

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>Information on the Initial Response to the Performance Review Recommendations</i></p>	<p>CNL(23)18</p> <p>Agenda item: 6b)</p>
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Information on the Initial Response to the Performance Review Recommendations

Purpose

This paper provides information on the inter-sessional process of consideration of the recommendations from NASCO’s third performance review. It also provides information about a possible way forward to address the recommendations.

Decisions

Council may wish to:

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

Background

In 2018, the NASCO Council resolved to have a third NASCO performance review. The ‘Terms of Reference for the Third Performance Review of NASCO’, [CNL\(21\)22](#), were agreed in 2021. The performance review was conducted in 2022 and the ‘Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review’, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#), was published in March 2023.

Initial Response to the Recommendations

The Contracting Parties and the NGOs welcomed the ‘Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review’, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#).

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. During this meeting, it was agreed that the recommendations should be grouped to enable a more coherent discussion. Subsequently, initial responses to several recommendations were considered (Annex 1), with a view to confirming these responses during the Annual Meeting, as appropriate. These were, in general, considered to be the less complex recommendations.

The Approach to Full Consideration of the Recommendations

Following the meeting on 27 April, the Heads of Delegations agreed that the following process would be initiated to consider the response to the recommendations more fully. The NGO Co-Chairs would be invited to participate in this process.

1. Parties and NGO Co-Chairs would review the initial response to the recommendations considered. Decisions would be taken on these recommendations, where possible, at the 2023 Annual Meeting;
2. Parties and NGO Co-Chairs would consider their response to the remaining recommendations;
3. A group would likely be established to advise Council on outstanding recommendations. The President will table Draft Terms of Reference to be considered at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
4. A way forward for NASCO arising from these deliberations could be considered by the Council at the 2024 Annual Meeting, if Council so decides.

Initial Consideration of Recommendations from NASCO's third performance review

	Recommendation	Council may wish to...
3	The Panel recommends that NASCO requests ICES to develop an integrated, seamless process to input data into a common database from a web-based application. This should be integrated with the assessments to produce the necessary tables and graphs to document the assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree an approach once ICES responds to an initial enquiry from the Secretary.
5	The Panel recommends that NASCO requests ICES to ensure that its catch statistics on catch and release fisheries acknowledge the fact that some of the released salmon will die.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree an approach once ICES responds to an initial enquiry from the Secretary.
6	The Panel recommends that NASCO should commission an assessment of the by-catch of salmon in the large-scale fisheries for small pelagics in the North-East Atlantic and, if the by-catch is determined to be significant, take measures to address this.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to consider the 2023 ICES advice and, if required, liaise with NEAFC on the need for any further action.
12	The Panel recommends that NASCO addresses the absence of reliable data on salmon in respect of pelagic fisheries (e.g. potential for overlapping marine distribution and fisheries in space and time) at the earliest opportunity, taking account of the imminent data call by WKSALMON2 in this respect. In addition to ongoing scientific pelagic surveys and on-board observer programs, a dedicated sampling program with robust experimental sampling design, replicating regular fishing activity, would be valuable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to consider 2023 ICES advice and, if required, liaise with NEAFC on the need for any further action.
13	The Panel recommends NASCO to encourage efforts to extend and improve knowledge of the distribution of salmon in the sea. Such efforts could, building on SALSEA and other recent initiatives, include experimental long-line fisheries, telemetric and genetic-based distributional studies, combining their respective strengths, and using them to develop, parameterize and test migrational models such as those based on particle tracking.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as a priority, agree to seek the Board's views on this recommendation at the 2023 Annual Meeting. • this may link to work planned by the Board to ask the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to identify a prioritised list of research needs.

23	The Panel recommends that, further to the Tromsø recommendation above on stocking, NASCO further investigates both the scientific and management protocols for gene banking and develops Guidelines in this regard.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to request that Norway shares its protocols on gene banking with the Stocking Guidelines Working Group and ask it to consider gene banking in its consideration of best practice.
24	<p>The Panel concurs with and endorses Recommendations EPR 63 and 64, and encourages NASCO to continue its associated implementation actions.</p> <p>[EPR 63: NASCO should consider enhancing its current surveillance efforts by requesting the cooperation of NEAFC and NAFO in reporting on any suspected IUU fishing activities for salmon in the area of the Convention that may be detected in their MCS operations.</p> <p>EPR 64: If IUU fishing activities for salmon in the area of the Convention are discovered, the Organization should take appropriate and proportionate measures to address the problem, including strengthening the NASCO surveillance programme, as appropriate.]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree that NASCO will continue its implementation of the relevant actions.
25	<p>The Panel recommends that NASCO and its Parties strengthen their efforts to decrease unreported catches in all salmon fisheries conducted by NASCO Parties.</p> <p>NASCO could consider commissioning an external independent assessment of unreported catches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree an approach once ICES responds to an initial enquiry from the Secretary. • agree to refer this to the NASCO Commissions for consideration at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
26	The Panel recommends that NASCO should consider adopting port State measures if there are indications of significant IUU fishing for salmon on the high seas and by foreign vessels within coastal State maritime zones, and port State measures are determined to be an effective response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree that no immediate action is required, as there are no indications of significant IUU fishing.
31	The Panel recommends that NASCO should consider options to ensure that convening meetings by the Council and its Commission in the format of HoDs meetings becomes the exception rather than the rule. One such option could be to determine that converting from plenary sessions into the format of HoDs meetings requires an explicit decision supported by a simple majority of the members of the Council or a Commission, where applicable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to try to carry out less business in HoDs meetings and invite NGOs to such meetings, as appropriate, when they are deemed necessary.

37	NASCO could consider making a determination whether the current salmon fishing by France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) and Iceland undermines the objective of the Convention and, if so, what action could be taken to deter it.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note that Iceland intends to join NASCO and an invitation to France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) to join was renewed in December 2022, and • consider making a determination on the significance of the fishery at St. Pierre and Miquelon at the 2023 Annual Meeting.
39	The Panel recommends that the NASCO Secretary should assess the needs for training and that training should be provided where considered necessary.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • refer this to the FAC and accept its recommendation that either: training plans with budgets be completed by the Secretariat and submitted to the FAC for approval each year; OR that a basic training budget be agreed, with any budgetary adjustment to be carried out retrospectively in line with what the Secretariat reports on spend against that budget.
40	The Panel recommends that the Secretariat complete documenting its standard operating procedures at an accelerated pace.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to instruct the Secretariat to take this action forward.
41	The Panel recommends that NASCO develops a NASCO Carbon Policy to ensure that NASCO's carbon emissions are in line with best practices on achieving carbon neutrality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree a process to enable development of a Sustainability Policy.