



***Fortieth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission***

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

***5 – 8 June 2023***

***Annotated Agenda***

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

Papers for the meeting are on the [website](#).

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 Commission is contained in Annex 1.

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

The Commission will meet on:

- Tuesday 6 June: 08:30 – 09:30 hrs
- Wednesday 7 June: 15:00 – 16:00 hrs

**Order of Business**

Business will be taken in the order on the Draft Agenda.

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

The Chair, Isabelle Morisset (Canada), will open the meeting.

The opening of the meeting will not include verbal Opening Statements. Members of the Commission, Observers and NGOs may submit written Opening Statements. 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**

A Provisional Agenda, [NAC\(23\)01](#), was issued on 10 February 2023. No supplementary items were proposed by the Parties. The Draft Agenda, [NAC\(23\)02](#), was issued on 3 April.

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

### **3. Nomination of a Rapporteur**

- *the Commission may wish to nominate a Rapporteur.*

### **4. Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

In 2022 the Council agreed that full ICES Advice should be presented in Council only in future, [CNL\(22\)53](#). Therefore, there will be no presentation of ICES advice during the Commission meeting.

However, Article 9 of the Convention states that *‘In exercising the functions set out in articles 7 and 8, a Commission shall take into account: the best available information, including advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and other appropriate scientific organizations...’*

This agenda item allows for questions and comment on the ICES Advice, if required. The Co-Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Martha Robertson (Canada), will be available to answer questions, if required.

- *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.

### **5. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission**

This is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention. Article 7 states that *‘The functions of the North American Commission with regard to its area shall be: (a) to provide a forum for consultation and co-operation between the members: (i) on matters related to minimizing catches in the area of fisheries jurisdiction of one member of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party...’*

Additionally, under the Council’s ‘Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, CNL(13)38, it was agreed that there should be an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries.

In 2022, [NAC\(22\)11](#), the Commission agreed that the Agenda items ‘Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission’ and ‘Sampling in the Labrador Fishery’, previously taken separately, would be consolidated into one item given how closely related they are.

Each member of the Commission with mixed-stock fisheries (MSF) has been requested to provide the Secretariat with a short paper which includes a brief description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data, a description of sampling programmes in these MSFs and any changes or developments in their management. There are no directed wild Atlantic salmon fisheries in the United States, so no report will be provided under this Agenda item by the United States.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed Stock Fisheries Context, [NAC\(23\)04](#).

## 6. 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.

In 2022, the Council agreed to write to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon), again, to invite them to join NASCO. The [Letter from the President of NASCO](#) to the Secretary of State of the Sea was sent on 16 December 2022. No response had been received at the time of writing.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

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

## 7. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

Under Article 7 of the Convention, the Williamsburg Resolution, and the NAC protocols, Members of the Commission must report on salmonid introductions and transfers. In 2010, it was agreed that the Parties should provide focused annual reports to the Commission on issues of mutual concern including salmonid disease incidences, breaches of containment, introductions from outside the Commission area and transgenics.

Prior to the NAC Annual Meeting, Canada and the United States shared reports and held an informal bilateral meeting. This enabled the reports to be reviewed and questions to be asked and responded to. An addendum has been added to the report from Canada, following the bilateral meeting.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- Annual Report (Tabled by Canada), [NAC\(23\)05rev](#); and
- Annual Report (Tabled by the United States), [NAC\(23\)03](#).

## 8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme 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 winner will be announced at the Meeting and will be recorded in the Meeting Report.

- *no decision is required.*

## 9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice

This item is required under Article 9 of the Convention which requires a Commission to take into account the best scientific evidence. Advice is provided annually under the

ICES / NASCO Memorandum of Understanding.

In 1992, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. During the Annual Meeting, the SSC will meet to develop a Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES for consideration by the Commissions and the Council. 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 Commissions and the Council.

Dale Marsden has been nominated to replace Isabelle Morisset (now the Chair of the Commission) as one of NAC's representatives on the SSC.

- *the Commission may wish to appoint Dale Marsden to the SSC; and*
- *the Commission will be asked to consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation, although it may wish to defer the decision to the Council.*

The Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations will be available once its work is complete.

## **10. Other Business**

The Commission may wish to note and comment on recommendation 25 of The Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#):

*'The Panel recommends that NASCO and its Parties strengthen their efforts to decrease unreported catches in all salmon fisheries conducted by NASCO Parties. NASCO could consider commissioning an external independent assessment of unreported catches.'*

No additional other business is expected.

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

The Commission will be asked to confirm the date and venue for its next Annual Meeting. It is usual practice for the Commission to meet during the Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO, and in the same location.

The Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Council will be held during 4 – 7 June 2024; the location will be considered during the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Council.

- *the Commission may wish to agree to hold its next Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Council.*

## **12. Report of the Meeting**

Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure for the NAC requires that 'A draft report shall be considered by the Commission before the end of the meeting.'

A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review.

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

## **13. Close of the Meeting**

The Chair will close the Annual Meeting of the North American Commission.

*Summary of Commission Decisions*

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Paper No.</b>
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	<a href="#">NAC(23)02</a>
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur	Nominate a Rapporteur	
9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appoint Dale Marsden to the SSC; and</li> <li>• consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation, or defer the decision to the Council.</li> </ul>	Paper issued at the meeting
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Agree to hold its next Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Forty-first Annual Meeting of the Council.	
12. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report of the Meeting	Issued at meeting

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
29 May 2023