	<p style="text-align: center;">Council</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CNL(25)16</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agenda item 5.f)</p>
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The Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas

Purpose

This paper presents NASCO's Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas (WASA) and includes the WASA Steering Committee's recommendations to Council on the next steps for the Atlas.

Decisions Related to the Atlas

Council agrees that:

- if the Atlas translation costs are in the region of £5,000 that the Secretariat draw this money from the Periodic Projects Special Fund;
- if, however, translation costs exceed this sum, that the Secretariat seeks inter-sessional agreement from the Council on its proposal to cover the costs, or not.

Background

At its Annual Meeting in 2021, [CNL\(21\)62](#), Council agreed: 'that NASCO should retain a website-accessible Rivers Database; to caveat the Rivers Database with the appropriate disclaimers; and that the Secretariat should make the Rivers Database available in a map-based form on the website as soon as possible.' Council also agreed: 'to establish a Working Group to address high-level issues with respect to the Rivers Database, and to report back to the Annual Meeting in 2022'. At its 2022 Annual Meeting, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), Council considered and agreed to all the recommendations of the Working Group, [CNL\(22\)12](#). Council also agreed to ask the Working Group to work as a Steering Committee with the Secretariat on the development of a new version of the Rivers Database, to be called the 'Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas' (the 'Atlas').

A GIS specialist from the Forth Rivers Trust, contracted by the Secretariat, developed the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas in consultation with the Steering Committee and in line with the recommendations contained in [CNL\(22\)12](#) and the decisions of Council at its 2022 Annual Meeting, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#). A 'Progress Report on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas', [CNL\(23\)16](#), was presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting and the Atlas development was completed prior to the 2024 Annual Meeting. The Chair of the Steering Committee gave a presentation, [CNL\(24\)11](#), to Council at the 2024 Annual Meeting with an overview of the Atlas, details of the requirements for new data from the Parties and the proposed timeline for remaining actions.

At its 2024 Annual Meeting, [CNL\(24\)88rev](#), the Council agreed to include the actions on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas in NASCO's high level Action Plan contained within 'The Future of NASCO – a Ten-Year Strategy', [CNL\(24\)71rev](#). The actions agreed by Council were:

- to finalise the development of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas (WASA), including the Steering Committee's recommendations;
- that Parties populate the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas (WASA) to give a global picture of the status of salmon, using the agreed Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas (WASA) data metrics by December 2024; and
- that NASCO publish a 'State of Salmon' report in 2026 based on the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas (WASA) data.

Financing the Atlas

At its 2022 Annual Meeting, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), Council agreed to use the Periodic Projects Special Fund to fund the development of the Atlas over two years. Council originally considered that around £10,000 would be needed to develop the Atlas. The work on the Atlas completed to date and scheduled is approximately £9,000 and, therefore, within the estimated cost of £10,000. The recurring costs of subscription to Esri for the ArcGIS programme required for the Atlas, at approximately £300 per year, have not been included in these costs.

The Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas

Data request forms were sent to each Party / jurisdiction in July 2024, for return by 31 December 2024. A webinar was held in September 2024 to give an overview on completing the request form and provide an opportunity for Parties / jurisdictions to ask questions to the Steering Committee. All Parties / jurisdictions completed and returned the data request forms, the information from which was used by the Secretariat and GIS expert to complete the build of the Atlas by April 2025 (Figure 1).

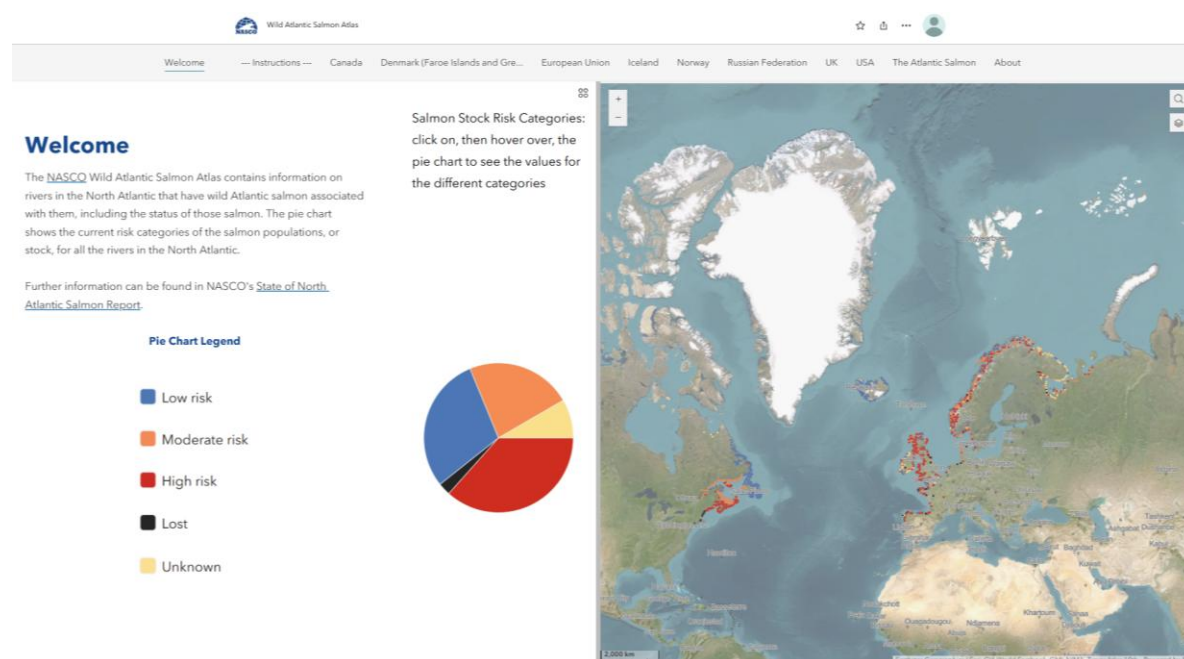


Figure 1. The 'Welcome' tab of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas, which users will land on first, shows a map of the entire NASCO Convention area and the combined data for all the NASCO Parties / jurisdictions.

The completed Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas is an interactive database that contains information on individual rivers in the North Atlantic that have wild Atlantic salmon associated with them, including the status of those salmon.

The combined data from all the NASCO Parties and jurisdictions is shown on the Welcome tab. Each Party / jurisdiction also has a separate map which is displayed on a separate tab. The rivers are represented on the maps by points in the colour of the stock status of the river positioned either at each river mouth or on the river if it is a tributary. Clicking on a point will bring up the information on the river in a 'pop-up box' (Figure 2).

Additional information at a Party / jurisdiction level is also provided on each individual tab, under the headings:

- Main Impact Factors Affecting Salmon;
- River Selection and Stock Classification; and
- Additional Information on River Management.

These include details of how each Party / jurisdiction selected the rivers in the Atlas and assessed the status of the salmon in them. More general background information on Atlantic salmon and about the purpose of the Atlas is provided in the supplementary tabs ‘The Atlantic Salmon’ and ‘About’.

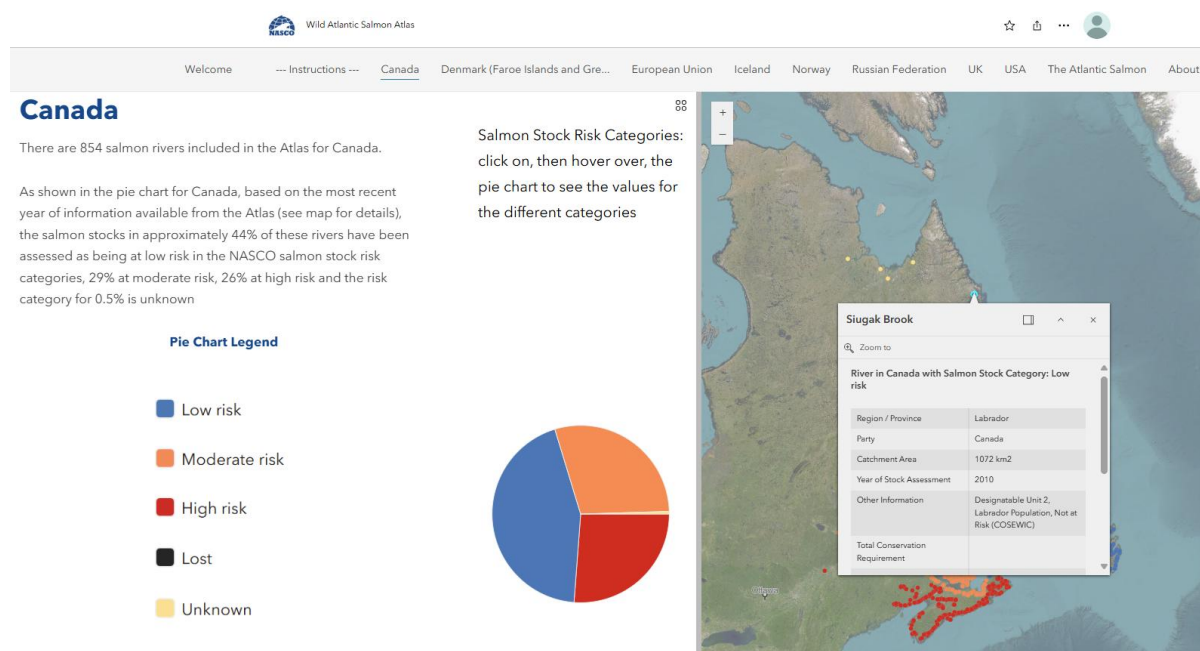


Figure 2. The Canada tab of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas, showing the pop-up box of information for the Siugak Brook.

Where rivers are transboundary and two sets of information have been provided, clicking on the point will bring up a single pop-up box which is then scrolled through to give the two sets of information.

At the start of April 2025, the link to access the Atlas was shared with each Party / jurisdiction in a ‘soft launch’ to enable each to preview the Atlas and provide any feedback on their individual data entries and also on the whole site. Feedback was received from 12 of the Parties / jurisdictions. The Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas will be launched officially at NASCO’s 2025 Annual Meeting and will be publicly accessible thereafter.

Future Actions Related to the Atlas

The Secretariat will be able to make ad-hoc small scale updates to the Atlas, including providing links to each Party / jurisdiction’s stressor analysis. The Steering Committee will meet as needed on an ad-hoc basis following the launch of the Atlas to address any feedback and to ensure that the Atlas remains up-to-date and relevant. Virtual meetings will be decided in consultation between the Chair and Secretariat.

A ‘State of North Atlantic Salmon Report’ will be produced in 2026 based on the data in the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas, as agreed by Council in 2024, [CNL\(24\)88rev](#).

A full data update request will be sent to all Parties / jurisdictions in 2029. Once updated the Atlas will display metrics from the 2024 data request alongside the data from 2029, showing the time series.

The translation of the Atlas in the official languages of each of the NASCO Parties was a recommendation of the Rivers Database Working Group, [CNL\(22\)12](#), and agreed by Council, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#). Making the Atlas available in each of the NASCO Parties’ ‘official’ languages would make it more accessible to non-English speakers and an outreach method for the public

in all Parties and not only for those who speak English. The Secretariat will assess the steps needed to meet this recommendation, including costs and external expertise, for a simple, automated translation process for all aspects of the Atlas.

Approximately £1,000 is available from the initial £10,000 allocated from the Periodic Projects Special Fund to fund the development of the Atlas. A further £15,000 in the Periodic Projects Special Fund is currently without allocation. As a reminder, the Fund is intended to support higher cost intermittent activities, such as IYS legacy activities (e.g. the updates to the State of North Atlantic Salmon Report and follow up Symposia), and other costly special projects that may occasionally arise.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
16 May 2025