

	<p>Council</p> <p><i>International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities</i></p>	<p>CNL(21)19</p> <p>Agenda item: 5d</p>
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International Year of the Salmon Legacy Activities

Purpose of the Paper

To provide information to support decisions required to enable the planning of IYS legacy activities.

Decisions

For the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report:

- following agreement on the approach for the next update of the status of salmon in North Atlantic rivers, see section 10 in [CNL\(21\)13](#), Council may wish to request that the Secretariat make proposals for the timing and structure of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report, to be agreed at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

For the IYS Concluding Symposium:

- approve NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium Steering Committee’s choice of venue; and
- approve the dates, 4-6 October 2022.

Background

In 2019, Council agreed, with regard to the legacy of the IYS, that ‘a periodic Symposium and State of Salmon Report should be delivered by the Secretariat.’ They stated that ‘the other work of the Secretariat needs to be considered when determining when to hold the Symposium and update the State of Salmon report.’ They also agreed that ‘NASCO IYS activities going forward for further investigation beyond the end of the focal year include... the 2022 closing Symposium (in conjunction with the NPAFC).’

In 2020, to aid planning for the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report, Council agreed that the Secretary should work with the Parties / jurisdictions to explore why they had not used the Rivers Database as had been agreed in 2016, where the expectation has been that the Rivers Database was to provide the data to populate the 2019 State of North Atlantic Salmon report. The Secretariat determined that much of the information sought from the Parties / jurisdictions had already been provided during the process of gathering the data for the Rivers Database. This information, among other things, is provided in document [CNL\(21\)13](#), ‘The Future for the NASCO Rivers Database’.

In 2020, Council also agreed that ‘a joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium should be held in Vancouver, Canada, in September 2022, if possible, or October 2022 at the latest’ and ‘to accept the Terms of Reference for the Steering Committee of the joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium’.

The Next State of North Atlantic Salmon Report

Decisions related to the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report relate to the decisions taken in relation to the future of the Rivers Database. Therefore, following agreement on the approach for the next update of the status of salmon in North Atlantic rivers, see section 10 in [CNL\(21\)13](#), Council may wish to request that the Secretariat make proposals for the timing and structure of the next State of North Atlantic Salmon report, to be agreed at the 2022 Annual Meeting.

IYS Concluding Symposium

The Steering Committee of the joint NASCO / NPAFC IYS Concluding Symposium (SSC) was formed in December 2020, following agreement in the December Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Council. It comprises three NASCO members (Dr Emma Hatfield, Dr Ciaran Byrne and Livia Goodbrand), and three NPAFC members (Mark Saunders, Dr Vladimir Radchenko and Dr Edward Farley) with Mark Saunders and Dr Emma Hatfield as Co-Chairs. The SSC Terms of Reference have been approved by the Council of NASCO and the NPAFC, with the SSC mandated to discuss the planning of a world-class Symposium to report on and synthesise the accomplishments of the IYS and consider its legacy and recommendations for the future. The SSC has, and will continue to, work virtually, using video conferencing, to undertake the following activities:

- identify the exact Symposium dates in autumn 2022, as soon as possible, subject to approval by both NASCO and the NPAFC;
- identify an appropriate venue for the Symposium;
- develop objectives and the programme, including identifying and inviting keynote (invited) speakers and soliciting contributed papers;
- develop a Communications Plan including a social media strategy to engage target audiences including scientists, managers, industry, NGOs, fishers, youth and the general public;
- consider arrangements for, and editing of, scientific and popular publications as well as an on-line (and possibly streamed) video record of the proceedings; and
- other tasks to ensure a well-run, prestigious and well reported Symposium.

The SSC has agreed on the timing, venue and a general structure for the Symposium. The SSC recommends that the Symposium take place at the Westin Bayshore Hotel in downtown Vancouver over three days: Oct 4-6 2022. NPAFC staff conducted in-person tours of potential venues in Vancouver and presented comprehensive budgets and venue information on which the SSC based its decision.

The Westin Bayshore offered the best deal for the Symposium, both from the perspective of a conference venue (three venues examined) and with lower room rate costs than the other available hotel (two venues examined). The function rooms at the Westin Bayshore are more than adequate and the numbers required and prices for catering were lower than the other available hotel.

The dates 4-6 October gave the best price offering and availability for the three weeks that were examined: September 21-23, September 27-29, October 4-6. September hotel dates were considerably more expensive.

Regarding Symposium structure: the SSC is leaning towards a mixed Symposium structure with single plenary sessions on the first day and third days, and concurrent sessions on different IYS themes on the second day to accommodate a maximum of 75 presentations. A significant amount of time will be allocated to discussion and synthesis to ensure the Symposium not only documents what has been learned but describes a vision for salmon research and management into the future.

The NPAFC Secretariat staff have submitted a request to the NPAFC at the 29th NPAFC Annual Meeting for \$35,000 CAD for the 2021/2022 NPAFC fiscal year and \$10,000 CAD for the 2022/23 NPAFC fiscal year to support the cost of hosting the Symposium in Vancouver.

This matches the £25,000 (~\$45,000 CAD) already set aside by NASCO to support hosting this Symposium. The NPAFC will be asking IYS partners to consider contributing financial or in-kind resources to host this event in Vancouver.

A consensus was also reached on publishing the outcomes of the Symposium in a similar manner to those produced from the 2019 NASCO Symposium in Tromsø, Norway, with a focus on ensuring these publications are accessible to a wide audience. The SSC is also considering the incorporation of a virtual component to the Symposium to ensure the event remains accessible to people around the world that will not be attending in-person, and with the potential of continuing restrictions on travel due the Covid-19 pandemic.

The following are next steps for the SSC to address:

- secure venue upon approval of venue and date of the Symposium by NASCO and NPAFC;
- develop detailed budget for the Symposium for consideration of NASCO and NPAFC inter-sessionally. The SSC is satisfied that the sum of the proposed funding requested from NPAFC and in hand from NASCO, along with a modest fee from participants, will cover the expected expenses adequately. The SSC will examine costs to participants with potential breaks to encourage the participation of early career scientists and students;
- develop a detailed scientific programme. The SSC will seek input from experts in both basins in planning the programme. In the Pacific, an NPAFC Organizing Group for the IYS Concluding Symposium, made up of representatives from each NPAFC country will be convened to assist in Symposium preparations and arrangements, including provision of input to the SSC representatives. Formation of the Group will be discussed at the Science Sub-Committee Meeting as part of the 29th NPAFC Annual Meeting;
- develop proposals for excursions, and related events; and
- develop a communications plan, including announcements / posters.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
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