



Fortieth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic 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-East Atlantic 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:

- Monday 5 June: 14:00 – 16:00 hrs
- Wednesday 7 June: 16:00 – 17:00 hrs

Order of Business

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

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Alex Kinninmonth (UK), 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, [NEA\(23\)01](#), was issued on 10 February 2023. No supplementary items were proposed by the Parties. The Draft Agenda, [NEA\(23\)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), Alan Walker (UK), 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. 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.

Each member of the Commission with mixed-stock fisheries (MSF) was requested to provide the Secretariat with a short paper which includes a brief description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the European Union), [NEA\(23\)08](#);
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway), [NEA\(23\)04](#); and
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the United Kingdom), [NEA\(23\)06](#).

In addition to the MSF papers above, the following statement is expected:

- Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse, NEA(23)10.

6. Regulatory Measures

In 2021 the Commission adopted ‘Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters in 2021 / 2022, 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024’, [NEA\(21\)16](#). Under this Decision, the Commission agreed:

‘Not to set a quota for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone for 2021

/ 2022. This decision will also apply in 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024 unless the application of the Framework of Indicators shows that a re-assessment is warranted. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) retains the right to conduct a scientific research fishery in the Faroese Fishery Zone.'

The Working Group applied the Framework of Indicators and concluded that the results of the NEA FWI assessment in 2023 (based on indicator values for 2022) do not suggest that the PFA (Pre-Fisheries Abundance) forecast for 2022 has been under-estimated. Therefore, the FWI Working Group concluded that no re-assessment of the existing management advice for the Faroes fishery is required from ICES in 2023.

- ***the Commission may wish to confirm that the Decision, NEA(21)16, will continue to apply in 2023 / 2024.***

The following papers are available:

- Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters in 2021 / 2022, 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024, [NEA\(21\)16](#);
- Report on the Use of the Framework of Indicators in 2023, [NEA\(23\)03](#);
- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(23\)08](#); and
- the [Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon](#) is on the ICES website.

7. Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area

This Agenda item allows for information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced. Parties were invited to submit papers to this Annual Meeting, to report on their work on the 'Road Map' to enhance information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced, [NEA\(18\)08](#).

Additionally, it allows the Commission to consider the Report of the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* (GSWG) in the North-East Atlantic Commission Area, which met in October 2022, [NEA\(23\)09](#).

The Commission may also wish to consider recommendation 27 of the External Performance Review Panel, [CNL\(23\)17](#), which relates to *Gyrodactylus salaris*.

The Commission may wish to agree to the recommendations of the GSWG that:

- ***the next meeting of the Working Group should take place in 2025;***
- ***Contingency Plans be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group;***
- ***strong efforts should be made to encourage NEA Parties / jurisdictions that have not previously or recently been involved, to participate in future meetings;***
- ***Iceland be invited, as an observer, to the Working Group's next meeting; and***
- ***the Commission adopt revisions to the Road Map.***

The Commission may wish to note the following recommendations of the GSWG as best practice and encourage Parties / jurisdictions to take these into account:

- ***any positive detections of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in an area previously free of the parasite must immediately be reported to the Competent Authorities of the***

jurisdiction and not be investigated through a non-designated laboratory. Samples should be available for investigation by the Competent Authority;

- *salmon restoration programmes should consider the threat posed by Gyrodactylus salaris and undertake appropriate surveillance and mitigation measures;*
- *where possible, only 1+ or older juvenile salmon are used for sampling; and*
- *the use of chlorine be considered in the development of Contingency Plans as a potential eradication method if Gyrodactylus salaris becomes established. However, chlorine should not be considered as an initial treatment in response to an outbreak where fast action is necessary.*

Recommendation 27 of the External Performance Review Panel, [CNL\(23\)17](#), states:

‘The Panel recommends that NASCO should consider the following actions to prevent the spread of G. salaris and its eradication:

a) Replace the title of the Road Map with wording that better reflects the seriousness and urgency of the situation (e.g. Action Plan) and its action-oriented content (e.g. measures to be taken instead of merely cooperation in that regard);

b) Integrate all the recommendations made by the GSWG at its 2022 meeting; and

c) Revise the terms of reference of the GSWG to give it a more action-oriented mandate, including making specific recommendations for measures to prevent the further spread of the parasite and for its eradication in areas where it has been introduced, rather than merely developing recommendations to enhance cooperation in that regard.’

The Commission may wish to comment on this recommendation.

The following papers are available:

- Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the North-East Atlantic Commission Area, [NEA\(23\)09](#);
- Report of the External Performance Review, [CNL\(23\)17](#);
- *Gyrodactylus salaris* in Norwegian Rivers (Tabled by Norway), [NEA\(23\)05](#); and
- UK *G salaris* Road Map Update (Tabled by the UK), [NEA\(23\)07](#).

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 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 28 of the Rules of Procedure for the North-East Atlantic Commission 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-East Atlantic Commission.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
29 May 2023

Summary of Commission Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	NEA(23)02
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur	Nominate a Rapporteur	
6. Regulatory Measures	Confirm that the Decision will continue to apply in 2023 / 2024.	NEA(21)16 NEA(23)03 CNL(23)08
7. Risk of Transmission of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in the Commission Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the next meeting of the Working Group should take place in 2025; • Contingency Plans be presented at the next meeting of the Working Group; • strong efforts should be made to encourage NEA Parties / jurisdictions that have not previously or recently been involved, to participate in future meetings; • Iceland be invited, as an observer, to the Working Group's next meeting; and • the Commission adopt revisions to the Road Map. 	NEA(23)09 CNL(23)17
9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	Consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation or defer the decision to the Council.	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