



Council

CNL(20)46A

***Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council
Annotated Agenda***

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In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meeting planned for Edinburgh in June 2020 has been cancelled. Parties have agreed that NASCO's business will be conducted through inter-sessional correspondence, video conference and an inter-sessional meeting of the Council to be held in the autumn. Some business has been cancelled or postponed until 2021.

Parties agreed that the majority of discussion would take place via inter-sessional correspondence, which ran from 8 May until 27 May. The video conferences would therefore be short and focused, with an emphasis on the formal decisions to be taken.

In this paper for each Agenda item we set out some background, its priority, links to relevant papers, a summary of the inter-sessional discussion, and the decisions required.

All papers for the [Council](#) meeting are on the NASCO website.

A summary of the decisions to be made is in Annex 1.

Timings of the Video Conference (all timings are British Summer Time)

The Council will meet by video conference on:

- Monday 1 June, 17:00 – 18:00 hrs (ICES Advice Webinar)
- Tuesday 2 June, 16:00 – 17:30 hrs
- Wednesday 3 June, 15:30 – 17:30 hrs
- Thursday 4 June, 14:00 – 16:30 hrs
- Friday 5 June, 14:00 – 15:00 hrs

Participants Joining by Video Link

Acting President	Serge Doucet
Canada	Doug Bliss Carl Mclean Dave Dunn
Denmark (in respect of Faroes and Greenland)	Svein Magnason Katrine Kærgaard Sissel Fredsgaard
European Union	Arnaud Peyronnet Ignacio Granell Christiane Pilz
Norway	Raoul Bierach Heidi Hansen Helge Dyrendal
Russian Federation	Alexander Khatuntsov Ivan Kolobanov
United States	Kim Damon-Randall Steve Gephard

	Patrick Keliher
NGOs	Paul Knight Steve Sutton
IGOs	Ghislain Chouinard (ICES) Mark Saunders (NPAFC) Cathal Gallagher (EIFAAC)
States not Party to the Convention	<i>St Pierre & Miquelon</i> Christiane Laurent-Monpetit Herlé Goraguer
International Salmon Farmers Association	Mark Lane
Secretariat	Emma Hatfield Wendy Kenyon

Other delegates and observers will be able to dial-in to listen to the discussion. A provisional list of participants will be issued prior to the Opening of the Meeting.

Order of Business

Agenda items will be taken in the following order:

1.	Opening of the Meeting
2.	Adoption of the Agenda
4a)	Report of the Finance and Administration Committee
4b)	Future Status of the UK Within NASCO
5b)	Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2019
5f)	Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board
6a)	Decisions by the Council on the Process for the Third Performance Review
7a)	Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)
7b)	Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans
7c)	Addressing the Recommendations to NASCO to Address Future Management Challenges in the Report from the Tromsø Symposium
7d)	The International Year of the Salmon: Consideration of the Final Report
7e)	Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, CNL(13)38
8.	Other Business
5g)	Report of the Standing Scientific Committee (not before Wednesday 3 June)
5a)	Secretary’s Report
5c)	Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize
5d)	Scientific Advice from ICES

5e)	Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area
7f)	Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry
7g)	New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management
7h)	Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management
7i)	Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery
7j)	Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions (not before Thursday 4 June)
9.	Date and Place of the Next Meeting
3.	Election of Officers
Adjourn to finalise and circulate the report of the Meeting	
10.	Report of the Meeting
11.	Close of the Meeting

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Acting President, Serge Doucet (Canada), will open the meeting and make a statement on behalf of the Organization.

There will be no verbal Opening Statements. Written Opening Statements submitted to the Secretariat prior to the Meeting by Parties, Inter-Governmental Organizations, NASCO's accredited Non-Governmental Organizations and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) will be emailed to delegates and annexed to the Report of the Meeting.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **no decision is anticipated.**

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The decision to adopt the Agenda was taken by correspondence on 8 May, [CNL\(20\)46](#).

3. Election of Officers

In accordance with Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure, the Council will be asked to elect a President and Vice-President.

Jóannes Hansen's (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)) term of office comes to a close at the end of the 2020 Annual Meeting. He is not seeking re-election. The Council will, therefore, need to elect a new President.

The Vice-President, Serge Doucet (Canada), is eligible for re-election as Vice-President or election as President.

No background papers are produced for this item.

Work to seek candidates and Parties' support has been conducted by the Secretary.

- **required decisions during the VC: to elect a new President and Vice-President.**

4. Financial and Administrative Issues

a) Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) met on 28 and 29 May and its report, CNL(20)06, was distributed on 30 May.

The 2021 Draft Budget, 2022 Forecast Budget and Five-Year (2021 – 2025) Budgeting Plan, [FAC\(20\)05](#), is available and was considered by the FAC prior to the Council meeting. The FAC decides whether to recommend this Draft Budget to the Council or make changes to it and recommend the revised Draft Budget.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item for the Council Agenda. Inter-sessional correspondence did take place in advance of the FAC meeting.

- **required decisions during the VC:**

- accept the Audited Accounts for 2019;
- adopt a Budget for 2021;
- decide on any actions required under NASCO's MoU with ICES; and
- adopt the report of the FAC (which may include other items on which the FAC has made recommendations).

b) Future Status of the UK Within NASCO

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, the Parties agreed to postpone this item until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting

Paper [CNL\(20\)07](#) is intended to inform the discussion on this item at that meeting.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **Council may wish to note formally, previous agreement to postpone this item until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.**

5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

a) Secretary's Report

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020. It was agreed that papers would be circulated and that inter-sessional correspondence would not be expected.

The Secretary's report is available, [CNL\(20\)08](#).

Please note: Paragraph 4.1 of the Secretary's Report states that there have been no new applications for Non-Governmental Observer (NGO) status to NASCO since the 2019 Annual Meeting. However, since the Report was issued, an application from NASF Iceland has been received. Following consultation with the Acting President, NASF Iceland has been granted NGO status (see paper [CNL\(20\)47](#) for details). NASCO now has 45 accredited NGOs.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **no decision is anticipated.**

b) Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2019

This item is required under Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention.

The Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2019, [CNL\(20\)09](#), is available.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **required decision during the VC: to adopt the Report.**

c) **Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize**

The winner of the Grand Prize of £1,500 and the winners of the Commission prizes of £1,000 in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme will be recorded in the relevant Reports of the Meetings.

No other action is required.

- **no decision is anticipated.**

d) **Scientific Advice from ICES**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, it was agreed that papers would be circulated and that inter-sessional correspondence would not be expected.

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM) has been circulated, [CNL\(20\)10rev](#).

The report of the [Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon](#) is also available on the ICES website.

The advice relating to the North Atlantic area and the Commission areas will be presented by a representative of ICES, Martha Robertson, in a webinar on Monday 1 June.

Information relating to the revision of the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee was circulated along with the revised advice.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item

- **no decision is anticipated.**

e) **Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020. It was agreed that papers would be circulated and that inter-sessional correspondence would not be expected.

Under Article 2 of the NASCO Convention, fishing of salmon is prohibited beyond areas of fisheries jurisdiction and within areas of fisheries jurisdiction beyond 12 nautical miles except in the West Greenland Commission area (up to 40 nautical miles) and in the North-East Atlantic (within the area of fisheries jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands). In these areas, scientific research fishing may be undertaken in accordance with the Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing, [CNL\(96\)60](#).

The annex to CNL(96)60 states ‘Any Party or Parties wishing to undertake scientific research fishing for Atlantic salmon in accordance with this Resolution shall deliver a proposal to the Secretary no less than 45 days before it wishes to commence fishing’.

A proposal regarding scientific research fishing from the Norwegian Environment Agency was received in August 2019.

Paper [CNL\(20\)11](#) gives the results of this scientific research fishing.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **no decision is anticipated.**

f) **Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) met on Wednesday, 27 May. The main topic for its consideration was the Report of the Working Group to Review the SALSEA-Track Programme and the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea, and consideration of the recommendations, [ICR\(20\)07](#).

The report of the Board, CNL(20)12, was distributed on 30 May.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **no decision is required.**

g) **Report of the Standing Scientific Committee**

At NASCO's 1992 Annual Meeting, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES.

The SSC will finalise its recommendations for the draft request for Scientific Advice from ICES once the ICES Advice has been presented by webinar on 1 June.

The recommendations of the Standing Scientific Committee concerning the request to ICES for scientific advice are anticipated to be available in time for consideration by the Council on 3 June.

- **required decision during the VC: to adopt the SSC recommendations.**

6. The Third Performance Review

a) **Decisions by the Council on the Process for the Third Performance Review**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, the Parties agreed to cancel the Performance Review Special Session and postpone discussion on the decisions until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.

Paper [CNL\(20\)15](#) provides information on the process and decisions needed to arrange the Third Performance Review of NASCO.

Inter-Sessional Correspondence

The representative of the United States understood that the discussion regarding the performance review had been postponed to the autumn inter-sessional Council meeting, but noted concern that this could impact the ability to agree a budget given there are significant budgetary implications associated with conducting a performance review. As such, the United States would like to recommend that a conversation about whether to delay the performance review is had now, during the intersessional correspondence period. She proposed that this decision could be agreed informally prior to the FAC meeting next week and agreed formally during the Council video conference.

The representative reported that the United States supports at least a one year delay in conducting the performance review given the circumstances. She said if we are able to hold an autumn intersessional meeting, it might be possible to discuss the process for setting up the performance review then with the aim to agree a process at the 2021 annual meeting.

There has been some relevant discussion under inter-sessional correspondence for the Finance and Administration Committee, relating to possible postponement of the

performance review. The representative of Norway was concerned about the cost of the performance review and commented ‘...If the EPR is delayed until 2022 or 2023 then the cost of the review could be budgeted for over more than one year.’ The United States representative to the FAC wrote ‘To help ease the financial burden, we agree with Norway’s comment concerning a possible delay in the timing of the next Performance Review. We note that if the Council could decide in the near-term on the sole question of postponing the Performance Review for at least one year, that would ease the work of the FAC in 2020.’ The Representative of the European Union to the FAC noted ‘the Norwegian proposal to establish a dedicated fund for performance reviews should be given full consideration. It has been proposed that the performance review could be postponed by one year and this would possibly provide some flexibility in starting such fund.

- **desired decision: to delay the performance review by one or more years; and**
- **Council may wish to note formally, previous agreement to postpone discussion of the process until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.**

7. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach

a) Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, the Parties agreed to cancel this Special Session and postpone discussion of the Implementation Plan process until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.

The agreed schedule for review of the Implementation Plans was distributed in July 2019. The next review of the Plans is due to take place in November 2020. Eighteen Implementation Plans were considered not to be fully acceptable after their second round of review in November 2019.

Inter-Sessional Correspondence

The representative of the NGOs noted that this Agenda item would be discussed at the autumn Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council, but reiterated points made in emails from the NGO Co-chairs on 23 October 2019 and 6 December 2019, circulated to all Heads of Delegation, referring to NGO concerns over a decline in the transparency and inclusivity of NASCO’s decision-making over the Implementation Plan reporting process. The representative stated that the NGOs look forward to being involved in a full and frank discussion of their concerns at that meeting.

- **required decision: Council may wish to agree the number of days and the dates for the November 2020 meeting of the IP / APR Review Group to review the Implementation Plans; and**
- **Council may wish to note, formally, previous agreement to postpone this item until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting;**

b) Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meeting of the IP / APR Review Group, in April, was cancelled. Alternative plans for the meeting proved impossible. The Parties agreed that the APRs submitted in 2020 would not be reviewed and the Special

Session was therefore cancelled. The schedule will resume as normal in 2021. A four day meeting review had been scheduled in 2020.

Under [Article 15 of the NASCO Convention](#) Parties are required to report catch statistics and other information to Council annually. This is achieved through the submission of Annual Progress Reports (APRs).

The APR summary, providing information on stock status and catches and additional information required under the Convention is available, [CNL\(20\)19](#).

The APRs are on the [NASCO website](#).

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **required decision: Council may wish to to agree a four day meeting of the IP / APR Review Group in April 2021 to review the 2020 APRs.**

c) **Addressing the Recommendations to NASCO to Address Future Management Challenges in the Report from the Tromsø Symposium**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, the Parties agreed to postpone discussion of the decision required until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.

- **Council may wish to note, formally, the Parties' previous agreement to postpone this item until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.**

d) **The International Year of the Salmon: Consideration of the Final Report**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, the Parties agreed that decisions would need to be made to conclude the IYS, although some may be postponed until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting.

In 2016, the NASCO Council decided to hold an International Year of the Salmon (IYS) in partnership with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The focal year for the IYS was 2019 with some efforts continuing to 2022. The aim of the IYS is to raise awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance, the environmental and anthropogenic challenges they face and the measures being taken to address these.

[CNL\(20\)21](#) is the Final Report on the Activities in the International Year of the Salmon. It highlights some of the activities which took place under the IYS banner.

[CNL\(20\)22](#) supports decisions required to conclude IYS business.

Inter-Sessional Correspondence

IYS Funds: The representative of Norway referred to CNL20(22) and made a number of points. First, he noted that developing the river data base may be a good idea if that is what is needed to get all Parties / jurisdictions to report into the base, as a basis for future State of Salmon Reports. He said it was not entirely clear what was required and would like a clearer picture before deciding what was needed. He thought the issue could be postponed if needed.

The representative of Canada stated that further discussion is required on appropriate projects to support IYS and reported that Canada is not convinced that the rivers database, as currently constructed and used, is a system that should be maintained or enhanced without a review of the approach and the metrics used for the database. He suggested a technical discussion on what metrics would be essential for State of the Salmon reporting is required after the Annual Meeting.

The representative reported that Norway did not think a shorter version of the State of

Salmon Report is needed. He also reported that Norway had already commissioned a translation into Norwegian and Sami language, and that other Parties could do the same if needed. The representative of Canada supported Norway's view on this.

The representative of the United States agreed that funds in the IYS account should be used to support initiatives related to the goals of IYS. She commented that of the three options identified for using these funds, the United States support further consideration of using these funds to improve the Rivers Database, as outlined (i.e., building a proper database incorporating GIS aspects to enable full data display compatibility). However, more information was needed on the scope of the work and associated. The United States would support a proposal for the Secretariat to develop a budget, scope of work, and anticipated results for improvement of the rivers database to be considered at the autumn inter-sessional meeting of the Council.

IYS Website: The representative of Canada made comments on the surplus in the IYS fund and asked whether there was agreement from NPAFC to solely fund the IYS website, and whether NASCO would be removed as a partner in this effort, if so? The representative of the United States reported that the United States anticipates supporting the proposal that the IYS website stay operational until at the least the end of 2022 and be solely funded by the NPAFC. However, also requested clarification on whether there would be any changes to the website as a result of NPAFC being the sole funder.

Twitter: The representative of Canada agreed that the IYS Twitter account should be repurposed to an all NASCO account, including IYS activities. The representative of the United States also supported the proposal to rebrand NASCO's IYS Twitter account to a NASCO Twitter account.

Symposium: The representative of Canada agreed to establishing a Symposium Steering Committee and suggested the need to be clear about the objectives and whether an face-to-face global event should be planned versus a more virtual format. He agreed that having the Symposium Steering Committee start in 2020 is appropriate if a face-to-face meeting is not proposed i.e. video conferences.

The representative of the United States noted previous agreement of the Parties to support a concluding symposium in 2022 as well as the commitment of £25,000 that has been reserved as NASCO's contribution. She said that the United States had reviewed the draft Terms of Reference and suggest including a contingency plan should a site inspection trip not be feasible due to travel restrictions. She also suggested that it may be appropriate to indicate that such a trip may be carried out by a subset of the steering committee rather than the committee as a whole. The representative of the United States agree that the Secretariat should work with NPAFC to establish a joint Symposium Steering Committee.

IYS Legacy Activities: The representative of Canada supported the State of Salmon Report as an IYS legacy activity and suggested that the appropriate recurrence period be five years. The representative of the United States agreed with Canada that an update to the State of Salmon Report and a future symposium are appropriate legacy activities and likewise suggested that a three to five-year interval may be appropriate. She suggested that the report and symposium not coincide in the same year and support consideration of the workload associated with developing these activities when proposing any schedule/interval. The United States support a recommendation that the Secretariat develop a proposal for the scope and timing for IYS Legacy Activities to be presented at the 2021 Annual Meeting, noting that such legacy activities may also be

an appropriate use of any remaining funds in the IYS account should any funds be available following consideration of other activities.

The decisions anticipated at the VC are:

- that the IYS website stays operational until at least the end of 2022, funded solely by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC);
- that the Secretariat repurposes the IYS twitter account to a NASCO twitter account;
- 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 NASCO representatives in addition to one member of the NASCO Secretariat to serve on the Committee. The NASCO Secretariat would work with the NASCO Co-Chair of the Symposium Steering Committee to agree plans inter-sessionally with Heads of Delegations;
- 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 (bearing in mind that discussions have already taken place in advance of and during the FAC meeting); and
- to 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.

e) **Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, CNL(13)38**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020. It was agreed that papers would be circulated and that inter-sessional correspondence would not be expected.

[CNL\(20\)23](#) presents progress in implementing the measures contained in the ‘Action Plan for taking forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO, [CNL\(13\)38](#)’, which was adopted at NASCO’s Thirtieth (2013) Annual Meeting.

Inter-Sessional Correspondence

The representative of the NGOs referred to their statement under Agenda item 7a above but added that one of the actions taken forward from [CNL\(13\)38](#) was the implementation of Theme-based Special Sessions (TBSS) held at Annual Meetings. He reported that the NGOs understood the reasons for cancelling the TBSS on aquaculture planned for 2020, but would like to recommend that this is, instead, postponed until the 2021 Annual Meeting and that a full day be put aside for presentations and discussion around the current actions taken by NASCO Parties and jurisdictions to protect wild salmon from the adverse impacts of open-net salmon farming. To facilitate this TBSS, and as 2021 is a year in which regulatory measures will need to be discussed, the NGOs would support an extra day being added to the 2021 Annual Meeting if required.

- **possible decision: to hold a full day’s Theme-based Special Session on aquaculture in 2021; and**
- **possible decision: to add an extra day to the end of the 2021 Annual Meeting to enable the TBSS to be held in a regulatory measure year.**

f) **Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020. It was agreed that papers would be circulated, if provided, and that inter-sessional correspondence would not be expected.

In 2013, the Council agreed that the regular meetings of the International Salmon Farming Association (ISFA) / NASCO Liaison Group would not continue but that if a specific need arose, consideration would be given to convening a joint *ad hoc* group. The Council decided to retain an item on its Agenda during which a representative of the ISFA could be invited to participate in an exchange of information on issues concerning impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon.

ISFA has been invited to contribute a paper or written statement which will be made available on the website, if provided. There will be no verbal statement from ISFA during the video conference.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **no decision is anticipated.**

g) **New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management**

ICES was asked to report on any significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management in its 2020 advice to NASCO. However, ICES have advised that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, ICES were not able to provide a full response to the request for advice this year. ICES have advised that the meeting of the WGNAS had to be carried out by correspondence and this impacted the capacity of the group to respond fully to the Terms of Reference set for the meeting. Advice production was, therefore, prioritised over other tasks.

Changes had to be made to section 1.2: Report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management. The WGNAS focused on Red skin disease, which is reported in the [WGNAS report](#) in Section 2.3 but not included in the advice sheet.

ICES have stated that ‘It is the intention that the advice provided in 2021 will contain all the requested tasks outlined in the NASCO Request for Scientific Advice from ICES.’

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM) has been circulated, [CNL\(20\)10rev](#). The report of the [Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon](#) (WGNAS) is on the ICES website.

ICES information on Red Skin disease will be presented along with the ICES advice, by a representative of ICES, Dr Martha Robertson, in the webinar on Monday 1 June.

The Annual Progress Report summary document, [CNL\(20\)19, also contains information relevant to this Agenda item.](#)

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **no decision is anticipated.**

h) **Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020. It was agreed that any papers would be circulated and that inter-sessional

correspondence would not be expected.

The Council has previously requested that the Parties / jurisdictions advise the Secretariat of any new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon.

The Socio-Economic study commissioned to support some of the content in the State of North Atlantic Salmon Report was [published by NINA](#).

Further, EU – UK (England and Wales) has tabled a paper entitled ‘Update on socio-economic issues from UK (England and Wales)’ ([CNL\(20\)45](#)).

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- **no decision is anticipated.**

i) **Management and Sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020. It was agreed that papers would be circulated and that inter-sessional correspondence would not be expected.

In recent years, the North American Commission and the Council 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 2017, the President of NASCO wrote to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noting NASCO’s concerns and encouraging France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to become a member of NASCO. In response, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noted that it wished to retain its observer status at NASCO and committed to providing NASCO with information on the fishery and taking NASCO recommendations on catch taken by communities dependent on fishing into account.

Paper [CNL\(20\)24](#) has been received from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon). This item will also have been considered by the North American Commission.

Inter-Sessional Correspondence

The representative of the United States said it appreciated the report provided by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) on the outcome of its 2019 fishery but that they continue to be concerned about the potential harvest of endangered United States-origin salmon in the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery, as even small harvests of United States-origin salmon in that fishery could have significant impacts on United States stocks given their current low abundance. The representative of the United States noted concern that the sampling design for the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery is not sufficient to adequately detect endangered salmon populations, including those of United States-origin, that may be taken there. She also noted that ICES has again recommended improved catch statistics and sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery to improve information on, among other things, stock origin of harvested salmon. With this in mind, the representative of the United States asked a number of questions of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon).

First, the representative of the United States noted that catches in the 2019 St Pierre and Miquelon fishery were very similar to those reported for 2018. Last year, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) reported this was due to a reduction in effort by

commercial fishermen as they were targeting other species and to poor weather affecting recreational catches. The representative of the United States asked if this was the case again this year or whether something else affects catches?

The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) confirmed that professional fishermen's effort was significantly reduced because at that time of the year, most of them are busy targeting other species (snowcrab and lobster). She reported that weather was average in the 2019 season, with 11 days of strong wind in June (the month with the highest recorded catches).

Second, the representative of the United States asked what management measures were in place for the 2020 St Pierre and Miquelon fishery and whether catch and / or effort limits have been set.

The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) reported that there should not be substantial changes to management measures in 2020 compared to 2019. She said that there has been a change of person in the position of Head of Maritime Affairs in the summer of 2019 and that he or the relevant staff would aim to attend the NAC and Council meetings from St Pierre, together with Herlé Goraguer (Ifremer).

Third, in line with ICES advice the representative of the United States asked what steps were being taken to improve the completeness and timely reporting of detailed catch statistics on the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery to ICES, such as the proportion of large versus small salmon in the total catch and other catch characteristics.

The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) replied that it would be possible to provide ICES with the catch statistics next March via the French representative to the WGNAS (Mathieu Buoro), and that from 2020 onwards, the proportion of small versus large salmon would be detailed. She reported that the percent of small salmon (<63cm) in the total catch was calculated (66.5%) and included in the St Pierre and Miquelon Annual Report, but too late for the WGNAS meeting because of a few late logbook returns (health-related). She also reported that 66.5% in the total catch is consistent with 70% small in the 63 salmon sample (WGNAS report). She noted that in previous years the percentage in the sample was as much as 92% because there was a gap when Herlé Goraguer was away in the first week of June for the NASCO meeting - a time when more large salmon were present. She added that several volunteers were now contributing.

Fourth, the representative of the United States asked what steps France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) are taking to address the ICES recommendations to provide improved sample characteristics to allow ICES to better characterise the impact of the fishery on contributing stocks and to ensure it is representative of all aspects of the fishery across the fishing season into the future. The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) referred to the response above that from 2020 onward, the detailed sampling scheme across the whole fishing season would be available via the French representative to the ICES WGNAS.

Finally, the representative of the United States asked whether France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has given additional consideration to the question of joining NASCO. The representative of the United States encouraged France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to do so.

The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) reported that for now, France wishes to retain its observer status to NASCO and continues, as previously committed, cooperation with NASCO, its members and the scientific community.

- **no decision is anticipated.**

j) **Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions**

Reports will be produced for each Commission and made available to Council before its last meeting, for information only.

Chairs will provide a short summary to highlight work in each Commission.

- **no decision is anticipated.**

8. Other Business

Inter-Sessional Correspondence

The representative of the NGOs noted, with appreciation, the efforts of the Secretariat and President to develop a plan to conduct this year’s Annual Meeting when travel and face-to-face meetings are not possible. He stated that while this situation is not ideal and limits NASCO’s ability to conduct its business, it has provided an opportunity to explore alternative procedures for doing business, some of which NASCO may want to consider using more regularly going forward. Accordingly, he said that the NGOs would like to recommend an agenda item for the next face-to-face meeting of Council to discuss if and how any of the procedures developed to conduct the 2020 Annual Meeting could be incorporated into NASCO’s future operations.

- **possible decision: to agree an Agenda item for discussion of alternative procedures for NASCO’s business during the next face-to-face meeting of the Council.**

9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

During the Covid-19 contingency planning the Parties agreed to hold an Inter-sessional Meeting in autumn 2020. The dates decided may need to be revised in the light of the continuing Covid-19 situation.

The Council will be asked to confirm the venue for its Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting to be held during 1 – 4 June 2021. However, in light of the inter-sessional correspondence by the NGOs, these dates may require further discussion.

The Council will also be asked to confirm the dates of, and consider the venue for, its Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting in 2022.

- **required decisions during the VC:**
 - **agree on the venue and dates for its Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting, to be held during the first week of June 2021; and**
 - **agree on the dates of the 2022 meeting; 7-10 June 2022 are proposed.**

10. Report of the Meeting

Rule 29 of the Rules of Procedure for Council 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. A summary of business conducted inter-sessionally via correspondence will be annexed to the Report.

- **desired decision: to adopt a Report of the meeting**

11. Close of the Meeting

The Acting President will close the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting at the end of the VC.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
30 May 2020

Summary of Council Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	<i>The Agenda was adopted via correspondence by 8 May</i>	CNL(20)46
3. Election of Officers	Elect the President and the Vice-President	
4a. Report of the Finance and Administration Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accept the Audited Accounts for 2019; • adopt a budget for 2021; • decide on any actions required under NASCO's MoU with ICES; and • adopt the report of the FAC. 	CNL(20)06 Issued at meeting
4b. Future Status of the UK Within NASCO	Note agreement to postpone decisions until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting	CNL(20)07
5b. Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2019	Adopt the Report on the Activities of the Organization	CNL(20)09
5g. Report of the Standing Scientific Committee	Adopt the Standing Scientific Committee recommendations	CNL(20)13 Issued after webinar
6a. Decisions by the Council on the Process for the Third Performance Review	<p>Desired decision: to delay the performance review by one or more years</p> <p>Note agreement to postpone decisions until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting</p>	CNL(20)15

7a. Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)	To agree the number of days and the dates for the November IP review meeting Note agreement to postpone decisions until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting	CNL(20)17
7b. Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans	To agree a four day meeting of the IP / APR Review Group in April 2021 to review the 2020 APRs.	
7c. Addressing the Recommendations to NASCO to Address Future Management Challenges in the Report from the Tromsø Symposium	Note agreement to postpone decisions until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting	CNL(20)20
7d. The International Year of the Salmon: Consideration of the Final Report	Decisions to conclude IYS business. However, Council may agree to postpone the decisions until the autumn Inter-Sessional Council Meeting	CNL(20)22
7e. Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, CNL(13)38	Possible decision: to hold a full day’s Theme-based Special Session on aquaculture in 2021 Possible decision: to add an extra day to the end of the 2021 Annual Meeting to enable the TBSS to be held in a regulatory measure year	CNL(20)23
8. Other Business	Possible decision: to agree an Agenda item for discussion of alternative procedures for NASCO’s business during the next face-to-face meeting of the Council.	
9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	The venue (and dates) for the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting, to be held during (1 – 4) June 2021 The dates of the 2022 meeting.	
10. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting