



Forty-Second Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission

Cardiff Holland House Hotel & Spa by Sunday, Cardiff, Wales

3 – 6 June 2025

Annotated Agenda

The purpose of this paper is to provide the background, links to papers and decisions for each item on the Agenda for the Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission.

Papers for the meeting are on the [website](#).

This Annotated Agenda references papers that the Secretariat is aware of at the time of writing. If additional papers are issued, they will be posted on the website and delegates will be informed by email.

As agreed in 2022, Parties / NGOs were invited to submit questions on Agenda items, in advance to the relevant Commission member. The Secretariat requested that it be copied into any questions asked, to allow the questions to be included in the Annotated Agenda. No questions were received.

A summary of the decisions before the Commission is contained in Annex 1.

Timings of the Meeting

The Commission will meet on:

- Tuesday 3 June: 15:00 – 16:30 hrs
- Thursday 5 June: 15:00 – 16:15 hrs

Order of Business

Business will be taken in the order in the Agenda.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Robert Floyd (UK), will open the meeting.

In 2025, no new Regulatory Measures are being negotiated. Given this, members of the Commission and Observers may submit written Opening Statements. These written statements will be annexed to the report of the meeting. It would be helpful if these statements could be made available to the Secretariat prior to the Annual Meeting.

- *no decision is required.*

2. Adoption of the Agenda

A Provisional Agenda, [NEA\(25\)01](#), was issued on 5 February 2025. No supplementary items were proposed by the Parties. The Draft Agenda, [NEA\(25\)02](#), was issued on 10 April.

- *the Commission may wish to adopt its Agenda.*

3. **Nomination of a Rapporteur**

- *the Commission may wish to nominate a Rapporteur.*

4. **Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

In 2022 the Council agreed that full ICES Advice should be presented in Council only in future, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), paragraph 4.34. Therefore, there will be no presentation of ICES advice during the Commission meeting.

However, Article 9 of the Convention states that ‘*In exercising the functions set out in articles 7 and 8, a Commission shall take into account: the best available information, including advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and other appropriate scientific organizations...*’

This agenda item allows for questions and comment on the ICES Advice, if required. The Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Alan Walker (UK), will be available to answer questions, if required.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(25\)06](#);
- the [Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon](#) is on the ICES website.

5. **Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission**

This is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention. Additionally, in 2024, the Council agreed, [CNL\(24\)88rev](#), paragraph 6.12, to include an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for an annual update on coastal, estuarine and in-river mixed-stock fisheries and the justification for their continued prosecution. Each member of the Commission with mixed-stock fisheries (MSF) was requested to provide papers in 2025 with a brief description of any mixed-stock fisheries still operating, the most recent catch data for these fisheries, any changes or developments in their management **and the justification for their continued prosecution.**

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the Russian Federation), [NEA\(25\)04](#);
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by United Kingdom), [NEA\(25\)05](#);
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the European Union), [NEA\(25\)07](#); and
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway), [NEA\(25\)09](#).

In addition to the MSF papers above, the following statement is available:

- Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Tana Watercourse, [NEA\(25\)10](#).

6. **Regulatory Measures**

In 2024 the Commission adopted ‘Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters in 2024 / 2025 and 2025 / 2026’, [NEA\(24\)14](#). Under this Decision, the

Commission agreed:

'Not to set a quota for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone for 2024 / 2025. This decision will also apply in 2025 / 2026 unless any member of the Commission requests its reconsideration based on a review of the scientific advice provided by ICES. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) retains the right to conduct a scientific research fishery in the Faroese Fishery Zone.'

Details of previous Decisions / regulatory measures can be found [here](#).

The ICES summary of advice for fishing seasons 2024 / 2025 to 2026 / 2027 for Atlantic salmon from the North-East Atlantic ([CNL\(25\)06](#), p 35) states:

'...in the absence of specific management objectives and when the MSY approach is applied, the catch on both the Northern and Southern North-East Atlantic Commission (NEAC) area complexes at the Faroe Islands should be zero in each of the fishing seasons 2025/26 and 2026/27. This is the same catch advice that was issued for 2024/25'

The Commission may wish to:

- ***the Commission may wish to confirm that the Decision, [NEA\(24\)14](#), will continue to apply in 2025 / 2026.***

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(25\)06](#);
- the [Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon](#) is on the ICES website.

7. Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area

This Agenda item allows for information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced. Commission members were invited to submit papers to this Annual Meeting, to report on their work on the 'Revised Road Map to Enhance Information Exchange and Co-operation on Monitoring, Research and Measures to Prevent the Spread of *G. Salaris* and Eradicate it if Introduced', [NEA\(23\)14](#).

A face-to-face meeting on the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* was last held in October 2022, which reported several recommendations to the Commission in 2023, that were agreed as best practice and the Commission encouraged members to disseminate them widely.

Recommendation 27 of the External Performance Review Panel, [CNL\(23\)17](#), is related to *G. salaris* and contains recommended actions to deal with the parasite. The Commission is asked to consider this in 2025 given it needs to consider Terms of Reference for the next meeting of the *G. salaris* Working Group in 2026. The Commission is also asked to consider membership of the Working Group, inviting Iceland, as agreed at the 2023 Annual Meeting, [NEA\(23\)13](#), and confirming membership from other Commission members / jurisdictions.

- ***the Commission may wish to agree the number of days required for the *G. salaris* Working Group in 2026; and***
- ***the Commission may wish to agree the Terms of Reference for the Working Group.***

The following papers are available:

- *G. salaris* Update_Russian Federation, [NEA\(25\)03](#);
- *G. salaris* Road Map Update_United Kingdom, [NEA\(25\)06](#);
- *G. salaris* Road Map Update_European Union, [NEA\(25\)08](#);
- Report on Gyrodactylus Salaris Roadmap in 2024_Norway, [NEA\(25\)11](#); and
- Proposed Terms of Reference for the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris*, [NEA\(25\)12](#).

8. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice

This item is required under Article 9 of the Convention which requires a Commission to take into account the best scientific evidence. Advice is provided annually under the [ICES / NASCO Memorandum of Understanding](#).

In 1992, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. The SSC comprises two representatives from each Commission, ideally one scientist and one manager. During the Annual Meeting, the SSC will meet to develop a Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES for consideration by the Commissions and the Council. The SSC representatives for the North-East Atlantic Commission are Peder Fiske and Sergey Prusov.

The Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations will be available once its work is complete.

The following paper may be available:

- Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

9. Other Business

At the time of writing, the Secretariat had not been made aware of any other business.

10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Commission will be asked to confirm the date and venue for its next Annual Meeting. It is usual practice for the Commission to meet during the Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO, and in the same location.

The dates and location for the Forty-Third Annual Meeting of the Council will be considered during the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Council.

- *the Commission may wish to agree to hold its next Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Forty-Third Annual Meeting of the Council.*

11. Report of the Meeting

Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure for the North-East Atlantic Commission requires that 'A draft report shall be considered by the Commission before the end of the meeting.'

A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review.

- *the Commission may wish to adopt the Report of the Meeting.*

12. Close of the Meeting

The Chair will close the Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
23 May 2025

Annex 1

Summary of Commission Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	NEA(25)02
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur	Nominate a Rapporteur	
6. Regulatory Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Commission may wish to confirm that the Decision will continue to apply in 2025 / 2026. 	NEA(24)14
7. Risk of Transmission of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in the Commission Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the Commission may wish to agree the number of days required for the <i>G. salaris</i> Working Group in 2026; and the Commission may wish to agree the Terms of Reference for the Working Group 	NEA(25)12
8. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation or defer the decision to the Council 	Paper issued at the meeting
10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Agree to hold its next Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Forty-Third Annual Meeting of the Council	
11. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report of the Meeting	Issued at the meeting