



*Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee*

*Macdonald Aviemore Resort, Scotland*

*1 June 2026*

*Annotated Agenda*

The purpose of this paper is to provide the background, decisions and links to papers for each item on the Agenda for the Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC).

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 were invited to submit questions on Agenda items, in advance to the relevant Party. 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 FAC is contained in Annex 1.

### **Timings of the Meeting**

The FAC will meet on:

- Monday 1 June: 13:00 – 16:00 hrs

### **Order of Business**

Business will be taken in the order on the Draft Agenda.

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

The Chair, Rebecca Wintering (USA), will open the meeting.

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

A Draft Agenda, [FAC\(26\)01](#), was made available on 21 April 2026.

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

#### **3. 2025 Audited Accounts**

[Financial Rule 12](#) states ‘The Council shall, following consideration of the audited annual financial statements and audit report submitted to its members under Rule 11.5, signify its acceptance of the audited annual financial statements or take such other action as it may consider appropriate.’

The Audited Accounts for 2025 were circulated to the President, Heads of Delegations and FAC members on 13 February 2026.

- *the FAC may wish to accept the Audited Accounts for 2025 and to refer them to the Council for adoption.*

The following paper is available:

- 2025 Audited Accounts, [FAC\(26\)02](#).

#### 4. **Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee**

At its inter-sessional meeting in April 2026, [FAC\(26\)03](#), the FAC considered the impact of contribution arrears on the 2026 budget and decision making and revising the NASCO 2026 and future budgets in light of contribution arrears. These included the general issue of arrears, the 2026 budget, the Contractual Obligation Fund, staffing levels, ICES advice, the hosting of NASCO meetings, a potential observer fee, and voluntary contributions.

The Chair will present a summary of the outcome of the inter-sessional FAC process.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee, [FAC\(26\)03](#)

#### 5. **Relationship with ICES**

The revised [Memorandum of Understanding](#) between NASCO and ICES was signed on 22 February 2022.

During the Annual Meeting in 2022, the Council asked the Secretary to approach ICES to investigate a more streamlined approach / presentation of the ICES Advice and agreed that full ICES Advice should be presented in Council only in future, [CNL\(22\)53rev](#), paragraph 4.34. The Council will consider a further update on the streamlining of the ICES advice during its Annual Meeting.

At its inter-sessional meeting in April, the FAC discussed the provision of multi-annual advice from ICES, including whether advice should continue to be requested annually or whether a different timeframe or approach should be pursued. The FAC agreed that a new approach should be explored and directed the Secretariat to consult with NASCO's Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to understand more fully any potential issues associated with moving towards the provision of multi-annual ICES advice.

- *the FAC may wish to recommend to Council to direct the Secretary to engage with ICES on the future framework for receiving advice, based on options presented by the SSC and discussed at the FAC.*

The following papers are available:

- Update on the Streamlining of the ICES Advice, [CNL\(26\)07](#);
- Report of the April Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee, [FAC\(26\)03](#)

#### 6. **MoU with the OSPAR Commission**

The [MoU between NASCO and the OSPAR Commission](#) came into effect on 5 August 2013. The FAC agreed that the Secretary should continue to liaise with OSPAR on issues of mutual interest and bring relevant information and developments to its attention. Issues of interest may be raised under this Agenda item.

The following issues may be of interest, with more information provided in the paper:

1. OSPAR Quality Status Assessment 2023 and 2029 Intermediate Assessment;
2. OSPAR Status Assessment of Salmon (2026-2027);
3. OSPAR Recommendation 2016/3 on Salmon;
4. Extension of the NACES Marine Protected Area in the North-East Atlantic; and
5. Outputs from OSPAR Ministerial Meeting in June 2025.

- *the FAC may wish to recommend to Council that NASCO engage with OSPAR on the update of the OSPAR Status Assessment for Atlantic salmon in 2027.*

The following paper is available:

- MoU with the OSPAR Commission, [FAC\(26\)05](#).

## 7. Consideration of the 2027 Draft Budget, Schedule of Contributions and Five-year Budgeting Plan

Article 16.1 of the [Convention](#) states ‘the Council shall adopt an annual budget’. The Secretary will present the 2027 Draft Budget, Schedule of Contributions and Five-Year Budgeting Plan for consideration by the FAC.

The 2027 budgeted expenditure (£756,930) represents a 3.0% increase compared to that in the 2026 Budget (£735,330). The 2025 Audited Accounts indicate that the Working Capital Fund, the Contractual Obligation Fund and the Recruitment Fund are all below their respective ceilings of £200,000, £250,000 and £60,000, at £197,500, £36,917 and £34,409 respectively.

At the time of preparation of this 2027 Draft Budget, it is worth noting that the Russian Federation is in arrears in its Contributions to NASCO for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026 ([CNL\\_IS\(25\)07](#)).

The contributions for each Party have been calculated in accordance with Article 16, paragraph 2 of the Convention. The 2026 contributions have been recalculated to take account of the difference in the provisional and confirmed 2024 catch statistics, and the appropriate adjustments have been made to the 2027 contributions. Changes in the contributions can occur even with stable budgets when a Party’s proportion of the total catch changes. The 2027 contributions are 3.2% higher in real terms than those anticipated in the 2026 Budget (£676,330).

- *the FAC may wish to approve the draft budget for 2027 and forecast budget for 2028 and refer them to the Council for adoption.*

The following paper is available:

- 2027 Draft Budget, 2028 Forecast Budget and Five-Year (2027 - 2031) Budgeting Plan, [FAC\(26\)04rev](#);
- Report of the April Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Finance and Administration Committee, [FAC\(26\)03](#)

## 8. Changes to Financial Processes and Rules

At the FAC inter-sessional meeting in April 2026 under any other business ([FAC\(26\)03](#)) increasing the ceiling of the Working Capital Fund was raised. The FAC agreed to discuss this and raising the ceiling of the Contractual Obligations Fund at its Annual Meeting. [Financial Rule 6.3](#) states:

*‘The **Working Capital Fund** will be established in the initial budget at 3,000 pounds sterling and may be increased by budgetary provision, miscellaneous income and any cash surplus in the General Fund at the close of a financial year that is not required to meet outstanding commitments in terms of Rule 4.3, until the Fund reaches **200,000 pounds sterling**. Any surplus above 200,000 pounds sterling shall, unless the Council decides otherwise, be credited to the **Contractual Obligation Fund** until that fund has reached **250,000 pounds sterling**.’*

The FAC discussed the potential benefits and issues associated with the introduction of a fee for Observers attending the NASCO annual meeting, ([FAC\(26\)03](#)). The Council approved the Terms and Conditions for Observers at NASCO Meetings in 2024 ([CNL\(24\)59](#)); it is noteworthy that these terms and conditions are subject to mandatory review by the FAC in 2027.

Also raised under any other business ([FAC\(26\)03](#)) was giving consideration to a cap on the lump sum paid to NASCO staff on retirement from the Organization. For staff whose date of appointment is prior to 9 June 2024, Staff Rule 7.11 in the NASCO Staff Handbook & Staff Rules, CNL(25)45, states:

*‘...prior to any Secretariat member leaving employment with NASCO, other than through termination due to gross misconduct, a lump sum payment will be made into that Secretariat member’s deferred salary account of one eighth after tax of the final year’s gross salary and allowances for each year of service with NASCO...’*

- *the FAC may wish to give further consideration to the introduction of Observer annual meeting fees as part of the mandatory review of Terms and Conditions for Observers at NASCO Meetings in advance of the 2027 Annual Meeting.*
- *the FAC may wish to recommend to Council changes to Financial Rule 6.3 to agree on an increase of the limit on the Working Capital Fund beyond 200,000 pounds sterling.*
- *the FAC may wish to recommend to Council changes to Financial Rule 6.3 to agree on an increase of the limit on the Contractual Obligations Fund beyond 250,000 pounds sterling.*
- *the FAC may wish to consider legal advice given previously on the lump sum paid to NASCO staff on retirement from the Organization in consideration of Staff Rule 7.11 in the NASCO Staff Handbook & Staff Rules and make a recommendation to Council on how to proceed.*

## **9. Other Business**

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

## **10. Report of the Meeting**

Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure of the Council, which apply to the FAC per Rule 28, requires that *‘A draft report shall be considered by the Council before the end of the meeting.’*

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

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

## **11. Close of the Meeting**

The Chair will close the Meeting.

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
29 May 2026

*Summary of FAC Decisions*

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Paper No.</b>
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	<a href="#">FAC(26)01</a>
3. 2025 Audited Accounts	Accept the Audited Accounts for 2025 and refer them to the Council for adoption.	<a href="#">FAC(26)02</a>
5. Relationship with ICES	Recommend to Council to direct the Secretary to engage with ICES on the future framework for receiving advice, based on options presented by the SSC and discussed at the FAC	<a href="#">FAC(26)03</a>
6. MoU with the OSPAR Commission	Recommend to Council that NASCO engage with OSPAR on the update of the OSPAR Status Assessment for Atlantic salmon in 2027	<a href="#">FAC(26)05</a>
7. Consideration of the 2027 Draft Budget, Schedule of Contributions and Five-year Budgeting Plan	Approve the draft budget for 2027 and forecast budget for 2028 and refer them to the Council for adoption	<a href="#">FAC(26)04rev</a>
8. Changes to Financial Processes and Rules	<p>Give further consideration to the introduction of Observer annual meeting fees as part of the mandatory review of Terms and Conditions for Observers at NASCO Meetings in advance of the 2027 Annual Meeting;</p> <p>Recommend to Council changes to Financial Rule 6.3 to agree on an increase of the limit on the Working Capital Fund beyond 200,000 pounds sterling;</p> <p>Recommend to Council changes to Financial Rule 6.3 to agree on an increase of the limit on the Contractual Obligations Fund beyond 250,000 pounds sterling;</p> <p>Consider legal advice given previously on the lump sum paid to NASCO staff on retirement from the Organization in consideration of Staff Rule 7.11 in the NASCO Staff Handbook &amp; Staff Rules and make a recommendation to Council on how to proceed.</p>	<a href="#">FAC(26)03</a>

9. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report of the Meeting	Issued at meeting
--------------------------	---------------------------------	-------------------