

## **Submission by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization**

*Contribution to the report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea, as mandated by United Nations General Assembly resolution 75/239 of 31 December 2020, entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”.*

### **Background**

NASCO is a single-species (Atlantic salmon) organization, set up under the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean. Under the Convention, fishing for salmon is prohibited beyond 12 nautical miles from the baselines (with exceptions at West Greenland and the Faroe Islands), thus creating an enormous area in the North Atlantic free from any directed salmon fishing. Regulatory measures have been adopted for the distant-waters fisheries in most years since NASCO was established in 1984 and have resulted in major reductions in harvests. There have also been major restrictions on fisheries by States of Origin partly in recognition under the NASCO Convention. Those salmon fisheries which do occur within the permitted areas have been assessed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) as having ‘no, or only minor, influence on the marine ecosystem’.

### **Adoption of Measures**

At the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of NASCO held virtually between 31 May and 4 June 2021, the North-East Atlantic Commission adopted the ‘Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters in 2021 / 2022, 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024’, NEA(21)16. This sets out that the North-East Atlantic Commission:

*‘HEREBY DECIDES: Not to set a quota for the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone for 2021 / 2022. This decision will also apply in 2022 / 2023 and 2023 / 2024 unless the application of the Framework of Indicators shows that a re-assessment is warranted. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) retains the right to conduct a scientific research fishery in the Faroese Fishery Zone.’*

Also at the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of NASCO the West Greenland Commission adopted the ‘Interim Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland in 2021’, WGC(21)18. This sets out that the members of the Commission agree, amongst other things, that:

*‘Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to maintain and further develop, where necessary, monitoring, management, control and surveillance measures for the West Greenland Atlantic salmon fishery...*

...

*Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to restrict the total allowable catch (TAC) for all components of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland to 27 metric tonnes. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees not to carry forward any underharvest into a future year...’*

### **Development of Programmes**

NASCO has adopted Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines that address the Organization’s principal areas of concern for the management of salmon stocks. Each jurisdiction develops Implementation Plans detailing measures to be taken over five-year periods in relation to three areas of concern: management of salmon fisheries; protection and restoration of Atlantic salmon habitat; and management of aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics.

Implementation Plans, and their associated Annual Progress Reports, provide a succinct, transparent, fair and balanced approach for reporting on the implementation of NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines by the Parties / jurisdictions. The most recent Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports submitted by Parties / jurisdictions can be found on the [NASCO website](#).

### **Marine Science**

The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) is a body, established by and reporting to the Council of NASCO, to promote collaboration and co-operation on research into the causes of marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and the opportunities to counteract this mortality. A range of marine science projects are co-ordinated and collated.

Through the European Union 'Grants for an action' programme, NASCO administers and is the financial co-ordinator for the SMOLTrack Projects. In this set of projects, salmon scientists have tagged and tracked salmon smolts and kelts with both acoustic, radio and PIT tags. To date, nine countries are participating and the project covers the entire distribution area within the European Union (from Portugal in the south to Finland in the north).

The 'Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea' (the Inventory) was established in 2002 and is updated annually. It is a tool that may be used in the development of research priorities for potential funding and in better co-ordinating existing research efforts. It can be found on the [Board's website](#).