

	<p><b>Council</b></p> <p><i>Proposed Conservation Commitments Report for the Fourth Reporting Cycle (2026 to 2032)</i></p>	<p><b>CNL(25)24</b></p> <p>Agenda item 6.h)</p>
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## ***Proposed Conservation Commitments Report for the Fourth Reporting Cycle (2026 to 2032)***

### **Introduction**

NASCO has adopted various Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines that address the Organization’s principal areas of concern for the management of salmon stocks. In 2005, it was agreed that ‘NASCO will be committed to the measures and agreements it develops and actively review progress with implementation plans’, [CNL\(05\)49](#). Since then, each jurisdiction has developed plans, known as Implementation Plans, detailing measures to be taken over five to six year periods, with each period referred to as a reporting cycle, in relation to three areas: ‘Management of Salmon Fisheries’; ‘Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat’; and ‘Management of Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics’.

In 2020, Council considered NASCO’s reporting cycle to be vitally important as a mechanism to strengthen the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines and to hold Parties / jurisdictions accountable to them. It agreed that the purpose of its reporting cycles is to provide a succinct, transparent, fair and balanced approach for reporting on the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the Parties / jurisdictions.

In 2024, Council agreed a Ten-Year Strategy and Action Plan, [CNL\(24\)71rev](#). The Strategy identified that NASCO is uniquely positioned to provide leadership in addressing the range of threats to wild Atlantic salmon and support its conservation and recovery, being the only inter-governmental organization with regulatory competency for wild Atlantic salmon fisheries. NASCO is the pre-eminent convener of the wild Atlantic salmon community throughout the North Atlantic Ocean, including governments, Indigenous Peoples, Non-Governmental Organizations, fishers, environmental organizations and other relevant actors.

Recognising this unique position, Council agreed a Strategic Goal, which states:

*‘Within the next 10 years, NASCO’s goal is to prioritise and drive actions necessary to slow the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrate that restoration is possible’*

and a Mission statement:

*‘NASCO will support and promote urgent and transformative actions directed at the protection, conservation and restoration of wild Atlantic salmon throughout the species’ range’*

Given this new Goal and Mission statement, together with Council’s continuing commitment to the implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the Parties / jurisdictions, as part of its Action Plan Council agreed that a fourth reporting cycle should be developed, [CNL\(24\)88](#), and agreed Terms of Reference for a Working Group on Future Reporting, [CNL\(24\)63](#), to enable its development. It also agreed that each Party / jurisdiction should carry out a stressor analysis before June 2025, to enable an objective understanding of the key threats to wild Atlantic salmon in each Party / jurisdiction. These identified threats would then inform the fourth reporting cycle.

Council noted that the fourth reporting cycle may depart from the format of earlier reporting cycles, whilst remaining a transparent mechanism to strengthen implementation of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. However, Council provided a framework around

which the fourth reporting cycle should be built: to enable a reporting cycle balancing simplicity, effectiveness and transparency; to simplify accountability through a limited number of specific outcomes and clear metrics with its focus needing to relate to reducing stressors; for progress to be measured clearly against a tangible outcome for wild Atlantic salmon, to show progress towards the achievement of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines; that each tangible outcome should be based on an action that improves the conditions for survival and / or populations through the removal or diminishment of a threat; and a clear baseline should be identified to enable progress against each action to be measured.

### **The Fourth Reporting Cycle**

Given Council's instructions to the Working Group on Future Reporting to create a fourth reporting cycle that builds on objective analysis of stressors by each Party / jurisdiction, to enable a reporting cycle balancing simplicity, effectiveness and transparency and to simplify accountability through a limited number of specific outcomes and clear metrics, this reporting cycle comprises two main components:

1. Reporting on theme-based Performance Indicators to demonstrate Parties' / jurisdictions' progress towards the achievement of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.
2. Developing and reporting on Parties' / jurisdictions' individual Conservation Commitments that demonstrate their individual commitments towards addressing the highest priority identified stressors within each Party / jurisdiction through a limited number of actions that relate clearly to the conservation of wild Atlantic salmon.

However, catch data also need to be reported each year under Article 15 of the Convention. Catch data will, therefore, continue to be provided under the structure of the fourth reporting cycle.

#### **1. Performance Indicators**

The theme-based Performance Indicators include between six and 12 key metrics for each theme area that will serve as indicators of progress towards reducing the threats associated with fisheries and aquaculture and increasing the productive capacity of freshwater habitats.

These will be reported on annually by Parties / jurisdictions, with the first round commencing in 2027. Reporting will be carried out via a web-based form, a departure from earlier reporting cycles. The reports will be public-facing documents. The reporting schedule is available in document CNL(25)XX. The Performance Indicators will not be reviewed. However, the selected Performance Indicators will help Council assess progress towards the achievement of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. They will also form the basis for information on trends in the Indicators that can be used by the NASCO Secretariat for outreach and communications on the state of wild Atlantic salmon and its management across the North Atlantic.

#### **2. Conservation Commitments**

Parties / jurisdictions will develop their Conservation Commitments in relation to the key stressors identified in a separate exercise presented to Council at the 2025 Annual Meeting.

The three stressors identified as highest priority in each stressor analysis will form the basis for the Conservation Commitments Report (CCR). If any of the three stressors in each CCR are not one of the three highest priorities identified in the stressor analysis, a justification must be provided.

To address each of the three highest-priority stressors identified, each Party / jurisdiction must provide details of one to three specific actions per stressor that they plan to implement. The

actions related to each stressor must result in the improvement of conditions for wild Atlantic salmon through the effective management, i.e. removal or reduction, of the relevant stressor. Each action will be developed and reviewed in accordance with criteria agreed by Council – including that it has a clear and measurable tangible outcome. Collectively, the overall impact of the combined actions must be urgent and transformative. These aspects will enable an understanding of the progress towards the achievement of NASCO’s Strategic Goal.

Work being carried out by all relevant actors in each Party / jurisdiction that can contribute to the planning and delivery of an action should be included, such as the work of stakeholders and Indigenous Peoples representatives and institutions (IPRIs). Input from, and engagement with, stakeholders and IPRIs will be reported on in each CCR.

Reporting will be carried out via a web-based form, a departure from earlier reporting cycles. Each CCR will be a public-facing document. The schedule for the review of, and reporting on, the CCR is available in document CNL(25)XX. Reporting by Parties / jurisdictions will be done annually. The reviews by the Review Group will be carried out biennially. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the Review Group established to review the CCRs are available in document CNL(25)YY. These ToRs identify clearly what will be reviewed both in the initial review of the CCRs and in review of progress against each action biennially.

**Party:**

**Jurisdiction:**

## Consultation and Engagement

How was stakeholder and IPRI input included in the development of the Conservation Commitments Report?

How will stakeholders and IPRI be engaged in the delivery of the Conservation Commitments Report?

## Stressors

The top three highest-priority stressors identified in your stressor analysis form the basis for the Conservation Commitments Report.

If any of your three stressors in this Conservation Commitments Report are not one of the three highest priorities identified in your stressor analysis, you must provide the justification why your choices are the most transformative for wild Atlantic salmon within your Party / jurisdiction.

### Stressor 1

Name of stressor:

Please identify the theme area that the stressor most closely relates to (drop-down menu of three themes, i.e.)

Management of Salmon Fisheries

Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat

Management of Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics

With reference to your stressor analysis, CNL(25)XX, please describe, briefly, the stressor in relation to its impact on wild Atlantic salmon, including a quantitative baseline and tangible outcome to enable progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Goal to be measured.

### Stressor 2

Name of stressor:

Please identify the theme area that the stressor most closely relates to (drop-down menu of three themes, i.e.)

Management of Salmon Fisheries

Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat

Management of Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics

With reference to your stressor analysis, CNL(25)XX, please describe, briefly, the stressor in relation to its impact on wild Atlantic salmon, including a quantitative baseline and tangible outcome to enable progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Goal to be measured.

### Stressor 3

Name of stressor:

Please identify the theme area that the stressor most closely relates to (drop-down menu of three themes, i.e.)

Management of Salmon Fisheries
Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat
Management of Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics

With reference to your stressor analysis, CNL(25)XX, please describe, briefly, the stressor in relation to its impact on wild Atlantic salmon, including a quantitative baseline and tangible outcome to enable progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Goal to be measured.

### Actions

Each of the three stressors must have at least one action but no more than three. The actions related to each stressor must result in the improvement of conditions for wild Atlantic salmon through the removal or diminishment of the relevant stressor, to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible. Collectively, the overall impact of the combined actions must be urgent and transformative.

#### Stressor 1

##### *Action S.1.1*

Name of the action

Describe, succinctly, the nature of this action, including the lead entity (i.e. government / institute / stakeholder / IPRI)

Describe how this action contributes to the significant reduction of the impact of the stressor

What is the measurable starting point against which this action will be measured, i.e. the baseline?

Provide high-level milestones, i.e. interim goals as measurable outcomes, at least for each review point of the reporting cycle, i.e. in 2028, 2030 and 2032

<b>2028:</b>
<b>2030:</b>
<b>2032:</b>

What is the expected clear and measurable tangible outcome of this action? Please note. This outcome should improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the stressor to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible

Provide a quantitative measure of expected and actual progress against the expected tangible outcome in the year (specify the units in which progress is measured \_\_\_\_\_)

Please note: progress will be reviewed biennially

**2026 Starting Point:** \_\_\_\_\_

Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
		Milestone <sup>1</sup>		Milestone		Milestone
<b>Expected Progress</b>						
<b>Actual Progress</b>						

Report clearly to explain your progress made towards the achievement of the high-level milestones (interim goals) in the year, noting any significant events that may have impacted achievement

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>

**Action S.1.2**

Name of the action

Describe, succinctly, the nature of this action, including the lead entity (i.e. government / institute / stakeholder / IPRI)

Describe how this action contributes to the significant reduction of the impact of the stressor

What is the measurable starting point against which this action will be measured, i.e. the baseline?

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<sup>1</sup> For each action in the Conservation Commitments Report, in the online template the relevant cells in these tables will be pre-populated with the data provided for the milestones

Provide high-level milestones, i.e. interim goals as measurable outcomes, at least for each review point of the reporting cycle, i.e. in 2028, 2030 and 2032

<b>2028:</b>
<b>2030:</b>
<b>2032:</b>

What is the expected clear and measurable tangible outcome of this action? Please note. This outcome should improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the stressor to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible

Provide a quantitative measure of expected and actual progress against the expected tangible outcome in the year (specify the units in which progress is measured \_\_\_\_\_)

Please note: progress will be reviewed biennially

**2026 Starting Point:** \_\_\_\_\_

Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>
<b>Expected Progress</b>						
<b>Actual Progress</b>						

Report clearly to explain your progress made towards the achievement of the high-level milestones (interim goals) in the year, noting any significant events that may have impacted achievement

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>

### **Action S.1.3**

Name of the action

Describe, succinctly, the nature of this action, including the lead entity (i.e. government / institute / stakeholder / IPRI)

Describe how this action contributes to the significant reduction of the impact of the stressor

What is the measurable starting point against which this action will be measured, i.e. the baseline?

Provide high-level milestones, i.e. interim goals as measurable outcomes, at least for each review point of the reporting cycle, *i.e. in 2028, 2030 and 2032*

<b>2028:</b>
<b>2030:</b>
<b>2032:</b>

What is the expected clear and measurable tangible outcome of this action? Please note. This outcome should improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the stressor to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible

Provide a quantitative measure of expected and actual progress against the expected tangible outcome in the year (specify the units in which progress is measured \_\_\_\_\_)

Please note: progress will be reviewed biennially

**2026 Starting Point:** \_\_\_\_\_

Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>
<b>Expected Progress</b>						
<b>Actual Progress</b>						

Report clearly to explain your progress made towards the achievement of the high-level milestones (interim goals) in the year, noting any significant events that may have impacted achievement

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>

Describe how the overall impacts of the stated action(s) will be urgent and transformative and at an appropriate scale to deliver improvement at a population level for wild Atlantic salmon through the removal or diminishment of Stressor 1 (with reference to the quantitative baseline [.....] and tangible outcome [.....] for this stressor).

## **Stressor 2**

### ***Action S.2.1***

Name of the action

Describe, succinctly, the nature of this action, including the lead entity (i.e. government / institute / stakeholder / IPRI)

Describe how this action contributes to the significant reduction of the impact of the stressor



What is the measurable starting point against which this action will be measured, i.e. the baseline?

Provide high-level milestones, i.e. interim goals as measurable outcomes, at least for each review point of the reporting cycle, i.e. in 2028, 2030 and 2032

<b>2028:</b>
<b>2030:</b>
<b>2032:</b>

What is the expected clear and measurable tangible outcome of this action? Please note. This outcome should improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the stressor to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible

Provide a quantitative measure of expected and actual progress against the expected tangible outcome in the year (specify the units in which progress is measured \_\_\_\_\_)

Please note: progress will be reviewed biennially

**2026 Starting Point:** \_\_\_\_\_

Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
		Milestone		Milestone		Milestone
<b>Expected Progress</b>						
<b>Actual Progress</b>						

Report clearly to explain your progress made towards the achievement of the high-level milestones (interim goals) in the year, noting any significant events that may have impacted achievement

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>

**Action S.2.2**

Name of the action

Describe, succinctly, the nature of this action, including the lead entity (i.e. government / institute / stakeholder / IPRI)

Describe how this action contributes to the significant reduction of the impact of the stressor

What is the measurable starting point against which this action will be measured, i.e. the baseline?

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Provide high-level milestones, i.e. interim goals as measurable outcomes, at least for each review point of the reporting cycle, i.e. in 2028, 2030 and 2032

<b>2028:</b>
<b>2030:</b>
<b>2032:</b>

What is the expected clear and measurable tangible outcome of this action? Please note. This outcome should improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the stressor to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible

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Provide a quantitative measure of expected and actual progress against the expected tangible outcome in the year (specify the units in which progress is measured \_\_\_\_\_)

Please note: progress will be reviewed biennially

**2026 Starting Point:** \_\_\_\_\_

Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>
<b>Expected Progress</b>						
<b>Actual Progress</b>						

Report clearly to explain your progress made towards the achievement of the high-level milestones (interim goals) in the year, noting any significant events that may have impacted achievement

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>

### **Action S.2.3**

Name of the action

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Describe, succinctly, the nature of this action, including the lead entity (i.e. government / institute / stakeholder / IPRI)

--

Describe how this action contributes to the significant reduction of the impact of the stressor

--

What is the measurable starting point against which this action will be measured, i.e. the baseline?

--

Provide high-level milestones, i.e. interim goals as measurable outcomes, at least for each review point of the reporting cycle, i.e. in 2028, 2030 and 2032

<b>2028:</b>
<b>2030:</b>
<b>2032:</b>

What is the expected clear and measurable tangible outcome of this action? Please note. This outcome should improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the stressor to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible

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Provide a quantitative measure of expected and actual progress against the expected tangible outcome in the year (specify the units in which progress is measured \_\_\_\_\_)

Please note: progress will be reviewed biennially

**2026 Starting Point:** \_\_\_\_\_

Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>
<b>Expected Progress</b>						
<b>Actual Progress</b>						

Report clearly to explain your progress made towards the achievement of the high-level milestones (interim goals) in the year, noting any significant events that may have impacted achievement

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>

Describe how the overall impacts of the stated action(s) will be urgent and transformative and at an appropriate scale to deliver improvement at a population level for wild Atlantic salmon through the removal or diminishment of Stressor 2 (with reference to the quantitative baseline [.....] and tangible outcome [.....] for this stressor).

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### **Stressor 3**

#### ***Action S.3.1***

Name of the action

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Describe, succinctly, the nature of this action, including the lead entity (i.e. government / institute / stakeholder / IPRI)

Describe how this action contributes to the significant reduction of the impact of the stressor

What is the measurable starting point against which this action will be measured, i.e. the baseline?

Provide high-level milestones, i.e. interim goals as measurable outcomes, at least for each review point of the reporting cycle, i.e. in 2028, 2030 and 2032

<b>2028:</b>
<b>2030:</b>
<b>2032:</b>

What is the expected clear and measurable tangible outcome of this action? Please note. This outcome should improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the stressor to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible

Provide a quantitative measure of expected and actual progress against the expected tangible outcome in the year (specify the units in which progress is measured \_\_\_\_\_)

Please note: progress will be reviewed biennially

**2026 Starting Point:** \_\_\_\_\_

Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
		Milestone		Milestone		Milestone
<b>Expected Progress</b>						
<b>Actual Progress</b>						

Report clearly to explain your progress made towards the achievement of the high-level milestones (interim goals) in the year, noting any significant events that may have impacted achievement

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>

### **Action S.3.2**

Name of the action

Describe, succinctly, the nature of this action, including the lead entity (i.e. government / institute / stakeholder / IPRI)

Describe how this action contributes to the significant reduction of the impact of the stressor

What is the measurable starting point against which this action will be measured, i.e. the baseline?

Provide high-level milestones, i.e. interim goals as measurable outcomes, at least for each review point of the reporting cycle, i.e. in 2028, 2030 and 2032

<b>2028:</b>
<b>2030:</b>
<b>2032:</b>

What is the expected clear and measurable tangible outcome of this action? Please note. This outcome should improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the stressor to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible

Provide a quantitative measure of expected and actual progress against the expected tangible outcome in the year (specify the units in which progress is measured \_\_\_\_\_)

Please note: progress will be reviewed biennially

**2026 Starting Point:** \_\_\_\_\_

Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
		Milestone		Milestone		Milestone
<b>Expected Progress</b>						
<b>Actual Progress</b>						

Report clearly to explain your progress made towards the achievement of the high-level milestones (interim goals) in the year, noting any significant events that may have impacted achievement

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>

**Action S.3.3**

Name of the action

Describe, succinctly, the nature of this action, including the lead entity (i.e. government / institute / stakeholder / IPRI)

Describe how this action contributes to the significant reduction of the impact of the stressor

What is the measurable starting point against which this action will be measured, i.e. the baseline?

Provide high-level milestones, i.e. interim goals as measurable outcomes, at least for each review point of the reporting cycle, i.e. in 2028, 2030 and 2032

<b>2028:</b>
<b>2030:</b>
<b>2032:</b>

What is the expected clear and measurable tangible outcome of this action? Please note. This outcome should improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the stressor to achieve the Strategic Goal of slowing the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrating that restoration is possible

Provide a quantitative measure of expected and actual progress against the expected tangible outcome in the year (specify the units in which progress is measured \_\_\_\_\_)

Please note: progress will be reviewed biennially

**2026 Starting Point:** \_\_\_\_\_

Year	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>		<b>Milestone</b>
<b>Expected Progress</b>						
<b>Actual Progress</b>						

Report clearly to explain your progress made towards the achievement of the high-level milestones (interim goals) in the year, noting any significant events that may have impacted achievement

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>

Describe how the overall impacts of the stated action(s) will be urgent and transformative and at an appropriate scale to deliver improvement at a population level for wild Atlantic salmon through the removal or diminishment of Stressor 3 (with reference to the quantitative baseline [.....] and tangible outcome [.....] for this stressor).

**Any Significant Highlights from the Conservation Commitments Report**

Do you have any other significant highlights to report during the year

2027	<i>Report progress here</i>
2028	<i>Report progress here</i>
2029	<i>Report progress here</i>
2030	<i>Report progress here</i>
2031	<i>Report progress here</i>