

**CNL(26)17**

**Review of Draft Conservation Commitments Report**

Date	Party / jurisdiction	Draft CCR
February 2026	Canada	<a href="#"><u>Canada - Updated Draft CCR submitted April 2026</u></a>

**Overview of Conservation Commitments Report**

**Overall Comments / Recommendations**

- The Review Group appreciates the challenges of managing 1,000 salmon rivers and recognises the collaborative approach with stakeholders to identify and mitigate the stressors in focal rivers as a meaningful approach to prioritize and focus resources.
- Many of the action describe a human co-ordinating activity associated with salmon conservation, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action is not being measured. This in turn, makes it difficult to ascertain the extent that the action will improve conditions for salmon survival and move towards a diminishment of the identified stressors.

**Consultation and Engagement**

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations
E.1. E.2.	<b>Are the questions in the ‘Consultation and Engagement’ section of the CCRs answered fully?</b>	Yes.

**Stressors**

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations
Stressor Justification	<b>Are the top three stressors identified in the Party’s / jurisdiction’s stressor analysis used as the basis for the CCRs?</b>	No.  The top stressor (fishing/ harvesting was not chosen). The 3 stressors chosen were introduced genetic material, habitat shifting and alteration, and temperature extremes).
	<b>If not, are the justifications provided for the substitutions adequate?</b>	Yes.

		Fishing/ harvesting was not addressed as the severity of its impact was found to be low in all designable units, and the pressure is already managed and will continue to be managed using the precautionary approach and appropriate tools for sustainable management.
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**Stressor 1**

<b>CCR reference</b>	<b>Review Question</b>	<b>Comments / Recommendations</b>		
S.1.a.	<b>Are NASCO's theme areas identified?</b>	Yes.		
S.1.b. S.1.c. S.1.d.	<b>Is the impact of the stressor on wild Atlantic salmon described clearly?</b>	Yes.		
	<b>Are there no more than three actions for this stressor?</b>	Yes.		
		<b>Action 1</b>	<b>Action 2</b>	<b>Action 3</b>
S.1.1.d S.1.2.d S.1.3.d.	<b>Does the action have a clear and measurable tangible outcome to improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the identified stressor (i.e. in line with NASCO's Strategic Goal)?</b>	In part.  This action describes a human co-ordinating activity associated with salmon conservation, but the direct benefit to salmon from this specific action is not being measured.		
S.1.1.c. S.1.2.c. S.1.3.c.	<b>Does the action have a clear starting point (baseline) against which progress towards the outcome can be measured?</b>	Yes.  0 is baseline (% hatcheries that follow the policy guidance to reduce genetic risks).		
S.1.1.e. S.1.2.e. S.1.3.e.	<b>Are clear interim goals / milestones identified for this action?</b>	Yes.		

		Adoption of policy by hatcheries 50% (2030); 75% (2031); and 100% (2023).		
S.1.4.	<b>Does this stressor include a quantitative baseline and tangible outcome to enable progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Goal to be measured?</b>	In part. Although, this action describes a human co-ordinating activity associated with salmon conservation, the direct benefit to salmon from this specific action is not being measured.		
<b>Comments / Recommendations</b>				
<p>This action describes a human co-ordinating activity associated with salmon conservation, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action is not being measured.</p> <p>The Review Group note that there is no action associated with mitigating the risk of introduced genetic material from farm escapes under this stressor although it was identified as a main source along with stocking of hatchery salmon in the CCR.</p> <p>It is recommended that reporting on finalisation of the policy is provided in 2029/2030 as adoption of the policy is stated 50% in 2030. It is also recommended that information on how closely the policy will align with NASCO Guidelines is provided once it is in place.</p>				

## Stressor 2

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations		
S.2.a.	<b>Are NASCO's theme areas identified?</b>	Yes.		
S.2.b. S.2.c. S.2.d.	<b>Is the impact of the stressor on wild Atlantic salmon described clearly?</b>	Yes.		
	<b>Are there no more than three actions for this stressor?</b>	Yes		
		<b>Action 1</b>	<b>Action 2</b>	<b>Action 3</b>
S.2.1.d S.2.2.d S.2.3.d.	<b>Does the action have a clear and measurable tangible outcome to improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the identified</b>	In part.	In part.	

	<b>stressor (i.e. in line with NASCO's Strategic Goal)?</b>	There is a lack of detail on the scale of the measures intended to be implemented.	There is a lack of detail on the scale of the measures intended to be implemented.	
S.2.1.c. S.2.2.c. S.2.3.c.	<b>Does the action have a clear starting point (baseline) against which progress towards the outcome can be measured?</b>	Yes.  0 (percentage of focal salmon rivers that have key threats identified and actively mitigated)	Yes.  0 (percentage of focal salmon rivers that have key threats identified and actively mitigated)	
S.2.1.e. S.2.2.e. S.2.3.e.	<b>Are clear interim goals / milestones identified for this action?</b>	Yes.  It is recommended that in 2028, reporting on whether the focal rivers and the key threats within them have been identified, as first progress is reported to be made in 2029.	Yes.  It is recommended that in 2028, reporting on whether the focal rivers and the key threats within them have been identified, as first progress is reported to be made in 2029.	
S.2.4.	<b>Does this stressor include a quantitative baseline and tangible outcome to enable progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Goal to be measured?</b>	In part.  Although it is acknowledged that the focal rivers are yet to be identified, there is a lack of detail on the scale of the measures intended to be implemented for each action.  It is unclear how success will be determined and reported if all key threats and pressures and/or impediments in a focal river identified are not mitigated, and how this will be accounted for in the reporting.		
<b>Comments / Recommendations</b>				
<p>The Review Group recognises that the approach outlined to identify and mitigate the stressors in focal rivers is ambitious and acknowledges the need to focus resources on focal rivers in the context that Canada has in the region of 1,000 salmon rivers.</p> <p>Although it is acknowledged that the focal rivers are yet to be identified, there is a lack of detail on the scale of the measures intended to be implemented for each action.</p> <p>It is unclear how success will be determined and reported if all key threats and pressures and/or impediments in a focal river identified are not mitigated, and how will this be accounted for in the reporting.</p>				

It is recommended that in 2028, reporting on whether the focal rivers and the key threats and/or impediments within them have been identified as first progress is reported to be made in 2029.

### Stressor 3

CCR reference	Review Question	Comments / Recommendations		
S.3.a.	<b>Are NASCO's theme areas identified?</b>	Yes.		
S.3.b. S.3.c. S.3.d.	<b>Is the impact of the stressor on wild Atlantic salmon described clearly?</b>	Yes.		
	<b>Are there no more than three actions for this stressor?</b>	Yes.		
		Action 1	Action 2	Action 3
S.3.1.d S.3.2.d S.3.3.d.	<b>Does the action have a clear and measurable tangible outcome to improve conditions for salmon survival through the removal or diminishment of the identified stressor (i.e. in line with NASCO's Strategic Goal)?</b>	<p>In part.</p> <p>This action describes a human co-ordinating activity associated with salmon conservation, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action is not being measured.</p> <p>Although it is acknowledged that the focal rivers are yet to be identified, there is a lack of detail on the scale of the measures intended to be implemented for each action.</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>This action describes a human co-ordinating activity associated with salmon conservation, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action is not being measured.</p> <p>Although it is acknowledged that the focal rivers are yet to be identified, there is a lack of detail on the scale of the measures intended to be implemented for each action.</p>	<p>In part.</p> <p>Although it is acknowledged that the focal rivers are yet to be identified, there is a lack of detail on the scale of the measures intended to be implemented for each action.</p>

S.3.1.c. S.3.2.c. S.3.3.c.	<b>Does the action have a clear starting point (baseline) against which progress towards the outcome can be measured?</b>	In part.  It is unclear why this action would only be restricted to focal rivers rather than salmon rivers in general.	In part.  It is unclear why this action would only be restricted to focal rivers rather than salmon rivers in general.	Yes.
S.3.1.e. S.3.2.e. S.3.3.e.	<b>Are clear interim goals / milestones identified for this action?</b>	Yes.  As progress is first reported to be made in 2029, it is recommended that reporting be made for 2028 on whether the framework is in place to implement the action.	Yes.  As progress is first reported to be made in 2029, it is recommended that reporting be made for 2028 on whether the framework is in place to implement the action.	Yes.  As progress is first reported to be made in 2029, it is recommended that reporting for 2028 be made so that the coldwater areas have been identified.
S.3.4.	<b>Does this stressor include a quantitative baseline and tangible outcome to enable progress towards the achievement of the Strategic Goal to be measured?</b>	<p>In part.</p> <p>Actions 1 and 2 describe human co-ordinating activities associated with salmon conservation, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action is not being measured.</p> <p>Although it is acknowledged that the focal rivers are yet to be identified, there is a lack of detail on the scale of the measures intended to be implemented for each action.</p>		
<p><b>Comments / Recommendations</b></p> <p>Actions 1 and 2 describe human co-ordinating activities associated with salmon conservation, but the benefit to salmon from this specific action is not being measured.</p> <p>As progress is first reported to be made in 2029 for each action, it is recommended reporting is made for 2028 on whether the framework is in place to implement actions 1 and 2.</p> <p>For action 3, it is unclear how success will be determined if all key coldwater areas in a focal river identified are not mitigated or have processes underway for this, how will this be accounted for in the reporting.</p>				