

Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Future Reporting

The Council establishes a Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of these Reports. The Chair will be selected by the Working Group. The Working Group should comprise one, but no more than two, representative(s) from each Party and from NASCO's accredited NGOs and Indigenous Peoples' representatives and institutions and include current members of the IP / APR Review Group as its base membership. The names of those participating in the Working Group should be provided to the Secretariat during the 2024 NASCO Annual Meeting. The Working Group will meet in November 2024, in the time normally reserved for the review of Implementation Plans (IPs). The Working Group will report its outcomes to the Working Group on the Future of NASCO, no later than April 2025, for agreement by the Council at the 2025 NASCO Annual Meeting.

The Terms of Reference for the Working Group are as follows:

Taking into account:

- the agreement of the Council in 2020 on the importance of the reporting cycle process to NASCO where its vital importance as a mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines was emphasised and that Parties wanted to ensure the process worked well and was robust given its importance;
- that the agreed purpose of IPs, together with annual reporting of progress on the actions contained within them, is to provide a succinct, transparent, fair and balanced approach for reporting on the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the Parties / jurisdictions;
- the recommendations of the IP / APR Review Group over the third reporting cycle (see Annex 1 of [CNL\(23\)24](#));
- the 'Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress', [CNL\(18\)49](#), the associated reporting templates, [CNL\(18\)50](#) and [CNL\(18\)51](#), and the 'Enhanced Guidance for the Review of Implementation Plans', [CNL\(20\)55](#); and
- decisions of the Council related to the fourth reporting cycle.

Considering the following:

- recognition that progress should be measured clearly against a tangible outcome for wild Atlantic salmon, given the importance of demonstrating progress towards NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. Each outcome would be based on an action that improves conditions for salmon survival and / or its populations through the removal or diminishment of a threat to wild Atlantic salmon;
- the focus of the fourth reporting cycle needs to be related clearly to reducing stressors to wild Atlantic salmon, with a clear baseline against which progress can be measured;
- clear guidance that is easy to understand and implement needs to be provided to Parties / jurisdictions to enable timely production of both the IPs and accompanying Annual Progress Reports (APRs); and
- the fourth reporting cycle may be a departure from earlier reporting cycles, whilst ensuring it remains a transparent mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO's

Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

The Working Group is tasked with:

- a) considering the basis for, and structure of, a fourth reporting cycle that will build on some objective analysis of stressors by each Party / jurisdiction, to enable a reporting cycle that balances simplicity with effectiveness and transparency;
- b) advising on any changes required to streamline and improve reporting further in the fourth reporting cycle to ensure that reports are meaningful and that unnecessary burden is avoided. Discussion on simplifying accountability by focusing on a limited number of specific outcomes and clear metrics is encouraged;
- c) considering how best to report to Council regularly a consolidated picture of commitments and delivery progress to make NASCO's performance in delivering for wild Atlantic salmon more transparent;
- d) improving existing, or creating new, templates for the preparation of Parties' / jurisdictions' IPs and reporting on progress taking into consideration recognised issues with templates and formats in previous reporting cycles;
- e) proposing a schedule for the development and review of plans and reporting on progress; and
- f) aligning the reporting process with the Action Plan agreed by the Council in 2024.