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## Conservation NGOs Unite at 2018 Salmon Summit to Save Key Arctic Indicator Species

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### Cooperating for change: environmental advocates & anglers agree on need to educate the public & impact policy

*North Atlantic salmon faces many challenges to its continued survival, in Iceland and abroad*

**REYKJAVIK** – Approximately 60 representatives of over 30 NGOs, research institutions, and sustainable industry groups convened in Reykjavik this week to discuss the state of North Atlantic salmon populations and to strategize a course for supporting remaining stocks.

“These past two days saw many salmon advocates come together for the first time in one room. The collective expertise shared between them is incredible, as is their commitment to saving North Atlantic salmon,” stated Chad Pike, Chairman of NASF (US). “The need to work together on concrete issues such as aquaculture standards and public outreach is clear. We leave the Summit energized and ready to dive in.”

A key Arctic indicator species, North Atlantic salmon, faces numerous challenges to its continued survival, from rising sea temperatures and increasing predator populations, to fishermen’s nets and lice-ridden aquaculture farms.

Experts from across the North Atlantic Basin provided in-depth updates on these and other issues vital to the species survival. (See page 2 for speaker bios.) Attendees met in breakout sessions to further discuss topics such as country-level advocacy, High Seas buyouts, and regulatory advances in aquaculture. Two films were screened, “Lost at Sea” and “The Salmon Story,” and attendees toured a local land-based aquaculture facility.

“The Summit was hailed by attendees as a critical opportunity for dialogue and cooperation by NGOs and industry, alike. There were many lively and informative discussions after the panels,” said Fridleifur Gudmundsson, Chairman of NASF (Iceland). “Working together with international NGO’s and conservationists is the key to success in our fight to preserve the North Atlantic salmon. The aim is to have the Salmon Summit as an annual event that will grow and become a powerful forum,” he said.

Existing NASF initiatives were also discussed, among them current negotiations for commercial conservation agreements with Greenland. Bill Taylor, President of ASF, stated “The Salmon Summit was a watershed moment for wild Atlantic salmon. The progress ASF and NASF are making towards a new Conservation Agreement with Greenland fishermen to exchange economic development incentives for their commercial salmon quotas represents the single best investment that can be made for salmon conservation.”

**For more information contact:**

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## 2018 Salmon Summit – Panelist Biographies

**Jonathan Carr, M.Sc.** - Vice President of Research and Environment, Atlantic Salmon Federation



Jonathan Carr is the Vice President of Research and Environment at the Atlantic Salmon Federation, located in St. Andrews, New Brunswick, Canada. He has 25 years of research experience in the management, restoration and conservation of wild fish, including endangered and threatened populations. Jonathan has been published widely and has served in several capacities related to fisheries research and policy. Much of his research has focused on the marine ecology and behavior of Atlantic salmon, fish passage at hydro dams, impacts of exotic species, stock assessment, and interactions between wild and escaped farmed salmon.

**Ken Whelan, B.Sc., Ph.D., FIFM** - Adjunct Professor, School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin; Research Director, Atlantic Salmon Trust



In the past, Ken worked for several research organizations in Ireland and more recently as an Executive Director in the Irish Marine Institute. He served as President of NASCO from 2004 to 2008. As President he helped co-ordinate and manage the €6m SALSEA or Salmon at Sea Programme. Ken was Chairman of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board from 2007 to 2011 and is currently Chairman of the Scientific Council of the Loire Basin Salmon Restoration Programme. In December 2009 he was appointed as Adjunct Professor in the School of Biology and Environmental Science at University College Dublin and as Research Director of the Atlantic Salmon Trust. Ken runs his own fisheries and environmental consultancy. <http://www.kenwhelan.info/>

**Torbjørn Forseth, Ph.D.** - Senior Researcher, Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Norway



Torbjørn Forseth has more than 25 years of experience as a salmonid researcher at Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Norway. Among his major topics are effects of hydropower and climate change, population dynamics and spawning targets (CLs), habitat use and growth as well as local and nation management of Atlantic salmon. For the last nine years, he has been the head of the Norwegian Scientific Advisory Committee for Atlantic Salmon (13 members from seven research institutions), the main scientific advisory body for Norwegian authorities on the management of salmon. The committee provides annual assessment of the status of the Norwegian salmon populations (attainment of CLs) and their major anthropogenic threats.

**Marc Adrien Marcellier** – President, North Atlantic Salmon Fund, France



Marc-Adrien, member of the NASF International board since 1993, has worked for the past 30 years on the protection of migratory fish and fisheries resources with various nature and fisheries conservation organisations at the national and international level and has been in regular contact with the professional maritime and inland fishing industry for many years. He runs a CSR consulting agency after having worked in the financial brokerage industry for over 22 years. He is also an expert with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

**Stéphane Fraisse** - Ecology and Ecosystem Health Lab, French National Institute for Agricultural Research



Stéphane Fraisse defended a thesis on the effect of turbulence on phytoplankton community at the Evolution and Ecology lab ECOBIO (CNRS) in Rennes (France) in 2013. He joined the Ecology and Ecosystem Health Lab (INRA, Rennes) in 2014 to coordinate a research project aiming to assess the success of the ecological restoration on the Sélune River (Normandy) through the removal of two big dams (15m and 32m) currently impeding the migration of diadromous fish (including Atlantic salmon). The removal of these two dams will be complete in 2020.

**Gísli Sigurðsson** - Research Professor, Árni Magnússon Institute, Iceland



Gísli Sigurðsson is a Research Professor at the Árni Magnússon Institute in Iceland. He has served as a Professor II at the University of Stavanger in Norway, as a Visiting Professor at the University of Manitoba and at The University of California, Berkeley. Among his publications are Gaelic Influence in Iceland (1988, 2000), a complete annotated edition of the Eddaic Poems (Eddukvæði 1998, 2014), Medieval Icelandic Saga and Oral Tradition (2004, transl. by Nicholas Jones), and The Vinland Sagas (Penguin 2008). In recent years Gísli worked closely with Orri Vigfússon on both the Thjorsá project (on which he will speak at the Summit) in Iceland and the NASF campaign against fish farming in open cages in Iceland.

**Fridleifur E. Gudmundsson** - Chairman, North Atlantic Salmon Fund, Iceland



Fridleifur has been involved in various NASF projects and has been overseeing NASF International affairs following Orri Vigfusson's passing in 2017. Fridleifur works as an Attorney at Law at LMB Mandat law firm in Reykjavik.

**Bill Taylor** - President and CEO of the Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada and Atlantic Salmon Federation, US



Bill Taylor is the President and CEO of the Atlantic Salmon Federation (Canada) and the Atlantic Salmon Federation (U.S). He began work with ASF in 1988 leading its regional conservation and communications programs and in 1995 he was elected President.

Bill is a member of Canada's delegation to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization and in 2015 he Co-Chaired Canada's Ministerial Advisory Committee on Wild Atlantic Salmon.

**Chad Pike** - Chairman, North Atlantic Salmon Fund, US, and the Orri Fund



Chad Pike is a Senior Managing Director and Vice Chairman of Tactical Opportunities at Blackstone. He is a passionate outdoorsman, skier, and angler, and founder of Grassy Creek Foundation, a charitable foundation dedicated to environmental conservation, wildlife protection, and education innovation. Chad is also Chairman of NASF, US, founding director of the Orri Fund, and a board member of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, where he is Chairman of the Freshwater Fish Subcommittee.

**Runar Rugtvedt** - Director, Norwegian Federation of Industries



The Norwegian Federation of Industries have 2,500 member companies with 120,000 employees. One of the branches is the fish farming technology industries, and a major member is Marine Harvest.

Runar Rugtvedt has worked in the federation for more than 10 years with the main focus on the oil & gas industry. He has extensive experience from different private enterprises and projects within mechanical industry, hydro-electric plants, maritime and petrochemical industry since 1977.

Runar Rugtvedt is an active angler. The last 6 years he has been the President of the Norwegian Hunting and Fishing Federation after more than 25 years in the board. He has also been active in the European Angler Alliance for the last 20 years.

**Jón Bráundur Stefánsson, Ph.D. - Head of Research and Chairman, Sea Data Center**



Dr. Stefánsson completed his Ph.D in Business Administration from Kobe University of Commerce in Japan in March 2000. Dr. Stefánsson has extensive teaching and research experience in higher education and has been teaching at many universities both in Iceland and abroad.

Dr. Stefánsson has extensive consulting experience in both seafood and aquaculture. Dr. Stefánsson is currently the Head of Research and the Chairman of Sea Data Center, a seafood industry consultancy. Over the years Dr. Stefánsson has both worked with many of the largest seafood companies and government organizations on various aspect of seafood consultancy and analysis. His work on seafood analysis has been quoted in the leading seafood media around the world. Dr. Stefánsson has presented at numerous seafood and aquaculture related events and conferences both in Iceland and abroad.

Recently, Dr. Stefánsson worked at the Ministry of Seafood and Agriculture on the strategy for aquaculture in Iceland.

**Brian J. Vinci, Ph.D., P.E. - Director of Engineering Services, Freshwater Institute**



Brian J. Vinci is the Director of Engineering Services for the Freshwater Institute, a field office and program of The Conservation Fund (Arlington, VA). Brian leads engineering projects in the areas of fisheries bioengineering, aquacultural engineering, environmental engineering, and facility/infrastructure planning. Dr. Vinci also conducts research in these same areas and his recent research has focused on the economics of land-based salmon farming. Brian is a Past-President of the Aquacultural Engineering Society and an active member of the National Society of Professional Engineers.

**Geir Spiten - AkvaTech**

Geir Spiten has worked the last eight years with business development and semi-closed containment technology in the seafood sector. In the capacity as a consultant and entrepreneur, he has gained more than twenty years of experience working with established renowned enterprises as well as start-ups, primarily within the utilities, financial services, seafood and oil & gas sectors. The scope of work performed has ranged from strategy to implementation, and the clients have been located in Norway, Europe, the USA and Canada.

**Rögnvaldur Gudmundsson - CEO, AkvaFuture ehf**



Rögnvaldur Gudmundsson is CEO of AkvaFuture ehf in Iceland, a subsidiary of AkvaDesign AS in Norway.

AkvaFuture is in the process of applying for licenses in Iceland to farm salmon in closed sea cages, designed by AkvaDesign AS. Rögnvaldur has studied fisheries science at the University of Akureyri and holds an MBA, specializing in corporate sustainable strategy, from the University of Iceland. Rögnvaldur has over 35 year experience in the seafood sector, ranging from production to sales, marketing and finance.

**Jens Olav Flekke** - CEO, DMF AS; Chairman, Reddvillaksen; North Atlantic Salmon Fund, Norway



Jens works within coordination of sustainability in the grocery business, leading a company that is owned by the 3 biggest food suppliers to the Norwegian market. His experience before this has been from private enterprises, mainly within logistics.

Jens has been fishing for his whole life, his childhood was spent at the bank of a small but productive seatrout and grilse river at his homeplace. Flyfishing is an important part of his genes. He has been on the board of Reddvillaksen since 2007 and Chairman for the last 3 years.

**Torfinn Evensen** - General Secretary, Norwegian Salmon Rivers



Torfinn Evensen is the General Secretary of Norwegian Salmon Rivers, Oslo, Norway. He is educated as Cand. Agric in natural resource management at the Norwegian University of Life Sciences. He also has experience as a professional natural resource manager in The Norwegian Touring Association as a specialist in monitoring effects of human activity on nature and environment. He is a member of the national advisors board of Salmon management in Norway.

He is a coordinator of the NGO-group of 10 different organizations in Norway, dealing with conservation and management of wild Salmon.