

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Progress Report on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas</i></p>	<p>CNL(23)16</p> <p>Agenda item: 5i)</p>
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Progress Report on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas

Purpose

This paper reports on progress in development of NASCO’s Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas.

Decisions

- no decisions are required.

Background

At its Annual Meeting in 2021, [CNL\(21\)62](#), the Council agreed:

‘that NASCO should retain a website-accessible Rivers Database; to caveat the Rivers Database with the appropriate disclaimers; and that the Secretariat should make the Rivers Database available in a map-based form on the website as soon as possible.’

The Rivers Database was made available on the website: [NASCO Rivers Database – NASCO](#).

The Council also agreed:

‘to establish a Working Group to address ... high-level issues with respect to the Rivers Database, and to report back to the Annual Meeting in 2022’

The Report of the Rivers Database Working Group, [CNL\(22\)12](#), was considered by the Council at the NASCO Annual Meeting in June 2022. All the recommendations made were accepted. The Council agreed to ask the Rivers Database Working Group to act as the Steering Committee for the development of the ‘Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas’ and to progress this work.

The Wild Atlantic Salmon Steering Committee

As discussed during the 2022 Annual Meeting, the members of the Rivers Database Working Group were given the opportunity to consider their membership of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Steering Committee, such that members could reaffirm their participation.

Following this process, the membership of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas Steering Committee was confirmed as:

- Helge Dyrendal, Norwegian Environment Agency, Norway;
- Stephen Gephard, Fisheries Consultant, USA;
- Livia Goodbrand, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canada (Chair);
- Janina Grey, Wildfish, NGO;
- Nora Hanson, Scottish Government, UK (replaced by Stuart Middlemas whilst on maternity leave); and
- To Be Confirmed, European Union.

A virtual meeting of the Steering Committee took place on 1 November 2022. The Steering Committee considered the discussion on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas in Council and the process of developing an Atlas. The majority of the meeting was spent ‘road testing’ mapping websites and considering the advantages and disadvantages of each.

The Steering Committee asked the Secretariat to develop a ‘Statement of Work’ for the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas, and to make progress towards developing a prototype. It was agreed

that Steering Committee members would be informed at all stages and invited to contribute, where they felt they could add value.

The Approach to Developing the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas

As requested by the Steering Committee, the Secretariat considered the best approach to developing the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas and wrote a Statement of Work. The Assistant Secretary met with GIS specialists and colleagues working with interactive mapping initiatives, including: experts from the [Amber Project](#), the [Forth Rivers Trust](#), [Exegesis](#), [Esri](#), NASCO's current Rivers Database developer – [Redpaint](#), the [SmartRivers Project](#) and [Salmon Pressures Interactive Map](#) in Scotland.

Following this consultation, the Secretariat subscribed to [Esri's Nonprofit Organization Program](#). This 'provides nonprofit organizations with low-cost access to GIS software, training, content, and other resources.' This includes hosting of content, such as the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas.

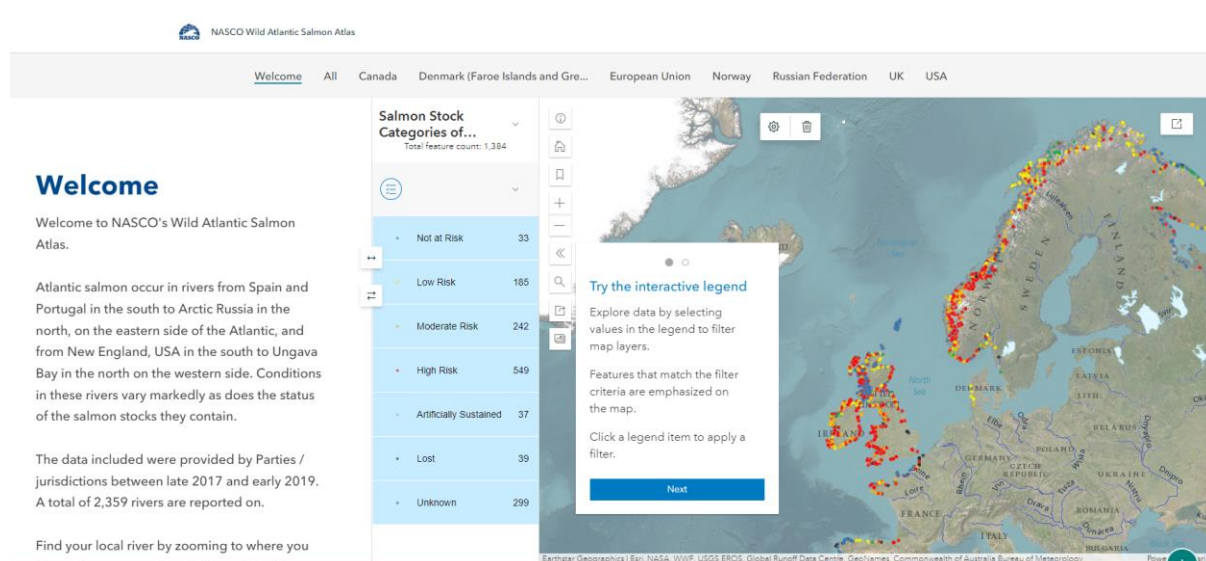
The Secretariat has contracted a GIS specialist from the Forth Rivers Trust to develop NASCO's Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas, in line with the recommendations in 'The Report of the Rivers Database Working Group', [CNL\(22\)12](#), and the decisions of Council at the Annual Meeting in June 2022, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#). This work is ongoing.

The Steering Committee was informed of the approach to be taken and sent the Statement of Work and invited to comment.

Progress on Designing the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas

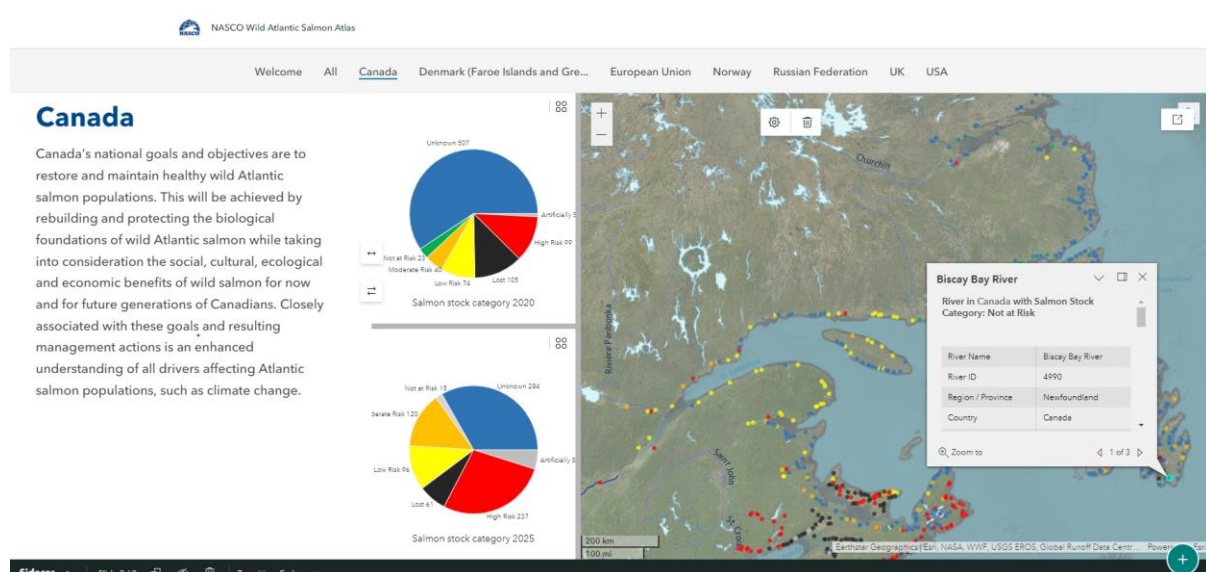
The Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas remains under development, and dummy datasets have been used to allow a prototype to be built. The images below indicate the progress being made in developing the Atlas. They use a combination of real data and dummy data. They show the Atlas as a work in progress.

The Atlas will show information about North Atlantic salmon rivers. Each river mouth is mapped and data about the river will be available when the point on the map is selected. The Atlas is also able to show changes in the status of the river in different time periods. It also includes a side bar which can provide text about the Atlas overall and some analysis, such as the number of rivers in each stock status category.



Additionally, the Atlas is being designed to provide information about a region / country. Dummy text and data are being used to illustrate this in the image below. Again, the image is indicative only and shows work in progress.

Work on the look and feel of the Atlas is ongoing.



Financing the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas

In 2022, Council agreed, paragraph 4.40 in [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), to use the Periodic Projects Special Fund, established in 2020 ([CNL\(20\)51rev](#)), to fund the rebuilding of the Rivers Database and the development of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas over two years. Council originally considered that around £10,000 would be needed to develop the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas. The current work on the Atlas is within the estimated cost. The £10,000 allocated allows for the design and hosting of the Atlas and for staff training required on the new software.

Next Steps

The Secretariat will refine the Atlas and consult the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas Steering Committee on its design and functionality, in line with the recommendations in 'The Report of the Rivers Database Working Group', [CNL\(22\)12](#), and the decisions of Council at the Annual Meeting in June 2022, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#).

Additionally, the Atlas and / or the GIS platform may be of relevance in the consideration of the Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#). For example, Recommendation 16 states that:

'The Panel recommends that NASCO directs Parties and jurisdictions to adopt a pressure and actions mapping tool approach for targeting habitat stressors in aquatic environments equivalent to that under development in Scotland, including sensitivity to climate change.'

Decisions made in relation to the Performance Review recommendations may, therefore, have implications for the next steps in developing the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
4 May 2023