



CNL23.084

3 August 2023

Svandís Svavarsdóttir
Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries
Borgartún 26
105 Reykjavík
Iceland

Dear Ms Svavarsdóttir,

Thank you for your letter of 5 June 2023, confirming that Iceland is seeking full membership of NASCO from 1 January 2024.

The delegates at the NASCO Annual Meeting were all very happy to receive this news.

We have sought legal advice to determine the process, in this unique situation of a country joining, leaving and rejoining an Intergovernmental Organization. Since Iceland is one of the countries listed in Article 17(1) of the Convention, it would simply need to deposit its instrument of ratification, approval, or accession with the Depositary of the Agreement (the Council of the EU). No ‘approval’ of the NASCO Council is required. The Convention would then enter into force for Iceland on the date of the deposit of its instrument (Article 17(6)). Iceland would not need to withdraw its 2009 denunciation.

Similarly, Iceland’s membership of the North-East Atlantic Commission of NASCO is already provided for in Article 10(1c). Once Iceland becomes a member of NASCO, it also becomes a member (again) of the North-East Atlantic Commission.

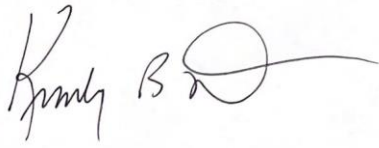
I very much look forward to working with Iceland over the coming months. To facilitate this work, please let me know who the Head of the Icelandic Delegation to NASCO will be. I will request that the Secretary, Dr Emma Hatfield, communicates with the Head of Delegation immediately, to ensure Iceland is fully informed of NASCO’s activities.

At the Annual Meeting in June 2023, the Parties agreed to relaunch NASCO, in 2024, with a renewed focus on restoring and conserving wild Atlantic salmon in the face of the climate crisis. A NASCO Strategy, with an accompanying Action Plan, is being developed. The Council formed a Working Group to focus on this effort called the Working Group on the Future of NASCO (WGFON). The WGFON will begin its work at a meeting in early October. We invite Iceland’s participation in this Group given how important this work is to guiding the future direction of the Organization.

A number of other inter-sessional meetings are being planned to progress NASCO’s work. Once we are informed of Iceland’s Head of Delegation, we will provide more information and include Iceland in meeting invitations as appropriate.

The Secretary would be delighted to answer any questions you may have, as we welcome Iceland to NASCO.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kimberly B. Randall", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kimberly Damon-Randall
President of NASCO

CC: Ms Thórdís Kolbrún Reykjavík Gyldadóttir – Minister for Foreign Affairs