towards addressing the threats posed by the spread of pink salmon. Such steps could have been taken earlier – also in light of the obligations for some if not all NASCO Parties on invasive alien species under the CBD and the UNCLOS, but the Panel recognizes that the Covid-19 pandemic may have hindered an earlier response.’

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Taking into account the ‘Statement of the Council Regarding Pink Salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, in the NASCO Convention Area’, [CNL\(22\)47](#), and information provided by ICES, the Working Group is asked to:

- consider the research and data collection needs in relation to pink salmon in the Convention area, such that management measures may be underpinned by robust data;
- consider the threats posed by the increase in the abundance of pink salmon and the implications they have for the conservation and management of wild Atlantic salmon;
- consider how Parties should co-operate efficiently and effectively to minimise adverse effects of pink salmon on wild Atlantic salmon;
- consider the corrective measures that might be implemented by Parties when significant adverse effects on wild Atlantic salmon stocks are identified;
- identify good practice in the production of educational materials that increase awareness of the risks that pink salmon pose to wild Atlantic salmon and the need for the measures to control their spread; and
- propose revised Terms of Reference and a timeframe for regular meetings of NASCO’s Working Group on Pink Salmon.

The Working Group is asked to submit its report to the Council by April 2024, for consideration at the Annual Meeting in June 2024.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
3 April 2023