



Council

CNL(20)22

Decisions Required to Conclude IYS business

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Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide information to support decisions required to conclude IYS business.

Decisions

Council may wish to discuss and agree the following:

1. the IYS website stays operational until at least the end of 2022, this is to be funded solely by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC);
2. the Secretariat repurposes the IYS twitter account to a NASCO twitter account;
3. request that the Secretariat liaises with the NPAFC to: establish a Symposium Steering Committee in 2020 to plan the concluding IYS Symposium in 2022; agree the Terms of Reference; and nominate two representatives in addition to one member of the Secretariat to serve on the Committee. The Secretariat will work with the NASCO Co-Chair of the Symposium Steering Committee to agree plans inter-sessionally with Heads of Delegations;
4. that the available IYS funds be spent on specific named items, in which case to task the Secretariat to investigate full costings and to revisit the fate of any remaining funds once the full costings have been agreed; and
5. discuss when legacy activities (e.g. another State of Salmon Report or NASCO Symposium) might take place and instruct the Secretariat to present plans at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Council.

Background

At its Thirty-Third (2016) Annual Meeting the Council agreed to hold an International Year of the Salmon (IYS) in collaboration with the NPAFC. The focal year for the IYS was 2019 with some efforts continuing to 2022.

A final report on the activities of the IYS will be delivered at the 2020 NASCO Annual Meeting (CNL(20)21).

Previous papers provide background, planning and progress reports:

- An Outline Proposal for an IYS ([IYS\(16\)2](#));
- Update on the work of the International Year of the Salmon Committees and IYS planning (Revised 31 May 2017) ([CNL\(17\)12](#));
- Progress reports on Planning for the International Year of the Salmon ([CNL\(18\)15](#)); and
- Report on Progress During the International Year of the Salmon ([CNL\(19\)15](#)).

Other IYS documents can be found on the [IYS page](#) of the NASCO website.

Although the focal year of the IYS has now ended, some activities continue. Council may wish to discuss and agree a way forward on the issues set out below.

The IYS Website

The [IYS website](#) was established to promote and support the International Year of the Salmon. It is hosted by the NPAFC. Analysis shows that 17,985 users in 12 countries have visited the site, as of March 2020. The majority of users were located in the United States, followed by Canada and the UK. The language of the website is English.

Those carrying out IYS events and projects were encouraged to register them on the website. Since the launch of the website, 177 events were registered, with 145 registered in the focal year – 2019. A total of 57 projects have been registered on the website since it was launched, with 48 of those in 2019.

Additional projects and events may still be registered, as the NASCO Small Grants – Sharing Good Practice projects have been asked to register projects. More recently, education and outreach projects funded under the EU’s Voluntary Contribution to NASCO in 2019 to support the IYS have been asked to register their projects and events. Most are scheduled to take place in 2020, although there will be delays to many given the restrictions to people and events during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The IYS in the Pacific runs to the end of 2022. The NPAFC has suggested that changes to the IYS website take place to highlight the implementation phase of the IYS, including its Signature projects, among others. Information on events and projects will remain accessible. The NPAFC is prepared to pay for these changes using the British Columbia Salmon Restoration and Innovation Fund.

- *Council may wish to agree that the IYS website stays operational until at least the end of the 2022.*

Year of the Salmon - North Atlantic Twitter Account

In 2018, the IYS North Atlantic Steering Committee recommended that NASCO establish a Twitter Feed to ‘push’ IYS content out to a wider audience ([IYS\(18\)04](#)). They stated that ‘*a NASCO Twitter account may be the best platform for the Secretariat to use as it would be a relatively easy way to disseminate information, require minimum interaction concerning any conversations triggered by tweets and could continue to be used post-IYS by NASCO*’.

The Year of the Salmon – North Atlantic Twitter account (@IYS_Atlantic) was set up in October 2019.

As of 31 March 2020, the account had 710 followers and had made 242 tweets.

The Secretariat continues to use the account to disseminate relevant information.

- *Council may wish to instruct the Secretariat to repurpose the twitter account by rebranding it as a NASCO twitter account.*

IYS Concluding Symposium

Council agreed in 2019 that a concluding Symposium, to be arranged jointly between NASCO and the NPAFC, should take place at the end of the IYS period, in 2022. A joint Symposium Steering Committee will be required to plan and develop the Symposium. Annex 1 contains a proposal for Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee that mirror closely those agreed by NASCO and the NPAFC in 2017 for the original Symposium Steering Committee when a Symposium to launch the IYS was envisaged.

It has been suggested that one of the options for a concluding Symposium would be to focus on findings of IYS Signature Projects. If a concluding Symposium is to be held, a time and

location must be agreed with the NPAFC. The sum of £25,000 has been reserved as the NASCO contribution towards the Symposium costs.

- *Council may wish to:*
 - *ask the Secretariat to liaise with the NPAFC to establish a Symposium Steering Committee in 2020 to plan the concluding IYS Symposium in 2022;*
 - *agree the Terms of Reference;*
 - *nominate two representatives in addition to one member of the Secretariat to serve on the Committee.*

The Secretariat will work with the NASCO Co-Chair of the Symposium Steering Committee to agree plans inter-sessionally with Heads of Delegations. The Symposium Steering Committee will report to their respective lead organizations at their 2021 Annual Meetings.

The IYS Fund

The status of the IYS fund as of 6 May 2020 is shown below.

Category of Spend	Agreed Budget 2018	Actual Expenditure
Activities / Workshops / Symposia	£66,400	£94,383
Communication	£115,450	£96,404
Meetings	£24,200	£19,528
Other Costs	£13,160	£8,788
Total	£219,210	£219,104
Final Symposium		£25,000
Total Income (not EU grants)		£304,915
Excess available for spend		£60,812

On advice from NASCO’s auditors, the IYS Fund is home to the grants awarded by the European Union for education and outreach work for the IYS. The grants total €250,000. It is necessary to hold the money from the European Union in the IYS Fund until the European Union (DG MARE) has approved the final reports. Most projects were scheduled to take place in 2020; there will now be delays to many given the restrictions to people and events during the Covid-19 pandemic. The final reports may not now be approved until 2022. The auditors have stated that it is not appropriate to hold the EU grant funds in any other NASCO account.

Notwithstanding the income and expenditure against the EU IYS grants, there is approximately £61,000 as a surplus in the IYS Fund, once the £25,000 ring-fenced for the concluding Symposium (as agreed by Council in 2018) is accounted for.

It has been suggested that there are a number of items that may draw on the surplus in the fund in future:

- funding the rebuild / feasibility study on the current requirements of a Rivers Database. Council agreed in 2019 that ‘*the Secretariat will explore working towards a database that can be updated by Parties and jurisdictions*’, however, funds to address this were not identified. The Secretariat envisages that a proper database would need to be built, incorporating GIS aspects to enable full data display compatibility, and external expertise

would be required to do that. Alternatively, other analyses of river status, using Parties existing categorisations, could be explored to inform future status reports;

- a two-page summary State of North Atlantic Salmon Report, to be published in English and several other languages (to be agreed). Informal discussions in 2019 showed that there was interest in this. Design / printing costs (not including translations) have been estimated to be around £800 for the English version per 300 copies per language; and around £600 per each extra language (per 300 copies of each);
- the entire State of North Atlantic Salmon Report to be published in other languages (total costs for the English version in the region of £27,000).

In 2019, Council agreed ‘If available, surplus funds remaining in the IYS budget should be used to cover the costs of the IYS Symposium and the State of Salmon Report’ ([CNL\(19\)46](#)). These costs were borne by the IYS Fund, to the greatest extent possible.

- *Council may wish to agree that the available IYS funds be spent on specific items named above, in which case to task the Secretariat to investigate full costings and to revisit the fate of any remaining funds once the full costings have been agreed.*

The IYS Legacy

In 2019, Council agreed that ‘with regard to the legacy of the IYS, a periodic Symposium and State of Salmon Report should be delivered by the Secretariat. The other work of the Secretariat needs to be considered when determining when to hold the Symposium and update the State of Salmon report’ ([CNL\(19\)46](#)). Planning for such activities requires a long lead-in.

- *Council may wish to discuss when such activities might take place and instruct the Secretariat to present plans at the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Council.*

Secretariat
Edinburgh
6 May 2020

*Proposed Terms of Reference for the
IYS Symposium Steering Committee*

1. The NPAFC and NASCO, as the lead organizations, jointly establish the IYS Symposium Steering Committee.
2. The Symposium Steering Committee shall consist of:
 - (a) not more than three representatives from each lead organization, including one representative of the Secretariats of each lead organization, and one representative from any co-convening organization. It would be desirable to have both managers and scientists involved with subject matter for each theme. The Symposium Steering Committee will appoint one Co-Chair from among the representatives of each of the two lead organizations; and
 - (b) the Symposium Steering Committee may co-opt additional representatives with specific expertise to serve on the Symposium Steering Committee as required.
3. The Symposium Steering Committee's mandate is to convene a world class Symposium to report on and synthesise the accomplishments of the IYS and consider its legacy and recommendations for the future. The Symposium Steering Committee will undertake the following activities:
 - identifying the dates and venue as soon as possible, subject to approval by both NASCO and the NPAFC;
 - organizing a site-inspection trip to the venue within the 2020 / 2021 fiscal year;
 - developing objectives and the programme, including identifying and inviting keynote (invited) speakers and soliciting contributed papers;
 - engaging local and regional representatives to assist with the Symposium;
 - establishing a web page for registrations;
 - seeking sponsors and supporters;
 - dealing with all financial matters;
 - developing a Communications Plan including a social media strategy to engage target audiences including scientists, managers, industry, NGOs, fishers, youth and the general public;
 - consider arrangements for, and editing of, scientific and popular publications as well as an on-line video record of the proceedings; and
 - other tasks to ensure a well-run, prestigious and well-reported Symposium.
4. The Co-Chairs of the Symposium Steering Committee, or their designee, will report to their respective designated points of contact within NASCO and NPAFC on the work of the Symposium Steering Committee.
5. The Symposium Steering Committee will operate by consensus of the lead organizations.

6. The costs incurred by each Symposium Steering Committee member in participating in the Committee's work, including any fees for service, should be borne by the Party appointing the Committee member.
7. The Symposium Steering Committee may incur costs, including engaging professional support, in accordance with budgetary provision and spending plans made by the lead organizations or funds raised from other sources and made available to the Symposium Steering Committee through the lead organizations. The Executive Director / Secretary of each lead organization shall ensure that the receipt and expenditure of funds are consistent with that lead organization's Financial Rules.