



**REPORT OF THE
FORTIETH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
NORTH AMERICAN COMMISSION**

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

5 – 8 June 2023

Chair: Isabelle Morisset (Canada)

Vice-Chair: Patrick Keliher (United States)

Secretary: Emma Hatfield

NAC(23)08

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Report of the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada

5 – 8 June 2023

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair, Isabelle Morisset (Canada), opened the meeting and welcomed delegates.
- 1.2 A list of participants at the Fortieth Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO is included as Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda, [NAC\(23\)06](#) (Annex 2).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Callan Yanoff (USA) was appointed as Rapporteur.

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

- 4.1 The Chair reminded delegates that the ICES Advice for North Atlantic salmon stocks was published on 4 May 2023, [CNL\(23\)08](#). She noted that in 2022 the Council had agreed that full ICES Advice should be presented in Council only in future. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Martha Robertson (Canada) and Alan Walker (UK), had, therefore, previously presented the report of the Advisory Committee (ACOM) to Council. Dr Robertson attended the North American Commission Meeting to answer any questions relevant to the Commission.
- 4.2 The NGO Co-Chair asked about Canada's incomplete documentation of unreported catch. Canada stated that the missing report data were from southern Canada and ICES was working to standardise unreported catch data. Canada will work to provide more complete information on unreported catch.

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

- 5.1 The Chair noted that 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 (MSFs).
- 5.2 The Chair reminded the Commission that, in 2022, it had been 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 were.
- 5.3 The Chair thanked Canada for its paper 'Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed-Stock Fisheries Context Paper', [NAC\(23\)04](#). The United States did not provide a report as there are no directed wild Atlantic salmon fisheries in the United States.

- 5.4 The United States noted that a few U.S.-origin salmon were harvested in the Labrador fishery and that catches were located closer to the estuary than they were in the past. The United States asked what further steps Canada had taken to reduce the take of U.S.-origin salmon. It also urged Canada to increase sampling in time and space to reach the level of 10 % sampling across the whole fishery, as recommended by ICES. Canada commented on its collaboration with Indigenous fishing organizations to discuss net placement and timing and to request that Indigenous groups meet sampling requirements. Canada remarked that it will continue to encourage increased sampling, especially of large salmon, and when conducting the genetic analysis will work to ensure the samples processed are representative of the catch.
- 5.5 The NGO Co-Chair expressed concern about mixed-stock fisheries and requested clarification on Figure 6 in paper [NAC\(23\)04](#), asking whether those catches were from the marine or estuarine environment. Canada responded that most catches were from estuaries, and that in the future it would provide information on sample locations by more defined areas (i.e. inner estuary, outer estuary and coastal).

6. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

- 6.1 The Chair noted that the Commission had been concerned about catches of salmon at St Pierre and Miquelon for some time. Although low, this catch occurred at a time when there are serious concerns about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions had been introduced throughout the North American Commission area. She also noted that the President of NASCO had written to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) in December 2022, inviting it to join NASCO, and that no response had yet been received.
- 6.2 The Chair thanked France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) for providing the report on the 2022 ‘Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery’, [CNL\(23\)27rev](#).
- 6.3 The United States highlighted the importance of reducing catch to the lowest level possible and asked about additional measures being taken to achieve 10 % sampling rates. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noted in its report a decrease in catch in comparison to 2021 and that it was increasing efforts to enforce, monitor and manage the fishery. It was working actively with recreational fishers on a sustainability charter to promote responsible activity and efficient regulation. Canada questioned whether, since professional fishers could access the lobster or scallop fisheries, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) could lower its quota for Atlantic salmon. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) explained that the four professional licences were not highly profitable but rather more traditional. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noted that it would not reallocate these professional licences when the current holder no longer fished professionally. Therefore, the number of professional fishers would be reduced in future.

7. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

- 7.1 The Chair stated that under Article 7 of the Convention, the Williamsburg Resolution and the NAC protocols, members of the Commission must report on salmonid introductions and transfers. She reminded the Commission that in 2010 it had decided that members of the Commission would provide focused annual reports on issues of mutual concern, including salmonid disease incidences, breaches of containment, introductions from outside the Commission area and transgenics (see [NAC\(10\)6](#)).

- 7.2 The Chair informed the Commission that prior to the Annual Meeting, Canada and the United States had shared reports and held an informal bilateral meeting. This enabled the reports to be reviewed and questions to be asked and responded to. She thanked Canada, [NAC\(23\)05rev](#), and the United States, [NAC\(23\)03](#), for their annual reports.
- 7.3 Canada highlighted a new report addendum to its report on escapees from aquaculture systems caught at monitoring facilities. This was based on a request from last year's meeting and Canada intends to include this information in its reports in future. The NGO Co-Chair asked about the number of escapees detected at monitoring facilities in Newfoundland, to which Canada responded that all suspected or confirmed escapees were reported in [NAC\(23\)05rev](#).

8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 8.1 NASCO operates a Tag Return Incentive Scheme. Eligible tags that are returned to the appropriate authorities in the country of capture may be included in the draws. 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.
- 8.2 The Chair announced that the winner of the North American Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was David Au, Canada.
- 8.3 The tag was placed on a wild salmon returning to the Northwest Miramichi River (New Brunswick, Canada) in 2022. The fish was captured on 12 July 2022 at the estuary trap net in Cassilis operated by Fisheries and Oceans Canada as part of the assessment programme for Atlantic salmon in the Miramichi River. The fish was measured for length, the sex was identified and scale samples were taken. It was marked externally with a light blue Carlin tag prior to release back to the river. It measured 57.4 cm fork length and, based on external characteristics, the fish was identified as a wild one-sea-winter male salmon. It was recaptured during the recreational fishery on 9 August 2022 in the Sevogle River on the Northwest Miramichi River at a location locally known as Whitney Brook Pool. It was released subsequently by the angler as there were mandatory catch and release measures in place for Atlantic salmon in 2022.

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

- 9.1 The Chair noted that the Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) assists the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. Dale Marsden was nominated to replace Isabelle Morisset (now the Chair of the Commission) as the NAC's manager representative on the SSC.
- 9.2 The Commission agreed to defer consideration of the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice in relation to the North American Commission to the Council. The request to ICES, as agreed by Council, is contained in document [CNL\(23\)11rev](#) (Annex 3).

10. Other Business

- 10.1 The Chair asked the Commission if it wished to comment on Recommendation 25 of the Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review, CNL(23)17rev, which states:

'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.'

10.2 Canada noted that Recommendation 25 is similar to Recommendation 2 (on handling unreported catches). Canada stated that it recognised the problem and supported catch reports and developing a consistent approach. Canada stated that it continued to work on resolving issues related to unreported catch. The NGO Co-Chair asked if the two Canadian regions that had not been providing information on unreported catch would now do so. Canada responded that it would give attention to those areas.

11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

11.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Council.

12. Report of the Meeting

12.1 The Commission agreed a Report of the Meeting.

13. Close of the Meeting

13.1 The Chair thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the Meeting.

NAC(23)08

Compte rendu de la quarantième session annuelle de la Commission Nord-Américaine de l'Organisation pour la Conservation du Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord

Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada

5 – 8 juin 2023

1. Ouverture de la session

- 1.1 La Présidente, Isabelle Morisset (Canada), a ouvert la session et accueilli les délégués.
- 1.2 Une liste des participants aux quarantièmes sessions annuelles du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN est incluse en tant qu'Annexe 1.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

- 2.1 La Commission a adopté son ordre du jour, [NAC\(23\)06](#) (Annexe 2).

3. Nomination d'un rapporteur

- 3.1 Callan Yanoff (USA) a été désignée comme rapporteur.

4. Rapport du Comité d'Avis du CIEM (ACOM) sur les stocks de saumons dans la zone de la Commission

- 4.1 La Présidente a rappelé aux délégués que l'Avis du CIEM pour les stocks de saumon de l'Atlantique nord avait été publié le 4 mai 2023, [CNL\(23\)08](#). Elle a indiqué qu'en 2022 le Conseil avait décidé qu'à l'avenir l'Avis complet du CIEM ne serait plus présenté qu'au Conseil. Les co-présidents du Groupe de travail sur le saumon de l'Atlantique nord (WGNAS), Martha Robertson (Canada) et Alan Walker (RU), avaient par conséquent déjà présenté le rapport du Comité d'Avis du CIEM (ACOM) au Conseil. Le Dr Robertson a assisté à la session de la Commission Nord-Américaine afin de répondre à des questions pertinentes pour la Commission.
- 4.2 Le co-président des ONGs a posé la question de la fourniture incomplète de données sur les captures non déclarées par le Canada. Le Canada a déclaré que les données manquantes concernaient le sud du Canada et que le CIEM travaillait actuellement à la standardisation des données de captures non déclarées. Le Canada travaillera à la fourniture d'informations plus complètes sur les captures non déclarées.

5. Pêcheries de stocks mixtes menées par des Membres de la Commission

- 5.1 La Présidente a noté que dans le cadre du 'Plan d'action pour mettre en œuvre les conseils de l'étude externe des performances et la révision des 'Prochaines Étapes' pour l'OCSAN', [CNL\(13\)38](#), du Conseil il a été décidé qu'il y aurait un point à l'ordre du jour de chacune des Commissions pour permettre de se concentrer sur les pêcheries sur stocks mixtes (PSMs).
- 5.2 La Présidente a rappelé à la Commission qu'en 2022, il avait été décidé que les points de l'ordre du jour 'Pêcheries de stocks mixtes menées par des Membres de la Commission' et 'Échantillonnage dans la pêcherie du Labrador', auparavant traités

séparément, seraient consolidés en un seul point étant donné leur forte imbrication.

- 5.3 La Présidente a remercié le Canada pour son document ‘Pêches alimentaires de subsistance de Labrador – Document de contexte sur les Pêches de stocks mixtes’, [NAC\(23\)04](#). Les États-Unis n’ont pas fourni de rapport puisqu’il n’y a pas de pêcherie dirigée du saumon sauvage de l’Atlantique aux États-Unis.
- 5.4 Les États-Unis ont souligné que quelques saumons originaire des États-Unis avaient été pris dans la pêcherie du Labrador et que les captures étaient localisées plus près de l’estuaire qu’elles ne l’étaient par le passé. Les États-Unis ont demandé quelles nouvelles mesures le Canada avait prises pour réduire le prélevement de saumons d’origine étasunienne. Ils ont aussi pressé le Canada d’augmenter la couverture spatio-temporelle de l’échantillonnage afin d’atteindre le taux de 10 % d’échantillonnage dans l’ensemble de la pêcherie, tel que recommandé par le CIEM. Le Canada a fait des commentaires sur sa collaboration avec des organisations autochtones de pêche pour discuter de l’emplacement des filets et du calendrier, et pour demander que les groupes autochtones se conforment aux exigences d’échantillonnage. Le Canada a fait observer qu’il continuerait d’encourager l’augmentation de l’échantillonnage, particulièrement de gros saumons, et que dans le cadre de l’analyse génétique il travaillerait à garantir que les prélevements traités soient représentatifs des captures.
- 5.5 Le co-président des ONGs a fait part de ses préoccupations concernant les pêches de stocks mixtes et a requis une clarification sur la figure 6 dans le document [NAC\(23\)04](#), demandant si ces captures provenaient du milieu marin ou estuarien. Le Canada a répondu que la majorité des captures provenaient des estuaires et qu’à l’avenir il fournirait davantage d’informations sur la localisation des échantillons, avec des zones plus précises (c.a.d. intérieur de l’estuaire, extérieur de l’estuaire et côtier).

6. Pêcherie de saumons à St Pierre et Miquelon

- 6.1 La Présidente a indiqué que cela faisait un certain temps que la Commission était préoccupée par les captures de saumon à St Pierre et Miquelon. Bien que faible, ce prélevement intervient au moment où de graves préoccupations portent sur l’abondance des stocks nord-américains et où des restrictions strictes ont été mises en place dans la zone entière de la Commission Nord-Américaine. Elle a aussi dit que le Président de l’OCSAN avait écrit à la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) en décembre 2022, l’invitant à rejoindre l’OCSAN, et qu’à ce jour aucune réponse n’avait été reçue.
- 6.2 La Présidente a remercié la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) d’avoir fourni le rapport sur la gestion et l’échantillonnage de la pêcherie de saumon de St Pierre et Miquelon en 2022, [CNL\(23\)27rev](#).
- 6.3 Les États-Unis ont souligné l’importance d’une réduction des captures au niveau le plus faible possible et ont interrogé sur la prise de mesures supplémentaires pour atteindre des taux d’échantillonnage de 10 %. La France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) indiquait dans son rapport une baisse des captures en comparaison avec 2021 et des efforts accrus pour faire respecter la réglementation, suivre et gérer la pêcherie. Elle était en train de travailler avec les pêcheurs de plaisance sur une charte de durabilité promouvant une activité responsable et une réglementation efficace. Le Canada a demandé si, les professionnels ayant accès aux pêches de homard et de coquille, la France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) pourrait abaisser le quota de saumon atlantique. La France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a expliqué que les quatre permis professionnels n’étaient pas très rentables mais faisaient plutôt partie de la tradition. La France (pour St Pierre et Miquelon) a indiqué qu’elle ne réattribuerait pas ces permis professionnels lorsque leurs

détenteurs actuels ne pêcheraient plus professionnellement. Ainsi le nombre de pêcheurs professionnels serait-il réduit à l'avenir.

7. Introductions et transferts de salmonidés

- 7.1 La Présidente a déclaré qu'en vertu de l'article 7 de la Convention, de la Résolution de Williamsburg et des protocoles de la CNA, les membres de la Commission doivent rendre compte des introductions et transferts de salmonidés. Elle a rappelé à la Commission qu'en 2010 elle avait décidé que les membres de la Commission fourniraient des rapports annuels centrés sur des questions d'intérêt commun, incluant les incidences de maladies des salmonidés, les ruptures de confinement, les introductions depuis l'extérieur de la zone de la Commission et la transgénèse (se référer à [NAC\(10\)6](#)).
- 7.2 La Présidente a fait savoir à la Commission que préalablement à la session annuelle, le Canada et les États-Unis avaient partagé leurs rapports et avaient tenu une réunion bilatérale informelle. Ceci permettait d'examiner les rapports et de poser des questions et d'y répondre. Elle a remercié le Canada, [NAC\(23\)05rev](#), et les États-Unis, [NAC\(23\)03](#), pour leurs rapports annuels.
- 7.3 Le Canada a mis l'accent sur un nouveau complément à son rapport sur les saumons échappés depuis les installations d'aquaculture capturés dans les installations de suivi. Celui-ci avait été basé sur une demande faite lors de la session de l'an dernier et le Canada avait l'intention de faire figurer ces informations dans ses rapports à l'avenir. Le co-président des ONGs a posé la question du nombre d'échappements détectés aux installations de suivi de Terre-Neuve, ce à quoi le Canada a répondu que tous les échappements supposés ou confirmés étaient rapportés dans le document [NAC\(23\)05rev](#).

8. Annonce du gagnant du prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des marques

- 8.1 L'OCSAN a instauré un Programme incitatif au renvoi des marques. Les marques éligibles qui sont renvoyées aux autorités compétentes du pays de capture peuvent être incluses dans les tirages au sort. Chaque année un Grand Prix de £1,500 est décerné ainsi que trois prix de £1,000, un dans chacune des zones des trois Commissions de l'OCSAN.
- 8.2 La Présidente a annoncé que le gagnant du prix de £1,000 de la Commission Nord-Américaine dans le Programme incitatif au renvoi des marques de l'OCSAN était David Au, Canada.
- 8.3 La marque a été appliquée à un saumon sauvage retournant dans la rivière Miramichi Nord-Ouest (Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada) en 2022. Le poisson a été capturé le 12 juillet 2022 au filet trappe d'estuaire de Cassilis que Pêches et Océans Canada fait fonctionner dans le cadre du programme d'évaluation du saumon atlantique dans la rivière Miramichi. La longueur du poisson a été mesurée, son sexe a été identifié et des prélèvements d'écaillles ont été faits. Il a reçu un marquage externe à l'aide d'une étiquette Carlin bleu clair avant d'être relâché dans la rivière. Il mesurait 57,4 cm à la fourche et, sur la base de ses caractéristiques externes, le poisson a été identifié comme un saumon sauvage mâle unimarin. Il a été recapturé lors de la pêche récréative le 9 août 2022 dans la rivière Sevogle sur la rivière Miramichi nord-ouest, à un endroit connu localement sous le nom de 'Whitney Brook Pool'. Il a ensuite été relâché par le

pêcheur à la ligne puisque des mesures de pêche avec remise à l'eau obligatoire étaient en place pour le saumon atlantique en 2022.

9. Recommandations au Conseil concernant la demande de conseils scientifiques au CIEM

- 9.1 La Présidente a indiqué que le Comité scientifique permanent (CSP) assiste le Conseil et les Commissions dans la formulation de leurs questions au CIEM. Dale Marsden a été nommé en remplacement d'Isabelle Morisset (désormais Présidente de la Commission) comme représentant gestionnaire de la CNA au CSP.
- 9.2 La Commission a décidé de renvoyer au Conseil l'examen de la demande de conseils scientifiques au CIEM relative à la Commission Nord-Américaine. La demande au CIEM, telle qu'adoptée par le Conseil, se trouve dans le document [CNL\(23\)11rev](#) (Annexe 3).

10. Divers

- 10.1 La Présidente a demandé à la Commission si elle souhaitait faire des commentaires sur la Recommandation 25 du Rapport de la troisième évaluation des performances de l'OCSAN, CNL(23)17rev, qui énonce:

'Le Panel recommande que l'OCSAN et ses Parties renforcent leurs efforts pour réduire les captures non déclarées dans toutes les pêcheries de saumon menées par les Parties à l'OCSAN. L'OCSAN pourrait envisager de commander une évaluation externe indépendante des captures non déclarées.'

- 10.2 Le Canada a fait remarquer que la Recommandation 25 est similaire à la Recommandation 2 (sur la gestion des captures non déclarées). Le Canada a déclaré qu'il était conscient du problème et qu'il soutenait les déclarations de captures et le développement d'une approche cohérente. Le Canada a dit qu'il continuait de travailler à résoudre des questions relatives aux captures non déclarées. Le co-président des ONGs a demandé si les deux régions canadiennes qui n'avaient pas fourni d'informations sur les captures non déclarées allaient maintenant le faire. Le Canada a répondu qu'il serait attentif à ces zones.

11. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

- 11.1 La Commission a décidé de tenir sa prochaine session annuelle aux mêmes dates et au même lieu que la quarante-et-unième session annuelle du Conseil.

12. Compte rendu de la session

- 12.1 La Commission a adopté un compte rendu de la session.

13. Clôture de la session

- 13.1 La Présidente a remercié les participants pour leurs contributions et a clos la session.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1 List of Participants
- Annex 2 Agenda, NAC(23)06
- Annex 3 Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, CNL(23)11rev

2023 List of Participants

* Denotes Head of Delegation

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Annex 2

NAC(23)06

Fortieth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission

Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada

5 – 8 June 2023

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
5. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
6. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery
7. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers
8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
10. Other Business
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
12. Report of the Meeting
13. Close of the Meeting

CNL(23)11rev*

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:

- 1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings by country, including unreported catches and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2023¹;
- 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management²;
- 1.3 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2023; and
- 1.4 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:

- 2.1 describe the key events of the 2023 fisheries³;
- 2.2 review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
- 2.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction; and
- 2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2024 / 2025 – 2026 / 2027 fishing seasons, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁴.

3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:

- 3.1 describe the key events of the 2023 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)³;
- 3.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
- 3.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction; and
- 3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2024-2027 with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁴.

*Grammatical errors corrected 15 June 2023

- 4. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:**
- 4.1 describe the key events of the 2023 fisheries³;
 - 4.2 describe the status of the stocks⁵; and
 - 4.3 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2024-2026 with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁴

Notes:

- 1. *With regard to question 1.1, for the estimates of unreported catch the information provided should, where possible, indicate the location of the unreported catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Numbers of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries should be provided.*
- 2. *With regard to question 1.2, ICES is requested to include reports on any significant advances in understanding of the biology of Atlantic salmon that is pertinent to NASCO.*
- 3. *In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Information on any other sources of fishing mortality for salmon is also requested. For 4.1, if any new surveys are conducted and reported to ICES, ICES should review the results and advise on the appropriateness of incorporating resulting estimates into the assessment process.*
- 4. *In response to question 2.4, 3.4 and 4.3, provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice and report on any developments in relation to incorporating environmental variables in these models. Also provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any concerns with salmon data collected in 2023 which may affect the catch advice considering the restrictions on data collection programmes and fisheries due to the COVID 19 pandemic.*
- 5. *In response to question 4.2, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.3 and 3.3.*

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Peder Fiske (NEAC, scientist representative)

Dale Marsden (NAC, manager representative)

Tim Sheehan (NAC, scientist representative)

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