



CNL(25)07

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

- 1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:**
 - 1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings by country, including unreported catches and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2025¹;
 - 1.2 provide an overview of the status of salmon at a key life stage for the North Atlantic Area as a whole, in tabular and graphical form, differentiating the North-East Atlantic and North American Commission area contributions.
 - 1.3 provide a review on the most appropriate methods to set and aggregate CLs for stock complexes in support of providing fisheries advice at these levels;
 - 1.4 Scope out and recommend a process (e.g. ICES Annual Science Conference Theme-based Special Session, ICES Workshop(s), co-ordinated conversations between various ICES Working Groups) to identify where gaps exist in available marine datasets and how additional marine data might be made available to support investigations into the marine ecology and productivity of Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic;
 - 1.5 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management²;
 - 1.6 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2025;
 - 1.7 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements; and
 - 1.8 NASCO notes the addition of Atlantic salmon to the list of fish species of bycatch relevance and requests ICES to gather data concerning bycatch information and, if possible, estimates of bycaught Atlantic salmon at the scale of ecoregions across the entire NASCO Convention area.
 - 1.9 With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area³:
 - 1.10 describe the key events of the 2025 fisheries⁴;
 - 1.11 review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
 - 1.12 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction; and
 - 1.13 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2026 / 2027-2028 / 2029 fishing seasons, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁵.

- 2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area³:**
 - 2.1 describe the key events of the 2025 fisheries (including the fishery at Saint Pierre and Miquelon)⁴;
 - 2.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
 - 2.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction; and
 - 2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2026-2029 with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁵.
- 3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area³:**
 - 3.1 describe the key events of the 2025 fisheries⁴;
 - 3.2 describe the status of the stocks⁶; and
 - 3.3 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2026-2028 with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁵.

Notes:

1. *With regard to question 1.1, for the estimates of unreported catch the information provided should, where possible, indicate the location of the unreported catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Numbers and estimated weight of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries should be provided. When estimating quantities of salmon caught and released, ICES should acknowledge the fact that some of these fish will experience increased mortality before spawning. Estimates of mortality from caught and released fish should be carried forth in all parts of the ICES assessment process.*
2. *With regard to question 1.5, ICES is requested to include reports on any significant advances in understanding of the biology of Atlantic salmon that is pertinent to NASCO.*
3. *The resulting fisheries advice should be presented according to the standard fisheries advice format used by ICES, which has been modified and agreed upon by the ICES advice format subgroup.*
4. *In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Information on any other sources of fishing mortality for salmon is also requested. For 4.1, if any new surveys are conducted and reported to ICES, ICES should review the results and advise on the appropriateness of incorporating resulting estimates into the assessment process.*
5. *In response to questions 2.4, 3.4 and 4.3, provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice and report on any developments.*
6. *In response to question 4.2, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status*

of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.3 and 3.3.

Attendees:

Michael Millane (WGC, scientist representative)

Augusta Jerimiassen (WGC, manager representative)

Peder Fiske (NEAC, scientist representative)

Sergey Prusov (NEAC, manager representative)

Tim Sheehan (NAC, scientist representative, Co-ordinator)

Julien April (NAC, manager representative)

Alan Walker (ICES representative, Observer)