

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) – www.nasco.int

NASCO was established to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international co-operation under the Convention for the Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean. The Convention applies to the salmon stocks which migrate beyond areas of fisheries jurisdiction of coastal States of the Atlantic Ocean north of 36°N latitude throughout their migratory range.

The Convention was adopted at a Diplomatic Conference convened in 1982 in Reykjavik. It entered into force in December 1983 and has its headquarters in Edinburgh in Scotland. The parties to the Convention are: Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), EU, Iceland¹, Norway, the Russian Federation and the US. It comprises a Council with 3 regional Commissions; the North American Commission, the West Greenland Commission and the North East Atlantic Commission (the latter being of relevance to the OSPAR maritime area)

The principal role of NASCO is to set the regulatory measures for the salmon fisheries of Greenland and the Faroe Islands. NASCO has also established internationally agreed protocols to regulate introduction and transfers of salmon while collaboration with ISFA has led to significant progress in developing codes of practice in relation to containment of fish at farms. Other issues covered in Commission and Council meetings include the assessment of progress by Contracting Parties in implementing the Application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon management and the assessment of the socio-economic importance of salmon and salmon fisheries.

➔ [Go to full QSR assessment report on environmental impact of fishing \(publication number 465/2009\)](#)

¹ Iceland has decided to withdraw from NASCO with effect from 31 December 2009 because of financial considerations.