

CNL(23)76

Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review

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Overview

- The Panel
- The uniqueness of NASCO
- Key achievements of NASCO
- Current and future challenges for NASCO
- Structure of the Report
- Addressing NASCO's overall effectiveness

The Panel

Jean-Jacques Maguire

fisheries science



Philip McGinnity

*salmon conservation and
management*



Erik J. Molenaar

*international fisheries
law*



The uniqueness of NASCO

- Objective: “conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks”
- NASCO’s mandate not confined to fishing
- Implementing mandate requires cross-sectoral & holistic approach
 - protecting, restoring and enhancing salmon habitat
 - rebuilding salmon stocks through stocking, where appropriate
 - preventing, reducing, controlling and eradicating other significant adverse impacts on salmon stocks
- Approach confirmed by NASCO’s practice on non-fisheries issues (through non-legally binding instruments)

NASCO's practice on non-fisheries issues

Habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNL(01)51 'NASCO Plan of Action for the Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat' • CNL(10)51 'NASCO Guidelines for the Protection, Restoration and Enhancement of Atlantic Salmon Habitat'
Stocking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNL(04)55 'NASCO Guidelines on the Use of Stock Rebuilding Programmes in the Context of the Precautionary Management of Salmon Stocks'
Aquaculture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NAC(92)24 'NAC Protocols for the Introduction and Transfer of Salmonids' • CNL(97)48 (Annex 22) 'NASCO Guidelines for Action on Transgenic Salmon' • CNL(01)53 'Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon' • NAC(05)7 'Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and USA' (on introductions and transfers of aquatic species) • CNL(06)48 'Resolution by the Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean to Minimise Impacts from Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers, and Transgenics on the Wild Salmon Stocks' (Williamsburg Resolution) • SLG(09)5 'Guidance on Best Management Practices to address impacts of sea lice and escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon stocks' • CNL(22)49 'Statement on Salmon Farming from the Council of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization'
Salmon fluke	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEA(18)08 "Road Map' to enhance information exchange and cooperation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of <i>G. salaris</i> and eradicate it if introduced'
Pink salmon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CNL(22)47 'Statement of the Council Regarding Pink Salmon, <i>Oncorhynchus gorbuscha</i>, in the NASCO Convention Area'

The uniqueness of NASCO (cont.)

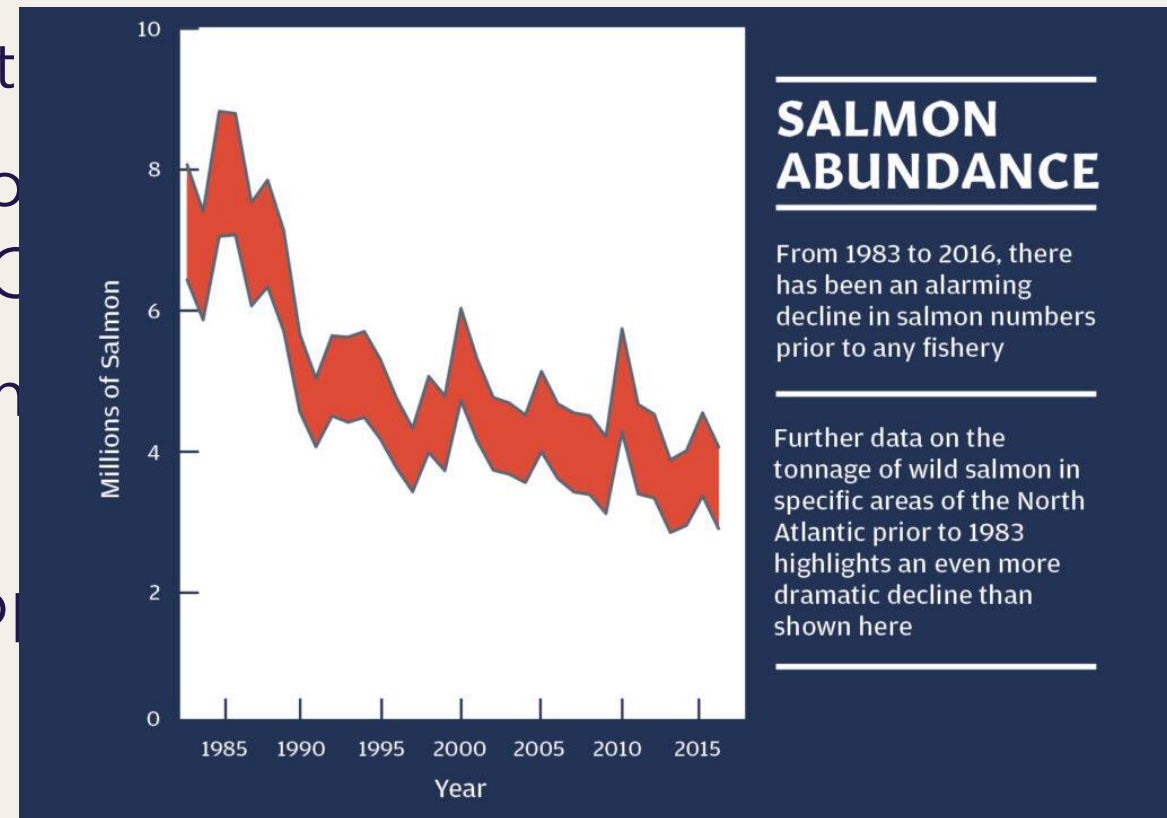
- NASCO can be regarded as 'more than an RFMO'
 - Direct practical relevance
 - The obligations of non-Parties to NASCO (France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) and Iceland) vis-à-vis NASCO Parties
 - The relationship between NASCO and the OSPAR Commission
 - NASCO also governed by international fisheries law
 - Fish Stocks Agreement not applicable in the context of NASCO as such, but NASCO Parties can decide to apply parts of the Agreement between them

Key achievements of NASCO

- Ensuring that more and more targeted salmon fishing was either discontinued or constrained otherwise
- Initiating a range of initiatives and steps to address adverse impacts on wild Atlantic salmon stocks caused by other human activities, by non-legally binding instruments (Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines)

Current and future challenges for NASCO

- Continued decline of stocks of wild Atlantic salmon, despite significant reductions in targeted salmon fishing
- Significance of other existing stressors
- Implementation of NASCO's non-fisheries stressors by NASCO
- Newly emerging stressors, such as climate change and pink salmon
- Circumstances require strict application of the precautionary principle



Current and future challenges for NASCO (cont.)

- Why did NASCO perform well on constraining targeted salmon fishing but not so well on addressing other stressors?
- Arguably, three factors are the most relevant
 1. the mandate of NASCO;
 2. the complexity and cost of measures to address impacts; and
 3. the extent in which socio-economic interests are affected by measures.

Structure of the Report

1. Introduction to NASCO and the Third NASCO Performance Review
2. Conservation and management
3. Compliance and enforcement
4. Decision-making and dispute settlement
5. International cooperation
6. Financial and administrative issues
7. NASCO's overall effectiveness

Addressing NASCO's overall effectiveness

- Chapter 7 to the Report
- Continuous decline in salmon = state of emergency → business as usual not an option
- The primary focus should no longer be on salmon fishing but on other stressors
 - 7.1 Amending the NASCO Convention
 - 7.2 Agreed interpretations of the NASCO Convention
 - 7.3 A new NASCO strategic plan
 - 7.4 Strengthening existing NASCO instruments
 - 7.5 Elevating salmon conservation to a higher political level



**Thank you for your
attention!**

Questions?

