Terms of Reference for the NASCO Interim Stock Status Working Group

Taking into consideration the requirement under the NASCO Convention to take into account the best scientific evidence available to it in the management of salmon stocks subject to the Convention, the Working Group is asked to:

1) be comprised of:
   - one representative from the North American Commission (NAC); and
   - one representative from the North-East Atlantic Commission (NEAC);
2) conduct an assessment on the status of Atlantic salmon adult returns and spawners across the NASCO Convention area, working with individual Party / jurisdiction representatives to collate and analyse data;
3) ensure that national input data needed to estimate Atlantic salmon returns and spawners are compiled and submitted to designated assessment scientists charged with operating previously utilized assessment models (e.g., NAC and NEAC run reconstruction models, Atlantic Salmon Life Cycle Model), to inform (2);
4) collate resulting model output tables and figures summarizing Atlantic salmon adult returns and spawners, from (3), into a single document with a short textual summary of trends over time relative to contemporary status;
5) oversee and co-ordinate review of a final report with individual Party / jurisdiction representatives to ensure that the resulting report is satisfactory and trends match expectations based on their understanding of the input data provided; and
6) submit a final report summarizing the status of stocks as a Council paper at least 30 days prior to the 2027 NASCO Annual Meeting.

The Working Group will conduct the majority of its work during January to April (inclusive) 2027 and remain active until the end of June 2027. Assistance from the NASCO Secretariat will be provided as needed.