	<p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Update on the Streamlining of the ICES Advice</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CNL(23)09</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agenda item: 5c)(ii)</p>
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Update on the Streamlining of the ICES Advice

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the streamlining of the ICES Advice.

Decisions

- Council may wish to agree to the timetable proposed by ICES below.

Background

At its 2022 Annual Meeting, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), the Council of NASCO discussed various elements of the advice provided to NASCO by ICES. The discussion included noting that the ICES advice for other stocks was much more focused and that the advice to NASCO from ICES might also be shorter and more focused in future, with delegates consulting the Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) if more information on a specific decision was required.

Council agreed to ask the Secretary to approach ICES to investigate a more streamlined approach / presentation of the ICES Advice.

Annex 1 provides an update from ICES on the work carried out on this to date and proposes a timetable and process to enable a streamlined set of advice from ICES to NASCO to be produced.

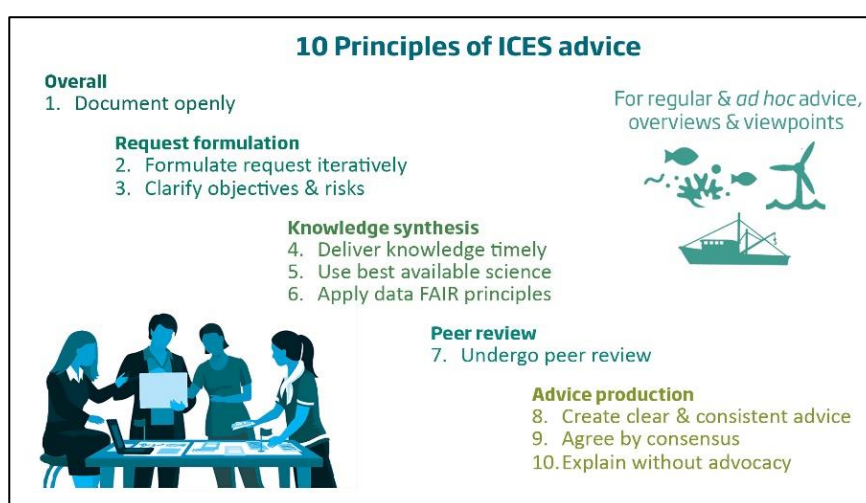
Secretariat
Edinburgh
4 May 2023

Process to Revise Format for ICES advice to NASCO

Background and work to date:

In its 2022 Annual Meeting, the NASCO Council discussed the format and content of the advice provided to NASCO by ICES. Items discussed included that the ICES advice document could be shorter and more focused; it was noted that the ICES advice for other stocks was much more focused; and that if a shorter, more focused advice was produced then the WGNAS report could be consulted for additional information. The NASCO Council agreed ‘to ask the NASCO Secretary to approach ICES to investigate a more streamlined approach /presentation of the ICES Advice’.

In accordance with the 10 principles of ICES advice, ICES strives to work with NASCO to formulate the NASCO request for advice in an iterative fashion with clear objectives and risks, and to develop advisory products that synthesise knowledge (via the advice) in a timely fashion using the best available science



and FAIR data principles, to utilise peer review, and to produce advice that is both clear and consistent, agreed by consensus, and explained without advocacy. With these principles in mind, ICES will work with the NASCO Secretariat to develop the request for advice and advisory content going forward.

ICES strives to provide [advice](#) that is relevant and fit for purpose for the advice requester(s). As such, ICES will consult with NASCO on the draft advice sheet format to ensure that it meets the needs of NASCO while meeting the 10 principles of ICES advice.

To date a continued conversation between the NASCO Secretary and ICES has taken place, outlining a process to carry out this work. Taking the standard ICES stock advice template as a starting point, discussions have taken place on the appropriate information that would be required for the revised salmon advice sheets and these proposals have been taken up for further discussion within ACOM. The work of drafting a revised format will be mainly carried out by an advice format subgroup of experts. Membership in this subgroup is being finalized. The process will be facilitated by the ICES Secretariat and ACOM vice-chair Dr. Joanne Morgan.

An important factor in the timing of the process is that there is a benchmark for salmon stocks this year [data-evaluation workshop 20-22 June and assessment workshop 23-27 October 2023] and this may affect the types of products available for the advice. Therefore, much of the work on the production of new advice format will be in conjunction with and following the benchmark.

Timetable and Process going forward

The advice format subgroup will work with the benchmark to produce graphs and tables using output of the revised assessment. In addition, it will work on the overall format of the advice sheet.

A first draft of the revised advice sheet will likely be available in November and ICES will consult with NASCO about its suitability at that time. This will likely be at least a two-stage process with the initial draft being revised following comments from NASCO and additional comments sought from NASCO.

ICES advice format and content require approval by the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM). Discussion and approval of the revised format by ACOM will likely occur via a combination of the ACOM forum and discussions at the March 2024 ACOM meeting. This means that final comments from NASCO will be required by end January 2024.

It is anticipated that the new format will be used for the 2024 ICES advice and presentation of advice to NASCO in June 2024.

It should be noted that the timeline proposed here depends on the availability of experts, the final timeline of the benchmark and availability of ACOM to approve the new format.