



Norwegian
Environment
Agency

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An introduction to the Working Group and its proposed Terms of Reference

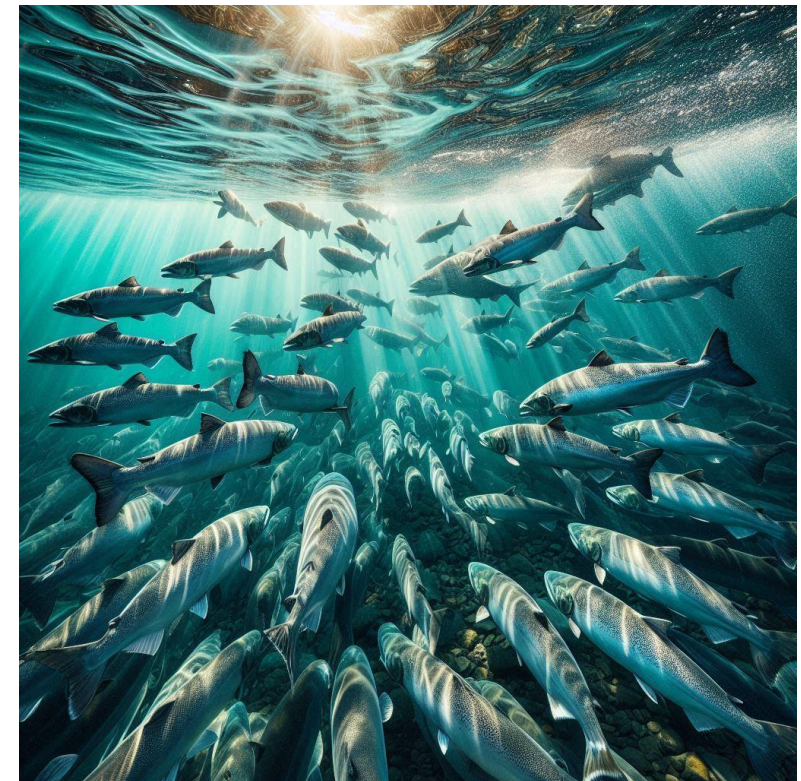
NASCO Theme-based Special Session, 5 June 2024

Spread of non-native species

The UN describes the spread of non-native species and habitat destruction as the biggest threats to natural biodiversity.




The damage potential can be dramatic both biologically and economically.
Example are the spread of the salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris*.

What about non-native Pink salmon?



Non-native Pink Salmon Picture: AI-generated

Conventions og International Agreements

-  The Convention on Biological Diversity
-  Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
-  NASCO: The Williamsburg Resolution



Picture: AI-generated

The Convention on Biological Diversity

Article 8 (h):

Prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species.



**Convention on
Biological Diversity**

The Convention on Biological Diversity

The Precautionary Approach

Principle 15

“In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.”

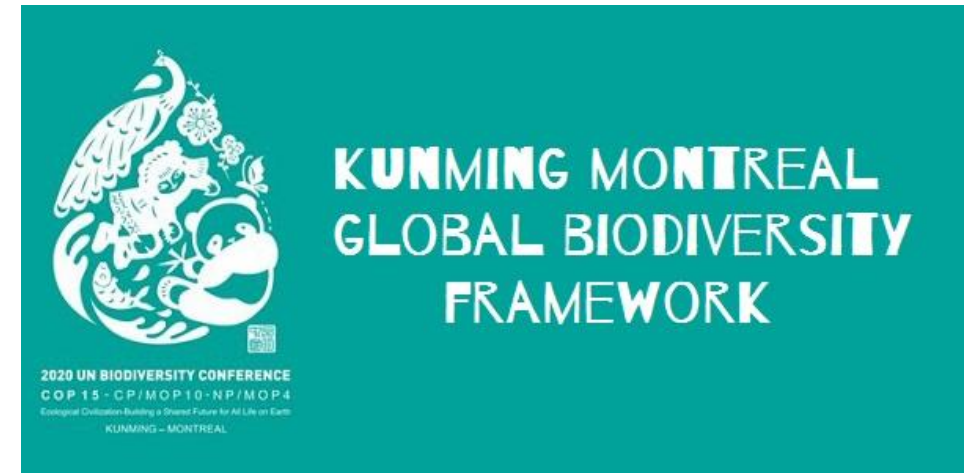


Picture: AI-generated

Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (2022)

TARGET 6

Eliminate, minimize, reduce and or mitigate the impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity and ecosystem services by identifying and managing pathways of the introduction of alien species, preventing the introduction and establishment of priority invasive alien species, reducing the rates of introduction and establishment of other known or potential invasive alien species by at least 50 percent, by 2030, eradicating or controlling invasive alien species especially in priority sites, such as islands .



NASCO: The Williamsburg Resolution

Resolution by the Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean to Minimise Impacts from Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers, and Transgenics on the Wild Salmon Stocks.

Article 6: Non-Indigenous Fish

No non-indigenous fish should be introduced into a river containing Atlantic salmon without a thorough evaluation of the potential adverse impacts on the Atlantic salmon population(s) which indicates that there is no unacceptable risk of adverse ecological interactions.

Introductions into any Commission area of reproductively viable non-indigenous anadromous salmonids or their gametes should not be permitted.





Statement of the Council Regarding Pink Salmon, *Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*, in the NASCO Convention Area

The Council of NASCO urges each Party to take the following actions, consistent with the Williamsburg Resolution:

- co-operate to minimise adverse effects of pink salmon on wild Atlantic salmon(...)
- initiate corrective measures, without delay, when significant adverse effects on wild Atlantic salmon stocks are identified, and that these should be designed to achieve their purpose promptly;
- Encourage research and data collection in relation to pink salmon in the Convention area:
- Develop and distribute educational materials to increase awareness of the risk that pink salmon pose to wild Atlantic salmon and the need for the measures to control their spread

Terms of Reference for the NASCO Working Group on Pink Salmon

- consider the research and data collection needs in relation to pink salmon in the Convention area, such that management measures may be underpinned by robust data;
- consider possible threats that the increase in the abundance of pink salmon might pose to populations of Atlantic salmon and the implications they have for the conservation and management of wild Atlantic salmon stocks;
- consider how Parties should co-operate efficiently to minimize adverse effects of pink salmon on wild Atlantic salmon;
- consider the corrective measures that might be implemented by Parties to prevent significant adverse effects on wild Atlantic salmon stocks;
- identify good practice in the production of educational materials that increase awareness of the risks that pink salmon pose to wild Atlantic salmon and the need for the measures to control their spread; and
- propose revised Terms of Reference and a timeframe for regular meetings of NASCO's Working Group on Pink Salmon.



Standing NASCO Working Group on Pink Salmon




List og participants:

| | |
|------------------|--------------------|
| Julien April | Canada |
| Thomas Staveley | Sweden |
| Jaakko Erkinaro | Finland |
| Michael Millane | Ireland |
| Eirik Frøyland | Norway |
| Sergey Prusov | Russian Federation |
| Colin Bean | Scotland |
| Tim Sheehan | United States |
| Øyvind Fjeldseth | Norway (NGO) |



Meeting of the Working Group on Pink Salmon

Galway, Ireland 9 & 10 March 2024

-  Update on the Status on Pink Salmon in the Convention Area
-  Discussion on the 5 first points in the Terms of Reference
 - standardization of methods for monitoring
 - risk assessments
 - co-operation between Parties
 - corrective measures
 - good practice in production and educational materials
-  Revised Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Pink Salmon






Draft Terms of Reference for the Working Group on Pink Salmon

Taking into consideration the precautionary approach the Pink Salmon Working Group is charged with the following Terms of Reference:

1. Exchange information among the Parties / jurisdictions on the status of pink salmon across the NASCO Convention area.
2. Identify best practice methodologies to monitor pink salmon distribution and abundance in the marine and freshwater environments.
3. Report biennially on the status of pink salmon, within each Party / jurisdiction, at an appropriate spatial scale.
4. Identify knowledge gaps to understand the potential impacts of pink salmon on wild Atlantic salmon.
5. Identify proportionate corrective measures that could be implemented by Parties / jurisdictions to prevent adverse effects on wild Atlantic salmon stocks. and
6. Review and modify, as necessary, these Terms of Reference for agreement by the Council.



Meeting frequency

-  The Working Group will meet annually.
-  Even-year meetings will be in person, with virtual meetings in odd years.
-  Should the need arise, the Working Group would seek to meet inter-sessionally.



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