

**Council**

**CNL(04)41**

*NASCO Guidelines for Action on Transgenic Salmonids*

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THE PARTIES to NASCO are aware of the development of transgenic salmonids. While there may be benefits from the introduction of such salmonids if, for example, they could not interbreed with wild stocks the Council recognises that there are also risks which may lead to irreversible genetic changes and ecological interactions.

The Council considers that there is an urgent need to take steps to ensure the protection of the wild stocks and has therefore agreed to cooperate to develop means such that transgenic salmonids cannot impact upon wild salmon stocks. The following specific steps are agreed.

The Parties will:

- a) advise the NASCO Council of any proposal to permit the rearing of transgenic salmonids and provide details of the proposed method of containment and other measures to safeguard the wild salmon stocks;
- b) take all possible actions to ensure that the use of transgenic salmonids, in any part of the NASCO Convention Area, is confined to secure, self-contained, land-based facilities;
- c) inform their salmon producers of the potentially serious risks to wild stocks of this development and consult with the salmon farming industry on this matter through the Liaison Group established between NASCO and the international salmon farming industry;
- d) take steps, as appropriate, to improve knowledge on the potential impacts of transgenic salmonids on the wild salmon stocks and their habitat;
- e) examine the trade implications associated with transgenic salmonids in accordance with World Trade Organization Agreements and other instruments of international law.

Furthermore, those Parties to NASCO that are also Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity should take into account the provisions of that Protocol.

