

Council

CNL(04)38

***NASCO Atlantic Salmon Rivers Database Project: Clarification of Potential
Uses and Recommendations for Next Steps***

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Following discussion of CNL(04)17, the Council requested a clarification of the potential uses of, and recommended next steps in, the development of the NASCO salmon rivers database.

Potential uses of the database include:

1. The main purpose would be to describe and summarize the status of Atlantic salmon habitat in all countries on a regular schedule.
2. It would be an effective way to describe and monitor the level of impact(s) on salmon habitat.
3. It would be a useful tool for Contracting Parties, and others, to monitor and evaluate habitat conservation and restoration plans over time.

Recommendations for next steps in development of the NASCO salmon rivers database:

1. The Parties should agree to annually update the original NASCO salmon rivers database (the Rivers Table in the expanded database) to correct errors and inconsistencies and conform to the new format. These data include river name, location information, and NASCO salmon stock category. This should *not* require a significant amount of time and effort.
2. The Parties should consider using the database to report basic salmon habitat and habitat impacts information to meet the following objectives agreed to in the NASCO Plan of Action for Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat: a) to establish the baseline level of salmon production *potential* against which changes may be assessed and to monitor changes over time, and b) to identify appropriate restoration activities and assist policy makers in prioritizing restoration programmes (CNL(04)17). The Parties should endeavour to avoid any duplication with regard to databases required for other purposes.
3. If data are available, and countries have the resources to enter generalized juvenile and adult salmon production data, this would be an added benefit to the database (i.e., salmon production data entry would be optional). Countries are encouraged to evaluate the potential uses of the NASCO database for this purpose.
4. Given the above, the most appropriate location for the database is with existing NASCO information on the current NASCO website. NASCO should make sure that the countries that provide data input have access to their own data at all times.
5. Parties should provide an annual progress report on the status of salmon habitat as currently required under the development and implementation of habitat protection and restoration plans.

6. The NASCO salmon rivers database should contain links to relevant national databases which may contain more information of special interest to the countries concerned.

It is recognized that within each Contracting Party there are individual legal and governance frameworks for dealing with habitat management and therefore coordination should take place in the provision of habitat information.