

	Council <i>Addendum with Consultation Feedback on the Draft Strategy and Draft Action Plan</i>	CNL(24)13_14AD Agenda item: 6.b (i)&(ii)
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Addendum with Consultation Feedback on the Draft Strategy and Draft Action Plan

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide the feedback received on the Draft Strategy, CNL(24)13, and Draft Action Plan, CNL(24)14, for consideration during the Annual Meeting.

Background

In 2018, the NASCO Council resolved to have a third NASCO performance review. The ‘Terms of Reference for the Third Performance Review of NASCO’, [CNL\(21\)22](#), were agreed in 2021. The performance review was conducted in 2022 and the ‘Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review’, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#), was published in March 2023.

At the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO, the Council agreed to establish a Working Group on the Future of NASCO (WGFON) with the Terms of Reference (ToRs) as set out in document [CNL\(23\)70](#) to, among other things, ‘Propose a succinct NASCO Strategy and supporting Action Plan directed at the urgent need to conserve, restore, enhance and rationally manage wild Atlantic salmon (hereafter salmon), in the context of the climate change emergency.’

WGFON met twice, 3-5 October 2023 in a facilitated workshop in Brussels, which led to the initial draft of the Draft Strategy and Draft Action Plan, and February 7-9 2024, in Copenhagen. In the second WGFON meeting the text in both the Draft Strategy and Draft Action Plan was revised and agreed and circulated as documents CNL(24)13 and CNL(24)14, respectively.

At the February WGFON meeting it was agreed that the draft documents should be sent out for wider consultation, requesting one set of feedback per Party and the NGOs, on the individual papers, with a deadline of 24 May 2024. The intention was then to send out an addendum to each of the two documents to all delegates with the results of the consultation. However, very little feedback has been received and what has been received was, mostly, combined in a single email per respondent. The feedback is listed by respondent below.

Feedback received

Canada

‘Thank you for the opportunity for Canada to consult on the proposed strategy and action plan for NASCO. You will note that the United States provided a joint statement that reflects recent informal discussions between CA/EU/UK/US. We support these comments as well as those sent by the UK.

At the risk of being repetitive Canada is very supportive of the Strategy including the vision, mission and ten-year objectives. However, we do have concerns about the links to actions and the action plan itself and what needs to be accomplished in the next year and how. We remain concerned about the complexity of having four priority setting groups and the resources, personnel, and expense required to support such an effort. As well we recognize that the work of the Future Reporting Working Group is fundamental to NASCO’s future success and that sufficient effort and expertise also needs to go into that process.

To this end we are very supportive of discussing at the annual meeting a simple and practical approach to defining our priorities and the best approach to do so.'

United Kingdom

'Thank you for sharing the draft strategy and action plan for consultation.

The UK is supportive of the new Strategy, up to and including the 'objectives' section. We feel it sets a realistic goal for the next 10 years and identifies the organisation's key areas of work, drawing out the need to work collaboratively with others and to reflect climate change adaptation in everything we do.

The UK feels more work is required to develop a publishable action plan and to agree how further action planning and action delivery work will be resourced. Specifically:

- *We feel NASCO should be clearer about our priorities and should set out how each of the objectives will be progressed in the short term, between the 2024 and 2025 annual meetings.*
- *We would welcome a discussion about the need for four new, theme based working groups. Whatever delivery structure we agree, we want to make sure we are making the most of our limited resource, to quickly identifying and promote the 'urgent and transformative' actions required by the strategy.*
- *The 'Linking the Strategy and Action Plan' section of the strategy document will need redrafting to reflect how we agree to progress our action planning.*

The UK supports the set up of a 'Future reporting' working group. We feel this is a critical action in delivering the strategy.'

United States

'Thank you for the opportunity to review and consult on:

- *CNL(24)13_The Future of NASCO – a Ten Year (Draft) Strategy*
- *CNL(24)14_Draft of an Action Plan for NASCO*

Our review included informal conversations with the EU, UK and Canada and the below message reflects those conversations.

- *We very much appreciate all of the work that you, Kim and the WGFON has put into this effort to date and all remain very committed to the future of NASCO and achieving meaningful progress in addressing the range of threats to wild Atlantic salmon and supporting its conservation and recovery.*
- *However, we continue to have concerns regarding the creation of four (4) new separate Theme Based Working Groups (TBWGs), when taking into account workload, capacity constraints, and associated timeframes.*
- *While the creation of the TBWGs is one possible path forward, that is only one of many possible ways to organize our work.*
- *In our view, prior to being in a position to adopt an Action Plan, more work is needed to discuss and prioritize the 70+ recommendations contained in CNL(24)14.*
- *As such, our preferred approach is to continue their work between now and the 2025 Annual meeting to do so.*

- *That said, in line with our commitment to achieving meaningful progress, our recommendation is for the Council to approve a revised Strategy, which instead documents our agreed near term actions (i.e. 1-2 years), but also commits to prioritizing the remaining recommendations in the current draft Action Plan, CNL(24)14.*

Lastly, I will add that from the US perspective, we are also very encouraged to see the agenda item dedicated to agreeing on the “NASCO Calendar” which we understand will document all intersessional work between now and the 2025 Annual Meeting, which would include not only the work associated with the Strategy, but also other ongoing work such as the work on Future reporting. This calendar will go a long way towards helping us determine what the workload will look like, as well as agree on an appropriate NASCO 2025 Draft Budget and 2026 Forecast Budget and be able to plan accordingly.’

NGOs

‘On behalf of the NGOs, thank you for the opportunity for us to review NASCO’s Draft Strategy and Action Plan. I circulated the documents to all NGOs and we met earlier this week to discuss. Two NGOs provided some detailed feedback which I have attached to this e-mail¹.

Other feedback I have received suggests that the NGOs are generally supportive of the Strategy but find it difficult to comment on the actions because the process of prioritizing actions is not yet complete with much still depending on the work of the proposed Theme Based Working Groups. There is general agreement that the 4 themes are appropriate, but concern about the timelines for the groups to complete their work. We believe the process of developing and implementing relevant actions needs to occur with a sense of urgency that reflects the continuing (and in many places accelerating) decline of wild salmon across the North Atlantic.

The NGOs are looking forward to the discussion and further opportunity for input at the special session in Westport.’

Secretariat
Edinburgh
28 May 2024

¹ N.B. These have not been attached given that one set of feedback per Party and the NGOs was requested.