



**Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Council**

**Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada**

**5 – 8 June 2023**

**Annotated Agenda**

The purpose of this paper is to provide the background, decisions and links to papers, for each item on the Agenda for the Meeting of the Council.

Papers for the meeting are on the [website](#), including the [Schedule of Meetings](#).

This Annotated Agenda references papers that the Secretariat is aware of at the time of writing. If additional papers are issued, they will be posted on the website and delegates will be informed by email.

As agreed in 2022, Parties / NGOs were invited to submit questions on Agenda items, in advance to the relevant Party. The Secretariat requested that it be copied into any questions asked, to allow the questions to be included in the Annotated Agenda. No questions were received.

A summary of the decisions before the Council this year is contained in Annex 1.

To assist with decision making, Annex 2 contains a timetable for NASCO work that is expected to be conducted between June 2023 and May 2024 and an indicative schedule of NASCO’s work for the next five years.

During the meeting, interventions by accredited NGOs shall be in accordance with the Revised Conditions for Attendance by Observers at NASCO Meetings, [CNL\(06\)49](#). The President will recognise such requests on all Agenda items other than item 4.

**Timings of the Meeting (New Brunswick local time)**

The Council will meet on:

• Monday 5 June	09:00 – 10:30 hrs
• Monday 5 June	10:45 – 13:00 hrs Special Session of the Council: External Performance Review
• Tuesday 6 June	09:30 – 11:15 hrs
• Tuesday 6 June	11:30 – 13:00 hrs 14:00 – 18:00 hrs Theme-based Special Session of the Council: Informing a Strategic Approach to Address the Impacts of Climate Change on Wild Atlantic Salmon
• Wednesday 7 June	09:00 – 13:00 hrs 14:00 – 15:00 hrs
• Thursday 9 June	09:00 – 12:00 hrs Special Session of the Council: Indigenous Perspectives and Roles in Atlantic Salmon Conservation
• Thursday 9 June	13:00 – 14:30 hrs

## **Order of Business**

The meeting will begin on Monday 5 June with the ‘Opening of the Meeting’ followed by a break. Delegates will be advised of the daily order of business during the Annual Meeting.

### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

Following the welcome from our hosts, the President, Arnaud Peyronnet (EU), will open the meeting and make a statement on behalf of the Organization.

The Opening Session will not include verbal Opening Statements by the Parties and Observers this year, but the President wishes to encourage each Party, Inter-Governmental Organizations and NASCO’s accredited Non-Governmental Organizations to submit a written Opening Statement for distribution at the meeting. These written statements will be annexed to the report of the meeting. It would be helpful if these statements could be made available to the Secretariat prior to the Annual Meeting.

- *no decision is required.*

### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda, [CNL\(23\)01](#), was issued on 10 February 2023. No supplementary items were proposed. The Draft Agenda, [CNL\(23\)02](#), was issued on 3 April 2023.

- *the Council may wish to adopt its Agenda.*

### **3. Election of Officers**

In accordance with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, the Council will be asked to elect a President and Vice-President. The President, Arnaud Peyronnet (EU) and the Vice-President, Kim Damon-Randall (USA), will both have come to the end of their first terms of office. Both are eligible for re-election.

No background papers are produced for this item. Work to seek candidates and Parties’ support has been conducted by the Secretary.

- *the Council may wish to elect / re-elect a President and Vice-President.*

### **4. Financial and Administrative Issues**

The Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) will meet on 4 June. The Chair, Seamus Connor (UK) will present the Report of the Meeting of the FAC to the Council, CNL(23)05. The Report will be made available on the website and will include the Draft Budget for 2024 and the Forecast Budget for 2025.

Article 16 of the Convention states that ‘The Council shall adopt an annual budget for the Organization.’

#### FAC Inter-Sessional Meeting

The FAC met inter-sessionally, in March 2023, to consider the interpretation and application of NASCO’s Staff Fund Rule 3.2 and Staff Rule 8.2(b) and recommend a way forward. During that meeting, the FAC made three recommendations to Council:

1. *'that the Council considers a Draft Policy regarding the interpretation and application of NASCO's Staff Fund Rule 3.2 and Staff Rule 8.2(b).'* [CNL\(23\)06](#).

The FAC was unable to agree on some aspects of the Draft Policy, which will need to be finalised by the Council before the Policy may be adopted.

2. *'that professional advice be sought, immediately, to ensure there would be no detriment to part-time staff in relation to the lump sum entitlement', in light of [the recommendation above]'*

3. That *'the Staff Rules and Staff Fund Rules are reviewed in a timely way to ensure they are fit for purpose and commensurate with a modern working environment and good management practices.'*

***Regarding the recommendations from the inter-sessional meeting, the Council may wish to:***

- ***finalise the Draft Policy regarding the interpretation and application of NASCO's Staff Fund Rule 3.2 and Staff Rule 8.2(b);***
- ***adopt it as its Policy;***
- ***instruct the Secretary to seek professional advice, immediately, to ensure there would be no detriment to part-time staff in relation to the lump sum entitlement, in light of the Policy adopted; and***
- ***agree that the Staff Rules and Staff Fund Rules are reviewed, as per the process set out in [FAC\(23\)03](#), paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7.***

#### Other FAC Business

***Regarding other FAC issues, the Council may wish to***

- ***accept the Audited Accounts for 2022;***
- ***approve the budget for 2024 and note a Forecast Budget for 2025; and***
- ***adopt the Report of the FAC.***

The following papers are available:

- Proposed Guidance for the Secretary on the Interpretation and Application of NASCO Staff Fund Rule 3.2 and Staff Rule 8.2(b) Concerning the Lump Sum Entitlement, [CNL\(23\)06](#);
- Audited Accounts, [FAC\(23\)02](#);
- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, [FAC\(23\)03](#);
- MoU with OSPAR, [FAC\(23\)04](#);
- 2024 Draft Budget 2025 Forecast Budget and Five-Year (2024 - 2029) Budgeting Plan, [FAC\(23\)05](#); and
- Report of the Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization, [CNL\(23\)05](#).

Other papers for the FAC are available [here](#).

## 5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

### a) NASCO News 2023

Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention states ‘The Council shall submit to the Parties an annual report of the activities of the Organization.’

In 2022, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), the Council agreed that ‘the Report on the Activities of the Organization and the Secretary’s Report be merged to be a showcase for NASCO’s work’. Therefore, a new paper ‘NASCO News 2023’ has been published. There will be no presentation. However, the President may allow questions and comments, time permitting.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- NASCO News 2023, [CNL\(23\)07](#).

### b) Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

NASCO operates a Tag Return Incentive Scheme. External tags that are returned to the appropriate authorities in the country of capture are eligible for inclusion in the draw. Each year a Grand Prize of £1,500 is awarded together with three prizes of £1,000, one in each of NASCO’s three Commission areas.

The Grand Prize winner will be announced in the Meeting and then on the website and twitter; they will be recorded in the Meeting Report.

- *no decision is required.*

### c) Scientific Advice from ICES

#### (i) Scientific Advice from ICES

In 2022 the Council agreed that the full ICES Advice should only be presented in Council in future, [CNL\(22\)53](#), paragraph 4.35.

The Co-Chairs of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Martha Robertson (Canada) and Alan Walker (UK), will present the full ICES advice. They will also present the advice relating to item 7(f)(i) ‘New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management’. The Co-Chairs of WGNAS will answer questions following the presentation.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(23\)08](#);
- the [Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon](#) is on the ICES website.

#### (ii) A new approach / presentation of the ICES Advice

In 2022 the Council asked the Secretary to approach ICES to investigate a more streamlined approach / presentation of the ICES Advice, [CNL\(22\)53](#), paragraph 4.35. The ICES ACOM Vice-Chair will be invited to provide an update on the work to seek agreement on a new approach.

- *the Council may wish to agree to the timetable proposed by ICES in [CNL\(23\)09](#).*

The following paper is available:

- Update on the Streamlining of the ICES Advice, [CNL\(23\)09](#).

**d) Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) will meet on 4 June. The Report of the Meeting will be presented to Council by the Chair, Martha Robertson (Canada). The main topic for its consideration will be the review of draft documents related to the overall vision, scope and purpose of the Board, produced following the inter-sessional meeting, in January 2023.

The Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) and its Scientific Advisory Group state ‘Board meeting reports will be considered by the Council for adoption’ [ICR\(20\)03](#).

*The Council may wish to:*

- *adopt the Revised Terms of Reference for the Board and SAG; and*
- *adopt the Report of the Meeting of the Board.*

The following papers will be available:

- the Report of the Meeting of the Board, CNL(23)10; and
- Proposed Revised ToRs for SAG and Board.

Other papers for the Board meeting (and the January inter-sessional meeting) are available [here](#).

**e) Report of the Standing Scientific Committee**

Articles 3 and 4 of the [Convention](#) require NASCO to take into account the best scientific evidence and establish working arrangements with ICES. In 1992, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. The SSC comprises two representatives from each Commission, ideally one scientist and one manager. Its work is co-ordinated by Livia Goodbrand (Canada).

During the Annual Meeting, the SSC will meet to develop a Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES for consideration by the Council and Commissions.

- *the Council may wish to adopt a request to ICES for scientific advice.*

The Standing Scientific Committee’s recommendations will be available once its work is complete:

- Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES.

**f) Invitation to Iceland and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to join NASCO**

In 2022, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), the Council agreed to write to Iceland to invite it to rejoin NASCO. The Council also agreed to write, again, to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to invite it to join NASCO.

On 16 March 2023, at the Salmon Summit in Iceland, the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries, Svandís Svavarsdóttir, announced that in 2023 Iceland will be taking all the necessary steps to become a full member of NASCO in 2024. Representatives of Iceland will attend the Annual Meeting as observers. An update on this Agenda item will be provided during the meeting.

- *a decision may be required.*

The following papers are available:

- Letter from the [President of NASCO to the Icelandic Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries](#), 19 December 2022.
- Letter from the [President of NASCO to the Secretary of State of the Sea](#), 16 December 2022.

**g) Update on the Review of the Effect of Salmon Aquaculture on Wild Atlantic Salmon Populations**

In 2021, the Council adopted the draft recommendation from the 2021 Theme-based Special Session (TBSS) Steering Committee, [CNL\(21\)62](#) (paragraph 5.10) to ‘*establish a Working Group to draft a NASCO report which provides the latest scientific knowledge on the impacts of sea lice and escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon.*’

In 2022, the Council considered a ‘Proposal for the Production of a Systematic Review of the Effect of Salmon Aquaculture on Wild Atlantic Salmon Populations’, [CNL\(22\)07](#). The Council asked the Secretary to liaise with the co-ordinator of the Expert Group to progress this work inter-sessionally.

The co-ordinator of the Expert Group, Paddy Gargan, will present an update on its work.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Update on the Review of the Effect of Salmon Aquaculture on Wild Atlantic Salmon Populations, [CNL\(23\)13](#).

**h) Update on the Stocking Guidelines Working Group**

In 2022, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), the President proposed that work could begin inter-sessionally to update the Stocking Guidelines, by launching a Working Group to review the Guidelines, nominating members of the Working Group and developing Terms of Reference and working methods for the Group.

The Council agreed the Terms of Reference for the Stocking Guidelines Working Group inter-sessionally. Members of the Working Group have been nominated. The Working Group will meet inter-sessionally and recommend to Council, for agreement at the 2024 Annual Meeting, an updated document ‘Guidelines for Stocking Atlantic Salmon’.

There will be no presentation. However, the President may allow questions and comments, time permitting.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Terms of Reference for the Stocking Guidelines Working Group, [CNL\(23\)14rev](#).

**i) Progress Report on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas**

At its Annual Meeting in 2021, [CNL\(21\)62](#), the Council agreed that NASCO should retain a website-accessible Rivers Database and to establish a Working Group to address high-level issues with respect to the Rivers Database. In 2022, the Council

accepted the recommendations of the Rivers Database Working Group [CNL\(22\)12](#) and asked the Secretary to work with the Steering Committee to develop the online ‘Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas’.

The Rivers Database is on the website: [NASCO Rivers Database – NASCO](#).

Work on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas is ongoing, overseen by the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas Steering Committee.

There will be no presentation. However, the President may allow questions and comments, time permitting.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Progress Report on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas, [CNL\(23\)16](#).

## **6. Report of the External Performance Review Panel**

### **a) Special Session: Report from the Performance Review Panel**

The Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#), was published in March 2023. The Terms of Reference, [CNL\(21\)22](#), state:

*‘The Review Panel’s report will be presented to NASCO, by the Chair of the Review Panel or their nominee, during a Special Session at the NASCO Annual Meeting in 2023. This will allow an open discussion of the findings and recommendations of the Review.’*

The Chair of the Performance Review Panel, Erik Molenaar, will make a presentation on the Performance Review Panel’s Report. This will be followed by questions and comments.

This is a ‘Special Session’ when all delegates are encouraged to participate.

The following paper is available:

- Report of the External Performance Review, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#).

### **b) Decisions Taken Regarding the Performance Review Recommendations**

This Agenda item allows for decisions to be taken in light of the Special Session.

The Heads of Delegation met on 1 February, and again on 27 April 2023 with the NGO Co-Chairs, to consider their initial response to the 46 recommendations. The Council will consider the recommendations further and discuss an approach to address them.

*The Council may wish to:*

- *confirm its response to the recommendations already considered; and*
- *agree an approach to address the remaining recommendations.*

The following paper is available:

- Information on the Initial Response to the Performance Review Recommendations, [CNL\(23\)18](#).

## **7. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach**

### **a) Informing a Strategic Approach to Address the Impacts of Climate Change on**

## **Wild Atlantic Salmon**

### **(i) Theme-based Special Session: Informing a Strategic Approach to Address the Impacts of Climate Change on Wild Atlantic Salmon**

The Theme-based Special Session (TBSS) will take place on 6 June 2023. The overarching objective for the TBSS is to exchange information on the current and future impacts of climate change on salmon productivity in the North Atlantic and on management measures being implemented by NASCO Parties / jurisdictions, to identify best-practices and inform the development of a strategic approach by NASCO.

A report of the TBSS will be prepared by the Steering Committee following the Annual Meeting.

This is a ‘Special Session’ when all delegates are encouraged to participate.

*Any decisions related to the TBSS will be taken under Agenda Item 7a)(ii).*

The following papers are available:

- Programme for the 2023 Theme-based Special Session, [CNL\(23\)19](#);
- Speakers’ Papers are available in the listing of [2023 Council Papers](#).

### **(ii) Decisions Taken in Light of the Theme-based Special Session**

This Agenda item allows for decisions to be taken in light of TBSS, if required.

It also allows the Council to decide whether to hold a TBSS in 2024, and if so, on which topic.

**The Council may wish to:**

- *consider actions / recommendations arising from the 2023 TBSS;*
- *decide whether to hold a TBSS in 2024, and on what topic; and if so*
- *establish a Steering Committee to plan the 2024 TBSS.*

A draft recommendations paper will be made available.

## **b) Indigenous Perspectives on Atlantic Salmon: full title to be confirmed**

### **(i) Special Session on Indigenous Perspectives on Atlantic Salmon: Indigenous Perspectives and Roles in Atlantic Salmon Conservation**

In 2022, the Council agreed that there would be a Special Session on indigenous people during the 2023 Annual Meeting. The Special Session will take place on 8 June 2023. The overarching objective of the Special Session is to launch a dialogue between NASCO and Indigenous salmon peoples about their perspectives on wild Atlantic salmon, with a view to inform future decisions regarding the participation of Indigenous peoples in NASCO.

This is a ‘Special Session’ when all delegates are encouraged to participate.

*Any decisions related to the Special Session will be taken under Agenda Item 7b)(ii).*

The following paper will be available:

- Programme for the Special Session: Indigenous Perspectives and Roles in Atlantic Salmon Conservation, CNL(23)20

### **(ii) Decisions Taken in Light of the Special Session**



This Agenda item allows for decisions to be taken in light of the Special Session, if required.

**c) Evaluation of Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)**

**(i) Special Session: Evaluation of Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)**

NASCO has adopted Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines that address the Organization's principal areas of concern for the management of salmon stocks. In 2005 it was agreed that 'NASCO will be committed to the measures and agreements it develops and actively review progress with implementation plans', [CNL\(05\)49](#).

Parties' / jurisdictions' revised Implementation Plans (IPs) under the third reporting cycle (2019 – 2024) were reviewed by the IP / APR Review Group in November 2022.

Parties / jurisdictions submit an Annual Progress Report (APR) to NASCO each year. APRs were reviewed by the IP / APR Review Group in April 2023.

The Chair of the IP / APR Review Group, Cathal Gallagher (EU), will present the Fifth Interim Report of the IP/ APR Review Group for the Review of IPs, together with the Report of the IP / APR Review Group for the Review of APRs.

This is a 'Special Session' when all delegates are encouraged to participate.

The following papers are available:

- Fifth Interim Report of the IP / APR Review Group for the Review of IPs, [CNL\(23\)21](#);
- Report of the IP / APR Review Group for the Review of APRs, [CNL\(23\)22rev](#);
- APR Summary, [CNL\(23\)23](#).

IPs, APRs and relevant papers are available on the [Third Reporting Cycle webpage](#).

**(ii) Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Implementation Plans Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)**

This Agenda item allows for decisions on the IPs to be taken in light of the IP / APR Special Session, if required.

*The Council may wish to:*

- *request that the Chair and Secretary of the IP / APR Review Group arrange a meeting in November 2023 to review any revised IPs, if required;*
- *consider any actions arising from the Special Session relating to IPs.*

The following paper is available:

- Fifth Interim Report of the IP / APR Review Group for the Review of IPs, [CNL\(23\)21](#).

**(iii) Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports Under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans**

This Agenda item allows for decisions on the APRs to be taken in light of the IP / APR Special Session, if required.

*The Council may wish to:*

- *request that the Chair and Secretary of the IP / APR Review Group arrange a meeting in April 2024 to review the 2023 APRs; and*
- *consider actions arising from the Special Session relating to APRs.*

The following paper is available:

- Report of the IP / APR Review Group for the Review of APRs, [CNL\(23\)22rev.](#)

**d) Fourth Reporting Cycle: Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports**

The Third Reporting Cycle began in 2019 and is due to end in 2024. This agenda item allows Council to consider arrangements for a Fourth Reporting Cycle that would, if in line with previous reporting cycles, run from 2025 – 2030. For information, a Working Group was established to consider the arrangements for the Third Reporting Cycle, [CNL\(18\)12.](#)

*The Council may wish to agree:*

- *to continue the Implementation Plan process with a fourth reporting cycle;*
  - *a process and timetable for the fourth reporting cycle; and*
  - *Terms of Reference for the Future Reporting Working Group;*
- or*
- *to extend the third reporting cycle for [one] year and defer the fourth reporting cycle until such time as NASCO's priorities are clear; and (if possible)*
  - *a process and timetable for the deferred fourth reporting cycle.*

The following paper is available:

- Planning for the Fourth Reporting Cycle, [CNL\(23\)24.](#)

**e) International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities**

In 2016, the Council decided to hold an International Year of the Salmon (IYS) in partnership with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The focal year for the IYS was 2019 with some efforts continuing to 2022. The aim was to raise awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance, the environmental and anthropogenic challenges they face, and the measures being taken to address these.

The [IYS Synthesis Symposium](#): 'Salmon in a Rapidly Changing World: Synthesis of the International Year of the Salmon and a Roadmap to 2030' took place in Vancouver, Canada, from 4 – 6 October 2022.

The Secretary will update the Council on International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities.

*The Council may wish to:*

- *ask the Secretary to transfer the final IYS Fund balance to the 'Periodic Projects Special Fund' and close the IYS Fund account once the final amount has been established after the audit of the 2023 accounts; and*
- *consider the key messages from the Synthesis Symposium as it responds to the recommendations from the third performance review.*

The following paper is available:

- Reflections on the Key Messages from the IYS Synthesis Symposium, [CNL\(23\)25](#).

**f) New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management**

**(i) New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management**

This is addressed under Agenda item 5c)(i), Scientific Advice from ICES, above.

**(ii) The NASCO Working Group on Pink Salmon**

At the 2022, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), Annual Meeting, the President noted that the magnitude of pink salmon entering many Atlantic salmon rivers is very concerning. Norway had offered to provide an update on pink salmon during the Annual Meeting in 2023. The President suggested that other Parties should also be encouraged to provide updates when appropriate. Eirik Frøiland (Norwegian Environment Agency) will make a short presentation.

Additionally, in 2022 the Council agreed to adopt a ‘Statement of the Council Regarding Pink Salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbusha*, in the NASCO Convention Area’, [CNL\(22\)47](#). This included agreement to establish a Standing NASCO Working Group on pink salmon with the aim to agree Terms of Reference for this Group at the Annual Meeting in 2023.

***The 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.***

The following papers are available:

- Draft Terms of Reference for Pink Salmon Working Group, [CNL\(23\)26](#);
- Pink Salmon Update 2023 - United Kingdom, [CNL\(23\)61](#); and
- Pink Salmon Update 2023 – Norway, [CNL\(23\)62](#).

**g) Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

In recent years, the Council and the North American Commission have been concerned about catches of salmon at St Pierre and Miquelon which, although low, occur at a time when there are serious concerns about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the North American Commission area. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has provided a Report on the 2022 Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon.

- ***no decision is required.***

The following paper is available:

- Report on the 2022 Salmon Fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon, [CNL\(23\)27](#).

**h) Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions**

Under Article 10 of the Convention ‘*Each Commission, shall, on a timely basis, make*

*a report of its activities to Council.*’ The President will ask the Chairs of each of the regional Commissions of NASCO to report to the Council on the work of their Commission.

- *no decision is required.*

## **8. Other Business**

At the time of writing, the Secretariat had not been made aware of any other business.

## **9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

The dates for NASCO’s Forty-First Annual Meeting are 4 – 7 June 2024. Council will be asked to consider the location for the meeting.

Council will be asked to confirm the dates of, and consider the location for, its Forty-Second Annual Meeting in 2025.

*Council may wish to:*

- *confirm the dates of, and consider the venue for, its Annual Meeting in 2024; and*
- *agree on the dates of 3 –6 June for the 2025 Annual Meeting.*

## **10. Press Release**

A draft Press Release will be circulated during the meeting.

- *Council may wish to agree the Press Release.*

## **11. Report of the Meeting**

Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure for Council requires that ‘A draft report shall be considered by the Council before the end of the meeting.’ A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review.

- *the Council may wish to adopt the Report of the Meeting.*

## **12. Close of the Meeting**

The President will close the Fortieth Annual Meeting.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
29 May 2023

*Summary of Council Decisions*

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	<a href="#">CNL(23)02</a>
3. Election of Officers	Elect / re-elect a President and Vice-President	
4. Financial and Administrative Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• finalise the Draft Policy regarding the interpretation and application of NASCO's Staff Fund Rule 3.2 and Staff Rule 8.2(b);</li> <li>• adopt it as its Policy;</li> <li>• instruct the Secretary to seek professional advice, immediately, to ensure there would be no detriment to part-time staff in relation to the lump sum entitlement, in light of the Policy adopted; and</li> <li>• agree that the Staff Rules and Staff Fund Rules are reviewed, as set out in FAC(23)03, paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7.</li> <li>• accept the Audited Accounts for 2022;</li> <li>• approve the budget for 2024 and note a Forecast Budget for 2025; and</li> <li>• adopt the Report of the FAC.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(23)06</a> <a href="#">FAC(23)03</a> CNL(23)05 (Issued at meeting)
5c)ii. A new approach / presentation of the ICES Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agree to the timetable proposed by ICES in CNL(23)09</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(23)09</a>
5d. Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• adopt the Revised Terms of Reference for the Board and SAG; and</li> <li>• adopt the Report of the Meeting of the Board.</li> </ul>	CNL(23)10 (Issued at meeting)
5e. Report of the Standing Scientific Committee	Adopt the Standing Scientific Committee recommendations	Issued at meeting
6b. Decisions Taken Regarding the Performance Review Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confirm its response to the recommendations already considered;</li> <li>• agree an approach to address the remaining recommendations.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(23)17rev</a>

7a(ii) Decisions Taken in Light of the Theme-based Special Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• consider actions / recommendations arising from the 2023 TBSS;</li> <li>• decide whether to hold a TBSS in 2024, and on what topic; and if so</li> <li>• establish a Steering Committee to plan the 2024 TBSS.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(23)19</a>
7b(ii) Decisions Taken in Light of the Special Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decisions Taken in Light of the Special Session, if required</li> </ul>	
7c(ii) Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Implementation Plans Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• request that the Chair and Secretary of the IP / APR Review Group arrange a meeting in November 2023 to review any revised IPs;</li> <li>• consider any actions arising from the Special Session relating to IPs.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(23)21</a>
7c(iii) Decisions Taken Regarding the Evaluation of Implementation Plans Under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• request that the Chair and Secretary of the IP / APR Review Group arrange a meeting in April 2024 to review the 2023 APRs; and</li> <li>• consider actions arising from the Special Session relating to APRs.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(23)22rev</a>
7d. Fourth Reporting Cycle: Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to continue the Implementation Plan process with a fourth reporting cycle;</li> <li>• a process and timetable for the fourth reporting cycle; and</li> <li>• Terms of Reference for the Future Reporting Working Group;</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(23)24</a>
7e. International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ask the Secretary to transfer the final IYS Fund balance to the ‘Periodic Projects Special Fund’ and close the IYS Fund account once the final amount has been established after the audit of the 2023 accounts;</li> <li>• reflect on the key messages from the Synthesis Symposium as it responds to the recommendations from the third performance review.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(23)25</a>

7f)(ii) The NASCO Working Group on Pink Salmon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agree the Terms of Reference for the NASCO Working Group on Pink Salmon; and</li> <li>• request that the Secretary seek nominations from Parties to sit on the Working Group and facilitate inter-sessional meetings.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(23)26</a>
9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>confirm the dates of, and consider the venue for, its Annual Meeting in 2024; and</i></li> <li>• <i>Council may wish to agree on the dates of 3 –6 June for the 2025 Annual Meeting.</i></li> </ul>	
10. Press Release	Agree the Press Release	
11. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report of the Meeting	Issued at meeting

## *One Year and Five Year NASCO Schedule of Work*

### **One-Year Work Schedule**

The inter-sessional work listed below will involve representatives from NASCO Parties. Each is likely to involve multiple sub-meetings. Work involving the Secretariat only is not listed. The list is subject to decisions made at the Annual Meeting.

<b>Description</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Work with Iceland and the Parties on Iceland's accession to the Convention	No timetable currently available
Meetings of the Stocking Guidelines Working Group	Virtual meetings
Meetings of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas Steering Committee	Virtual meetings
Meetings of the Group considering the Performance Review Recommendations	Multiple meetings, possible in-person
Possible Theme-based Special Session 2024 Steering Committee	Virtual meetings
Future Reporting Working Group [if fourth reporting cycle is not deferred]	Virtual meetings
Meetings of the Working Group on Pink Salmon	Virtual meetings
Meeting to Review Revised Implementation Plans in November 2023 (IP / APR Review Group)	Virtual meeting
Meeting to Review Annual Progress Reports in April 2024 (IP / APR Review Group)	Week-long virtual meeting
Meeting of the SAG to develop a list of priorities for the Board	Virtual meeting

### **Five-Year Work Schedule**

The five-year work schedule will be dependent on decisions made in response to the Performance Review Recommendations. In addition to any work agreed in that regard, the following work is also planned.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Description</b>
2024	Agree the documentation for the fourth reporting cycle [if fourth reporting cycle is not deferred]
2024	Agree recruitment process and job description for the next NASCO Secretary
2024	Negotiation of a New Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters for 2024 onwards
2024	Planning for the fourth reporting cycle – arranging / supporting the Working Group on Future Reporting [if fourth reporting cycle is deferred]
2024 / 2025	Work inter-sessionally towards the recruitment of the next NASCO Secretary
2025	Working to finalise the documentation for the fourth reporting cycle [2026 if fourth reporting cycle is deferred]
2025	Agree the documentation for the fourth reporting cycle [if fourth reporting cycle is deferred]
2025	Supporting the review of the Implementation Plans for the fourth reporting cycle



	[2026 if Fourth Reporting Cycle is not deferred]
TBC	Publication of the next State of Salmon Report (to be confirmed)
2025	Next NASCO Secretary to commence work in the Secretariat in second half of year.
2025	Meeting of the Working Group on <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i>
2025 / 2026	Negotiation of a new Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland from 2024
2026	Supporting the review of the Implementation Plans for the fourth reporting cycle [2026 if Fourth Reporting Cycle is deferred]