



Forty-Second Annual Meeting of the North American 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 American 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 (Cardiff local time)

The Commission will meet on:

- Tuesday 3 June: 13:30 – 15:00 hrs
- Thursday 5 June: 14:00 – 15:00 hrs

Order of Business

Business will be taken in the order in the Agenda.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Dale Marsden (Canada), 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, [NAC\(25\)01](#), was issued on 5 February 2025. No supplementary items were proposed by the Parties. The Draft Agenda, [NAC\(25\)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. Article 7 states that *‘The functions of the North American Commission with regard to its area shall be: (a) to provide a forum for consultation and co-operation between the members: (i) on matters related to minimizing catches in the area of fisheries jurisdiction of one member of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party...’*

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.**

There are no directed wild Atlantic salmon fisheries in the United States, so no report will be provided under this Agenda item by the United States.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is expected to be available:

- Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed Stock Fisheries Context, NAC(25)05.

6. **The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

In recent years, the Council and the North American Commission have been concerned about catches of salmon at St Pierre and Miquelon which, although low, occur at a time

when there are serious concerns about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the North American Commission area.

In 2023, the Council again agreed to write to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon), to invite them to join NASCO. The [Letter from the President of NASCO](#) to the Secretary of State of the Sea was sent on 20 March 2024.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Report from St Pierre and Miquelon on Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery 2024, [CNL\(25\)27](#).

7. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

Under Article 7 of the Convention, the Williamsburg Resolution, and the NAC protocols, Members of the Commission must report on salmonid introductions and transfers. In 2010, it was agreed that the Parties should provide focused annual reports to the Commission on issues of mutual concern including salmonid disease incidences, breaches of containment, introductions from outside the Commission area and transgenics.

Prior to the NAC Annual Meeting, the United States shared its report with Canada.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- Annual Report (Tabled by the United States), [NAC\(25\)03](#).
- Annual Report (Tabled by Canada), [NAC\(25\)04](#).

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. 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 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 American Commission are Dale Marsden and Tim Sheehan.

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

- *the Commission will be asked to consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation, although it may wish to defer the decision to the Council.*

The following paper may be available:

- Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

9. Other Business

Since the Draft Agenda was issued it has become apparent that the current Vice-Chair, Patrick Keliher (USA), is no longer involved with NASCO. Under Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure for the NAC a new Vice-Chair will need to be elected. Work to seek candidates and Parties' support has been conducted by the Secretary.

No background papers are produced for this item.

The Secretary will introduce the election item and will ask for nominations and seconds for the Vice Chair.

- *the Commission may wish to elect a Vice-Chair.*

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 29 of the Rules of Procedure for the NAC 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 American Commission.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
23 May 2025

Summary of Commission Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	NAC(25)02
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur	Nominate a Rapporteur	
8. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	Consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation, or defer the decision to the Council.	Paper issued at the meeting
9. Other Business	Elect a Vice-Chair	
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