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NOTE

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Delegations
Subject: North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO).
38th Annual Meeting, 31 May – 4 June 2021.

Delegations will find attached a note on the above-mentioned subject, as received from the European Commission services

COMMISSION SERVICES NON-PAPER

*This document cannot in any circumstances be regarded as the official position of the Commission.
It is intended solely for those to whom it is addressed.*

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO).

38th Annual Meeting, 31 May – 4 June 2021.

Owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 38th Annual Meeting of NASCO will be held by Video Conference (VC) between 31 May and 4 June 2021. It will be preceded by the meeting of the Financial and Administration Committee (FAC) on 26 and 28 May, the Theme Based Special Session¹ on 27 May, the ICES webinar (scientific advice) on 28 May and finally the intersessional meeting of the West Greenland Commission on 29 May.

A technical meeting took place with Member States on 3 May to prepare the EU position, and this non-paper reflects the outcome of this meeting.

- **West Greenland Commission**

Regulatory Measures for the salmon fisheries at West Greenland were successfully re-negotiated in 2018 and expired at the end of 2020. A new set of Regulatory Measures must therefore be adopted before this year's fishery starts. An intersessional meeting of the West Greenland Commission took place between 8 and 12 March, and another intersessional meeting is scheduled on 29 May. Denmark in respect of the Faroese and Greenland (DFG) is proposing to restrict the Regulatory Measures to essential items, and to adopt a national management plan including measures related to the implementation of the core provisions of the NASCO Regulatory Measures. In addition, DFG is seeking an extension of the validity of the Regulatory Measures from 3 to 5 years. Following the first intersessional meeting, the TAC, which currently stands at 30t annually, remains the most important item to be negotiated.

Proposed EU position: The European Union should act as a facilitator between DFG and the other Parties to secure the adoption of new Regulatory Measures applicable in 2021. Regarding the TAC, the European Union should aim to set it at, or if possible below, the current level of 30t. Provided that the final package of Regulatory Measures is satisfactory, the European Union should agree to the extension of their duration from 3 to 5 years.

- **Implementation Plans**

A special meeting of the NASCO Council took place on 5 May, to present the main outcomes of the last review of the Parties' Implementation Plans. The preparation and assessment of these Implementation Plans is a crucial process to foster compliance with the NASCO rules by holding Parties accountable. The successive reviews of the Implementation Plans (IP) continue to highlight

¹ 2021 Theme-based Special Session: 'Minimising Impacts of Salmon Farming on Wild Atlantic Salmon: Supporting Meaningful and More Rapid Progress Towards Achievement of the International Goals for Sea Lice and Containment'.

challenges related to the implementation of the international goals adopted in NASCO in relation to the mitigation of salmon farming activities. This unfortunately occults some of the positive work being carried out on other important issues. A discussion is foreseen on how to improve this process.

Proposed EU position: The European Union should seek to improve the IP process in NASCO by giving more visibility to the successful improvements made by the Parties, without undermining the process aiming to make the Parties accountable, in particular in relation to their implementation of the NASCO goals to mitigate the impacts of salmon aquaculture.

- **Theme based Special Session**

A Theme Based Special Session (TBSS) on how to minimise the impact of salmon farming on wild salmon populations is scheduled on 27 May. Although no decision will be taken during this TBSS, exchanges are expected to take place during the meeting of the NASCO Council on how to best follow-up on the recommendations from this TBSS.

Proposed EU position: The European Union should actively explore how the information and recommendations from the TBSS can be used to trigger concrete actions by the NASCO Parties to meet their commitments towards the international goals for sea lice and containment.

Meetings by video conferences will take place in the afternoons between 26 May and 4 June.

When required, coordination with Member States will take place by VC during the mornings.