



NASCO News 2026

**CONSERVING AND
RESTORING WILD
ATLANTIC SALMON**

1 MARCH 2025 - 28 FEBRUARY 2026

Welcome from the Secretary

Welcome to the 2026 NASCO News, my first as Secretary of the Organization, having taken over from Dr Emma Hatfield in October 2025. I would like to start by thanking Emma for both the support she has given me in taking up this new role and for all her extraordinary efforts as Secretary of this unique Organization at a very challenging time.



Dr Cathal Gallagher, Secretary

And it remains a very challenging time for wild Atlantic salmon. At the time of writing this welcome, the latest ICES advice has just been released and shows us that the number of Atlantic salmon at sea in the North Atlantic has fallen catastrophically from a peak of around 12 million fish in the 1970s to just over 2 million in 2025.

As recognised in NASCO's [Ten-Year Strategy](#), the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations is not merely a concern for conservationists; it is a wake-up call for all of us to recognise the interconnectedness of our actions with the health of our planet. NASCO's mission to support and promote urgent and transformative actions to protect, conserve and restore this iconic species is now more important than ever.

We need to increase awareness of the plight of salmon and encourage others to engage with and support our efforts. Communicating our work will be a major step forward in this regard, and we in the Secretariat have been increasing our presence on social media and working behind the scenes to implement our new communications strategy. However, we can't do it alone, and we hope you will all support us by sharing NASCO's work whenever and wherever possible.

So, please read on about our work over the past 12 months and share as much as you can!

Acronyms in the NASCO News

CCRs	Conservation Commitment Reports	NEA	North-East Atlantic Commission
EU	European Union	NEAFC	North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission
FAC	Finance and Administration Committee	NGO	Non-Government Organization
ICCAT	International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas	RFMO	Regional Fisheries Management Organization
ICES	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea	SAG	The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's Scientific Advisory Group
IPRIs	Indigenous People's Representatives and Institutions	UK	United Kingdom
NAC	North American Commission	USA	United States of America
NAFO	Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization	WGC	West Greenland Commission
NASCO	North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization	WGFON	Working Group on the Future of NASCO
		WGFR	Working Group on Future Reporting

The Atlantic Salmon



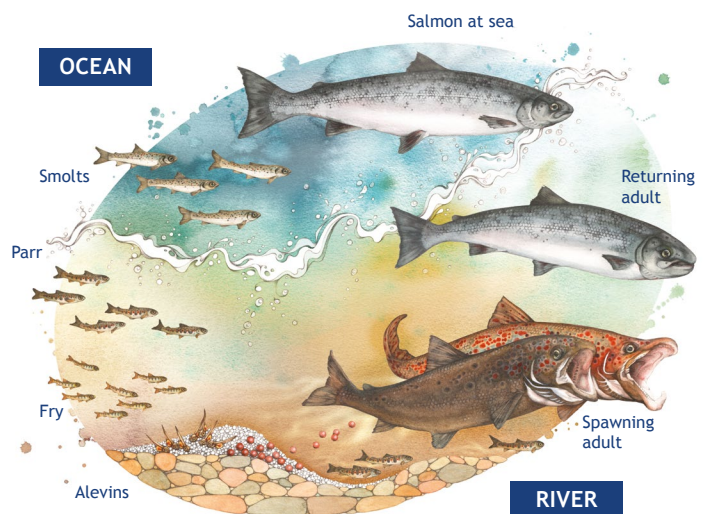
The Atlantic salmon is an iconic and fascinating species, capturing the hearts and imaginations of the communities around it for thousands of years. The extraordinary sight of this magnificent fish leaping over obstacles on its epic homeward migration is truly awe-inspiring, and it is of little wonder that the ‘King of Fish’ features in social ceremonies, art and folklore across the North Atlantic.

The Atlantic salmon leaves its river of birth, travels across the Atlantic Ocean to its feeding grounds, and then finds its way back home to the exact river of its birth to spawn, completing its unique life cycle.

As most of you will be aware, wild Atlantic salmon is under major conservation pressure with some populations critically endangered. For example, the number of North American Atlantic salmon in the wild, prior to any fisheries taking place, has halved from an average of around 1.6 million fish during the period from 1971 - 1991 to an average of 796,000 fish in the period 1993 - 2024 (source: [CNL\(25\)06](#)).

There are many [reasons](#) for this decline, several of which are, in some way, caused by human actions. These include long-term environmental change, overfishing, habitat degradation and aquaculture and related activities.

Governments around the North Atlantic work together through the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization to try to prevent the loss of this amazing species.



--- Migration routes

Who We Are

NASCO - The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

NASCO is an inter-governmental organization whose members are the Contracting Parties of the 1982 [Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean](#).

There are currently eight Contracting Parties: Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. Our [Strategic Goal](#) is:

‘within the next 10 years ... to prioritise and drive actions necessary to slow the decline of wild Atlantic salmon populations and demonstrate that restoration is possible’

Under the Convention, no salmon fishing is allowed beyond areas of fisheries jurisdiction and, in most areas of the North Atlantic, beyond 12 nautical miles from the coasts. **This has created an enormous area free from directed salmon fishing across the North Atlantic.**

The Contracting Parties work together through NASCO’s four main bodies (the Council and three regional Commissions) and other subsidiary bodies such as the Finance and Administration Committee and the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board.

The Contracting Parties and Regional Commissions



Canada



Denmark
(in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)



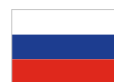
European Union



Iceland



Norway



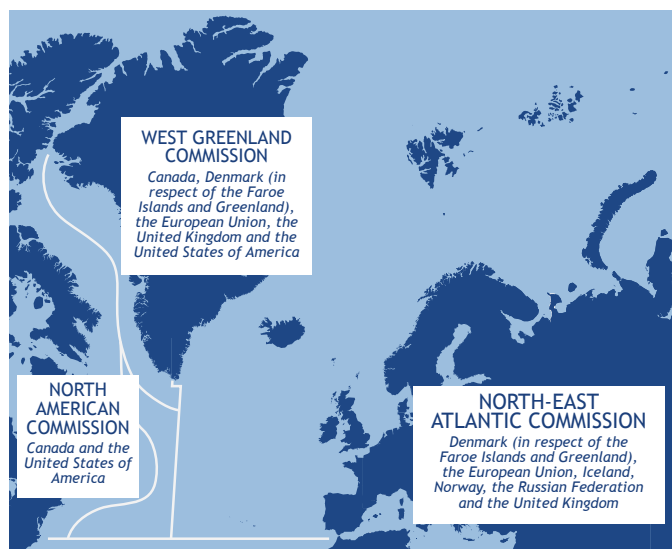
Russian Federation



United Kingdom



United States of America



Header photo: ‘Upstream’ by Pekka Tuuri.

The Council

The Council is the Organization's overarching body, responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Commissions and providing a space for information exchange across the whole of the North Atlantic. The [Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines](#) adopted by Council guide the work of the Organization in its three key areas of concern: Fisheries Management, Habitat Protection and Restoration and Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics.

The Commissions

NASCO has three regional Commissions: the NAC, the NEA and the WGC. It is through the Commissions that agreements are reached on salmon fisheries in the waters of one Contracting Party that catch salmon from rivers in another Contracting Party, such as for the salmon fishery at West Greenland.

Salmon born in rivers on both sides of the North Atlantic are caught in the salmon fishery at West Greenland and many are from critically endangered stocks. Binding '[regulatory measures](#)' have been agreed for the West Greenland salmon fishery for many years, with the most recent one ending in 2025. This measure restricted the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) to 27 t (see [WGC\(22\)10](#) for details), far below the record levels of almost 2,700 t in the 1970s. Negotiations are currently taking place within the WGC on a new regulatory measure to be implemented in 2026.

'[Decisions](#)' have also been reached in the NEA for the salmon fishery in Faroese waters for each year since 2001. The most recent of these covered the 2024 - 2025 and 2025 - 2026 salmon fishing seasons (see [NEA\(24\)14](#)). Under this Decision, the Faroe Islands agreed to manage any salmon fishery on the basis of advice from [ICES](#), the inter-governmental marine science organization that provides NASCO's scientific advice. As a result of these Decisions, **no salmon fishery has taken place at the Faroe Islands since the year 2000**. The NEA will consider a new Decision for the Faroese salmon fishery at its 2026 Annual Meeting in June.

Other NASCO Bodies

The Finance and Administration Committee

The FAC deals with the financial and administrative matters related to the running of the Organization. Each Party to NASCO has one member on the FAC and it elects its own Chair from among the Parties. It usually holds its Annual Meeting the day before the main Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO begin.

The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board



The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) was set up to promote collaboration and co-operation on research into the causes of marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and the opportunities to counteract this mortality.

Each Party to NASCO has one member on the Board and there is an NGO representative and a representative from the IPRI organizations. The Board also elects its own Chair.

Over the years, the Board has funded, endorsed and / or developed a number of research programmes, including the flagship SALSEA Programme. The Board is currently considering developing a basin-wide marine growth study as a new signature project. It also maintains an [inventory of research projects](#) relating to salmon mortality at sea on its website. It usually holds its Annual Meeting the day before the Council and Commission meetings begin.

The Scientific Advisory Group

The SAG helps the Board to carry out its activities. Each Party to NASCO has a representative on the SAG and there is also an NGO representative and an IPRI representative. The SAG elects its Chair from among its members.

The SAG meets to carry out specific tasks as and when asked to do so by the Board.

Our Elected Officers



Seamus Connor
President of NASCO



Raoul Bierach
Vice-President of NASCO



Dale Marsden
North American
Commission Chair



John Burrows
North American
Commission
Vice-Chair



Robert Floyd
North-East Atlantic
Commission Chair



Helge Dyrendal
North-East Atlantic
Commission Vice-Chair



Katrine Kærgaard
West Greenland
Commission
Chair



Catherine McGinty
West Greenland
Commission
Vice-Chair



Rebecca Wintering
Finance and
Administration
Committee Chair



Dale Marsden
Finance and
Administration
Committee Vice-
Chair



Peder Fiske
International
Atlantic Salmon
Research Board Chair



Augusta Jerimiassen
International Atlantic
Salmon Research
Board Vice-Chair

Our Accredited Observers

As part of our efforts to be inclusive and transparent, we work closely with a number of accredited observers. These observers are invited to attend NASCO’s Annual Meetings and can make interventions on most topics discussed. They are also invited to participate in, and provide input to, many of NASCO’s Working Groups and other bodies. In return, NASCO benefits from the wide range of expertise and experience from within the observer groups.

NGOs

There are currently 40 NGOs accredited to NASCO. The current NGO Co-Chairs are Wendy Kenyon (Atlantic Salmon Trust) and Robert Otto (Atlantic Salmon Federation).

During the period covered by this publication (March 2025 - February 2026), three new NGOs were granted ‘observer status’: the Saami Climate Council (Finland), the Wye Salmon Association (UK) and SalmonCamera (Norway).

Here are just a few of NASCO’s accredited NGOs:



IPRIs

Since the creation of a new observer category to deepen the engagement of Indigenous peoples in 2024, four IPRIs have been granted observer status to NASCO. Three of these have been within the period covered by this publication (March 2025 - February 2026): the Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat, the Unama’ki Institute of Natural Resources and the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, all of whom are based in Canada. NASCO welcomes this increasing involvement of the IPRIs in its work. Further information can be found by clicking on the logos below:



For a full list of the organizations accredited by NASCO, please see our website. Organizations interested in becoming accredited by NASCO should consult the [Terms and Conditions for Observers at NASCO Meetings](#) before contacting the Secretary of NASCO (hq@nasco.int).

Our Work

Mapping Salmon: NASCO launches its Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas

2025 saw the launch of [NASCO's Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas](#) - a powerful new interactive map that brings together vital information on wild Atlantic salmon populations across the entire North Atlantic.

Covering **almost 2,500 rivers**, from Portugal to Arctic Russia in the east and New England to Ungava Bay in the west, the Atlas offers an unprecedented view of the status of wild Atlantic salmon across their natural range.

Users can search individual rivers to discover:

- The risk status of wild Atlantic salmon stocks
- Key factors influencing those stocks
- Catchment size and useful links for further information

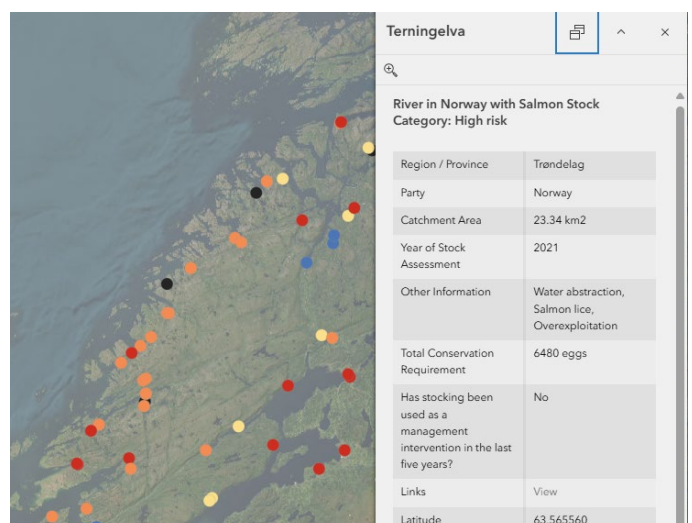
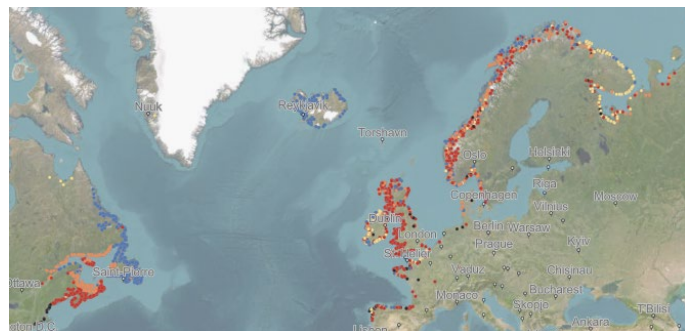
The information has been provided by the countries that are party to NASCO's Convention. Data is displayed by country, alongside national overviews showing:

- The percentage of rivers in each risk category; and
- The main impact factors affecting salmon at a national level

Each river has been assigned a Risk Category by the responsible Party or jurisdiction. These categories are designed specifically for the Atlas and reflect domestic stock assessments translated into a common framework agreed by NASCO in 2022. While not a scientific assessment, they provide a valuable, accessible overview of risk status.

Header photo - Pekka Tuuri.

The Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas is a step forward in sharing knowledge, improving transparency and supporting the conservation of this iconic species. We invite everyone - from scientists and managers to conservationists and the wider public - to explore the Atlas and discover the rivers across the North Atlantic.



Images taken from NASCO's [Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas](#)

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Photo: 'Aquaculture' - Envato

NASCO Commissioned Review Examines Aquaculture Impacts on Wild Atlantic Salmon

Two NASCO-Commissioned papers on the effect of salmon aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon populations have been produced by independent expert groups. The key points from each of these papers is summarised in the boxes below.

Does exposure to sea lice from aquaculture have a population-reducing effect on wild Atlantic salmon? A systematic review

Larsen, M.L, Rytwinski, T., Lennox, R.J., Gargan, P., Cooke, S.J., Harper, M., Dalvin, S., Shepard, S., Nilsen, F., Brady, D.C. and Vollset, K.W

Key Findings

- evidence indicates that **salmon lice from aquaculture negatively affects wild Atlantic salmon populations**. Systematic review data show a reduction in survival and adult returns in salmon exposed to salmon lice;
- increased mortality linked to salmon lice infestations is documented** in countries with significant salmon aquaculture, including Norway, Ireland, and Scotland, **suggesting a widespread impact across the North Atlantic**; and
- studies show a degree of bias due to limitations in study design, including inadequate documentation of salmon lice levels during out migration and the effectiveness of anti parasitic treatments. These biases suggest that **the true impact of salmon lice on wild salmon populations may be greater than current estimates**.

Recommendations

1. Implement the NASCO ['Guidance on Best Management Practices to address impacts of sea](#)

[lice and escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon stocks'](#), across their entire North Atlantic range; specifically that **'100% of farms to have effective sea lice management such that there is no increase in sea lice loads or lice-induced mortality of wild salmonids attributable to the farms'**

2. Expand monitoring of salmon lice to monitor and report sea lice levels in aquaculture areas regularly to ensure they remain within sustainable limits, **particularly during key migration periods for wild salmon**. And
3. Increase transparency and data sharing by Governments and aquaculture operations to support transparent reporting and data sharing on lice levels and aquaculture practices, facilitating more effective research and conservation strategies.

Conclusion

Taken together, implementation of these recommendations, based on the findings of the current study, offers the opportunity to **increase safeguards in protecting wild Atlantic salmon from the negative impacts of sea lice from marine salmon farms**. Implementation of the NASCO Guidelines and commitment to rigorous monitoring and research **will support the resilience of wild salmon populations** and contribute to the sustainable management of salmonid aquaculture.

Genetic introgression of farmed Atlantic salmon in wild salmon populations throughout its native range

Bolstad, G., Bradbury, I., Gilbey, J., Gudmundsson, L. A., Karlsson, S., Kess, T., McGinnity, P., Thorstad, E. and Wringe, B.

Key Findings

- comparison of existing data on the genetic integrity of wild Atlantic salmon to data on farmed salmon production **shows the major producers of farmed salmon** (Norway, Scotland, Canada, Iceland) in the North Atlantic **have all undergone farmed-to-wild gene flow**; and
- using molecular genetic markers to investigate genetic introgression of escaped farmed salmon in 481 salmon rivers, **genetic introgression was detected in 57 % (275) of the investigated rivers, throughout the North Atlantic.**

Recommendations

1. Implement the NASCO '[Guidance on Best Management Practices to address impacts of sea lice and escaped farmed salmon on wild salmon stocks](#)', specifically that the International Goal of '**100% farmed fish to be retained in all production facilities**' is achieved.

2. Encourage and facilitate further monitoring of, and research on, genetic introgression.
3. Follow up investigations to monitor future trends.
4. Expand investigations to include more salmon populations in regions poorly covered so far.
5. Encourage and facilitate further monitoring and research of genetic introgression on the resilience of wild salmon and its ability to cope with other anthropogenic stressors, and in particular climate change. And
6. Encourage and facilitate collaboration between researchers and stakeholders throughout the North Atlantic.

Conclusion

Introgression of wild Atlantic salmon is widespread across the North Atlantic and is the **most serious threat for the viability and ability to adapt to current and future environmental changes.** The species-level alteration of wild Atlantic salmon and loss of intra-specific diversity from salmon aquaculture shown in the current study **threatens the resilience of wild Atlantic salmon**, a species that has declined to less than one third of its original abundance over the last 50 years.

While these papers have not yet been published, a '[Policy Brief on the Effect of Salmon Aquaculture on Wild Atlantic Salmon Populations](#)' on the management implications of the key findings is available.

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NASCO Agrees New Process to Review Commitments to Conservation

Over the years, NASCO has adopted a number of [Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines](#) that address the Organization’s key areas of concern and support salmon conservation. These documents have proven valuable to NASCO’s Parties, jurisdictions and other stakeholders over the years and, since 2005, NASCO Parties and jurisdictions have developed ‘Implementation Plans’ for meeting the objectives of these agreements and provided annual reports on progress. This process is known as NASCO’s reporting cycle, a vitally important mechanism to strengthen the implementation of NASCO’s agreements and to hold Parties accountable to them.

At its 2025 Annual Meeting, NASCO agreed the process for its fourth reporting cycle, marking a departure from the previous format. This new cycle will build on objective analysis of threats and pressures to Atlantic salmon in each jurisdiction, enabling a reporting cycle that balances simplicity, effectiveness and transparency. The new reporting cycle comprises two main components:

Conservation Commitment Reports

- Each Party / jurisdiction identified the key threats / pressures on wild Atlantic salmon in their jurisdiction at a Special Session of Council at the 2025 NASCO Annual Meeting (presentations are available [here](#)). The three threats / pressures identified as highest priority will form the basis for each Party / jurisdiction’s Conservation Commitments Report (CCR).
- These CCRs will include one to three specific actions per threat / pressure to improve conditions for wild Atlantic salmon. The overall impact of these actions combined must be urgent and transformative, in-line with NASCO’s Mission. Developing and reporting on these Conservation Commitments will demonstrate each Party / jurisdiction’s individual commitments towards addressing the highest priority threats / pressures.
- The CCRs will be reviewed biennially by a Group comprising members of NASCO’s Parties, an NGO representative and a representative of NASCO’s accredited IPRI Organizations.

Performance Indicators

- Key metrics in each theme area (Management of Salmon Fisheries, Protection and Restoration of Salmon Habitat and Management of Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics) to be reported on annually
- Reporting on these metrics will demonstrate Parties / jurisdictions progress towards the achievement of NASCO’s Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines.

Parties and jurisdictions have now developed Draft CCRs, which will be made available on the [NASCO website](#) along with written feedback for Parties / jurisdictions. The Review Group will present its report of its review of these Draft CCRs in a Special Session at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

The [Schedule for the Fourth Reporting Cycle](#) and [Terms of Reference for the CCR Review Group](#) can be found on the NASCO website.

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The first meeting of the Conservation Commitments Report Review Group, February 2026



Strengthening Commitment to Atlantic Salmon Conservation in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon

Following comments from members of the North American Commission at recent NASCO Annual Meetings, a long anticipated 'Commitment Charter for the Recreational Atlantic Salmon Sea Fishery at Saint-Pierre and Miquelon' has officially been signed by the archipelago's Authorities, Ocean Science Institute and Recreational Fishers Association. Finalised on 18 December 2024, the Charter marks the culmination of several years of collaboration and strengthens commitments to conserving Atlantic salmon and the surrounding marine ecosystems for future generations.

The Charter introduces a series of strengthened and forward looking measures designed to enhance sustainability, science, and compliance. It also ensures personal accountability for recreational fishers, as every recreational fisher must now sign a personal annex to the Charter to obtain a licence. Further details can be found [here](#).

** Please note that France (in respect of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon) is not a Party to NASCO, but does attend Annual Meetings in an observer capacity*

Reaching Out

The NASCO Communications Strategy was agreed in 2025 and we have been working to implement this, including posting regularly on all our social media platforms. Our new LinkedIn account is performing particularly well, tripling the number of followers in the first quarter of 2026! If you are not already following us, please click on the links below:



Recap: the 2025 Annual Meetings



Photo: Alan Walker

The 2025 NASCO Annual Meetings were very kindly hosted by the UK Government, with strong support from the Welsh Government, in Cardiff, Wales. Representatives of the Parties and observers from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon), ICES, four IPRI and 22 NGOs attended the Meetings. The 95 delegates who attended in person had the opportunity to see the important habitat restoration work being carried out in the area. A further 29 delegates participated virtually in the Meetings.

Full details of each of the Meetings can be found in the Annual Reports of the [Council](#), [North American Commission](#), [North-East Atlantic Commission](#), [West Greenland Commission](#), [Finance and Administration Committee](#) and [International Atlantic Salmon Research Board](#). The key outcomes of these Meetings are listed below:

- Two Special Sessions were held in preparation for NASCO's Fourth Reporting Cycle: one on the analyses conducted by NASCO's Parties and jurisdictions on the threats and pressures to wild Atlantic salmon in each jurisdiction; and the other on the Report of the Working Group on Future Reporting. Following these sessions, a number of decisions were made in relation to NASCO's fourth reporting cycle: see page 10 for full details;
- NASCO's new [Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas](#) was launched during the 2025 Annual Meetings (see pg 7 for full details);
- Council reached a number of decisions in relation to NASCO's High-Level Action Plan including, but not limited to:
 - adopting [NASCO's Outreach and Communications Strategy](#). The Secretariat was asked to work with a communications expert to develop concise branding guidelines (and associated templates) and develop a social media strategy (and implementation guidelines). The Secretariat was also asked to explore options for a Ministerial Meeting;
 - adopting [NASCO's Position on Convention Change](#);
 - adopting [Generic Terms of Reference for the Working Groups for the Revision of NASCO's Guidelines](#);
 - asking the SSC to meet inter-sessionally to discuss the advice needed from ICES to enable delivery of NASCO's Ten-Year Strategy.
- Council adopted revised [Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group](#). These new Terms of Reference facilitate IPRI participation on the Board and created Vice-Chair roles for the Board and SAG;
- Council also agreed new [Guidelines on the Use of Stock Rebuilding Programmes](#) and [Guidelines for Gene Banking for Wild Atlantic Salmon](#);
- the NEA agreed [Terms of Reference](#) for the 2026 meeting of its Working Group on *Gyrodactylus salaris*. The report of that meeting will be available [here](#) and will be considered at the Commission's

2026 Annual Meeting. The NEA also agreed that the [Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters](#) would continue to apply in 2025 / 2026; and to consider existing co-operative approaches to the management of salmon catchments shared with other jurisdictions at its 2026 Annual Meeting;

- the WGC reviewed the 2024 salmon fishery at West Greenland and agreed that the regulatory measure agreed in 2022, [WGC\(22\)10](#), would continue to apply in 2025. 2025 would be final year of this measure, so it was agreed that the Commission would hold an Inter-Sessional Meeting in March 2026 to review the 2025 fishery and begin discussions on a new measure to apply from 2026. The report of that meeting will be made available [here](#). The WGC also agreed a 'Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme', [WGC\(25\)07](#). This statement outlines the staff, technical support and co-ordination activities each member of the Commission planned to contribute to this highly important sampling programme in 2025. An update on the Programme will be given during the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Commission;
- Council heard that the major discussion point of the FAC meeting had been the budget for 2026, largely related to the cost of the Secretariat hosting the 2026 Annual Meeting. The Secretariat had been asked to investigate ways to reduce these costs and find additional savings in other areas of the budget. This had been done, and the Budget recommended by the FAC included a 'slimmed-down' Annual Meeting in 2026, with fewer meeting rooms, no hospitality and reduced AV provision, deferring the start of the NASCO internship programme and other cost-savings.

Council agreed on this Budget for 2026 and that it would hold an Inter-Sessional Meeting later in 2025 to consider different meeting models for future Annual Meetings. The report of that meeting is available [here](#);

- following further recommendations from the FAC, Council adopted a [Staff Handbook and Staff Rules](#) and rules relating to a [NASCO Internship Programme](#);
- the Board agreed to move forward with its potential new signature project - a study of marine growth in wild Atlantic salmon across the North Atlantic. As the next step in developing this project, the Board set-up a Steering Committee to co-ordinate scale sample digitisation and identify potential funding sources. The Steering Committee's reports will be made available [here](#) and be considered at the Board's 2026 Annual Meeting.
- The following office-bearers were elected (or re-elected) for a period of two years from the close of the 2025 Annual Meetings:
 - Seamus Connor (UK) - President
 - Raoul Bierach (Norway) - Vice President
 - John Burrows (USA) - NAC Vice-Chair
 - Catherine McGinty (EU) - WGC Vice-Chair
 - Rebecca Wintering (USA) - FAC Chair
 - Dale Marsden (Canada) - FAC Vice-Chair
 - Peder Fiske (Norway) - Board Chair
 - Augusta Jerimiassen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)) - Board Vice-Chair (*elected by correspondence following the Annual Meeting*)



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Roundup from the Secretariat



Administrative News from the Secretariat

Salmon Catches in 2025

The provisional salmon catch by NASCO's Parties was 5.2% higher in 2025 (424 tonnes) than the confirmed 2024 catch (403 tonnes). Full details of the catch taken by each Party / jurisdiction will be made available in document CNL(26)12 on the [NASCO website](#).

Inter-Sessional Meetings

The period between 1 March 2025 and 28 February 2026 was particularly busy, with many inter-sessional meetings taking place, including meetings of the Council, FAC, Board, WGFON, WGFR, the Working Group on Pink Salmon, the Habitat Guidelines Working Group, the CCR Review Group and two meetings of the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas Steering Committee. In total, around 90 people participated in these meetings, with over half attending in person. It is great to see so many of you being involved in the work of NASCO and benefitting from the opportunity to sit and work together on such important matters.



The Habitat Guidelines Working Group, 2025

Header photo: 'Beautiful lady' by Pekka Tuuri.

Financial Status Update

The [2025 Budget](#), had been set at £713,220. Details on actual expenditure are available in document [FAC\(26\)02](#).

The [2026 Budget](#) has been set at £735,330.

One Party's NASCO Contributions are in arrears for the years 2024, 2025 and 2026.

The United States Government made an extremely generous voluntary contribution to the work of NASCO's International Atlantic Salmon Research Board in September 2025. \$60,000 USD was provided to partially support an analyst to advance ongoing research into salmon marine growth and survival.

Fishing for Salmon in International Waters

Each year, the NASCO Secretariat asks the EU, the NEAFC, NAFO and ICCAT Secretariats and the Icelandic and Norwegian coastguards for any information they may hold on fishing activities on the high seas of the North Atlantic that may undermine the conservation measures adopted by NASCO. At the time of writing, responses have been received from the EU, NEAFC, NAFO, ICCAT and the Norwegian Coastguard. None had received any reports of such fishing taking place. The last known incidences of fishing for salmon in international waters by non-NASCO Parties were in the early 1990s.

NASCO Website

In the period 1 March 2025 - 28 February 2026, the NASCO website saw 51,000 sessions, 40,000 users and over 78,000 page views. This is an increase in sessions and users but a slight decrease in page views from the period 1 March 2024 - 28 February 2025, when there were 35,000 sessions, over 23,000 users, and over 99,000 page views. The average session duration in the 25 / 26 period was 31s, with 1.5 pages viewed per session.

Due to a technical issue, no figures are available for the Board's website for this period.

Conferences and Events

Members of the Secretariat have been involved in a number of conferences, meetings and events over the past year to promote both the work and interests of the Organization and to learn from the practices of other organizations. These include:

Annual General Meeting of the South West Rivers Association, 12 April 2025 (virtual attendance)

Secretary Hatfield gave a presentation at the AGM of the South West Rivers Association, one of NASCO's accredited NGOs based in the UK, on the work of NASCO and the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board.

Intersessional Workshop of the Sustainable Ocean Initiative Global Dialogue with Regional Seas Organizations and Regional Fishery Bodies, 7 & 8 June 2025 (virtual attendance)

Secretary Hatfield and the Assistant Secretary virtually participated in this initiative which provided an opportunity for regional seas organizations and regional fishery bodies to share experiences and identify opportunities for co-ordination and collaboration.

Meeting with the European Forest Institute, NASCO HQ, 20 November 2025

The Secretary and Assistant Secretary met with the European Forest Institute's Head of Administration and People and Values Manager in November 2025. The European Forest Institute requested this meeting in preparation for opening an office in Edinburgh, and we look forward to meeting the rest of the team once the office is opened. Forming connections and knowledge exchange is increasingly important in today's world and, with salmon a keystone species, management of salmon habitat, including forests, is vitally important to both wild Atlantic salmon and the ecosystems it lives in.



Members of the NASCO and European Forest Institute Secretariats meet in November 2025

Liaison with other RFMOs

The NASCO Secretariat has been in close contact with several other RFMOs over the course of the past year. Most notably, questionnaires were sent to 12 other RFMOs on their meeting dates, venues, formats and budgets to inform discussions at the December 2025 Inter-sessional Meeting of NASCO's Council.

NASCO was represented at the 47th Annual Meeting of NAFO by Vladimir Belyaev (Russian Federation).

Coming Up

A Brief Look at the Major Issues Coming Up in the Next 12 months

The Forty-Third Annual Meeting of NASCO

The Forty-Third Annual Meeting of NASCO will take place from 2 - 5 June 2026 in Aviemore, Scotland. Following the 2025 Council decision to 'slim-down' the 2026 Annual Meeting, we would love to hear your thoughts and opinions on this new format - please feel free to chat to the Information and Publications Officer (Louise Forero) about it at the Annual Meeting or drop us an email (hq@nasco.int). In the meantime, stay informed by following us on [LinkedIn](#) or [X](#).

New Guidelines for the Protection, Restoration and Improvement of Atlantic Salmon Habitat

NASCO's Habitat Guidelines Working Group met in November 2025 to update NASCO's previous Habitat Guidelines. The [report](#) of that Working Group will be considered at NASCO's 2026 Annual Meeting and it is hoped that new Guidelines will be published shortly after the meeting - keep an eye on our social media for updates!

The Secretariat has received a lot of positive feedback on the value of NASCO's various [Resolutions](#), [Agreements](#) and [Guidelines](#) from NASCO's Parties, jurisdictions and other stakeholders and we hope

that these revised Guidelines prove just as useful in supporting transformative actions to protect, conserve and restore wild Atlantic salmon around the North Atlantic.

Negotiations on Distant-Water Salmon Fisheries

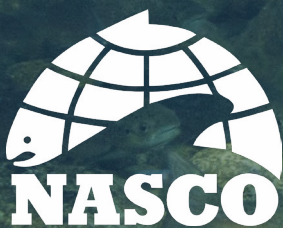
The previous agreements for the salmon fisheries at [West Greenland](#) and the [Faroe Islands](#) ended with the close of the 2025 and 2025 / 2026 fishing seasons, respectively. NASCO Parties will work together to reach new agreements for both of these fisheries at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

The State of North Atlantic Salmon



Work will begin on producing a new report on the State of North Atlantic Salmon following the 2026 Annual Meeting. This report will be largely based on the information provided for the Wild Atlantic Salmon Atlas (see page 7) and will be published later in 2026. The previous '[State of North Atlantic Salmon](#)' report was published in 2019.

Header photo: 'Hide and Seek' by Sarah Bailey.



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North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
Organisation pour la Conservation du Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord
11 Rutland Square
Edinburgh EH1 2AS
UK

Tel: Int +44 131 228 2551

hq@nasco.int

www.nasco.int

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