



**North-East Atlantic Commission**

**NEA(20)09A**

*Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission  
Annotated Agenda*



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### *Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission Annotated Agenda*

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meeting planned for Edinburgh in June 2020 has been cancelled. Parties agreed that the business of the North-East Atlantic Commission would be conducted through inter-sessional correspondence and video conference.

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

No inter-sessional correspondence was received in relation to the North-East Atlantic Commission Agenda.

In this paper for each Agenda item we set out some background, its priority and links to relevant papers.

Papers for the [North-East Atlantic Commission](#) (NEAC) meeting are on the 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 North-East Atlantic Commission will meet by video conference on:

- Monday 1 June, 17:00 – 18:00 hrs (ICES Advice Webinar);
- Tuesday 2 June, 13:00 – 15:00 hrs; and
- Wednesday 3 June, 14:15 – 15:15 hrs

#### **Participants Joining by Video Link**

<b>Chair</b>	Viktor Rozhnov
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Svein Magnason
<b>Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)</b>	Svein Magnason
<b>European Union</b>	Arnaud Peyronnet Ignacio Granell Christiane Pilz
<b>Norway</b>	Raoul Bierach Heidi Hansen Helge Dyrendal
<b>Russian Federation</b>	Alexander Khatuntsov Ivan Kolobanov
<b>Canada (Observer)</b>	Doug Bliss Carl Mclean Dave Dunn

<b>United States (Observer)</b>	Tim Sheehan
<b>NGOs</b>	Paul Knight Niall Greene
<b>IGOs</b>	Ghislain Chouinard (ICES) Martha Robertson (ICES) Cathal Gallagher (EIFAAC)
<b>International Salmon Farmers Association</b>	Mark Lane
<b>Secretariat</b>	Emma Hatfield Wendy Kenyon

Other delegates will be able to dial-in to listen to the discussion.

### **Order of Business**

1.	Opening of the Meeting
2.	Adoption of the Agenda
6.	Regulatory Measures
9.	Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
11.	Date and Place of the Next Meeting
4.	Review of the 2019 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
5.	Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
7.	Risk of Transmission of <i>Gyrodactylus salaris</i> in the Commission Area
8.	Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
10.	Other Business
3.	Election of Officers
<i>Adjourn to Consider Report Text</i>	
12.	Report of the Meeting
13.	Close of the Meeting

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

The Chair, Viktor Rozhnov (Russian Federation), will open the meeting.

There will be no verbal Opening Statements by the Parties. Written Opening Statements submitted prior to the Meeting 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, [NEA\(20\)09](#).

### **3. Election of Officers**

The election of officers is required under Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure for the NEAC.

Both the current Chair, Viktor Rozhnov (Russian Federation) and Vice-Chair, Svein Magnason (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), are eligible for re-election.

No background papers are produced for this item.

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

The Secretary will introduce this item and ask for nominations and seconds for the Chair and Vice-Chair, respectively.

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

### **4. Review of the 2019 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020 because, although this Agenda item is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention, it is not required annually. It was, therefore, agreed that papers would be circulated and that inter-sessional correspondence would not be expected.

The following papers are available:

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

The advice relating to the North Atlantic area and the Commission areas will be presented by a representative of ICES, Dr Martha Robertson, in a webinar on 1 June. For those delegates who will be dialling in to the webinar, it will not be possible to see the presentation through the video-link. Therefore, the presentation is available on the [NASCO website](#).

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

- **no decision is anticipated.**

### **5. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission**

The Parties have agreed that although this Agenda item is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention, it is not required annually. During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed that reports would be circulated but that that inter-sessional correspondence would not be expected.

Under the Council's 'Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO', [CNL\(13\)38](#), it was agreed that there should be an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries.

Each Party with mixed-stock fisheries (MSFs) was requested to provide the Secretariat with a short paper on this topic for distribution prior to the meeting. The intention is that each of these papers include a brief description of any MSFs still operating, the

most recent catch data and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs.

The following papers are available:

- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by Norway), [NEA\(20\)08](#);
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the European Union), [NEA\(20\)10](#); and
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the Russian Federation), [NEA\(20\)11](#)

In addition to the MSF papers tabled above, two statements that would normally be presented verbally under this Agenda item have been tabled as follows:

- Joint Statement on behalf of the European Union and Norway regarding the management of the Fisheries in the Teno Watercourse, [NEA\(20\)13](#)
- Joint Statement on behalf of Norway and Russia on Coastal Fisheries Issues, [NEA\(20\)14](#).

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

- **no decision is anticipated.**

## 6. Regulatory Measures

In 2018 the Commission adopted a ‘Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters in 2018 / 2019, 2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021’, [NEA\(18\)12rev\\_final](#). Under this Decision, the Commission agreed not to set a quota for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone for 2018 / 2019, acknowledging that Faroese management decisions will be made with due consideration to the ICES advice concerning the biological situation and the status of the stocks contributing to the fishery. The Decision would also apply in 2019 / 2020 and 2020 / 2021 unless application of the Framework of Indicators (FWI) showed that a reassessment was warranted.

The NEAC Framework of Indicators (FWI) paper concludes that the FWI assessment in 2020 (based on indicator values for 2019) does not suggest that the pre-fishery abundance (PFA) forecast for 2019 has been underestimated. Therefore, the FWI Working Group concludes that no reassessment of the existing management advice for the Faroese fishery is required from ICES in 2020 ([NEA\(20\)04](#)).

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

- **no decision is necessary, although the Commission should confirm that the Decision will continue to apply in 2020 / 2021.**

## 7. Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area

This is important business under the ‘Road Map’ to enhance information exchange and co-operation on monitoring, research and measures to prevent the spread of *G. salaris* and eradicate it if introduced’ [NEA\(18\)08](#).

In addition, in 2019 it was agreed that Chair of the Working Group on *G. salaris* would contact the Working Group to discuss the of synonymisation of the *Gyrodactylus* species *G. thymalli* and *G. salaris*.

The following papers are available:

- The Synonymisation of *Gyrodactylus thymalli* and *Gyrodactylus salaris*: Implications for NASCO, [NEA\(20\)06](#);

- Report on *G. salaris* Roadmap in 2019 (Tabled by EU – UK (England and Wales), [NEA\(20\)07](#); and
- *Gyrodactylus salaris* in Norwegian Rivers (Tabled by Norway), [NEA\(20\)12](#).

For your information, the Commission agreed in 2018, [NEA\(18\)13](#), that the Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris* should meet again in 2021 and confirmed its Terms of Reference as follows:

- provide a forum for exchange of information among the Parties / jurisdictions on research on, and monitoring, control and eradication programmes for, the parasite *G. salaris*;
- review progress in relation to the recommendations contained in the Commission’s ‘Road Map’ including progress with the development and testing of contingency plans;
- develop recommendations for enhanced co-operation on measures to prevent the further spread of the parasite and for its eradication in areas where it has been introduced.

The Secretariat will work with the Working Group Chair to organize and conduct the meeting. Parties will be asked to confirm their nominations for the Working Group for 2021, inter-sessionally.

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

- **no decision is anticipated.**

## **8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize**

The winner of the North-East Atlantic Commission prize of £1,000 in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme will be recorded in the Report of the Meeting.

*No other action is required.*

- **no decision is anticipated.**

## **9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice**

Parties have agreed that this is required under Article 9 of the Convention which requires a Commission to take into account the best scientific evidence.

At its 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

- **required decision during the VC: a decision to accept the SSC’s recommendations, although the Commission may wish to defer the decision to the Council.**

## **10. Other Business**

No other business is expected.

## **11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

The Commission will be asked to consider the venue for its Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting to be held during 1 – 4 June 2021.

- **a decision to hold the next meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission during the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council is required.**

## **12. Report of the Meeting**

Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure for the NEAC requires that ‘A draft report shall be considered by the Commission before the end of the meeting.’

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

- **desired decision: to adopt a Report of the Meeting.**

## **13. Close of the Meeting**

The Chair will close the meeting at the end of the VC.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
31 May 2020



*Summary of North-East Atlantic Commission Decisions*

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Paper No.</b>
2. Adoption of the Agenda	The Agenda was adopted by correspondence on 8 May	<a href="#">NEA(20)09</a>
3. Election of Officers	(Re)elect the Chair and Vice-Chair	
6. Regulatory Measures	No decision is necessary, although the Commission should confirm that the Decision will continue to apply in 2020 / 2021.	
9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	Accept the Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations or Defer the decision to the Council	Issued after webinar
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Hold the next NEAC meeting during the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council	
12. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting