



Terms and Conditions for Observers at NASCO Meetings

Context

NASCO seeks to operate in a transparent, inclusive and collaborative manner. On that basis the Council has updated its guidelines to support observers to attend NASCO meetings, in line with the following Terms and Conditions.

Terms and Conditions

Pursuant to Part VI of the Council's and each of the three regional Commissions' Rules of Procedure, the following Terms and Conditions are established for the participation of Observers in meetings of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).

1. The Secretary, on behalf of the President, shall invite as Observers:
 - a. Representatives from Inter-Governmental Organizations that have regular contact with NASCO or whose work is of interest to NASCO or *vice versa*.
 - b. Representatives from States not Party to the Convention with coastlines bordering the Convention Area as defined in Article I of the Convention, or those States not Party to the Convention, who are States of origin of Atlantic salmon, who prosecute fisheries for Atlantic salmon, and / or whose conservation and management activities are of interest to NASCO or *vice versa*.
 - c. Accredited Non-Governmental Organizations that support the objectives of NASCO with a demonstrated interest in wild Atlantic salmon.
 - d. Accredited Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions that support the objectives of NASCO with a demonstrated interest in wild Atlantic salmon.
2. Observers that desire accreditation to NASCO under 1.c. and 1.d. shall:
 - a. Notify the Secretariat at least 90 days in advance of the first meeting they wish to attend with an application which includes:
 - name, address, email and telephone number;
 - address of all their offices;
 - aims and purposes and a statement how they generally support the Objectives of NASCO;
 - information on the number of members, their decision-making process, and their funding;
 - a brief history and a description of their activities;
 - representative papers, reports and public releases produced on the conservation, management or science of wild Atlantic salmon;
 - history of observer status granted / revoked in other fisheries management or conservation organizations; and
 - name, title and email address of the person(s) proposed to be the representatives at NASCO.

- b. Have their applications reviewed by the Secretary who, in consultation with the President at least 60 days before the meeting for which the application was received, shall notify the Council of the names and qualifications of applicants determined to have provided the information in paragraph 2.a. who are eligible for accreditation as Observers. Such applications will then be considered as accepted unless one or more Parties object in writing, giving its reasons within 15 days, in which case the matter will be put to a vote by written procedure. Applicants will be informed of the decision of the Council at least 30 days before the meeting for which the application was received.
 - c. Cease to be accredited if they have not communicated with the Secretariat or attended at least one Annual Meeting in the previous three years: but may re-apply in writing to the Secretary as per paragraph 2.a.
3. Observers are required to:
 - a. Limit the number of their delegation to two representatives.
 - b. Have representatives of their organization attend a NASCO meeting in only one capacity, either on an Observer delegation or as a member of a delegation of a Contracting Party but may not be accredited as both an Observer's representative and as a member of a Contracting Party's delegation.
4. Any Observer:
 - a. May attend all meetings of NASCO and its subsidiary bodies: except meetings of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC); restricted meetings of Contracting Parties; and meetings of Heads of Delegation.
 - b. May be restricted from attending a meeting by the Presiding Officer¹, in which case the Secretary would inform Observers of such a decision.
 - c. Shall have access to the same documents generally available to Contracting Parties and their delegations, except those documents deemed confidential by a Contracting Party or the Secretary.
 - d. During meetings which it attends may make a single intervention, of up to two minutes, upon the invitation of, and according to the format or procedures established by, the Presiding Officer after debate by the Parties on that item but may not participate in decision making.
 - e. With regard to interventions in 4.d., to promote effective meeting management, may choose to collaborate with other Observers and have a spokesperson represent the views of more than one Observer organization.
 - f. May have any of its representatives make interventions during meetings that are defined as Special Sessions by Council.
 - g. May submit written statements and other documents relevant to NASCO that shall be distributed by the Secretariat to members of the relevant Council, Commission or its subsidiary bodies, subject to the approval of the Secretary.
 - h. May be invited to provide input to meetings of working groups and other subsidiary bodies as appropriate.
 - i. May engage in other activities as appropriate and as approved by the Presiding Officer.

¹ Presiding Officer is the President, Chair or person governing the process of any given meeting.

- j. Is encouraged to be respectful of the time management challenges for the Presiding Officer to run efficient and productive meetings, and to maintain decorum throughout the duration of the meeting.
 - k. May not use film, video, or audio recording devices, etc. to record meeting proceedings.
 - l. May not issue press releases, broadcast on social media or issue other information to the media or the public on agenda items under discussion during NASCO meetings until after the official conclusion of the meeting.
 - m. Shall comply with these Terms and Conditions, formats and procedures established by Presiding Officers, and any other terms and conditions imposed by the Council or Secretary. Non-adherence to such Terms and Conditions, formats and procedures may lead to the suspension of that representative and / or that organization's observer status by the Council.
5. These Terms and Conditions shall be subject to a mandatory review by the Finance and Administration Committee that will provide recommended revisions, if deemed necessary, for approval by Council in 2027. The review will include consultation with, and / or the participation of, Observers before providing recommendations to Council.
6. If any Party so requests, these Terms and Conditions may be reviewed and, if necessary, amended by the Council.