

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

### **Information Specific To General Assembly Resolution 72/73**

#### **IX Marine environment and marine resources**

*196. Encourages States, individually or in collaboration with relevant international organizations and bodies, to enhance their scientific activity to better understand the effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity, support continued coordination of scientific work to study and minimize the impacts of ocean acidification and develop ways and means of adaptation, taking into account, as appropriate, the precautionary approach and ecosystem approaches;*

2019 is the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) that NASCO has organized in collaboration with its sister organization in the Pacific – the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC). The IYS aims, among other things, to raise global awareness about the status of wild Atlantic salmon, the threats they face, potential solutions, and actions that can be taken to address the threats. One of the IYS' research themes is 'Salmon in a changing salmosphere' and to this end NASCO held a Symposium in Tromsø, Norway from 3-4 June 2019 entitled 'Managing the Atlantic salmon in a Rapidly Changing Environment - Management Challenges and Possible Responses'. Presentations described how climate alteration is changing salmon ecosystems and a report on recommendations to NASCO from the Symposium has been produced, one of which is that NASCO should identify strategic activities to deal with climate change and its cascading effects on salmon and salmon habitat. The report, CNL(19)16, is available at <http://www.nasco.int/2019councildocs.html>.

#### **XIII Regional cooperation**

*332. Invites States and international organizations to enhance their cooperation to better protect the marine environment;*

NASCO continues to co-operate with other regional organizations, thereby contributing to increased co-operation and co-ordination. In addition to the co-operation with the NPAFC for the IYS, NASCO also liaises with the following international organizations in relation to monitoring / detecting any possible IUU fishing activity on salmon in the North Atlantic and in assessing possible salmon bycatch: the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas) (ICCAT), the Northeast Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC), the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO). NASCO also works with OSPAR under a Memorandum of Understanding, established with them in 2013 to, among other things, share information, including annual reports and data and, where appropriate, co-ordinate on matters concerning the conservation and rational management of Atlantic salmon and the protection of marine ecosystems in the North-East Atlantic.

#### **XIV Open-ended Informal Consultative Process on Oceans and the Law of the Sea**

*346. Recognizes the role of the Informal Consultative Process as a unique forum for comprehensive discussions on issues related to oceans and the law of the sea, consistent with the framework provided by the Convention and chapter 17 of Agenda 21,7 and that the perspective of the three pillars of sustainable development should be further enhanced in the examination of the selected topics;*

The NASCO Secretary attended, as an observer to, the fourteenth round of Informal Consultations of States Parties to the Agreement for the Implementation of the Provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 relating to the Conservation and Management of Straddling Fish Stocks and Highly Migratory Fish Stocks (the Agreement) that took place in New York from 2-3 May 2019. The informal consultations focused on the topic 'Performance reviews of regional fisheries management organizations and arrangements', in accordance with paragraph 55 of UN resolution 72/72 of 5 December 2017

and reiterated in paragraph 60 of resolution 73/125, with a view to understanding, sharing experiences and identifying best practices for the consideration of States parties to the Agreement.

NASCO was the first Regional Fishery Body to institute a performance review process, entitled 'Next Steps', in 2004, for NASCO's twentieth anniversary. NASCO's third performance review will likely take place in 2021 and the meeting was a valuable opportunity to learn what the States present and reviewers consider to be good practice in the conduct of performance reviews.

### **2017 Submission by NASCO to the 2017 report of the Secretary-General on oceans and the law of the sea**

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’.

With regard to the Technical Guidelines on the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries and development of EAF management plans, much of the information which would be included in an EAF management plan is already being provided by NASCO Parties/jurisdictions in their Implementation Plans which detail the measures being taken by Parties/jurisdictions to implement NASCO Agreements over a five-year period. Preparation for the next round of Implementation Plans, covering the period from 2019, will commence later this year.

The Resolution encourages States, individually or in collaboration with relevant international organizations and bodies, to enhance their scientific activity to better understand the effects of climate change on the marine environment and marine biodiversity. In that regard, NASCO’s International Atlantic Research Board has developed the SALSEA – Track programme to partition mortality along the salmon’s migration route. NASCO, in collaboration with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, is organising an International Year of the Salmon (IYS), with its focal year in 2019. One of the main research themes of the IYS is ‘*Salmon in a changing salmosphere*’. It is hoped that IYS activities will help to understand and quantify the effects of natural environmental variability, including climate change, and anthropogenic factors affecting salmon distribution and abundance and to make projections of their future changes. In 2016, NASCO requested advice from ICES on the potential future impacts of climate change on salmon stock dynamics and this advice was considered at our Annual Meeting in Varberg, Sweden during 6-9 June 2017.

NASCO does not have any initiatives related to capacity-building beyond current levels.

More information on the work of NASCO can be found at [www.nasco.int](http://www.nasco.int). The NASCO contribution can be made available on the DOALOS website.