



**Council**

**CNL(01)72**

*Statement from the Federation of Icelandic River Owners*

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**regarding NASCO'S recommendations on salmon farming and  
NASCO'S communication with the North Atlantic  
Farming Industry (NAFI)**

The Federation of Icelandic River Owners is opposed to the fact that NASCO in a joint statement with NAFI, supports increased salmon farming in the North Atlantic, as implied by annex 5 guiding principles etc. NASCO holds the international responsibilities for conservation of salmon stocks and must oppose against possible harmful effects of aquaculture on natural salmon stocks on the basis of scientific evidence.

NASCO therefore must take action against increased salmon farming in the North Atlantic. Any other action is not in agreement with the founding principles of NASCO.

There is ample scientific evidence that massive salmon farming is a serious threat to natural salmon stocks, due to diseases in farmed fish. Escapees from salmon cages stray to natural salmon rivers and hybridisation can be harmful to genetic traits of natural salmon stocks that have evolved in thousands of years.

NASCO must insist on positive action in areas where negative impacts of salmon on natural salmon stocks have been observed. Compromise related to social or economical points of view is not to be allowed. The natural salmon stocks of the North Atlantic cannot be sacrificed on basis of such opinions. Such problems must be solved by other means..

NASCO should take actions against salmon farming in delicate environmental areas where farming has so far not been practised. The

Federation of Icelandic River Owners especially points out that massive cage rearing of salmon is now planned in Iceland. Iceland's natural salmon stocks could be in danger of extinction due to the scale of the operation compared to size of the Icelandic salmon stocks.

The views of the Federation of Icelandic River Owners regarding cooperation with NASCO, will in the future be formed by NASCO'S action on fish farming in the North Atlantic. The leaders of the salmon farming industry in Iceland have already interpreted the NASCO/NAFI joint statement as supporting the massive fish farming plans in Iceland. This is intolerable to Icelandic river owners. The NASCO/NAFI cooperation must not be used as a camouflage for the purpose of increased salmon farming in the North Atlantic. Unclear statements and compromises are not acceptable and can in the long run only benefit the interests of the salmon farming industry.