2002

NINETEENTH
ANNUAL MEETING

TÓRSHAVN, FAROE ISLANDS

3-7 JUNE 2002

President:	Mr Jacque Robichaud (Canada)
Vice-President:	Mr Eidur Gudnason (Iceland)
Secretary:	Dr Malcolm Windsor

CNL(02)48

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Report of the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Council
Hotel Foroyar, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
3-7 June, 2002

1. Opening Session

1.1 The President, Mr Jacque Robichaud, opened the meeting, and introduced Mr Jørgen Niclasen, Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs in the Faroese Government, who welcomed delegates to the Faroe Islands (Annex 1).

1.2 The President made an opening statement on the work of the Organization (Annex 2).

1.3 The representatives of Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America made opening statements (Annex 3).

1.4 Opening statements were made by the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) and the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), (Annex 4).

1.5 An opening statement was made jointly on behalf of all the fourteen Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) attending the Annual Meeting. One joint statement was made on behalf of two of the NGOs attending the meeting. These opening statements are contained in Annex 5.

1.6 The President expressed appreciation to the Parties and to the observer organizations for their statements and closed the Opening Session.

1.7 A list of participants is given in Annex 6.

2. Adoption of Agenda

2.1 The Council adopted its agenda, CNL(02)39 (Annex 7).

3. Election of Officers

3.1 The Council unanimously re-elected Mr Jacque Robichaud (Canada) as President. Mr Ole Tougaard (European Union) was unanimously elected as Vice-President.

4. Administrative Issues

4.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary made a report to the Council, CNL(02)6, on: the status of ratifications of and accessions to the Convention; membership of the regional Commissions; observers at NASCO's meetings; a joint meeting of North Atlantic Fisheries

Commissions; fishing for salmon in international waters; the Tag Return Incentive Scheme; the manual of Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines; the Declaration of the Nordic Conference on Protection of the Sea and the Sustainable Use of Living Marine Resources in the North Atlantic; and the Organization's financial affairs.

In accordance with Financial Rule 5.5, the Secretary reported on the receipt of contributions for 2002. Contributions had been received from all the Parties and there were no arrears.

Since the last Annual Meeting, the Faroe Islands Sportsfishing Association had been granted observer status.

The President congratulated the Secretariat on the production of the Manual of Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines as a most useful compilation.

The Council had previously recognised that there could be benefits from a joint meeting of all the North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions (i.e. NASCO, ICCAT, IBSFC, NEAFC and NAFO) to discuss issues of mutual interest. The Secretary reported that, at the invitation of NEAFC, a meeting of the Secretariats of the North Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Organizations had been held. Representatives of the Secretariats of IBSFC, NAMMCO, NASCO and NEAFC had attended. Concern was expressed that NAFO and ICCAT had not been represented at the meeting and the Council urged the Contracting Parties to encourage participation by these organizations at the next meeting of the group. A number of issues had been discussed and the points arising from the meeting were summarised. The meeting had provided a valuable opportunity for discussion of issues of mutual concern and the Council agreed that the NASCO Secretariat should continue to participate in future meetings of the group. The meeting had expressed the view that regional fisheries management organizations must be seen as independent regional organizations that are not linked to FAO's decision-making process, although these regional organizations are willing to share experiences and assist FAO bodies to develop their expertise. The Council endorsed this view and stressed that it was not appropriate for FAO to undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness of the regional fishery organizations in the North Atlantic. The Secretary was asked to convey these views to FAO.

4.2 **Report of the Finance and Administration Committee**

The Vice-Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Mr Andrew Thomson (European Union), presented the report of the Committee, CNL(02)7. Upon the recommendation of the Committee the Council took the following decisions:

(a) to accept the audited 2001 annual financial statement, FAC(02)2;

(b) to adopt a budget for 2003 and to note a forecast budget for 2004, CNL(02)40 (Annex 8);

(c) to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers of Edinburgh as auditors for the 2002 accounts, or such other company as may be agreed by the Secretary following consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee;

(d) to adopt rules for the NASCO Staff Fund, CNL(02)42 (Annex 9).

(e) to adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee.

The President thanked Mr Thomson for his valuable work and for that of the Committee.

4.3 **NASCO Policy on Communications**

[Note: This item was taken immediately after the Opening Session at 1 above].

At the Eighteenth Annual Meeting the Council had asked that the Secretary prepare a review of NASCO communications including the procedures of other inter-governmental organizations. The Secretary introduced document CNL(02)8 which raised a number of issues in relation to NASCO's public relations activities and the conditions governing attendance by NGOs at NASCO's Annual Meetings. The President noted that NASCO has been ahead of other inter-governmental fishery organizations in increasing the transparency of its meetings. The Council took note of draft operating protocols, CNL(02)34, which had been developed by the NGOs and which contained proposals concerning NGO media relations during NASCO's meetings. The Council recognised the need to strike a balance between increasing the transparency of NASCO meetings while maintaining an environment in which effective negotiations can take place. The Council decided:

(a) to develop its Press Release through a drafting group made up of representatives of the Contracting Parties. Mr Andrew Thomson (European Union) was appointed to coordinate the group's work;

(b) to further develop the Organization's website so as to effectively communicate information on the work of NASCO to the public and other interested Parties;

(c) to adopt, with immediate effect, two new conditions concerning NGO participation at its Annual Meetings as follows:

- "any NGO with observer status to NASCO that has not communicated with the Secretariat or the Contracting Party concerned or attended at least one Annual Meeting of NASCO in the previous three years should cease to be an accredited NGO to NASCO but may reapply in writing to the Secretary";

- "during NASCO's Annual Meeting, following the close of the Opening Session of the Council, accredited NGOs may not issue press releases or other information to the media on agenda items under discussion at the meeting, until after the Council has agreed its own Press Release".

(d) to adopt, with immediate effect, a new condition concerning media participation at NASCO's Annual Meetings as follows:

- "Media representatives may only attend the Opening Session of the Council."

These changes have been incorporated in the attached revised rules, CNL(02)45 (Annex 10).

4.4 Report on the Activities of the Organization

In accordance with Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention, the Council adopted a report to the Parties on the Activities of the Organization in 2001, CNL(02)9.

4.5 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

The President announced that the draw for the Tag Return Incentive Scheme was made by the Auditor at NASCO Headquarters on 20 May. The winner of the $2500 Grand Prize was Mr Steinar Kragset, Trondheim, Norway. The Council offered its congratulations to the winner.

5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

5.1 Scientific Advice from ICES

The representative of ICES presented the report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) to the Council, CNL(02)10 (Annex 11). Only the advice concerning general issues of relevance to the North Atlantic is annexed here, but the detailed advice on a Commission area basis is annexed to the report of the Commissions.

5.2 Report of the Standing Scientific Committee

The Chairman of the Committee presented a draft request to ICES for scientific advice. Upon the recommendation of the Committee, the Council adopted a request for scientific advice from ICES, CNL(02)51 (Annex 12).

5.3 Catch Statistics and their Analysis

The Secretary tabled a statistical paper presenting the official catch returns by the Parties for 2001, CNL(02)12 (Annex 13), and historical data for the period 1960-2001, CNL(02)13. The statistics for 2001 are provisional and will be updated by the Parties.

5.4 Review of International Salmon-Related Literature Published in 2001

The Council noted a review of the literature concerning Atlantic salmon published during 2001, CNL(02)14, which had been prepared in accordance with Article 13, paragraph 2 of the Convention.

6. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Salmon Stocks

6.1 Measures Taken in Accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

The Secretary presented a report on the returns made under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention, CNL(02)15 (Annex 14). The Council agreed that this report should be made available on the Organization's website.

6.2 The Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management

(a) *Special Session on Habitat Protection and Restoration - Reports by the Parties on the Development and Implementation of Habitat Protection and Restoration Plans*

Last year, on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach (SCPA) the Council had adopted the NASCO Plan of Action for Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat. The Council had agreed that the Contracting Parties should report back on the steps taken to develop and implement habitat protection and restoration plans as envisaged under the NASCO Plan of Action. A Special Session was held for this purpose during which there were presentations by Canada, European Union, Iceland, Norway, Russia and the USA. A separate report of the Special Session will be prepared by the Secretariat.

The President then referred to a number of these initiatives on habitat which highlighted the efforts made by the Contracting Parties to conserve and restore habitat. There were indications from the Parties that loss of freshwater habitat, which had been highly significant over the last 100 years or so, may have stabilised and some gains were being made.

With regard to monitoring the implementation of the Habitat Agreement the Secretariat, in consultation with the Contracting Parties, will develop a simple reporting format which will highlight concrete and specific accomplishments on a yearly basis.

(b) *Evaluation and Development of the Decision Structure for Management of North Atlantic Salmon Fisheries*

The Chairman of the SCPA, Mr Jacque Robichaud, introduced the Committee's report, CNL(02)17 (Annex 15). The Committee had been asked by the Council to carry out three tasks:

- to undertake a detailed evaluation and development of the Decision Structure for the management of Atlantic salmon fisheries;
- to develop Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on how social and economic factors can be taken into account in applying the Precautionary Approach;

- to develop Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics.

The Council adopted the revised Decision Structure, as contained in Annex 3 of the SCPA report, and agreed that the Contracting Parties should now apply the Decision Structure to the management of salmon fisheries. The Council also agreed that the Parties should report back to the Council, on an annual basis, on their experiences in applying the Decision Structure and on the extent of its implementation. The Secretary was asked to develop a simple format for these returns in consultation with the Parties. It is intended that the Decision Structure be widely and immediately applied by managers with stakeholders on salmon rivers. To assist, the Secretary was asked to produce an introduction to the Decision Structure describing the background to its development and its proposed use. This should not prevent immediate application. Consideration should also be given to translating the Decision Structure and the introduction into the different languages of the Contracting Parties. The revised Decision Structure and the introduction will be made available on the Organization's website.

(c) Implications of Socio-Economic Issues for Application of the Precautionary Approach

The SCPA had recognised that the true social and economic values of wild Atlantic salmon are presently unknown and that there is a need to include social and economic factors in management decisions under a Precautionary Approach without negating its effectiveness. The Council agreed Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on how social and economic factors can be taken into account in applying the Precautionary Approach, as contained in Annex 4 of the SCPA report. These Terms of Reference propose, as an initial step, the development of an internationally agreed framework or template for assessing social and economic values of the Atlantic salmon (as detailed in Annex 4 of Attachment 1 and Attachment 2 of the SCPA report). The Council agreed that the work in developing this framework should be undertaken by a Technical Workshop of the Contracting Parties which would also prepare an inventory of the various social and economic values related to Atlantic salmon based on information compiled and summarised by the Contracting Parties (item 1 of Attachment 2 of the SCPA report). The SCPA had asked that the Contracting Parties make these compilations available to the Secretariat prior to the Nineteenth Annual Meeting. The Council urged those Contracting Parties that had not submitted their compilations to make this information available to the Secretariat at the earliest opportunity. The next step is to have the Parties produce information and suggestions relevant to items 2 and 3 of Attachment 2, and make it available to the Secretariat by the end of October 2002. The representative of Canada indicated that he anticipated some difficulties in attempting to assess, in monetary terms, values other than those associated with commercial and recreational fisheries.

(d) Development of Terms of Reference for Application of the Precautionary Approach to Introductions and Transfers, Aquaculture and Transgenics

The SCPA had recognised that there is a need to review the Council's and Commissions' agreements and measures in relation to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics to ensure that they are consistent with the Precautionary Approach. At its last Annual Meeting the Council had asked that the Draft Terms of Reference developed by the SCPA be made available to the salmon farming industry through the Liaison Group at its meeting in Westport on 8-9 April. The comments from the industry on the draft Terms of Reference were tabled as document CNL(02)35. The Council noted these and agreed Terms of Reference, with some modification proposed by Canada, for a meeting of the SCPA in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers CNL(02)52 (Annex 16). The report of the SCPA's meeting on this subject will be circulated widely to relevant stakeholders. The Secretariat will contact the Contracting Parties with deadlines for their analysis for the items in document CNL(02)52 to be reviewed.

(e) Future Actions in Relation to Application of the Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management

The Council considered its future actions in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach, CNL(02)18, and a possible schedule of meetings.

The major tasks in the Action Plan are now well underway. The next steps should be to consider application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics and to how social and economic factors can be incorporated into the Precautionary Approach. The Council agreed to hold a Technical Workshop of the Contracting Parties, chaired by the Secretary, in Edinburgh during November or December 2002 to develop a framework or template for assessing social and economic values of Atlantic salmon.

The Council agreed to hold a meeting of the SCPA, chaired by the President, in early March 2003 to consider application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics. At the invitation of the US, this will be held in the Washington DC area. It was provisionally planned to hold another meeting of the SCPA to consider how social and economic factors can be incorporated into the Precautionary Approach in 2003/2004 so that a report could be made to the Council at its Twenty-First Annual Meeting. This decision would be reviewed at the next Annual Meeting in the light of the outcome of the Technical Workshop.

6.3 Unreported Catches

The Secretary introduced document CNL(02)19 (Annex 17) summarising the returns by the Parties. These returns indicate that in 2001 unreported catches were estimated to be between 962 and 1,374 tonnes, a small reduction on the estimates for 1999 and 2000.

The Council welcomed the information contained in document CNL(02)19 which presented the information in a transparent manner, noted the continuing progress in reducing the level of unreported catch and emphasised the need to take further measures to minimise the level of unreported catches. The Council agreed that there was a need for the Contracting Parties to further clarify the methods used to estimate unreported catch, and the reliability of these estimates, and to consider opportunities to enhance harmonisation of approaches used.

The Council recognised that although salmon which are caught and subsequently released are not a component of unreported catch it nonetheless still wished to be advised on an annual basis of the extent of catch and release fishing by the Parties. The Parties will provide to the Secretariat an update of the approach taken to collect the data in order to find ways to further improve and harmonise reporting.

6.4 **International Cooperative Research**

(a) *Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board*

At its Eighteenth Annual Meeting the Council had established an International Cooperative Salmon Research Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") to direct and coordinate a programme of research to identify and explain the causes of marine mortality of salmon and to examine the possibilities to counteract the mortality. The report of the inaugural meeting of the Board, which had been held in London during 5-7 December 2001, was introduced by the Secretary, the Chairman for the inaugural meeting, CNL(02)20 (Annex 18). The International Cooperative Salmon Research Programme consists of two elements - Cooperative Salmon Research and the Fund.

Three phases to the programme are envisaged, as follows:

- development and maintenance of an inventory of relevant research;
- setting of priorities for research needs and analysis of the inventory against these needs;
- better coordination of research and funding of new research to fill the gaps identified by the Board. The Fund will be used to finance these gaps in the research.

At its inaugural meeting, the Board had developed an inventory of research relating to salmon mortality in the sea, CNL(02)21. The Board had also developed financial and administrative documents to govern the Board's work and operation of the fund. An initial fund-raising strategy had also been developed, CNL(02)33.

(b) *Future Actions in relation to International Cooperative Research*

In the light of the proposals from the Board the Council accepted:

- the structure of the Programme comprising Cooperative Salmon Research and a Fund and the proposed phases of this programme;
- the format and content of the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea;
- the priorities for cooperative research and funding and the proposal that the initial focus be on distribution and migration of salmon at sea;
- the Rules of Procedure for the Board;
- the Financial Rules to govern the administration of the Fund and the Guidelines on Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions to the Fund;
- the proposals on external representation;
- the strategy for initial fund-raising.

The Council welcomed the progress made by the Board and asked that it now proceed to improve coordination of research, and to seek to raise funds so as to finance gaps in research. The Council noted that the Secretary would continue as Chairman of the Board until it elects a new Chairman by correspondence prior to its next meeting. The President stated that it was now calculated that approximately £4 million was currently being spent by the Parties on research of relevance to mortality of salmon at sea. In addition, provisional commitments to a total of £0.5 million, in cash and in kind, were made. The Parties will contact the Secretariat within the next few months to finalise their contributions. The Council asked the Board to establish a relationship with NASCO's NGOs so as to develop a cooperative approach.

6.5 **Report on the Joint Meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC on Factors Influencing Marine Survival of Salmon**

Last year the Council had agreed to hold a joint meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC focusing on factors affecting marine survival of salmon in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea. A report of the meeting, which had been held in Vancouver, Canada, during 14-15 March 2002, was presented, CNL(02)22 (Annex 19). A more detailed report of the meeting is being published as an NPAFC Technical Bulletin and will be distributed to all NASCO delegates. The views of the meeting with regard to research priorities and the way forward appeared generally consistent with the approach being adopted by NASCO's International Cooperative Salmon Research Board.

6.6 **Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area**

Prior to the Annual Meeting the Council had approved, by correspondence, a proposal from Canada to carry out scientific research fishing in the Outer Bay of Fundy, extending to the northern Gulf of Maine, during the period 25 May - 17 June 2002. There were no other notifications of proposals to conduct scientific research fishing. A brief verbal report on scientific research fishing conducted by Norway during 2001 was presented.

6.7 **By-Catch of Atlantic Salmon**

Concern had previously been raised within the Council about the possible by-catch of salmon post-smolts in fisheries for pelagic species of fish, particularly mackerel, in the North-East Atlantic.

ICES presented estimates of by-catch based on information on catches of post-smolts and mackerel during research vessel surveys in the Norwegian Sea conducted in June 2001 at approximately the same time as the mackerel fishery commenced in the same area. While the methods used by ICES in developing these estimates were preliminary and under development they suggest that by-catch of salmon post-smolts is potentially significant. Concern was expressed about the potential level of by-catch and the Council recognised the need to further improve these initial estimates. The Council had previously asked that the issue of by-catch be considered by the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board and noted that there were no research proposals specifically focusing on by-catch in the inventory of marine research developed by the Board. The Council recommends to the Board that project proposals to assess by-catch should be afforded a high priority by the Board.

6.8 **Impacts of Aquaculture on Wild Salmon Stocks**

(a) Returns made in Accordance with the Oslo Resolution

The Secretary presented a report, CNL(02)23 (Annex 20), on the returns made in accordance with Article 5 of the Oslo Resolution. Full information on the returns made since 1998 is available in a database which has been established by the Secretariat. The Secretary reported that there was no return from some EU Member States which may have salmon aquaculture.

(b) Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

The Chairman, Mr James Ryan, presented the report, CNL(02)24 (Annex 21), of the third meeting of the Liaison Group between NASCO and the North Atlantic salmon farming industry, held in Westport, Ireland on 8 and 9 April 2002. At the meeting verbal reports had been made on progress in developing and implementing Action Plans on Containment of Farm Salmon. While it was recognised that salmon farming countries would proceed at different speeds in implementing their Action Plans the Liaison Group had agreed that there was a need to develop a systematic process for reporting on progress. A summary of the work of the Liaison Group's Salmon Cooperation Group had also been received. This Group will undertake a review of existing cooperative ventures between wild and farmed salmon interests and funding for this review has been secured from industry sources. The industry representatives had proposed that ISFA should, in future, be the organization which would represent the industry within the Liaison Group. A response from ISFA to matters arising at the Liaison Group meeting was tabled, CNL(02)35, together with a copy of the ISFA Constitution, CNL(02)38. The Council:

- endorsed the format for reporting to the Liaison Group annually on implementation of Action Plans on Containment of Farm Salmon;

- noted the proposals from the Salmon Cooperation Group;

- proposed that representatives of ISFA and of the salmon farming industry in Russia be invited to participate in future Liaison Group meetings.

The Council suggested that there might be an opportunity to convene a meeting of the Liaison Group immediately following the SCPA March 2003 meeting (see paragraph 6.2 above). There would be consultations with the Chairman of the Liaison Group, Mr James Ryan, regarding the value of such a meeting at that time. At that meeting, the principal topics would be to receive returns, in the format recently agreed, on the implementation of the Containment Guidelines and to further the work of the Salmon Cooperation Group.

6.9 **Transgenic Salmon**

At its Fourteenth Annual Meeting the Council had expressed concern about the risks posed by transgenic salmon and had adopted NASCO Guidelines for Action on Transgenic Salmon, designed to prevent impacts on the wild stocks. Under these guidelines the Parties agree to advise the Council of any proposal to permit the rearing of transgenic salmonids, providing details of the proposed method of containment and other measures to safeguard the wild stocks.

Last year the Parties had all reported that they supported the present NASCO guidelines and it was noted that while these do not necessarily have legal force there was nevertheless a commitment to them.

A company located in Eastern Canada is currently producing transgenic Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout broodstock in a secure land-based facility and there had been preliminary discussions between a company and the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The US representative had briefly described the permitting process, which includes environmental analysis, and had agreed to alert the President and Secretary when there is a possibility to make NASCO's views on this matter known to the relevant authorities in the USA.

The Secretary reported, CNL(02)25, that on 30 October 2001 the US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service and the US Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service had written to the FDA expressing concern that the introduction and use of genetically modified salmon by the salmon farming industry has the potential to adversely affect endangered wild salmon. NASCO's concerns about the use of transgenic salmon in aquaculture had been conveyed to the FDA in a letter dated 11 December 2001. There had been no response to this letter. The representative of the US updated the Council on this issue, CNL(02)49 (Annex 22). The representative of the US agreed to keep the Council advised of developments with regard to the FDA permitting process.

The Council had previously agreed that when the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach considers the issue of introductions and transfers, it should also consider how the Precautionary Approach would apply to transgenic salmon.

6.10 **St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries**

In recent years the North American Commission and Council have become increasingly concerned about catches at St Pierre and Miquelon which, although low, have been increasing at a time when there are serious worries about the abundance of North American stocks and when restrictions are being introduced all around the North-West Atlantic.

Last year the Council had supported, as a useful first step in dealing with this matter, a proposal from the US for a sampling programme at St Pierre and Miquelon to determine the origin of the wild salmon in the catch. A chronology summarising the initiatives taken by the North American Commission and the Council with regard to the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery, and the response to these initiatives from the French authorities, was presented, CNL(02)26. Consultations had been initiated between NASCO and the authorities at St Pierre and Miquelon during a visit to the islands by the President and Secretary, but it had not been possible to initiate the sampling programme in 2002. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) had again been invited to attend the Annual Meeting but was unable to be represented. The Council adopted a Resolution which had been earlier adopted by the North American Commission, CNL(02)47 (Annex 23).

6.11 **Predator-Related Mortality**

The representative of the European Union tabled document CNL(02)46 (Annex 24). He also referred to a recent workshop held in Northern Ireland to review recent and current information on seal numbers and on interactions between seals and salmon, with particular reference to the island of Ireland, but including information from elsewhere. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) referred to the importance of this issue for wild salmon conservation and for salmon aquaculture. He noted that the issue should be considered in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach. He asked the representative of the European Union if he anticipated the introduction of any management measures to address the issue of seal predation on salmon. The representative of the European Union indicated that some EU Member States have management programmes in place and others are considering them for the future. The representative of Iceland welcomed the presentation and indicated that there is considerable concern about increased predation by cod on salmon smolts in Icelandic waters in recent years.

The President asked that the Parties provide to the Secretariat, as soon as possible, an update, covering the period since the Special Session on this subject in 1996, on research and management in relation to predation on salmon. NAMMCO had also carried out useful work of relevance. The President suggested that the next steps might include another Special Session, asking the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board if it might consider allocating new funds to this matter, and consideration of this issue under the Precautionary Approach.

6.12 **Report on Initiatives within FAO of relevance to NASCO**

The Council took note of a report on initiatives within FAO of relevance to NASCO, CNL(02)28. The representative of the European Union announced a policy statement on the reform of the Common Fisheries Policy, incorporating a full review of ecosystem issues.

6.13 **Reports on Conservation Measures Taken by the Three Regional Commissions**

The Chairman of each of the three regional Commissions reported to the Council on the activities of their Commission.

7. Other Business

7.1 The President announced that action had been taken since one of the accredited NGOs had violated the Council's rules on media contact. He referred to, and expressed appreciation for, a statement supported by 11 of the NGOs at the meeting expressing their support for the media rule.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

8.1 The Council accepted an invitation from the Scottish Executive, on behalf of the European Union, to hold its Twentieth Annual Meeting in Edinburgh, Scotland, during 2-6 June 2003.

8.2 The Council agreed to hold its Twenty-First Annual Meeting from 7-11 June 2004, either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

9. Report of the Meeting

9.1 The Council agreed the report of the meeting, CNL(02)48.

10. Press Release

10.1 The Council adopted a press release, CNL(02)50 (Annex 25).

Note: A list of all Council papers is contained in Annex 26. The annexes mentioned above begin on page 31, following the French translation of the report of the meeting.

CNL(02)48

Compte rendu de la Dix-neuvième réunion annuelle du Conseil
Hôtel Foroyar, Torshavn, Îles Féroé
3-7 juin, 2002

1. Séance d'ouverture

1.1 Le Président, M. Jacque Robichaud, a ouvert la conférence et présenté M. Jørgen Niclasen, Ministre de la Pêche et des affaires maritimes des Îles Féroé. Ce dernier a souhaité aux délégués la bienvenue aux Îles Féroé (annexe 1).

1.2 Le Président a prononcé une déclaration d'ouverture portant sur le travail de l'Organisation (annexe 2).

1.3 Les représentants du Canada, du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland), de l'Union européenne, de l'Islande, de la Norvège, de la Fédération de Russie et des Etats-Unis d'Amérique ont chacun prononcé leur déclaration d'ouverture (annexe 3).

1.4 La Commission Internationale des Pêches de la mer Baltique (CIPMB) et le Conseil International pour l'Exploration de la Mer (CIEM) ont chacun prononcé leur déclaration d'ouverture (annexe 4).

1.5 Une déclaration d'ouverture commune a été prononcée au nom des quatorze organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) présentes à la Réunion annuelle. Une déclaration commune a également été faite au nom de deux des ONG présentes à la réunion. Ces déclarations figurent à l'annexe 5.

1.6 Le Président a exprimé sa reconnaissance aux Parties et aux organisations présentes en tant qu'observateurs pour leurs déclarations et a clos la séance d'ouverture.

1.7 Une liste des participants figure à l'annexe 6.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

2.1 Le Conseil a adopté l'ordre du jour CNL(02)39 (annexe 7).

3. Election des membres du comité directeur

3.1 Le Conseil a réélu M. Jacque Robichaud (Canada), Président, à l'unanimité. M. Ole Tougaard (Union européenne) a été élu à l'unanimité, Vice-Président.

4. Questions administratives

4.1 Rapport du Secrétaire

Le Secrétaire a rendu compte au Conseil, de par son rapport CNL(02)6, des questions suivantes : état d'avancement des ratifications et des adhésions à la Convention, nombre des adhérents aux Commissions régionales, observateurs aux réunions de l'OCSAN, réunion commune avec les Commissions des Pêcheries de l'Atlantique Nord, pêche au saumon dans les eaux internationales, programme d'encouragement au retour des marques, manuel des Résolutions, Accords et Orientations de l'OCSAN, déclaration prononcée lors de la Conférence des pays nordiques sur la protection du milieu marin et l'utilisation durable des ressources marines vivantes de l'Atlantique Nord et état financier de l'Organisation.

Conformément au règlement financier 5.5, le Secrétaire a dressé un rapport sur les contributions reçues pour 2002. Les Parties avaient toutes versé leur contributions et il n'y avait aucun arriéré.

Depuis la dernière réunion annuelle, l'Association de la pêche récréative des Îles Féroé avait obtenu le statut d'observateur.

Le Président a félicité le Secrétariat pour la compilation du Manuel des Résolutions, Accords et Orientations qu'il considérait être un ouvrage des plus utiles.

Le Conseil avait déjà reconnu qu'il serait avantageux de tenir une réunion commune rassemblant l'ensemble des Commissions des Pêcheries de l'Atlantique Nord (soit l'OCSAN, la CICTA, la CIPMB, la CPANE et l'OPAN) en vue de débattre les questions d'un intérêt commun. Le Secrétaire a indiqué, qu'à la suite d'une invitation de la CPANE, une réunion des Secrétariats des organismes de gestion des pêcheries régionales de l'Atlantique Nord avait eu lieu. Y avaient participé les représentants des Secrétariats de la CIPMB, la CMMAN, de l'OCSAN et de la CPANE. L'absence de représentation de l'OPAN et de la CICTA a été notée avec regret. Le Conseil a ainsi conseillé vivement aux Parties signataires d'encourager la participation de ces organismes à la prochaine réunion du groupe. Le débat avait concerné plusieurs questions et les points soulevés au cours de la réunion avaient été résumés. La réunion s'était avérée fort utile et avait permis de débattre plusieurs questions d'intérêt commun. Le Conseil a reconnu qu'il serait approprié pour le Secrétariat de l'OCSAN de continuer à participer aux prochaines réunions du groupe. Les participants à la réunion partageaient l'opinion que les organismes de gestion des pêcheries régionales devaient être perçus comme organismes régionaux indépendants, distincts du processus de prise de décisions de la FAO (OAA), même si ces organismes se montraient prêts à aider les organismes de la FAO à accroître leur expertise en partageant leurs expériences. Le Conseil a appuyé ce point de vue et a souligné qu'il n'incombait pas à la FAO d'entreprendre une évaluation de l'efficacité des organismes de pêcheries régionaux de l'Atlantique Nord. Le Secrétaire fut prié de transmettre ces opinions à la FAO.

4.2 **Rapport de la Commission financière et administrative**

Le Vice-président de la Commission financière et administrative, M. Andrew Thomson (Union européenne), a présenté le rapport de la Commission, CNL(02)7. Suite aux recommandations de celle-ci, le Conseil a pris les décisions suivantes :

(a) accepter la déclaration financière révisée de 2001, FAC(02)2 ;

(b) adopter un budget pour 2003 et prendre acte du budget prévisionnel pour 2004, CNL(02)40 (annexe 8) ;

(c) nommer, soit PricewaterhouseCoopers d'Edimbourg, vérificateur des comptes pour l'an 2002, ou toute autre société recevant l'approbation du Secrétaire après consultation du Président de la Commission financière et administrative ;

(d) adopter le règlement régissant le Fonds destiné au personnel de l'OCSAN, CNL(02)42 (annexe 9) ;

(e) adopter le rapport de la Commission financière et administrative.

Le Président a remercié M. Thomson de son excellent travail et de celui de la Commission.

4.3 **Politique de l'OCSAN concernant les communications**

[Nota : Cette question fut abordée immédiatement après la séance d'ouverture susmentionnée au point 1].

Lors de la Dix-huitième réunion annuelle, le Conseil avait demandé au Secrétaire de préparer un document qui passerait en revue les différents types de communication de l'OCSAN. Cette étude devrait également comprendre un examen des procédures employées dans ce domaine par d'autres organisations inter-gouvernementales. À cet effet, le Secrétaire a présenté le document CNL(02)8 qui soulève nombre de questions concernant les activités de relations publiques de l'OCSAN et les conditions qui définissent la participation des ONG aux réunions annuelles de l'OCSAN. Le Président a pris acte du fait que l'OCSAN devançait les autres organisations inter-gouvernementales de pêcheries en ce qui concernait l'amélioration de la transparence de ses réunions. Le Conseil pris note du projet de protocoles en vigueur, CNL(02)34, élaboré par les ONG. Ce document contenait des propositions sur les relations des ONG avec les médias pendant les réunions de l'OCSAN. Le Conseil reconnaissait qu'il fallait trouver un équilibre entre une plus grande transparence des réunions de l'OCSAN et le maintien d'un cadre dans lequel les négociations pouvaient s'effectuer efficacement. Le Conseil a par conséquent décidé :

(a) de développer son Communiqué de presse par le biais d'un groupe de rédaction composé de représentants des Parties signataires. M. Andrew Thomson (Union européenne) fut nommé coordinateur du travail du groupe ;

(b) d'améliorer le site Web de l'Organisation afin de mieux communiquer, au public et autres parties intéressées, les informations concernant le travail de l'OCSAN ;

(c) d'adopter, sans délai, deux nouvelles conditions concernant la participation des ONG à la réunion annuelle, à savoir :

- « toute ONG, disposant du statut d'observateur de l'OCSAN, qui n'a eu aucune communication avec le Secrétariat ou la Partie contractante concernée, ou qui n'a pas participé à un minimum d'une Réunion annuelle de l'OCSAN au cours des trois dernières années, perdra son titre d'ONG accréditée par l'OCSAN. L'ONG en question pourra toutefois représenter une demande d'accession à ce titre par écrit au Secrétaire » ;

- « pendant la Réunion annuelle de l'OCSAN, les ONG accréditées ne peuvent pas, à la suite de la clôture de la séance d'ouverture, émettre de communiqués de presse ou toutes autres informations aux médias concernant les points de l'Ordre du jour soumis à discussion jusqu'à ce que le Conseil ait convenu de son propre communiqué de presse ».

(d) d'adopter, sans délai, une nouvelle condition concernant la participation des médias aux Réunions annuelles de l'OCSAN, à savoir :

- « Les représentants des médias ne sont autorisés à participer qu'à la Séance d'ouverture du Conseil ».

Ces amendements ont été incorporés à la révision du texte du règlement ci-joint, CNL(02)45 (annexe 10).

4.4 Rapport sur les activités de l'Organisation

Le Conseil a adopté le rapport sur les activités de 2001 de l'Organisation, CNL(02)9, adressé aux Parties conformément à l'article 5, paragraphe 6 de la Convention.

4.5 Annonce du gagnant du Grand Prix du Programme d'encouragement au retour des marques

Le Président a annoncé que le tirage au sort du Programme avait été effectué par le Commissaire aux Comptes, au siège de l'OCSAN, le 20 mai. Le gagnant du Grand Prix de 2 500 $ est M. Steinar Kragset, de Trondheim, en Norvège. Le Conseil a offert ses félicitations au gagnant.

5. Questions scientifiques, techniques, juridiques et autres

5.1 Recommandations scientifiques du CIEM

Le représentant du CIEM a présenté au Conseil le rapport du Comité Consultatif sur la Gestion des Pêcheries (CCGP), CNL(02)10 (annexe 11). Seule, les recommandations concernant les questions d'intérêt général pertinentes à l'Atlantique

Nord sont annexées à ce compte rendu. Se reporter aux comptes rendus des Commissions, pour le détail des recommandations les interessants.

5.2 Compte rendu du Comité scientifique permanent

Le Président du Comité a présenté une demande provisoire de recommandations scientifiques au CIEM. Fort de l'avis de ce dernier, le Conseil a adopté une demande de recommandations scientifiques au CIEM, CNL(02)51 (annexe 12).

5.3 Statistiques de capture et analyse

Le Secrétaire a présenté un document statistique portant sur les déclarations de captures officielles effectuées par les Parties en 2001, CNL(02)12 (annexe 13), et sur les données historiques pour la période 1960-2001, CNL(02)13. Les statistiques de 2001 sont provisoires et seront mises à jour par les Parties.

5.4 Revue des publications internationales portant sur le saumon publiées en 2001

Le Conseil a pris acte d'une revue d'ouvrages portant sur le saumon atlantique publiés en 2001, CNL(02)14. Ce document avait été rédigé conformément à l'article 13, paragraphe 2 de la Convention.

6. Conservation, restauration, mise en valeur et gestion rationnelle des stocks de saumons

6.1 Mesures prises au titre des articles 14 et 15 de la Convention

Le Secrétaire a présenté un compte rendu sur les renvois effectués au terme des articles 14 et 15 de la Convention, CNL(02)15 (annexe 14). Le Conseil a convenu de diffuser ce compte rendu sur le site Web de l'Organisation.

6.2 L'approche préventive dans le cadre de la gestion du saumon

(a) *Séance extraordinaire portant sur la protection et restauration de l'habitat – Comptes rendus par les Parties sur l'élaboration et la mise en place de programmes de protection et de restauration d'habitat*

L'année dernière, fort des recommandations du Comité permanent chargé de la question de l'approche préventive (CPAP), le Conseil avait adopté le Programme d'actions OCSAN visant à faciliter l'application de l'approche préventive à la protection et restauration de l'habitat du saumon atlantique. Le Conseil avait convenu de demander aux Parties de dresser un compte rendu sur les mesures prises pour élaborer et mettre en pratique des programmes de protection et de restauration d'habitat, tels qu'ils étaient conçus dans le Programme d'actions OCSAN. Une séance extraordinaire avait spécifiquement eu lieu à cet effet au cours de laquelle le Canada, l'Union européenne, l'Islande, la Norvège, la Fédération de Russie et les Etats-Unis avaient fait des présentations. Un rapport sur la séance sera dressé séparément par le Secrétariat.

Le Président s'est reporté à plusieurs de ces initiatives qui soulignaient à quel point les Parties signataires s'efforçaient de conserver et restaurer l'habitat du saumon. Certaines Parties avaient laissé entrevoir que la perte d'habitat en eau douce, qui avait été très importante au cours des 100 dernières années, s'était stabilisée. Dans certains cas, la tendance avait même été renversée.

En ce qui concernait le contrôle de la mise en place de l'Accord sur l'habitat, le Secrétariat mettra au point, de pair avec les Parties signataires, un simple formulaire de compte rendu. Ce formulaire sera utilisé chaque année pour mettre les accomplissements concrets et spécifiques réalisés en évidence.

(b) *Evaluation et développement de la Structure de décisions à prendre dans le cadre de la gestion des pêcheries de saumons nord atlantiques*

Le Président du CPAP, M. Jacque Robichaud, a présenté le rapport du Comité, CNL(02)17 (annexe 15). Le Conseil avait demandé au Comité de remplir les trois tâches suivantes :

- entreprendre une évaluation détaillée et un développement de la Structure de décisions à prendre dans le cadre de la gestion des pêcheries de saumons atlantiques ;
- définir un mandat pour la réunion du CPAP qui porterait sur les facteurs socio-économiques et sur la manière d'en tenir compte dans l'application de l'approche préventive ;
- définir un mandat pour la réunion du CPAP qui porterait sur l'application de l'approche préventive aux introductions et transferts, à l'aquaculture et aux (poissons) transgéniques.

Le Conseil a adopté le nouveau texte de la Structure de décisions, tel qu'il figure à l'annexe 3 du rapport du CPAP. Le Conseil a également décidé que les Parties signataires devraient désormais appliquer cette Structure à la gestion des pêcheries de saumons. Tous les ans, les Parties devront en outre rendre compte au Conseil de leurs expériences quant à l'application de la Structure de décisions et de l'étendue de son exécution. Le Secrétaire fut prié de concevoir un formulaire simple qui faciliterait le renvoi de ces informations, après avoir consulté les Parties sur la question. Il est envisagé que la Structure de décisions soit immédiatement et largement mise en application par les gestionnaires de rivières à saumons. Afin d'en faciliter l'adoption, le Secrétaire a été prié de rédiger un texte d'introduction qui en présenterait la toile de fond et l'utilisation que l'on proposait d'en faire. Ceci ne devrait toutefois pas empêcher une application immédiate. L'on devrait également envisager de traduire le texte de cette Structure de Décisions ainsi que son introduction dans les différentes langues des Parties signataires. Le texte amendé de la Structure de décisions ainsi que sa Présentation seront diffusés sur le site Web de l'Organisation.

(c) *Implications des questions d'ordre socio-économique sur l'application de l'approche préventive*

Le CPAP avait accepté que les véritables valeurs du saumon atlantique sauvage, au niveau socio-économique, n'étaient pas connues à l'heure actuelle. Il importait en outre de tenir compte de ces facteurs socio-économiques dans les décisions de gestion prises dans le cadre de l'approche préventive, sans pour autant nier l'efficacité de cette approche. Le Conseil a défini le mandat d'une réunion du CPAP qui aurait pour objet la question de savoir comment tenir compte des facteurs socio-économiques dans l'application de l'approche préventive (voir annexe 4 du rapport du CPAP). Ce mandat propose, en un premier temps, d'élaborer un cadre ou « gabarit », adopté au niveau international, qui servirait à évaluer les valeurs socio-économiques associées au saumon atlantique (se reporter à l'annexe 4 des pièces jointes 1 et 2 du rapport du CPAP). Le Conseil a convenu de confier le travail de développement de ce cadre à un atelier technique. Celui-ci serait composé de représentants des Parties signataires et serait chargé de préparer un inventaire des différentes valeurs socio-économiques associées au saumon atlantique, à partir de la compilation d'informations résumées par les Parties signataires (article 1 de la pièce jointe 2 du rapport du CPAP). Le CPAP avait demandé aux Parties signataires de fournir ces compilations au Secrétaire avant la Dix-neuvième réunion annuelle. Le Conseil a incité les Parties signataires qui n'avaient pas encore soumis leurs renseignements de les fournir au Secrétariat dans les plus brefs délais. L'étape suivante consisterait à demander aux Parties de produire les informations et suggestions pertinentes aux points 2 et 3 de la pièce jointe 2 et de les mettre à la disposition du Secrétariat d'ici la fin d'octobre 2002. Le représentant du Canada a indiqué qu'il prévoyait quelques difficultés à essayer d'évaluer, en termes monétaires, les valeurs autres que celles associées à la pêche commerciale et de loisir.

(d) *Elaboration d'un mandat visant à faciliter l'application de l'approche préventive aux introductions et transferts, à l'aquaculture et aux transgéniques*

Le CPAP avait reconnu qu'il était nécessaire de revoir les accords et mesures prises par le Conseil et les Commissions dans le cadre des introductions et transferts, de l'aquaculture et des transgéniques afin de s'assurer de leur cohérence avec l'approche préventive. Lors de la dernière Réunion annuelle, le Conseil avait demandé que le mandat préliminaire, défini par le CPAP, soit mis à la disposition des éleveurs de saumons par l'intermédiaire du Groupe de liaison, lors de sa réunion à Westport, le 8 et 9 avril. Le document CNL(02)35 contient les commentaires offerts par les éleveurs sur ce document. Le Conseil en a pris acte et a adopté le mandat, après y avoir apporté la modification proposée par le Canada, en vue d'une réunion du CPAP concernant l'application de l'approche préventive aux introductions et transferts CNL(02)52 (annexe 16). Le compte rendu de la réunion du CPAP sur ce sujet sera largement diffusé, aux parties concernées. Le Secrétariat se mettra en contact avec les Parties signataires pour leur faire connaître les dates limites de leur analyse des articles du document CNL(02)52 à revoir.

(e) Mesures à prendre à l'avenir dans le cadre de l'application de l'approche préventive à la gestion du saumon

Le Conseil a étudié les mesures à prendre à l'avenir dans le cadre de l'application de l'approche préventive (CNL(02)18) ainsi qu'un programme provisoire de réunions.

Les tâches principales du Programme d'actions étaient maintenant bien en cours. Quant aux démarches suivantes, celles-ci devraient consister à étudier comment appliquer l'approche préventive aux introductions et transferts, à l'aquaculture et aux transgéniques et comment incorporer les facteurs socio-économiques dans une approche préventive. Le Conseil a convenu d'organiser un atelier technique à Edimbourg pendant les mois de novembre et décembre 2002. Cet atelier, présidé par le Secrétaire, regrouperait les Parties signataires et aurait pour objet d'élaborer un cadre ou « gabarit » qui servirait à évaluer les valeurs socio-économiques associées au saumon atlantique.

Le Conseil a convenu d'organiser une réunion du CPAP, présidée par le Président, début mars 2003. L'objectif de cette réunion serait d'étudier comment appliquer l'approche préventive aux introductions et transferts, à l'aquaculture et aux transgéniques. Sur l'invitation des Etats-Unis, cette réunion aura lieu dans les environs de Washington DC. Une autre réunion qui étudierait comment incorporer les facteurs socio-économiques dans l'approche préventive a été également provisoirement organisée pour 2003/2004 de façon à ce qu'un compte rendu puisse être présenté au Conseil lors de sa Vingt et unième réunion annuelle. Cette décision sera ré-examinée lors de la prochaine Réunion annuelle, à la lumière des résultats de l'atelier technique.

6.3 **Captures non déclarées**

Le Secrétaire a présenté le document CNL(02)19 (annexe 17) résumant les renvois effectués par les Parties. Ces renvois indiquaient qu'en 2001, l'estimation des captures non déclarées était de l'ordre de 962 à 1374 tonnes, ce qui dénotait une légère réduction par rapport aux estimations de 1999 et 2000.

Le Conseil a accueilli favorablement les informations contenues dans le document CNL(02)19 qui présentait les faits avec transparence. Ayant noté la continuité des progrès réalisés, le Conseil a néanmoins souligné la nécessité de prendre des mesures supplémentaires pour réduire au minimum le niveau des captures non déclarées. Le Conseil a convenu que les Parties signataires devraient clarifier encore plus les méthodes employées pour l'estimation des captures non déclarées, devraient mieux déterminer si ces estimations étaient exactes et examiner les possibilités d'améliorer l'harmonisation des méthodes employées.

Le Conseil a reconnu que les saumons capturés puis remis à l'eau ne constituaient pas un élément des captures non déclarées. Le Conseil continuait cependant à vouloir être avisé, chaque année, du volume de la pêche (avec remise à l'eau des captures) pratiquée par les Parties. Les Parties fourniront au

Secrétariat une mise à jour de la méthode employée pour la collecte des données afin de trouver un moyen d'affiner et de standardiser encore plus les comptes rendus.

6.4 Coopération en matière de recherche internationale

(a) *Compte rendu de la réunion inaugurale de la Commission de Recherche internationale sur le saumon menée en coopération*

Lors de sa Dix-huitième réunion annuelle, le Conseil avait créé une Commission chargée de la recherche internationale sur le saumon menée dans un esprit de coopération (nommée ci-après « la Commission »). Cette Commission avait pour objet de diriger et de coordonner un programme de recherches qui chercherait à identifier et expliquer les causes de la mortalité en mer du saumon et qui examinerait les différentes façons de contrer cette mortalité. Le Secrétaire, Président de la réunion inaugurale de la Commission, tenue à Londres du 5 au 7 décembre 2001, en a présenté le rapport CNL(02)20 (annexe 18). Le Programme de recherches internationales sur le saumon menées en coopération consiste en deux éléments : la recherche sur le saumon menée dans un esprit de coopération et le financement de ces activités.

Les trois phases du programme sont envisagées comme suit :

- création et mise à jour d'un inventaire des recherches pertinentes ;
- définition des priorités en matière de nécessité de recherche et analyse de l'inventaire par rapport à ces nécessités ;
- une meilleure coordination en matière de recherche et le financement de nouvelles recherches afin de combler les lacunes identifiées par la Commission. Les fonds seront utilisés pour financer ces lacunes.

Lors de sa réunion inaugurale, la Commission avait compilé un inventaire des recherches ayant trait à la mortalité du saumon en mer, CNL(02)21. La Commission avait également rédigé des documents financiers et administratifs servant de cadre à son travail ainsi qu'à sa gestion des fonds et défini une stratégie de collecte de fonds initiale, CNL(02)33.

(b) *Mesures à prendre à l'avenir quant à la recherche internationale menée en coopération*

A la lumière des propositions faites par la Commission, le Conseil a accepté :

- la structure du Programme, à savoir Recherche sur le saumon menée dans un esprit de coopération et Financement, ainsi que la proposition des différentes phases de ce programme ;
- le format et contenu de l'inventaire des recherches portant sur la mortalité du saumon en mer ;
- les priorités de recherches à mener en coopération et leur financement ainsi que la proposition de commencer par la recherche sur la distribution et migration du saumon en mer ;
- le règlement procédural de la Commission ;

- le règlement financier, créé pour régir l'administration du Fonds, ainsi que les Orientations concernant l'acceptation des contributions volontaires au Fonds ;
- les propositions concernant les représentations externes ;
- la stratégie de collecte de fonds initiale.

Le Conseil a accueilli favorablement les progrès réalisés par la Commission et l'a priée de passer au stade de l'amélioration de la coordination en matière de recherche et de commencer à collecter des fonds afin de pouvoir financer des recherches là où il existait des lacunes. Le Conseil a pris acte du fait que le Secrétaire demeurerait le Président de la Commission jusqu'à ce que celle-ci élise un nouveau Président par correspondance, avant sa prochaine réunion. Le Président a annoncé que l'on avait calculé que les parties dépensaient actuellement environ 4 millions de livres sterling sur la recherche liée à la mortalité du saumon en mer. Outre ceci, on avait enregistré des engagement provisoires représentant un total de 0,5 million de livres sterling (en monnaie et nature). Les Parties contacteront le Secrétariat dans les mois prochains pour finaliser leurs contributions. Le Conseil a prié la Commission de forger des liens avec les ONG de l'OCSAN afin de créer un climat de coopération.

6.5 Compte rendu de la réunion commune avec la CPANE et la CIPMB traitant des facteurs influençant la survie du saumon en mer

L'année dernière, le Conseil avait convenu d'organiser une réunion commune avec la CPANE et la CIPMB. Cette réunion devait porter spécifiquement sur les facteurs influençant la survie marine du saumon dans le Pacifique du Nord, l'Atlantique du Nord et la mer Baltique. Un compte rendu de cette réunion, qui a eu lieu à Vancouver au Canada du 14 ou 15 mars 2002, a été présenté, CNL(02)22 (annexe 19). Un rapport plus détaillé de cette réunion est en cours de préparation et sera publié sous la forme de bulletin technique de la CPANE. Il sera distribué à l'ensemble des délégués à l'OCSAN. Les points de vue exprimés au cours de la réunion à propos des priorités de recherche et de la façon dont il fallait progresser semblaient dans l'ensemble cohérents avec l'approche adoptée par la Commission de Recherche internationale sur le saumon menée en coopération.

6.6 Pêche à des fins de recherches scientifiques dans la zone de la Convention

Antérieurement à la Réunion annuelle, le Conseil avait accepté par correspondance une proposition de pêche menée à des fins de recherches scientifiques, provenant du Canada. Cette pêche devait avoir lieu dans la partie extérieure de la Baie de Fundy, sur une étendue allant jusqu'au nord du Golfe du Maine, du 25 mai au 17 juin 2002. Aucune autre notification de proposition de ce type de pêche n'avait été reçue. Le représentant de la Norvège a présenté un bref compte rendu verbal sur la pêche qui avait été menée à des fins de recherches scientifiques, au cours de l'année 2001, en Norvège.

6.7 Prises accidentelles de saumons atlantiques

La possibilité de prises accidentelles de post-smolts de saumons dans les pêcheries de poissons pélagiques tel que le maquereau, dans l'Atlantique du Nord-Est avait déjà suscité des inquiétudes au sein du Conseil.

Le CIEM a présenté des estimations de prises accidentelles basées sur les informations obtenues à partir de captures de post-smolts et de maquereaux. Ces captures avaient été effectuées au cours d'études menées par des vaisseaux de recherche dans la mer de Norvège en juin 2001, à peu près au même moment que l'ouverture de la pêche au maquereau dans cette région. Bien que les méthodes employées par le CIEM pour obtenir ces estimations soient au stade préliminaire et en cours de développement, elles suggèrent une quantité potentiellement notable de prises accidentelles de post-smolts de saumon. Ce niveau potentiellement important de prises accidentelles a suscité des inquiétudes. Le Conseil a ainsi reconnu la nécessité d'affiner encore plus ces premières estimations. Le Conseil avait déjà demandé que la question des prises accidentelles soit examinée par la Commission de Recherche internationale sur le saumon menée en coopération et a noté qu'aucune proposition de recherche sur ce sujet de prises accidentelles ne figurait dans l'inventaire des recherches menées en milieu marin, élaboré par la Commission. Le Conseil a recommandé à la Commission d'attribuer une haute priorité aux propositions de projet visant à évaluer les prises accidentelles.

6.8 **Effets nuisibles de l'aquaculture sur les stocks de saumons sauvages**

(a) Renvois réalisés dans le cadre de la Résolution d'Oslo

Le Secrétaire a présenté le rapport, CNL(02)23 (annexe 20), portant sur les renvois réalisés conformément à l'article 5 de la Résolution d'Oslo. Les informations sur les renvois effectués depuis 1998 sont désormais disponibles dans leur intégralité à partir d'une base de données créée par le Secrétariat. Le Secrétaire a indiqué que certains Etats membres de l'Union européenne, soupçonnés de pratiquer l'aquaculture, n'avaient pas effectué de renvois.

(b) Liaison avec l'industrie salmonicole

Le Président, M. James Ryan, a présenté le rapport de la troisième réunion du Groupe de liaison OCSAN/éleveurs de l'Atlantique du Nord, tenue à Westport en Irlande le 8 et 9 avril 2002, CNL(02)24 (annexe 21). Plusieurs comptes rendus verbaux avaient retracé, au cours de la réunion, les progrès réalisés en matière de création et de mise en application de Programmes d'actions sur le confinement physique du saumon d'élevage. Bien qu'il fut reconnu que les pays producteurs de saumons d'élevage progresseraient à des rythmes différents en ce qui concerne la mise en application de leurs programmes d'actions respectifs, le Groupe de liaison a convenu qu'il importait de définir une procédure systématique pour rendre compte des progrès réalisés. Un résumé sur le travail accompli par le Groupe coopération saumon du Groupe de liaison a également été reçu. Ce Groupe entreprendra une étude des différentes formes de coopération existant actuellement entre les groupes représentant les intérêts du saumon sauvage et ceux représentant les intérêts du saumon d'élevage. Le financement de cette étude a été assuré par plusieurs représentants de l'industrie salmonicole. Les représentants de l'industrie salmonicole avaient proposé que l'AIES agisse dorénavant en tant que représentant de l'industrie au sein du Groupe de liaison. La réponse de l'AIES aux questions soulevées au cours de la réunion du Groupe de liaison,

CNL(02)35, ainsi qu'une copie de la Constitution de l'AIES, CNL(02)38, ont été présentées. Le Conseil :

- a donné son approbation à l'idée d'un compte rendu annuel au Groupe de liaison concernant la mise en application de programmes d'actions sur le confinement physique du saumon d'élevage ;

- a pris acte des propositions offertes par le Groupe coopération saumon ;

- a proposé que des représentants de l'AIES et de l'industrie salmonicole Russe soient invités à participer aux prochaines réunions du Groupe de liaison.

Le Conseil a émis la suggestion d'organiser une réunion du Groupe de liaison immédiatement après la réunion du CPAP de mars 2003 (voir paragraphe 6.2 ci-dessus). Le Président du Groupe de liaison, M. James Ryan, serait consulté au préalable afin de déterminer l'utilité d'une telle réunion à cette période. Cette réunion aurait pour sujets principaux les renvois d'informations portant sur la mise en application des Orientations de confinement physique, présentés dans le format convenu récemment et l'approfondissement du travail effectué par le Groupe coopération saumon.

6.9 **Saumon transgénique**

Lors de sa Quatorzième réunion annuelle, le Conseil avait exprimé ses préoccupations quant aux risques posés par le saumon transgénique et avait adopté les orientations de l'OCSAN recommandant l'application de mesures concernant le saumon transgénique, conçues pour éviter les effets nuisibles sur les stocks sauvages. Selon ces orientations, les Parties avaient convenu d'informer le Conseil de toute proposition qui permettrait l'élevage de salmonidés transgéniques, donnant les détails de la méthode de confinement prévue et des autres mesures prises pour protéger les stocks sauvages.

Les Parties ont chacune indiqué qu'elles acceptaient les orientations actuelles de l'OCSAN. Il fut noté que celles-ci n'avaient pas nécessairement force de loi, mais qu'il existait toutefois un engagement général en ce qui les concernait.

Une société, implantée à l'est du Canada, produit actuellement des stocks de reproducteurs de saumons et truites arc-en-ciel transgéniques dans des installations sur terre sûres. Il y avait eu également des échanges préliminaires entre une société et la l'Administration américaine de l'alimentation et de l'industrie pharmaceutique (*US Food and Drug Administration – FDA*). Le représentant des Etats-Unis avait décrit brièvement la procédure d'autorisation de ce type d'activités par la FDA, qui comprenait entre autres une analyse du milieu. Il s'est par ailleurs engagé à informer le Président et le Secrétaire du moment où l'OCSAN pourrait communiquer ses opinions à ce sujet aux autorités américaines appropriées.

Le Secrétaire a indiqué, CNL(02)25, que le *US Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service* (Service des poissons et de la Faune du Ministère de l'intérieur des Etats-Unis) et le *US Department of Commerce National Marine Fisheries Service*

(Service national des pêcheries en mer du Ministère du commerce) avaient, le 30 octobre 2001, écrit à la FDA afin d'exprimer leur inquiétude quant à la possibilité d'impacts nuisibles sur le saumon sauvage causés par l'introduction et l'utilisation, par l'industrie salmonicole, de saumons modifiés génétiquement. L'OCSAN avait fait part à la FDA de ses propres inquiétudes à propos de l'utilisation du saumon transgénique dans l'aquaculture dans un courrier daté du 11 décembre 2001. Cette lettre est restée sans réponse. Le représentant des Etats-Unis a fait connaître au Conseil les tous derniers faits à ce sujet, CNL(02)49 (annexe 22). Le représentant des Etats-Unis a convenu d'aviser le Conseil de la progression de la procédure d'autorisation de la FDA.

Le Conseil avait déjà convenu que le Comité permanent chargé de l'approche préventive devrait inclure dans son étude de la question des introductions et transferts, la façon dont l'approche préventive pouvait s'appliquer au saumon transgénique.

6.10 Pêcheries au saumon à St. Pierre et Miquelon

Au cours des dernières années, les captures effectuées à St. Pierre et Miquelon avaient suscité des inquiétudes grandissantes au sein de la Commission Nord-Américaine et du Conseil. Ces captures, bien que basses, augmentaient à un moment où l'abondance des stocks Nord-américains faisait l'objet de grandes inquiétudes et où des restrictions étaient introduites dans tout l'Atlantique du Nord-Ouest.

L'année dernière, le Conseil avait donné son approbation à une proposition, offerte par les Etats-Unis, qui consistait à effectuer un programme d'échantillonnage à St. Pierre et Miquelon en vue de déterminer l'origine du saumon sauvage qui y serait présent. Ceci avait été reconnu comme un bon premier pas vers la résolution de cette question. Un résumé chronologique des initiatives prises par la Commission Nord-Américaine et le Conseil concernant la pêcherie de St. Pierre et Miquelon, ainsi que la réponse à ces démarches, offerte par les autorités françaises, ont été présentés, CNL(02)26. Des consultations entre l'OCSAN et les autorités de St. Pierre et Miquelon eurent lieu pendant une visite des îles par le Président et le Secrétaire. Il n'a toutefois pas été possible de commencer le programme d'échantillonnage en 2002. La France (pour St. Pierre et Miquelon) avait de nouveau été conviée à participer à la Réunion annuelle, mais n'a pas été en mesure d'y être représentée. Le Conseil a donné son approbation à une Résolution, déjà adoptée par la Commission Nord-Américaine, CNL(02)47 (annexe 23).

6.11 Mortalité liée aux prédateurs

Le représentant de l'Union européenne a présenté le document CNL(02)46 (annexe 24). Il a également fait référence à un atelier qui avait été organisé récemment en Irlande du Nord afin de passer en revue les toutes dernières informations sur le nombre de phoques et leurs interactions avec le saumon. L'atelier s'était surtout focalisé sur l'Irlande, mais disposait également d'informations sur d'autres pays. Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a souligné l'importance de cette question dans le cadre de la conservation du saumon sauvage et de l'élevage de saumons. Il a noté que la question devait être envisagée dans le contexte de l'application de l'approche préventive. Il s'est enquis auprès du représentant de l'Union européenne pour savoir si ce dernier anticipait l'introduction

de mesures de gestion visant à contrer la prédation exercée par les phoques sur le saumon. Le représentant de l'Union Européenne a répondu que certains Etats membres de l'UE avaient mis des programmes de gestion en place et que d'autres envisageaient de le faire à l'avenir. Le représentant de l'Islande a accueilli favorablement la présentation et a indiqué que l'augmentation des dernières années de la prédation exercée par la morue sur les smolts de saumons dans les eaux islandaises suscitait de grandes inquiétudes.

Le Président a demandé aux Parties de fournir au Secrétariat, dans les plus brefs délais, une mise à jour des recherches effectuées sur la prédation de saumons et des mesures de gestion prises dans ce domaine, depuis la séance extraordinaire portant sur ce sujet en 1996. À noter que la CMMAN avait également entrepris un travail utile et pertinent. Le Président a suggéré que parmi les prochaines démarches à suivre, il serait bon d'inclure une autre séance extraordinaire. Il serait également approprié de demander à la Commission si elle acceptait d'allouer de nouveaux fonds à cette question et enfin d'étudier ce sujet dans le contexte de l'approche préventive.

6.12 **Rapport sur les initiatives prises au sein de la FAO (OAA) pertinentes à l'OCSAN**

Le Conseil a pris acte d'un rapport portant sur les initiatives prises au sein de la FAO, pertinentes à l'OCSAN, CNL(02)28. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a mentionné une déclaration portant sur la réforme de la Politique commune de la pêche, comprenant une étude complète des questions se rapportant à l'écosystème.

6.13 **Comptes rendus sur les mesures de conservation prises par les trois Commissions régionales**

Le Président de chacune des trois Commissions régionales a soumis au Conseil un compte rendu de leurs activités.

7. Divers

7.1 Le Président a annoncé que des mesures avaient été prises à propos d'une des ONG accréditées par l'OCSAN qui avait enfreint les règles du Conseil concernant les contacts avec les médias. Il a également fait mention d'une déclaration appuyée par 11 des ONG présentes à la réunion, déclaration qui énonçait leur soutien du règlement concernant les médias et pour laquelle le Président a exprimé son appréciation.

8. Date et lieu de la prochaine réunion

8.1 Le Conseil a accepté l'invitation du *Scottish Executive* (Gouvernement d'Ecosse), faite au nom de l'Union européenne, de tenir sa Vingtième réunion annuelle à Edimbourg, en Ecosse, du 2 au 6 juin 2003.

8.2 Le Conseil a convenu de tenir sa Vingt et unième réunion annuelle du 7 au 11 juin 2004, soit à Edimbourg, soit à tout autre endroit qui soit, à l'invitation d'une des Parties.

9. Compte rendu de la réunion

9.1 Le Conseil a adopté le compte rendu de la réunion, CNL(02)48.

10. Communiqué de presse

10.1 Le Conseil a approuvé le communiqué de presse, CNL(02)50 (annexe 25).

Note: Une liste de l'ensemble des documents du Conseil figure à l'annexe 26.

ANNEX 1

Welcome Address by the Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs of the Faroe Islands, Mr Jørgen Niclasen

Distinguished President, Delegates, Observers, Members of the Secretariat, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am honoured to welcome you to the Faroe Islands for the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO, and I would like to extend a special welcome to those of you who are here for the first time.

I am sure that the little you may have seen so far of our islands and our capital, Tórshavn, has made it quite obvious what role the sea and its resources have for our daily lives and livelihoods in the Faroes. Not least, the weather you have experienced in the short time you have been here is a very clear reminder of where you now find yourselves – in the middle of the ocean and very far from any continental land masses.

In such a location our nation, by definition, lives by nature, we are overwhelmingly dependent on what the sea can provide. The network of regional cooperation on living marine resources in the North Atlantic is extremely important to us here, in the centre of this region.

Together with NEAFC, NAFO and NAMMCO and other regional fora on North Atlantic issues, NASCO is an international conservation and management body in which the Faroe Islands have been active participants since its beginnings. We value the fact that the regional management bodies of the North Atlantic all share the purpose of promoting, through international cooperation, the conservation and rational management of the marine resources to which they apply.

In establishing NASCO, special attention was also paid to the need for the restoration and enhancement of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic, while at the same time recognising and allowing for the continued off-shore salmon fisheries interests of the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

Fisheries management in the Faroes, as in other countries, is always a delicate balance between ensuring stability and economic development for the industry now and for the future, we need them both. That is important when we decide catch levels. When stocks are in a bad shape, measures must be taken to reduce catches to allow them to recover. This is done for the future benefit of the fishing industry. The same principles apply for salmon stocks as for stocks of other fish and marine mammals, although the nature of the fishery may be quite different from country to country. In the Faroes, sea fisheries are our major bread-winner and we are working to ensure they can continue to have this role in the future.

NASCO is based mainly on a stock-by-stock approach to management. Since NASCO was established - nearly 20 years ago now - there has been a major evolution in thinking about fisheries management. There is a growing international focus today on the need for a broader view of oceans management, and the need to look at the whole ecosytem in relation to stock management.

These issues were most recently discussed last week in St Petersburg at the Seventh North Atlantic Fisheries Ministers' Conference, which I was unfortunately not able to attend myself. But I fully support the outcome of discussions there, in particular the need to strengthen the scientific basis for assessing ecosystem factors in fisheries management.

This, in my view, should also be a part of on-going discussions on the Precautionary Approach in fisheries management, which is also on NASCO's agenda. Giving salmon stocks the benefit of the doubt means also better understanding what the major factors are in preventing them from making a real come-back. Important work is going on in all the regional bodies in the North Atlantic on these questions, but the teamwork could be better if the North Atlantic as a region is to be a major player in the sustainable fisheries qualifications. Fish and football are not as far from each other as you may think – certainly not here in the Faroes. A coach cannot solve the result, he can only try to control the players. We cannot control nature, we can only try to control ourselves.

I wish you all a productive meeting this week, and hopefully some time off in between to enjoy the fish, the football and, of course, the Faroes – called the land of "maybe" when it comes to the weather, but not when it comes to the hospitality of the Faroese people in welcoming our guests.

With these words I now declare the Nineteenth meeting of the Council of NASCO open.

ANNEX 2

Opening Statement made by the President

Minister, Ladies and gentlemen: I would like to welcome the Parties to this Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization.

I know that I speak for us all when I express our sincere pleasure at being here in these beautiful islands. Many of us will have frequently talked about the Faroe Islands in our negotiations, but luckily you have preserved your islands and kept them unspoilt in their natural environment. The Secretary and I are thankful for the guided tour by Sofus on Sunday, when we could view the countryside with its high cliffs and surprisingly high mountains and beautiful villages nestled in green valleys by the sea. Most picturesque. We know that the wild salmon very much enjoy visiting your islands too.

Ladies and gentlemen: we have a lot to do this week. When I look back just a short time I recall that we decided that we would introduce the Precautionary Approach to all of our work on salmon, not just in NASCO but all the Parties too. This new overarching principle has proved to involve a large amount of re-thinking and a great deal of work. I am very pleased at the progress we have made in the development of the Decision Structure for Management of Salmon Fisheries and of the NASCO Plan of Action for Habitat Protection and Restoration. I am equally keen to see the ongoing results of all of these as they are implemented. Last year we received initial feedback from the Parties on their experiences in applying the Decision Structure, and we have a revised document before us. Yesterday we heard about the initial steps being taken to protect and restore habitat.

Canada and the US: great partnerships - electricity, forestry, petroleum associations and other government bodies and interested groups - to produce substantial improvement, recuperating lost habitat and bringing back salmon.

Russia: detailed inventory of measures and controls on the Kola River and will adapt to other rivers.

Iceland: Much more control of soil erosion, damage from overgrazing plus further protection of habitat.

EU: UK: Clean Air Act has helped in improving salmon returns.

EU: Ireland: Aerial techniques enable them to quantify habitat type and produce a measure of the potential of each river.

EU: Overall the Water Framework Directive would bring all EU countries into one approach which is designed to remove pressures on aquatic systems with great benefit to salmon and other organisms.

Norway: national salmon rivers and fjords protection legislation should be introduced for 2003; with this 2/3 of the total salmon resource will be better protected.

In summary, all Parties felt that loss of habitat had stopped, levelled and many felt that we were gaining. So we have made great strides in developing the Precautionary Approach to

Fisheries Management, and to Habitat, but we still need to review our actions in relation to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics to ensure they are consistent with the Precautionary Approach and determine how social and economic aspects of the salmon can be reconciled with the Precautionary Approach. I chaired the meeting in Vancouver which set the scene for these two new issues and further developed the Decision Structure and I look forward to presenting a report on progress to you.

So here in Torshavn I would like to see the first two subjects addressed under the Precautionary Approach consolidated and the next two launched on their way.

Next, we have an exciting new development, the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board. Here we need to better coordinate existing research and consider how we can bring much more R&D resources to studying the problems of the salmon at sea. Our Secretary chaired the inaugural meeting of the Board in London in December and he will report to us on that meeting. I am keen to launch this initiative solidly here.

Then there is the question of the impacts of aquaculture, as progressed by our Liaison Group. Last year we agreed on Containment Guidelines. I am very glad to welcome the new Chairman of that Group, James Ryan, to our meeting, and I hope that he will be able to report that significant progress has been made in implementing these guidelines and on other areas of cooperation between wild and farmed salmon interests.

We will also need to consider our policy on communications and the issue of the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fisheries.

These are some of the major issues before the Council, but of course, very important work will also have to be done by the three regional Commissions of NASCO this week.

Fortunately there is very little night at this latitude at this time of year, so do not be surprised if I forget to close the meeting until it gets dark! I know that our hosts have arranged some social events and these will be very welcome in what is always a busy week.

There is much to do before Friday, so I will not take more of your time, but I would just like to offer our sincere thanks to you, Mr Minister, and your staff for what you have all done to make us so welcome and for the excellent arrangements.

I will now give the floor to the Parties for Opening Remarks and this year I will revert to alphabetical order and start with Canada.

ANNEX 3

Opening Statements made by the Parties

Opening Statement made by Canada

Thank you, Mr. President, Minister, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Canadian delegation, I want to say how happy we are to be here in the beautiful Faroe Islands. Our hosts have made us feel most welcome and we had the opportunity to see the Islands at their best on Sunday. Since then, those of us from the Atlantic coast have been feeling quite at home with the fog.

We must remind ourselves that NASCO was created to promote conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic through international co-operation.

In the 20 years that NASCO has been in existence, the numbers of documents and papers written and meetings held has been significant. But in the meantime, the number of wild Atlantic salmon has steadily declined.

This is a challenge we must face as it is our responsibility to focus on the steps needed to reverse this trend and follow through on those measures together. It would be beneficial for NASCO to focus on dealing with potential and present impacts on wild Atlantic salmon stocks, and on an ecosystem approach to conservation and restoration of salmon stocks and their habitat.

We need to focus on the actions that will provide the maximum benefit to wild salmon stocks. The steps will not be easy.

Action is needed to reduce the mortality of weak Atlantic salmon stocks. We in Canada know how difficult this is. We have taken action to close all commercial fisheries for Atlantic salmon. Recreational fisheries have been closed. Even fisheries for Aboriginal people have been closed, people who have developed important cultural ties to salmon over the past several millennia.

The impacts of habitat destruction on salmon stocks are now being addressed. We are turning the corner on this, as we heard yesterday. There are positive signs that not only has the destruction stopped, the salmon habitat situation is improving.

We need to maintain a healthy ecosystem for these fish to live in. We need in the future to move towards an ecosystem approach for our work.

The establishment of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board, to direct and co-ordinate NASCO Parties' research programs on salmon survival in the marine environment, should provide significant understanding on this issue. This aspect of salmon survival has emerged as one of the major concerns of all parties with an interest in wild salmon.

Canada remains committed to NASCO's mission of promoting the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through our continued international cooperation.

Thank you.

Opening Statement made by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Mr President, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is a great honour for the Faroe Islands to host this Nineteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO in 2002.

For the people of the Faroe Islands and Greenland the ocean and all its marine resources are the very basis of our existence. Thus the socio-economic impact of management decisions on fisheries is considerable. The salmon fisheries in the Faroe Islands and Greenland are also important to the people in our countries. However I must say that the salmon fishery in the Faroese Fisheries Zone is now an historical activity, since we have not been fishing salmon commercially for many years.

However, this Nineteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO is again a further step forward in discussions between Parties and the role of NASCO in strengthening regional cooperation in the North-East Atlantic and at West Greenland and to study the management of salmon. Important aspects of the ongoing work in NASCO include discussions on the implementation of the Precautionary Approach, liaison with the fish farming industry and the Cooperative Research Fund.

It was many years ago now that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) ratified the NASCO Convention. And for many years we have utilised our resources. When the decision was taken to become a member of NASCO this was based upon the extent to which the salmon stocks concerned feed in the areas of fisheries jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands and Greenland (the grazing fee) and the interests of communities which are particularly dependent upon fisheries. At the same time we more or less gave up the right to fish on the high seas outside our fisheries jurisdiction.

Today the NASCO Convention is not promoting the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic. Today, NASCO represents only 1% of the salmon catches in the North Atlantic and 2% during the last 10 years. It is now time for an expansion of the Convention to include areas and regions where practically all the salmon is taken. Why should we otherwise continue to be a member of an Organization where no fishing or allocations of quotas are on our agenda?

Also of great concern is the high proportion of unreported catches of salmon, which are estimated to be several times higher than the combined quotas of the Faroe Islands and Greenland. Although unreported catches may have decreased from 32% to 27.5% during the last four years, the level remains at a constant high of about 1000 tonnes each year. The reason for this apparent decline is the increased catches. It is of major importance that NASCO focuses on this issue.

Many other factors are affecting the salmon stocks, such as pollution, habitat damage, by-catches of post-smolts and impacts from aquaculture. All these factors reduce the spawning opportunities and the survival of wild salmon and the effects of this damage are more severe than the effects of the fisheries by the Faroe Islands and Greenland.

For many years our quotas have been significantly reduced to the present level. The fishery has only been on a precautionary basis during these years. However, we would like to stress

our right to fish and maintain a sustainable utilisation of the stocks based upon the best scientific advice presented to NASCO, bearing in mind the Precautionary Principle.

A research fishery has been recognised as being of major importance to the scientific programme and such a programme was recommended by ICES. This issue needs to be discussed. With a large herring stock, together with mackerel and blue whiting, the role of salmon in the ecosystem in North-East Atlantic needs to be further investigated.

The proposed Salmon Research Fund will greatly improve the possibilities for Parties like the Faroes and Greenland to participate in large-scale salmon research on mortality at sea.

We are looking forward to hearing and sharing views which may provide inspiration for solutions for rational utilisation of the fisheries resources in the North Atlantic with the purpose of ensuring sustainable fisheries for the future.

Opening Statement made by the European Union

Mr. President, Minister, Distinguished Delegates and Observers:

On behalf of the European Union, I would like to express my delight at being here in Tórshavn for this the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO. This is not the first time I have been here in the Faroe Islands, nor is it my first time in this very friendly capital of Tórshavn. I know how beautiful these islands are and I would like to have said that there was a view here distracting me from the proceedings but unfortunately the fog is hiding it.

Within the family of the European Union, our interests remain as wide and varied as ever. For the first time, we include representatives from Germany, where I am happy to say that the wild Atlantic salmon have started to make a comeback with the help of their Irish and Swedish partners. I can only emphasise the increasing desire from all parts of my delegation to see NASCO continue to further its work, taking appropriate and precautionary steps for the future of the wild Atlantic salmon.

In 2001, I was disappointed that, in the North-East Atlantic Commission, we were unable to have consensus on a regulation for the catches of salmon within that Commission's area of responsibility. In the event, we agreed not to set a quota for 2002. However, I am very satisfied that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands) used the Precautionary Approach in their management and was responsible in this fishery, deciding not to exploit the resource. For 2003, I have read the scientific advice very carefully and I see very little change in the current situation. Obviously for 2003, the European Union would ideally like to see the fixing of a TAC.

Regarding the West Greenland Commission, I well recall the difficulties, which arose with regard to reaching agreement on a regulatory measure for the West Greenland fishery for 2001. Once again, I have read the ACFM advice for this year with great care and it is not happy reading. The ACFM is suggesting that there should be no fishery off West Greenland in 2002. I am aware that this would imply a TAC restricted to no more than a subsistence fishery of 20 tonnes. Mr. President, I know that European Union Member States and the Contracting Parties of North America are continuing to make the greatest possible efforts towards significantly reducing or even eliminating the exploitation of multi-sea-winter stocks in their home waters. The situation for my colleagues in North America and Southern Europe remains critical. Nevertheless, I must congratulate the West Greenland Commission on the results of the measure we agreed for 2001. For 2002, I must urge all Parties represented in that Commission, and in particular Denmark (in respect of Greenland), to exercise the maximum possible restraint in order to support the stock rebuilding process and to ensure the future of the wild salmon. Whatever we finally decide must be responsible and in line with the Precautionary Approach.

The Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach met for the third time in Vancouver in March and evaluated the Decision Structure agreed two years ago. They also developed Terms of Reference on how social and economic factors can be taken into account in the application of the Precautionary Approach. Finally, they developed Terms of Reference for a future meeting of the Committee on introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics. On this latter future meeting of the Committee, it is clear that we must work together with the salmon farming industry, redoubling our efforts in the Salmon Liaison Group, where we have

seen so much progress in the last couple of years. Nevertheless, whatever happens, NASCO must take this issue forward with or without the industry.

Yesterday we had a Special Session on Habitat Protection and Restoration and I am pleased to say that the European Union was able to demonstrate to the other NASCO Contracting Parties the extent to which the Precautionary Approach is already being applied to the protection and restoration of salmon habitat in our Member States. The progress made since the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach discussed this issue in February last year has been very encouraging. I would also like to say that I was very impressed by the presentations made by the other Contracting Parties and the subsequent dialogue which ensued.

I must note with great satisfaction that, in the European Union, the management of all the salmon rivers is now based upon the Precautionary Approach. Clearly, there is still much work to be done in this area but I hope we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel.

I am pleased to see the progress we have made on the establishment of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board. The Board met in London last December and established a very important inventory of research, which will enable us to better coordinate our common research needs. However, it is now necessary for the NASCO Contracting Parties to take their responsibilities and make sure at the meeting this week that initial funding is made available to allow the Board to seek future funds and thus function properly for our benefit.

My fellow delegates, it strikes me that NASCO and its Contracting Parties have to go out and educate the world about the plight of the wild Atlantic salmon. NASCO must improve its own image and let people know what is going on in the clearest possible manner. This means that we must become more proactive and produce genuinely readable material from which the outside world can learn. I would challenge all around this table today to find the best means of doing this.

Mr. President, I am delighted to be here once again with all my friends in the NASCO family and to see you once again taking charge of the proceedings. On behalf of my delegation, I wish to thank the Faroese authorities for all the efforts they have made to make us comfortable here in Tórshavn. I must also thank both you and the NASCO Secretariat for all the work that has gone into preparing this meeting.

Finally, Mr. President, Minister, Distinguished Delegates and Observers, my delegation wishes everyone present this week the greatest success in their work. I would remind you that we are here with one purpose - to ensure the future of the wild salmon - and I promise you that my delegation will do all in its power to fulfil this remit. I look forward to a very successful meeting.

Thank you.

Opening Statement made by Iceland

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to be here in the picturesque Faroe Islands, which really makes me feel at home. There is a strong cultural bond between Iceland and the Faroes, which in addition to speaking a very similar language and being the descendants of vikings have a long tradition of catching and eating fish, sea-birds, whales and any other creatures living in the marine ecosystem. Both countries are thus heavily dependent on marine resources for their economy as well as proper management of those resources.

The 2001 angling catches in Iceland improved slightly compared to the 2000 catch, but were still 14 % lower than the 25-year average. As in previous years the reduction is primarily reflected in the two-sea-winter component, which is a dominant year-class in north-coast salmon rivers. This falls in line with the status of two-sea-winter stocks in many countries bordering the Atlantic.

The ICES ACFM has, in fact, repeatedly warned that many multi-sea-winter salmon stocks on both sides of the Atlantic are in a serious state and their exploitation should be reduced or halted. According to the most recent report of the Committee, multi-sea-winter salmon from North America and south-western Europe, including the United Kingdom, continue to be in a perilous state. In view of this, and in line with the Precautionary Approach, all NASCO Parties should exercise prudence in the harvest of two-sea-winter salmon, especially in mixed stock fisheries.

Yesterday we had an interesting session on the state of the freshwater habitat in various countries. It is highly appropriate that NASCO focuses on this issue, since deterioration of the spawning and rearing habitat of salmon in past centuries and decades is one of the primary reason for the decline of salmon populations on a global scale. This habitat can, in some instances, be restored but the restoration of lost salmon runs has often turned out to be an arduous task. Prevention is thus better than cure in this instance.

We certainly have a full agenda at this meeting on diverse issues, many of which are of great concern to salmon managers. Aquaculture needs to be managed in such a way that it does not threaten wild salmon populations. This requires both sensible laws and regulations as well as enforcement of those laws. In many instances the enforcement process lags far behind the legislative process due to shrinking budgets in many sectors. This needs to be taken into account when NASCO introduces new guidelines and protocols.

Another issue of great importance is the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board, which will probably help us to utilize limited government resources in a more economical way to solve the complex questions regarding the fate of the Atlantic salmon while in the sea. There are probably very complex factors at work, including predation of smolts, by-catches in marine fisheries as well as shortage of appropriate food due to adverse oceanographic conditions. We need to find the answers, although the above problems might be very difficult to tackle, let alone solve.

Finally, Mr. President, we would like to thank the NASCO Secretariat as well as our Faroese hosts for the excellent preparations for this meeting, and I feel sure that they will have some social, as well as culinary, surprises for us as the week wears on.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Opening Statement made by Norway

Mr President, Minister, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Norway is very pleased to participate in this Nineteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO here in the Faroe Islands, with magnificent oceanic nature and people with whom we share historic and cultural bonds. The Faroe Islands are situated in the centre of the North-East Atlantic Commission area. In the surrounding seas salmon from all over Europe congregate. It was about time for NASCO members to do the same. This "hot spot" for Atlantic salmon has been in NASCO's and NEAC's focus ever since the establishment of the Organization. The main concern has been salmon fisheries and the Faroese quota. Now the attention is turning towards the marine environment and salmon by-catch in marine fisheries.

There is growing evidence that the long-lasting decline in Atlantic salmon stocks can be explained, to a considerable extent, by increased mortality of salmon at sea. Since this concerns all NASCO members, we have agreed to establish an International Cooperative Salmon Research Programme to identify and explain the causes of increased marine mortality and to explore the possibilities to counteract this mortality. By choosing the Faroe Islands as our meeting place the NASCO members have at least come geographically closer to the answers.

At the end of the twentieth century the international catches of Atlantic salmon reached the bottom line (or at least we hope so). The 1997 nominal catch in Norway was the lowest in a hundred years. In 2000 and 2001 the catches improved significantly and there is now a growing optimism and belief that the dark ages are over. However, uncertainty persists and there is still a host of well-known problems to deal with, like habitat degradation, *Gyrodactylus salaris* and escaped farmed salmon, before the future of the Atlantic salmon is secured.

Lack of knowledge is always a limiting factor, maybe more so in nature management than in any other field. NASCO's strategy for coping with this considerable obstacle is to develop a management practice based on the Precautionary Approach.

Since NASCO adopted the Precautionary Approach in 1998, we have focused on developing guidelines that will aid the Parties to carry it out in practice. In this way NASCO is instrumental in helping its Parties to comply with the Precautionary Principle and the Rio Convention. Norway is very content with this role of NASCO.

We all realize that common guidelines are necessary in order to implement the Precautionary Approach. Developing guidelines is demanding work, and there is always a risk that they will not be applicable in practice, either because they are too general to be of concrete value, or too specific and require much data and information. It is important for the success of this work that we are constantly reminded of our goals, and that we bear in mind that the Precautionary Approach addresses situations where information is uncertain, unreliable or inadequate.

We look forward to fruitful discussions on these and other items on the agenda. Finally, I would like to thank our hosts and the NASCO Secretariat for providing such a hospitable and inspiring environment for our discussions.

Thank you, Mr President.

Opening Statement made by the Russian Federation

Minister, Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am delighted, on behalf of the Russian delegation and administration of the State Fisheries Committee of the Russian Federation, whom we represent here, to greet all participants at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

Last year, the first year in a new millennium, was not marked by any revolutionary developments in NASCO's work. This, in our opinion, should be viewed as a positive sign because stability and a certain degree of conservatism are much better than revolutionary events. Looking back at the history of our country, we can confidently state this. At the same time the work of the Organization continued progressively, and this inspires optimism although there are some problems.

Of course, all of us have, in the first place, great concerns about continuing low abundance of salmon stocks, and a joint meeting between NASCO, NPAFC and IBSFC held in March this year has demonstrated the diversity of the factors which could impact on the abundance of salmon and how fragmentary, and sometimes contradictory, our knowledge of the marine life of salmon is. Therefore, we fully endorse the initiative taken by NASCO to give more attention to research of salmon life at sea by setting up the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board. At the same time I want to refer you to the fact that this is not the first period of prolonged depressed status of Atlantic salmon stocks. However, the factors which were behind previous declines and the current one are different. If irrational exploitation of salmon both at sea and in homewaters was previously a major factor contributing to the decline of stocks in the last decade of the previous century and today, there are other factors which, in our firm conviction, play a key role. In the first place, global warming of the climate should be noted, as well as deterioration of salmon habitat caused by human activities. In general, the higher the level of civilization, the stronger, to our regret, its adverse overall impact on the animal world, and on Atlantic salmon in particular.

In this light, efforts now made by NASCO to implement the Precautionary Approach with regard to salmon habitat are quite opportune. However, probably, the pace at which these issues are being resolved and the readiness of the Parties involved in the development of these principles and their implementation does not fully satisfy the dynamics of the present day. Nevertheless, there is an obvious willingness by all Parties to address these issues, which means that they will be tackled.

Of no lesser importance in the work of NASCO are issues relating to the impacts of aquaculture on the stocks of wild salmon. Until recently, this problem has only had indirect implications for Russia. However, last year first salmon farms were set up in the western part of the Kola Peninsula, and cooperation with the farming industry has become an important topic. Genetic diversity and health of wild salmon are at great risk, therefore a positive dialogue between NASCO and the farming industry on issues of mutual concern is very important. However, overwhelming rates of development of aquaculture in the world today urge us to strengthen our efforts to have more progress in resolving these issues, with the Liaison Group certain to play a key role in this process.

In general, despite all the complexity of issues handled by NASCO, the work between the last and this Annual Meeting was fruitful. In the Russian delegation's view, the role of the

NASCO Secretariat and its President should be particularly noted when this Organization addresses all major issues relating to the conservation of wild stocks.

The Nineteenth Annual Meeting is being held in a country where the severe climate could be expected to predetermine the harsh nature of people living here. Therefore, we were pleasantly amazed by the warm hospitality of our hosts and benevolence of the people we have met. Russia and the Faroe Islands have long-standing strong relations, particularly in fisheries. Our partnership has been tested during many years of cooperation, beneficial for both countries. We wish the Faroese people peace and prosperity.

And lastly, I would like to wish all of you successful work during this Annual Meeting and express my confidence that it will be, as usual, productive.

Thank you for your attention.

Opening Statement made by the United States of America

Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is my great pleasure to participate in this Nineteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO. I would like to extend the compliments and gratitude of the United States to our hosts here in the beautiful Faroe Islands. Last year was my first year representing the United States in NASCO and I was very impressed with the cooperative and collaborative spirit demonstrated by all Parties. I cannot think of a better example of this than our efforts to develop last year's innovative quota agreement for the fishery off Greenland.

At the 2001 NASCO meeting, the United States announced the listing of US Atlantic salmon populations as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. During the past year we have been working with our federal, state and private partners to identify and implement measures necessary to protect and recover these populations. We will soon be issuing a draft recovery plan that will integrate ongoing efforts and establish a blueprint for recovery. Recovery will not be quick or easy and requires a long-term commitment to minimize threats to the species and their habitats. Despite these exhaustive efforts, the ICES ACFM advice clearly articulated that there is a zero chance that returns to US rivers will meet conservation spawning targets in 2003.

NASCO and its Contracting Parties should be commended for recognizing that stock preservation and recovery cannot be accomplished by commercial fishery regulations alone. NASCO has demonstrated leadership by taking critical and difficult steps to apply the Precautionary Approach to the broad range of its work. The presentations yesterday provided tangible evidence of the actions Contracting Parties are taking to implement the action plan for habitat. We are pleased with the progress NASCO has made in improving the decision framework for fisheries management, and we look forward to reviewing the application and effectiveness of that tool. We are confident that the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach will achieve positive results as it turns its focus to aquaculture and socio-economics.

Our scientific advisors have expressed clear concern about harvesting salmon in mixed stock fisheries, particularly for fisheries exploiting individual river stocks that are at low levels. ICES warns that weak stocks may not be adequately protected by short-term quota agreements that consider the status of a mixed stock in aggregate. The implications of this advice are of key concern to the United States. Our endangered populations are most certainly among the weakest within the mixed stock complex. In order to address this concern, ICES recommends managing on the basis of achieving conservation limits simultaneously in multiple regions while ensuring tangible increases for stocks in the most critical need of rebuilding. We welcome this suggestion by ICES and believe it provides NASCO managers with ways to take into consideration the relative health of the various components of the mixed stock. Importantly, this approach is also consistent with the Precautionary Approach by reducing the potential for irreversible change in the form of extinction of stocks.

We also have clear guidance from the ICES ACFM report that decision thresholds should be established based on more precautionary probability levels. Agreement on management measures that only have a 50% chance of reaching conservation targets, given the uncertainty in input data and modelling approaches, greatly increases the potential for irreversible

damage to individual stock components contributing to mixed stock fisheries. Because of the critically endangered status of some populations of Atlantic salmon, we strongly endorse management in a way that considers differences in stock status and is more risk-averse. Of particular note is the advice of ICES that the increasing advantage associated with each additional spawner in under-seeded river systems makes a strong case for a conservative management strategy. For these reasons, the US policy is simple and succinct – every fish counts and all sources of mortality to US Atlantic salmon should be reduced to the lowest possible level.

We note that the ICES report reaffirms that the consistent downward trends in marine survival of smolts suggests that returns are strongly influenced by factors in the marine environment. We are pleased that NASCO has established an International Cooperative Salmon Research Board to coordinate ongoing research and to facilitate collaboration and funding for additional research to shed light on this important issue. Making progress on this initiative is the key to the future of Atlantic salmon and will require the full support and participation of all of NASCO's Contracting Parties and NGOs.

Before closing, I would like to thank the NASCO Secretariat and the President for all of the hard work they have invested in preparation for this meeting and to our hosts for the wonderful accommodation. The United States looks forward to a productive meeting.

ANNEX 4

Opening Statements made by Inter-Government Organizations

Opening Statement made by the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission

Mr President, Minster, Secretary, distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Thank you for inviting IBSFC to your annual meeting. The contacts between our organizations have, so to speak, already become a tradition. Mr President, I would like to make three brief remarks:

First, I want to refer to the "Joint Meeting on Causes of Marine Mortality of Salmon" held in March this year in Vancouver, B.C., Canada which was co-sponsored by NASCO, NPAFC, IBSFC, ICES and PICES. This meeting was an extraordinary event, because it was the first joint meeting of all international fishery organizations and scientific organizations dealing with and responsible for salmon. It was also the second meeting of this type worldwide after the International Tuna Commissions Joint Meeting in 2000 in Bangkok. I want to take this opportunity to thank NASCO, and in particular Malcolm Windsor, for initiating the process that led to this first joint meeting of the Salmon Commissions. While most of the contributions presented at the meetings came from the NASCO and NPAFC regions, the IBSFC was also able to contribute with four speakers from the Baltic Sea region.

Secondly, I followed with great interest your session on "Habitat Protection and Restoration". IBSFC is faced with the same problem and Habitat Protection and Restoration is a key element in our "IBSFC Salmon Action Plan 1997-2010". Under the Medium and Short Term strategies to protect the wild salmon populations it is stated that:

- "wild salmon habitats should be improved taking into account the local circumstances of rivers;
- an inventory should be made of the barriers and obstacles for wild salmon migrations and describing the quality of their habitats."

Finally, I would like to inform you of the latest developments in IBSFC concerning salmon. Last year I was in a position to inform of the progress made in protecting and restoring the wild salmon stocks in the Baltic Sea region. ICES had considered at the beginning of 2001 that most stocks are improving, but still not all. During a joint seminar of IBSFC and the Helsinki Commission (the Baltic Sea Environment Organization) in February this year the Chairman of the Swedish Fishermen's Organization stated that:

"The IBSFC Salmon Action Plan has been a 100% success story".

However, further effort is needed to protect the wild stocks, in particular in smaller rivers where the recovery is still very low. Our Commission is now focusing on the utilisation of the surplus of reared salmon in the Baltic Sea. Next week our Salmon Action Plan Surveillance Group will have its Sixth meeting with the goal of further developing a new harvesting strategy which includes Terminal Fishery Areas in coastal waters as defined by the Commission in September 2001. This will not be an easy task, but the time is ripe for such a new approach which would also help to take pressure from the mixed wild and reared fishery in the offshore areas.

Thank you Mr President.

Opening Statement made by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

ICES is pleased to be present at the NASCO Annual Meetings and ICES reaffirms its commitments to provide scientific advice based on "best scientific information and free from political influence". The organisation of the scientific work and the provision of advice is currently under review as the MoUs between Fisheries Commissions and ICES are now up for review, as we agreed when these were signed. Since that time, we have seen major changes in the basis on which the advice is formulated through further development of the Precautionary Approach, and also ICES sees increasing interest, often a critical interest, on the part of the stakeholders. This is a welcome step forward. These changes are among the elements that NASCO, ICES and the Fisheries Commissions together will need to examine in the coming months.

I conclude by wishing NASCO delegates, participants and experts a successful meeting.

ANNEX 5

Opening Statements made by Non-Government Organizations

NGO Joint Opening Statement

Mr President, Minister and distinguished Delegates, I am pleased to present the joint statement on behalf of all 14 NGOs present today.

West Greenland

We read this year's ICES advice with our usual interest and congratulate those responsible for a comprehensive document. There is one sentence which stands out in the report, on page 34:

"ICES re-iterates that, in order to meet conservation limits in the whole of North America, there should be no catch at West Greenland."

Today, the West Greenland Fishery is the only remaining commercial fishery harvesting mixed populations of Atlantic salmon of both North American and European origin. Although we are grateful for the restraint shown by Greenland in recent years, we now urge adherence to the Precautionary Approach and ask you to heed the ICES advice by adopting a zero commercial quota for 2002. We recognise the economic and social importance of salmon to the Greenland fishermen, and that they are deserving of fair and equitable compensation for suspending their fishery. We urge the Parties to develop a long-term conservation agreement with fair compensation, while maintaining a reasonable fishery for internal consumption.

I would draw your attention to the written statement by ASF and WWF on this subject.

European Homewater Fisheries

In 2001 ICES estimates that 33% of the catch at West Greenland was of European origin, principally from the southern European stock component (UK and Ireland). This equates to a catch of around 14 tonnes or 3,500 fish.

In contrast, homewater net fisheries in coastal waters of the North-East Atlantic Commission area harvested 1,557 tonnes. In-river catches totalled 1,147 tonnes, but exploitation of these stocks can and should be managed on a sustainable basis according to spawning escapement.

To emphasise the contrast, the catch of the English North-East coast fishery last year was 29,000 fish and that of the Irish commercial fishery a staggering 237,000 fish. One component, the Irish drift net fishery, is particularly damaging because it intercepts salmon from all Southern European countries, including France, Spain and Germany. While the Irish fishery consists mainly of grilse and is not comparable with the Greenland fishery, ICES has highlighted the historic low level of the PFA for the Southern European stock and the damage caused by mixed stock fisheries.

The NGOs believe that the UK and Ireland must do more to reduce home-water exploitation in coastal drift net fisheries. In Scotland, drift nets were banned in 1962.

While we have welcomed the provision of some matching funds by the UK to assist with net buy-outs in England and Northern Ireland, and the imposition of quotas on commercial nets in the Irish Republic, these measures are insufficient. Whereas Canada provided $72 million

to buy out its commercial fishery, the UK has provided £1.5m in Northern Ireland and only £0.75m in England to buy out the remaining 70 nets in the north-east coast fishery, a sum which is proving totally inadequate. We call on the UK Government to use every opportunity to accelerate the closure of this fishery.

The quota reductions (more properly District TACs) in the Irish Republic average only 6% on the 2001 catch of 237,000 fish and are woefully inadequate. The scientific advice provided to the Irish Government recommended a reduction of closer to 40%. We call on them to follow this scientific advice and implement substantial reductions as soon as practically possible.

We urge these nations in particular to demonstrate a real commitment to salmon conservation by implementing appropriate legislation and allocating substantial funds to assist the private sector in achieving compensated closure of drift net fisheries.

I draw your attention to the written statement by EAA on this subject, already circulated.

By-catches

We note with grave concern the information relating to by-catches of post-smolts in the pelagic mackerel fishery in the Norwegian Sea. The possible by-catch of up to 900,000 post-smolts could be a significant factor in marine mortality of European salmon.

We endorse the ACFM advice for further research but strongly urge the application of the Precautionary Approach to minimise the impact of this fishery on post-smolt survival.

How NASCO Governments respond to this potential crisis will be a public test of their commitment to the application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon management.

We will return to this subject in our statement to the North-East Atlantic Commission.

Aquaculture

The impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon stocks continue to concern all NGOs.

With 22 years of uninterrupted growth, farmed Atlantic salmon production reached 965,000 tonnes in 2001. This phenomenal growth has outstripped development by governments of regulatory frameworks that would lead to environmental sustainability.

We commend NASCO for the 1994 Oslo Resolution and more recent guidelines on containment, but all rely on industry self-regulation and voluntary action. Although some progress is being made, it is painfully slow, and poor performers and reluctant participants are dragging good operators down.

We call on NASCO Governments to create a level playing-field through legislation that makes the environmentally sustainable conduct of aquaculture mandatory across the international salmon farming industry.

I draw your attention to the detailed suggestions for enforceable codes of environmental best practice in the joint written statement by five UK NGOs which we all support.

Further, the NGOs call for designation of aquaculture exclusion zones to protect wild salmon where the industry is not already established or where important wild stocks have been seriously impacted by salmon farming.

In this regard, we are awaiting the outcome of the Norwegian Government decision in relation to the recommendations of their Wild Salmon Committee, set up in 1997. Ten Norwegian NGOs, including those present today, are supporting the Committee's proposal for the creation of nine national salmon regions where all salmon farming will be prohibited.

I draw your attention to the "Call for action", issued by WWF and ASF, on the subject of aquaculture impacts.

Gyrodactylus

The NGOs are unanimous in expressing their gravest concern about the impacts of this parasite on wild salmon populations. We urge the Parties to give more priority both to eradication measures in countries where it has become established, and to give greater emphasis to measures to prevent transmission of the parasite to other countries where it is not yet present.

We will return to this subject in more detail in our statement to North-East Atlantic Commission.

Predation

The number of seals (grey and common) continues to increase around Scotland, but perhaps of greater importance is the steady increase in the number of haul-out sites and breeding colonies in close proximity to the estuaries of salmon rivers. The results of recent research show that seals feeding off-shore tend to be bottom feeders; the fractions of the seal population most likely to target salmon are those which occupy the haul-out sites and/or those which tend to use pupping sites closest to salmon rivers. There is therefore an urgent need to investigate the creation of seal exclusion zones possibly utilising existing non-lethal techniques such as seal scarers in the first instance.

I would draw your attention to the written statement by Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland on this subject.

Summary

To summarise, the principal concerns of the NGOs are as follows:

1. Adoption of a zero quota at West Greenland and consideration of a long-term compensation agreement funded by interested parties.

2. More commitment from the Parties, and the UK and Ireland in particular, towards the reduction of home-water drift net fisheries.

3. Adoption of the Precautionary Approach to the impact of pelagic mackerel fishing on post-smolt survival in the Norwegian Sea.

4. Adoption of a mandatory code of conduct aimed at achieving environmental sustainability for the salmon farming industry.

5. Creation of salmon farming exclusion zones to protect wild salmon stocks where appropriate.

6. Investigation of the possibility of creating seal exclusion zones in the vicinity of salmon river estuaries.

Written statements

Can I also draw your attention to the following written statements which amplify these concerns:

- Atlantic Salmon Federation and World Wildlife Fund – Impact of the West Greenland Fishery on North American stocks

- European Anglers Alliance – Home-water Fisheries in the EU

- Salmonid fisheries forum (Association of Salmon Fishery Boards, Atlantic Salmon Trust, Scottish Anglers National Association and Salmon and Trout Association)
  - Aquaculture code of conduct
  - Joint statement with Scottish Quality Salmon

- World Wildlife Fund and Atlantic Salmon Federation – Call to Action

- Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland – Seal predation

NGO protocols

Finally, can I draw your attention to the draft operating protocols for NGOs which have already been circulated as Council Paper CNL(02)34. I must stress that this document has been drawn up primarily as a set of internal guidelines for NASCO NGOs. It was circulated to the Secretary as a matter of courtesy. These Protocols are still under discussion and development.

Mr President, Delegates, that concludes our joint statement; thank you for your attention.

Opening Statement made by the World Wildlife Fund US and Atlantic Salmon Federation

Mr. Minister, Mr. President, Mr. Secretary, distinguished delegates and non-governmental organizations, members of the public, on behalf of the World Wildlife Fund and the Atlantic Salmon Federation, I will be making a statement regarding Council paper CNL(02)8 entitled "NASCO Communications".

Mr. President, let me begin by saying that NASCO's history of cooperation among governments, non-governmental organizations and others has been one that we believe has been of enormous benefit to the international conservation efforts aimed at wild Atlantic salmon. Indeed, back in 1978, the Atlantic Salmon Federation and the Atlantic Salmon Trust sponsored an international symposium on the subject of wild Atlantic salmon conservation. What emerged from the symposium was a Resolution calling for the creation of an international treaty focussed solely on Atlantic salmon. Negotiations ensued and in 1981 a treaty was adopted. NASCO was established in 1983.

As Council paper CNL(02)8 suggests, there are rules for both NGO and media participation at the meetings of NASCO. We believe that the present rules with the continued improvements in transparency and NGO participation have served both NASCO and the wild Atlantic salmon well.

Inevitably, over the course of cooperative efforts among varied interests there will be disagreements over both substance and process. As Council paper CNL(02)8 indicates there appear to have been only 2 instances in the 19-year history of NASCO where such concerns were raised. Accordingly, we do not believe that the proposal to restrict an accredited NGO's ability to communicate with the public media is necessary or appropriate. Indeed, we believe it would do a disservice to the positive work of NASCO.

We believe that the public media has played an important role in helping to educate and inform the public about the work of NASCO and the plight of wild Atlantic salmon. Permitting the media to be present at NASCO meetings of the Council and the Commissions has only enhanced NASCO's credibility in the public's mind and has allowed for more informed discourse across the North Atlantic region. Accordingly, we believe that the proposal to restrict the media's participation only to the Opening Session of NASCO would represent a step back in the efforts of all those concerned with the conservation of Atlantic salmon.

Lastly, we believe there are alternatives to the proposal regarding non-participating NGOs. Not all NGOs necessarily have issues at each NASCO meeting. Accommodation should be made for those NGOs not needing to attend each meeting, taking into account the need to assist the Secretariat's intersessional communications work.

Mr. President, diversity of opinion and healthy discussions have been the hallmark of NASCO's success. We look forward to working cooperatively and proactively on communications. If I may echo the remarks of the distinguished Chair of the Canadian delegation, I sincerely hope that we continue to keep the "focus on the fish" at NASCO.

Thank you Mr. President for the opportunity to make this statement.

ANNEX 6

List of Participants

* Denotes Head of Delegation

CANADA

*Mr David Bevan	Representative Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Jim Gillespie	Representative Quispamsis, New Brunswick
Mr Pierre Tremblay	Representative Sainte-Foy, Quebec
Mr Jacque Robichaud	President of NASCO Ottawa, Ontario
Mrs Julia Barrow	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mrs Monique Begin	Societé de la faune et des parcs du Quebec, Quebec
Mr Peter Cronin	New Brunswick Department of Natural Resources and Energy, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Ms Nell Halse	New Brunswick Salmon Growers' Association, Letang, New Brunswick
Mr Murray Hill	Department of Fisheries, Pictou, Nova Scotia
Mr Pierre Lemieux	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Maurice Levesque	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Moncton, New Brunswick
Mr Paul Lyon	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Brian Meaney	Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, St John's, Newfoundland
Mr David Meerburg	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Rex Porter	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, St John's, Newfoundland
Mr Berkley Slade	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, St John's, Newfoundland

Mr Serge Tremblay	Societé de la faune et des parcs du Quebec, Quebec
Mr Tim Young	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario

DENMARK (IN RESPECT OF THE FAROE ISLANDS AND GREENLAND)

* Mr Kaj P Mortensen	Representative Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Mr Árni Olafsson	Representative Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Copenhagen, Denmark
Mr Emanuel Rosing	Representative Greenland Home Rule, Nuuk, Greenland
Mr Siverth Amondsen	KNAPK (Organisation of Fishermen and Hunters in Greenland), Nuuk, Greenland
Mr Leif Fontaine	KNAPK (Organisation of Fishermen and Hunters in Greenland), Nuuk, Greenland
Dr Jan Arge Jacobsen	Fisheries Laboratory of the Faroes, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Mr Per Kanneworff	Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Copenhagen, Denmark
Mr Andras Kristiansen	Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Mr Lars Dyrlov Madsen	Greenland Home Rule, Nuuk, Greenland
Mr Jan Mortensen	Salmon Vessel Owners Association, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Mr Niels Jakup Nielsen	Salmon Vessel Owners Association, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Mr Sofus Poulsen	Faroese Commercial Attaché, Aberdeen, UK
Ms Maria Roin	Ministry of Trade and Industry, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Ms Kate Sanderson	Department of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Ms Ulla S Wang	Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Mr Hedin Weihe	Ministry of Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, Torshavn, Faroe Islands

EUROPEAN UNION

*Mr Ole Tougaard	Representative European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
Mr Andrew Thomson	Representative European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
Ms Carmen Beraldi	Secretaria General de Pesca, Madrid
Dr Malcolm Beveridge	SEERAD, Pitlochry, UK
Mr Pablo Caballero	Xunta de Galicia, Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Ms Hazel Campbell	Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure, Belfast, UK
Mr Richard Cowan	DEFRA, London, UK
Dr Walter Crozier	Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, Bushmills, UK
Mr David Dunkley	SEERAD, Edinburgh, UK
Dr Jaakko Erkinaro	Finnish Game and Fisheries Research Institute, Oulu, Finland
Mr Lal Faherty	Western Regional Fisheries Board, Galway, Ireland
Dr Ulrich Fassbender	Federal Ministry of Consumer Protection, Food and Agriculture, Bonn, Germany
Mr Peter Funegard	National Board of Fisheries, Gothenburg, Sweden
Dr Paddy Gargan	Central Fisheries Board, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Jose Luis Gonzalez Serrano	Secretaria General de Pesca Maritima, Madrid, Spain
Mr Michael Kennedy	Western Regional Fishery Board, Galway, Ireland
Ms Eija Kirjavainen	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Fisheries and Game, Helsinki, Finland
Dr Guy Mawle	Environment Agency, Bristol, UK

Mr Patrick McHale	Department of the Marine and Natural Resources, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Pentti Munne	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Fisheries and Game, Helsinki, Finland
Dr Niall Ó Maoileidigh	Marine Institute, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Ted Potter	Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science, Lowestoft, UK
Dr Ken Whelan	The Marine Institute, Newport, Ireland

ICELAND

*Mr Arni Isaksson	Representative Directorate of Freshwater Fisheries, Reykjavik

NORWAY

*Mr Arne Eggereide	Representative Directorate for Nature Management, Trondheim
Mr Raoul Bierach	Representative Directorate for Nature Management, Trondheim
Mr Øyvind Walsø	Representative Directorate for Nature Management, Trondheim
Dr Lars Petter Hansen	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Oslo

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

*Dr Boris Prischepa	Representative Murmanrybvod, Murmansk
Mr Alexey Grushko	State Committee for Fisheries, Moscow
Ms Svetlana Krylova	Murmanrybvod, Murmansk
Mr Vladimir Moskalenko	PINRO, Murmansk
Ms Elena Samoylova	PINRO, Murmansk
Dr Alexander Zubchenko	PINRO, Murmansk

USA

*Mr Rolland Schmitten	Representative National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland
Mr Stephen Gephard	Representative Department of Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries Division, Old Lyme, Connecticut
Mr George Lapointe	Representative Maine Department of Marine Resources, Augusta, Maine
Mr Edward Baum	Atlantic Salmon Unlimited, Hermon, Maine
Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker	National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland
Ms Nikki Brajevich	US Department of State, Office of Marine Conservation, Washington, DC
Dr Russell Brown	National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Mr Stephen Chase	Atlantic Salmon Federation, St Andrews, New Brunswick
Ms Mary Colligan	National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, Massachusetts
Dr Jaime Geiger	US Fish and Wildlife Service, Hadley, Massachusetts
Mr Fred Kircheis	Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, Augusta, Maine
Mrs Boyce Thorne-Miller	SeaWeb, Dickerson, Maryland

INTER-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Mr Tore Jakobsen	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Copenhagen, Denmark
Mr Hans Lassen	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Copenhagen, Denmark
Dr Walter Ranke	International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission, Warsaw, Poland

Ms Ulla S Wang	North Atlantic Marine Mammal Commission, Tromso, Norway (also representing Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Mr William Taylor Ms Sue Scott	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada
Captain Jeremy Read	Atlantic Salmon Trust, UK
Mr Chris Poupard	European Anglers Alliance
Mr Johan Svensson	Faroe Islands Sportsfishing Association, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
Mr John Gregory	Institute of Fisheries Management, UK
Mr Patrick Byrne	National Anglers Representative Association, Ireland
Mr Bjornulf Kristiansen	Norges Bondelag (Norwegian Farmers Union), Norway
Mr Aage Wold	Norskelakseelver (Norwegian Salmon Rivers), Norway
Mr Oyvind Fjeldseth Mr Espen Farstad	Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers, Norway
Mr William Shearer	Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland, UK
Mr Paul Knight	Salmon and Trout Association
Mr Patrick Fothringham	Salmon and Trout Association & Association of Scottish Fishery Boards
Mr Ian Calcott	Scottish Anglers National Association, UK
Ms Maren Esmark	World Wide Fund for Nature, Norway
Mr Thomas Grasso	World Wildlife Fund, USA

SALMON LIAISON GROUP REPRESENTATION

Mr James Ryan	Chairman, Salmon Liaison Group Irish Salmon Growers Association, Ireland

SECRETARIAT

Dr Malcolm Windsor	Secretary
Dr Peter Hutchinson	Assistant Secretary
Miss Margaret Nicolson	PA to the Secretary
Mrs Sophie Ross	PA

ANNEX 7

CNL(02)39

Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Council
Hotel Foroyar, Torshavn, Faroe Islands
3-7 June, 2002

Agenda

1. Opening Session

2. Adoption of Agenda

3. Election of Officers

4. Administrative Issues

4.1 Secretary's Report

4.2 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

4.3 NASCO Policy on Communications

4.4 Report on the Activities of the Organization

4.5 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

5.1 Scientific Advice from ICES

5.2 Report of the Standing Scientific Committee

5.3 Catch Statistics and their Analysis

5.4 Review of International Salmon-Related Literature Published in 2001

6. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Salmon Stocks

6.1 Measures Taken in Accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

6.2 The Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management

(a) Special Session on Habitat Protection and Restoration – Reports by the Parties on the Development and Implementation of Habitat Protection and Restoration Plans

(b) Evaluation and Development of the Decision Structure for Management of North Atlantic Salmon Fisheries
(c) Development of Terms of Reference for consideration of the implications of socio-economic issues for application of the Precautionary Approach
(d) Development of Terms of Reference for Application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics
(e) Future actions in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach

6.3 Unreported Catches

6.4 International Cooperative Salmon Research

(a) Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board
(b) Future actions in relation to International Cooperative Salmon Research

6.5 Report on the Joint Meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC on Factors Influencing Marine Survival of Salmon

6.6 Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area

6.7 By-catch of Atlantic Salmon

6.8 Impacts of Aquaculture on Wild Salmon Stocks

(a) Returns made in accordance with the Oslo Resolution
(b) Liaison with the salmon farming industry

6.9 Transgenic Salmon

6.10 St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

6.11 Predator-related Mortality

6.12 Report on Initiatives within FAO of relevance to NASCO

6.13 Reports on Conservation Measures Taken by the Three Regional Commissions

7. Other Business

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

9. Report of the Meeting

10. Press Release

ANNEX 8

Council

CNL(02)40

2003 Budget, 2004 Forecast Budget and Schedule of Contributions

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
2003 Budget and 2004 Forecast Budget (Pounds Sterling)

Section	Description	Expenditure	
		Budget 2003	Forecast 2004
1	Staff-related costs	268,880	276,930
2	Travel and subsistence	32,750	39,610
3	Research and advice	30,630	31,500
4	Contribution to Working Capital Fund	28,000	0
5	Meetings	25,500	8,630
6	Office supplies, printing and translation	28,000	24,500
7	Communications	14,650	15,080
8	Headquarters Property	-25,860	-24,860
9	Office furniture and equipment	7,250	7,460
10	Audit and other expenses	9,000	9,250
11	Tag Return Incentive Scheme	5,000	5,000
12	International Cooperative Salmon Research Fund	12,000	0
	Total	435,800	393,100

		Revenue	
		Budget 2003	Forecast 2004
13	Contributions - Contracting Parties	447,800	404,100
14	Miscellaneous Income - Interest	6,000	6,000
15	Stabilisation	-18,000	-17,000
16	Surplus or Deficit (-) from 2001	0	0
	Total	435,800	393,100

Adjustments to 2002 contributions (Pounds Sterling)
to take into account confirmed 2000 Catch Statistics

Party	2000 Provisional catch	2000 Confirmed catch	2002 Contribution based on provisional catch	2002 Contribution based on confirmed catch	Adjustment to 2002 contribution
Canada	150	153	29,124	28,971	-153
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	29	29	18,189	18,109	-80
European Union	1,251	1,336	128,616	132,596	+3,980
Iceland	84	85	23,159	23,014	-145
Norway	1,176	1,176	121,839	118,581	-3,258
Russian Federation	124	124	26,774	26,431	-344
USA	0	0	15,569	15,569	0
TOTAL	2,814	2,903	363,270	363,270	0

Note: A positive adjustment represents an underpayment in 2002.

NASCO Draft Budget Contributions for 2002 and Forecast
Budget Contributions for 2003 (Pounds Sterling)

Party	2001 Provisional catch (tonnes)	Contribution for 2003	Adjustment from 2002	Adjusted contribution for 2003	Forecast contribution for 2004
Canada	145	33,934	-153	33,781	30,623
Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	42	23,462	-80	23,381	21,172
European Union	1,428	164,381	+3,980	168,361	148,340
Iceland	87	28,037	-145	27,892	25,301
Norway	1,267	148,012	-3,258	144,754	133,568
Russian Federation	114	30,782	-344	30,439	27,778
USA	0	19,191	0	19,191	17,319
TOTAL	3,083	447,800	0	447,800	404,100

Contributions are based on the Official Catch Returns supplied by the Parties. Column totals can be in error by a few pounds due to rounding.

ANNEX 9

Council

CNL(02)42

NASCO Staff Fund

Rules

CNL(02)42

NASCO Staff Fund

Rules

1. **Application**

1.1 These Rules apply to the NASCO Staff Fund and govern the operation of the Deferred Salary Scheme established by the decision of the Council, CNL(01)49.

2. **Membership**

2.1 Any Secretariat Member may become a Member of the Scheme. Members of the Scheme may, at the discretion of the Council, retain Secretariat Member status, in an honorary or other capacity, while in receipt of benefits from the Scheme.

3. **Contributions**

3.1 Contributions to the Scheme by NASCO and by the Members of the Scheme shall be held in the NASCO Staff Fund, established in accordance with NASCO Financial Rule 6.1, and sub-divided into a separate deferred salary account for each Member.

3.2 The Organization will defer 15.8% of the gross salary of each Member of the Scheme to the Fund or such other amount as is determined by the Council from time to time. Each Member of the Scheme shall defer a minimum of 7.9% of gross salary or such other minimum amount as is determined by the Council from time to time. Members of the Scheme may request that additional contributions be deferred from salary and paid into the Fund. Contributions made to the Fund shall be enhanced by 5% by NASCO as a contribution to investment charges.

3.3 The tax imposed on the salary of Secretariat Members for the benefit of the Organization shall be calculated on the sum remaining after deduction of their contributions to the Fund.

4. **Management of the Fund**

4.1 Contributions retained by NASCO over the deferred period and thereafter may be held on deposit or, should the Member of the Scheme concerned so request, be otherwise invested.

5. **Benefits**

5.1 Each Member of the Scheme shall at all times be fully vested and have entitlement to give notice requesting payment in whole or in part of their individual deferred salary account at any time whilst remaining a Secretariat Member or thereafter. Such benefits are considered as tax-paid deferred salary payments.

5.2 In the event of death of a Member of the Scheme the Secretary shall return the full value of that Member's deferred salary account to that Member's spouse or such other dependant as may have been advised by written notice to the Secretary.

ANNEX 10

CNL(02)45

Conditions for Attendance by Observers at NASCO Meetings

Inter-Government Observers

Representatives of inter-government organizations may attend meetings of the Council and of the regional Commissions of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and may be invited by the President, or the Chairman of a Commission, to make a statement if they so wish.

Non-Government Observers

The conditions governing attendance at NASCO meetings are as follows:

1. The Secretary, in consultation with the President, shall decide whether the objectives of the organization applying are compatible with those of NASCO;

2. The non-government organization shall apply not less than 15 days before the meeting of the Council;

3. No more than two representatives of the non-government organization shall be allowed to attend the meeting;

4. The representatives of the non-government organization shall not be permitted to make any statements of any kind at the meetings except, at the discretion of the President, during the Opening Session and at sessions that are defined "Special Sessions" by the Council. In addition, one joint five-minute statement may be made by non-government organizations at the Opening Session of each Commission meeting;

5. The non-government organization shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary that it has, as an organization, a legitimate interest in the proceedings;

6. Any NGO with observer status to NASCO that has not communicated with the Secretariat or the Contracting Party concerned or attended at least one Annual Meeting of NASCO in the previous three years should cease to be an accredited NGO to NASCO but may reapply in writing to the Secretary;

7. During NASCO's Annual Meeting, following the close of the Opening Session of the Council, accredited NGOs may not issue press releases or other information to the media on agenda items under discussion at the meeting, until after the Council has agreed its own Press Release;

8. The non-government organization shall comply with any other conditions imposed by the Council or by the Secretary;

9. Non-adherence to these conditions by a non-government organization may lead to the suspension of that organization's observer status by the Council for one or more meetings;

10. Observer status shall apply to all plenary sessions of the Council and Commissions, whether they be at the Annual Meeting or at inter-sessional meetings. Observer status shall not apply to meetings of NASCO's Working Groups or Committees.

3. Media Representatives

Media representatives shall be able to attend the meetings of the Council and of the regional Commissions of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) subject to the following conditions:

1) Media representatives shall register with the NASCO Secretariat on arrival at the meeting and provide a Press card or a letter of authorisation or other documentation from the appropriate company;

2) Media representatives may only attend the Opening Session of the Council;

3) No more than two representatives of a particular publication or company shall be allowed to attend the meeting;

4) Media representatives shall not be permitted to make statements at the meetings;

5) The use of cameras and/or recording equipment is permitted during the Opening Session of the Council;

6) At the discretion of the President and Secretary a Press Conference may be held at the close of the Annual Meeting;

7) Media representatives shall comply with these and with any other conditions imposed by the Council or by the Secretary.

ANNEX 11

Council

CNL(02)10

Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management

Only the advice concerning general issues of relevance to the North Atlantic is given in this report. The detailed advice on a Commission area basis is annexed to the report of the Commissions.

INSERT CNL(02)10 – Council only

ANNEX 12

CNL(02)51

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:

    1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings, including unreported catches by country and catch and release, and worldwide production of farmed and ranched salmon in 2002;
    1.2 report on significant developments which might assist NASCO with the management of salmon stocks;
    1.3 provide long-term projections for stock re-building, focussing on trajectories for restoring stocks to target levels above conservation limits;
    1.4 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2002.

2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:

    2.1 describe the key events of the 2002 fisheries and the status of the stocks; [1]
    2.2 evaluate the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in the last five years have been achieved;
    2.3 further develop the age-specific stock conservation limits where possible based upon individual river stocks;
    2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice, if possible based on a forecast of PFA, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits;
    2.5 validate the methodology and further refine the estimate of by-catch of salmon post-smolts in pelagic trawl fisheries for mackerel and provide estimates for other pelagic fisheries that may catch salmon; [2]
    2.6 advise on an appropriate methodology to improve knowledge on the distribution and movements of escaped farmed salmon;
    2.7 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:

    3.1 describe the key events of the 2002 fisheries and the status of the stocks; [1]
    3.2 evaluate the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in the last five years have been achieved;
    3.3 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available;
    3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits;
    3.5 provide an analysis of existing biological and/or tag return data, and recommendations for required data collection, to identify the origin of Atlantic salmon caught at St Pierre and Miquelon;
    3.6 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

4. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:

   4.1 describe the events of the 2002 fisheries and the status of the stocks; [1, 3]
   4.2 evaluate the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in the last five years have been achieved;
   4.3 provide information on the origin of Atlantic salmon caught at West Greenland at a finer resolution than continent of origin (river stocks, country or stock complexes);
   4.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits;
   4.5 provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the model used to provide catch advice and of the impacts of any changes to the model on the calculated quota; [4]
   4.6 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

Notes:

1. In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Any new information on non-catch fishing mortality, of the salmon gear used, and on the by-catch of other species in salmon gear, and of salmon in any new fisheries for other species is also requested.

2. With regard to question 2.5, descriptions (gear type; and fishing depth, location and season) should be provided for all pelagic fisheries that may catch salmon post-smolts.

3. In response to question 4.1, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.1 and 3.1.

4. With regard to question 4.5, "changes to the model" would include the development of any new model.

ANNEX 13

Council

CNL(02)12

Catch Statistics - Returns by the Parties

CNL(02)12

Catch Statistics - Returns by the Parties

1. The Official Catch Statistics, as submitted by the Parties, are tabulated overleaf (Table 1). The figures for 2001 are provisional. These catch statistics, which have been rounded to the nearest tonne, will be used to calculate the contributions to NASCO for 2003 and the adjustment to the 2002 contributions (in the light of the confirmed 2000 catches) unless the Secretary is advised otherwise.

2. Under Article 12 of the Convention, the Secretary shall compile and disseminate statistics and reports concerning the salmon stocks subject to the Convention. Table 2 presents catch statistics for the period 1960-2001 by Party to the NASCO Convention.

3. Tables 1 and 2 are set out in the format for the presentation of catch statistics which was agreed by the Council at its Fifth Annual Meeting. A further, more detailed, record of catch statistics during the period 1960-2001 is provided, for information only, in paper CNL(02)13.

4. For the 2001 catch data, the discrepancy in the combined statistics for the North Atlantic region provided to NASCO by the Contracting Parties and those provided by ICES is 7 tonnes. For some Parties there are a number of minor discrepancies in the catch statistics held by NASCO and those in the ICES report in a number of years since 1986. As previously requested by the Council, we will continue to explore the reasons for these discrepancies, in consultation with the Parties.

Secretary
Edinburgh
3 May, 2002

Table 1: Official Catch Statistics

	Provisional 2001 Catch (Tonnes)	Provisional 2001 Catch according to Sea Age						Confirmed 2000 Catch (Tonnes)
		1SW		MSW		Total		
		No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
Canada *	145	48,760	82	12,102 63		60,862	145	153
Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)	42	-	-	- -		-	-	29
Faroe Islands	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
Greenland	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	21
European Union**	1,428	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,336
Iceland	87	-	-	-	-	-	-	85
Norway	1,267	207,934 416.9		150,806	849.6	358,740	1,266.5	1,176
Russian Federation	114	26,472	60.8	9,493	53.6	35,965	114.4	124
United States of America	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	0

* The breakdown of the Canadian catch is into the categories small (shown under 1SW) and large (shown under MSW) salmon.

** Breakdown of the catch by number and weight according to sea age is available for some EU Member States.

Table 2: Catches of Atlantic Salmon by the Parties to the NASCO Convention

	Canada	Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)	European Union	Finland	Iceland	Norway	Russian Federation	Sweden	USA
1960	1636	60	2641		100	1576	1100	40	1
1961	1583	127	2276		127	1456	790	27	1
1962	1719	244	3894		125	1838	710	45	1
1963	1861	466	3842		145	1697	480	23	1
1964	2069	1539	4242		135	2040	590	36	1
1965	2116	861	3693		133	1900	590	40	1
1966	2369	1338	3549		106	1823	570	36	1
1967	2863	1600	4492		146	2058	883	25	1
1968	2111	1167	3623		162	1752	827	150	1
1969	2202	2350	4407		133	2083	360	76	1
1970	2323	2354	4069		195	1861	448	52	1
1971	1992	2511	3745		204	1847	417	35	1
1972	1759	2146	4261	32	250	1986	462	38	1
1973	2434	2402	4604	50	156	2126	772	73	3
1974	2539	1945	4432	76	225	1973	709	57	1
1975	2485	2086	4500	76	166	1754	811	56	2
1976	2506	1479	2931	66	225	1530	542	45	1
1977	2545	1652	3025	59	130	1488	497	10	2
1978	1545	1159	3102	37	291	1050	476	10	4
1979	1287	1694	2572	26	225	1831	455	12	3
1980	2680	2052	2640	34	249	1830	664	17	6
1981	2437	2602	2557	44	163	1656	463	26	6
1982	1798	2350	2533	83	147	1348	364	25	6
1983	1424	1433	3532	79	198	1550	507	28	1
1984	1112	997	2308	75	159	1623	593	40	2
1985	1133	1430	3002	49	217	1561	659	45	2
1986	1559	1490	3524	38	330	1597	608	53	2
1987	1784	1539	2593	49	250	1385	559	47	1
1988	1311	1136	2833	34	412	1076	419	40	1
1989	1139	701	2450	52	277	905	359	29	2
1990	912	542	1645	59	426	930	316	33	2
1991	711	533	1139	69	505	877	215	38	1
1992	520	260	1506	77	636	867	166	49	1
1993	373	35	1483	70	656	923	140	56	1
1994	355	18	1919	48	448	996	141	44	0
1995	259	86	1852	-	439	839	130	-	0
1996	290	92	1474	-	358	787	131	-	0
1997	229	59	1179	-	154	630	111	-	0
1998	157	17	1183	-	164	740	130	-	0
1999	152	19	1016	-	147	811	102	-	0
2000	153	29	1336	-	85	1176	124	-	0
2001	145	42	1428	-	87	1267	114	-	0

NOTES:

1. The European Union catch from 1995 includes the catches by Finland and Sweden.
2. The catch for Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) includes the catch for Greenland when it was a member of the European Union and the catches up to 1983 by Denmark.
3. Figures from 1986 are the official catch returns to NASCO. Figures to 1986 are based on data contained in the ICES Working Group Reports.
4. The Faroese fishery was subject to compensation arrangements in the period 1991-1998. The West Greenland fishery was subject to compensation agreements in 1993 and 1994.

ANNEX 14

Council

CNL(02)15

Returns under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

CNL(02)15

Returns under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

The request for the return of information required under the NASCO Convention and relevant to the period 1 January - 31 December 2001 was circulated on 4 January 2002. All Parties were requested to make a return even if there had been no changes since the last notification. Where changes have been notified under Article 15, and the laws, regulations and programmes concerned have been lodged with the Secretariat, the information will be incorporated into the Laws, Regulations and Programmes database. Copies of the detailed submissions are available from the Secretariat. A summary of the new actions taken under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention is attached. At the time of preparation of this paper, information has not been received from all EU Member States which have salmon interests. No information is available for France, Portugal and Spain.

Secretary
Edinburgh
3 May, 2002

Returns under Article 14 of the Convention

1. Actions Taken To Make Effective The Provisions Of The Convention *(Article 14, Paragraph 1)*

1.1 The prohibition of fishing for salmon beyond 12* nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. *(Article 2, paragraph 2)*

* 40 nautical miles at West Greenland
* Area of fisheries jurisdiction of the Faroe Islands

Norway

Information on sightings is reported directly to NASCO from the Norwegian Coast Guard Squadron North.

Other Parties

No actions reported by the other Parties.

1.2 Inviting the attention of States not party to the Convention to any matter relating to the activities of the vessels of that State which appears to affect adversely the salmon stocks subject to the Convention. *(Article 2, paragraph 3)*

Canada

In discussions between Canada and France concerning mutual fishing relations, Canada has continued to voice its concern and those of NASCO regarding the state of the Atlantic salmon stocks, emphasising the negative impact of interception catches (St Pierre and Miquelon) on the rebuilding of salmon stocks in Canadian and US rivers. Further to these discussions, Canada is awaiting France's response to a request to allow sampling of the salmon caught by St Pierre and Miquelon fishermen. Such sampling would provide an indication of the area of origin of the salmon caught.

USA

In 2001, the US attempted to discuss the potential for sampling the Atlantic salmon catch at St Pierre and Miquelon. These discussions were halted when the NASCO Council agreed to have the President and Secretary approach France on this issue.

Other Parties

No actions reported by the other Parties.

1.3 Measures to minimise the by-catches of salmon originating in the rivers of the other member. ***(Article 7, paragraph 2)*** **[North American Commission members only]**

No actions reported by either Party.

1.4 Alteration in fishing patterns in a manner which results in the initiation of fishing or increase in catches of salmon originating in the rivers of another Party, except with the consent of the latter. ***(Article 7, paragraph 3)*** **[North American Commission members only]**

No actions reported by either Party.

2. Actions Taken To Implement Regulatory Measures Under Article 13 *(Article 14, Paragraph 1)*

No actions reported by any Party.

Returns under Article 15 of the Convention

3. Laws, Regulations And Programmes Adopted Or Repealed Since The Last Notification *(Article 15, Paragraph 5(a))*

Canada

The province of Quebec introduced a catch and release-only licence in 2001.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No changes reported.

Greenland

The Greenland Home Rule Executive Order No. 29 of 8 August 2001 on Salmon Fishing implemented the new *Ad hoc* Management Programme for the 2001 Fishery at West Greenland, agreed at the Annual Meeting of NASCO in June 2001 (WGC(01)16). The new Executive Order introduced the elements of harvest periods, sub-quotas for each harvest period, short periods of notification to the fishermen on the quota coming into force for the next harvest period, etc.

European Union

Ireland

Statutory Instrument No. 256 of 2000, Carcass Tagging and Logbook Scheme for 2001. Under this instrument all salmon fishermen (commercial and recreational) must apply a coded carcass tag to each salmon caught and provide details of landings and subsequent disposal (sale, storage etc.) in official logbooks. The scheme was introduced for 2001.

Sweden

New regulations regarding the salmon fishery were implemented from 1 July 2001 (FIFS 2001:9). The coastal salmon fishery opens on 31 March (previously the last day in February) and closes on 1 October (previously 15 September). The minimum legal length of salmon in coastal and river fisheries was reduced from 50 to 45 cm. Angling in the River Rönneå is now open until 15 October. Additional restrictions have been implemented on the net fishery in the Rolfsån regarding time of the fishery, net length and depth and net mesh size.

United Kingdom

In England and Wales, the River Tavy (SW Region) Net Limitation Order (NLO) reduced the number of seine nets from 5 to 1.

In Northern Ireland, Fisheries Tagging and Log Book Byelaws and Regulations were introduced on 14 May 2001 in both the Fisheries Conservancy Board (FCB) and Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC) areas of jurisdiction. Regulations were introduced in the FCB area to reduce angling effort which set bag limits and introduced catch and release for spring salmon. In the FCILC area a bag limit was introduced.

In Scotland, the Salmon Conservation (Scotland) Act 2001 came into force on 15 April 2001. As a result new sections were incorporated in the Salmon Act 1986 to make further provision about the conservation of salmon and sea trout in Scotland. It increases the range of measures that can be introduced for the purposes of management and conservation by the Scottish Ministers, either upon application to them by appropriate parties or otherwise. The Western Isles Salmon Fishery District Designation Order 2001 created a Salmon Fishery District extending over the whole of the islands and islets known as the Western Isles or Outer Hebrides. The districts in force prior to this Order were abolished, having been superseded by the new district.

Iceland

A revised aquaculture section of the Salmonid Fisheries Act was passed by the Icelandic Parliament in June 2001, which increased the licensing, regulatory and enforcement responsibilities of the Directorate of Freshwater Fisheries. The relevant section of the Act has not yet been translated into English but will be submitted to the NASCO Secretariat in due course. The details were presented at the Special Liaison Meeting to review measures to minimise impacts of aquaculture on wild stocks held at the Eighteenth Annual Meeting in Mondariz.

Norway

Minor changes to fishing seasons in some fjords in western Norway.

Other Parties

No changes reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

4. Other New Commitments Relating To The Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement And Rational Management Of Salmon Stocks Subject To The Convention *(Article 15, paragraph 5(b))*

Canada

In the province of Newfoundland and Labrador, retention of large salmon has been prohibited for 2002 in areas affected by construction of the Trans-Canada Highway.

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Faroe Islands

No changes reported.

Greenland

The Annual Meeting of NASCO in June 2001 agreed upon the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Agreement for 2001 (WGC(01)14), containing details of the cooperative contributions of the Parties of the West Greenland Commission to the process of collecting biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland in 2001.

European Union

Ireland

A considerable investment in 22 new fish counters has been made in order to monitor stock status and to establish biological reference points and conservation limits for these and other salmon rivers. There are approximately 135 main stem rivers in Ireland supporting salmon stocks. Significant investments in both time and manpower have been made to develop Geographical Information Systems on major catchments for the evaluation of salmon productivity. This will greatly enhance estimates of the productive capacity of all Irish salmon rivers as an input into establishing appropriate conservation limits.

Sweden

A more comprehensive monitoring programme for *Gyrodactylus salaris* in wild salmon rivers was implemented in 2001.

United Kingdom

In England and Wales, netsmen have received compensation payments (from various sources) not to fish for all or part of the season in the following salmon fisheries: Tavy, Tamar, Lynher, Fowey, Usk, Severn, Avon and Stour, and Cumbrian coastal fisheries. A number of mixed-stock fisheries continue to be phased out. In the largest of these, the North East coast fishery, the number of drift net licences has now fallen to 70, a 51% reduction since the phase-out began in 1993.

In England, in 2000, the UK Government announced that it would be providing up to £750,000, subject to matching funds from interested parties, to launch compensation arrangements designed to accelerate the phase-out of mixed-stock salmon net fisheries on a voluntary basis. Discussions with fishermen in the English North East coast fishery and with funding bodies have continued through 2001, but to date there has been no agreement on a possible accelerated phase-out.

In Northern Ireland a commercial salmon fisherman's voluntary buy-out scheme has been introduced and will operate in the FCB area of Northern Ireland during 2002.

The Salmon Management Plans in the FCB and FCILC areas continue to operate and be developed further. An Angling Development Programme funded out of EU Peace Monies will provide assistance for in-river habitat improvements.

In Scotland, the voluntary practice of catch and release in the rod fishery continues to increase, rising from 32% in 2000 to an estimated 39% in 2001. Salmon netsmen repeated their voluntary deferment of the start of the net fishing season by 6 weeks to conserve early-running stocks. Stocking and habitat enhancement schemes reported previously have been maintained throughout Scotland.

Iceland

A regulatory measure came into effect in early 2001 which prohibits the use of fertile salmon in sea cages in areas close to salmon rivers. The details were presented at the Special Liaison Meeting to review measures to minimise impacts of aquaculture on wild stocks at the Eighteenth Annual Meeting in Mondariz.

Norway

National salmon watercourses and fjords

The political process of establishing National Salmon Watercourses and National Salmon Fjords, in which conservation and sustainable use of the wild salmon stocks is given priority, is still in progress and no final decision has been made by the Government in 2001.

National Working Group for Atlantic Salmon

A National Working Group for Atlantic Salmon, appointed by the Directorate for Nature Management in the autumn of 2000, has continued its work in 2001. The Working Group will report on the status of the stocks to both ICES and to the national authorities.

Liming

In 2001, 20 Atlantic salmon rivers were limed in Norway at an annual cost of NOK 45 million (approximately £3.7 million). Most liming projects started during the period 1991 to 1997. It will still take some years before these salmon stocks are re-established. The largest liming projects are in three large watercourses in southern-most Norway: Tovdalselva, Mandalselva and Bjerkreimselva. In Tovdalselva and Mandalselva, the natural Atlantic salmon stocks are extinct due to acidification. Before acidification, during the late 1800s, yearly catches of salmon in the rivers Mandalselva and Tovdalselva were as high as 30 and 20 tonnes respectively. In both rivers a restocking programme is being carried out in connection with the liming programme. The catches are increasing in the river Mandalselva and were about 10 tons last year, but the catches are still low in the river Tovdalselva. Bjerkreimselva had a small population of its natural salmon stock before liming and catches increased significantly during the first couple of years after liming started. In 2001 more than 14 tons of salmon were caught in the river Bjerkreimselva, the highest catch ever in

this river according to official statistics. Financial constraints meant that no new liming projects were initiated in salmon rivers in 2001.

Gyrodactylus salaris

The salmon parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* is among the most serious threats to Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) today. The parasite has been recorded in 42 watercourses in Norway and the salmon stocks in these watercourses are highly threatened or have been lost. Eradication measures have, however, reduced the occurrence of the parasite.

The Norwegian strategy to combat *G. salaris* is based on measures to avoid spreading of the parasite from infected areas to healthy rivers and eradication of the parasite where possible. A monitoring programme has been established to provide an overview of the occurrence of *G. salaris* in Norwegian watercourses and fish-farming facilities. A monitoring programme designed to provide an early warning system for new occurrences of the parasite is necessary so that measures to contain the damage can be implemented. Monitoring will be concentrated in watercourses that are vulnerable to spreading of the infection. Important criteria for selecting the watercourses to be monitored include location in relation to possible sources of infection, the danger of further spreading of the infection once it occurs, and size and importance as a salmon-carrying watercourse. Any discovery of *G. salaris* will lead to a number of measures being implemented, depending on the nature of the watercourse.

In addition to the monitoring programme, preventive measures are given a high priority. The most effective measure for reducing the risk of infection through fishing and outdoor activities is to inform the general public about the parasite, the laws and regulations in force, the status of the risk of infection, the risk of contamination and procedures for disinfecting gear. Information posters, leaflets and video films are being made. The problem of *G. salaris* is, moreover, often featured in the media. Establishing facilities for disinfecting fishing gear and equipment used in infected rivers will be a requirement for permission to operate organized outdoor activities such as fishing and canoeing.

The presence of unregistered fish-farming facilities that move fish between sites poses a considerable risk of spreading *G. salaris*. Obtaining information on these unregistered fish-farming facilities is a priority. When infection is discovered the fish-farming facility concerned will be sanitized, i.e. it will be emptied of fish, disinfected and not used for a period of time before being restocked.

Parasite-specific chemicals have not as yet been fully developed, but the use of metal ions is showing promising results in tests. At present, however, the only method to eradicate *G. salaris* is to remove its hosts from the watercourse by the use of rotenone. A total of 25 of the 42 infected watercourses in Norway have been treated with rotenone. In 15 of the treated watercourses, the parasite has been eradicated. Two rivers are still being monitored. In eight rivers the parasite has reappeared after treatment.

For the last couple of years, considerable efforts have been made to improve the methods used for rotenone treatment of rivers. These include increased rotenone concentrations, multiple treatments, better planning, new equipment and new methods of application. These improvements have been combined with the use of artificial barriers to migration. These barriers reduce the river stretches that have to be treated with rotenone, reduce the quantity of chemical required and thereby reduce the conflict with other environmental interests. The methodological improvements will increase the probability of successfully eradicating the parasite in the future.

In addition to an increased national effort, steps have occasionally been taken to promote regional cooperation between Sweden, Finland, Russia and Norway to reduce infections with and prevent the spread of *G. salaris*. The need to strengthen regional cooperation on a political and technical level has been clearly demonstrated by the infection with *G. salaris* of a rainbow trout farm in Lake Bullaren, Sweden. This lake drains into the Norwegian river Enningdalselven, which has a genetically unique stock of Atlantic salmon. *G. salaris* was found at this farm in the autumn of 2001. Norway immediately appealed to the Swedish authorities to take action urgently to treat the infected fish and clear the infected farm, and since then has worked actively for implementation of effective measures at the infected farm. These efforts have had no result to date and, according to the Swedish authorities, lack of a legal basis has prevented them from taking the necessary measures to eliminate the parasite. As a result, no measures had been taken by 5 April 2002 and at that time there were still 6 metric tonnes of infected fish in the lake, and the risk of transmission of *G. salaris* to the wild stock of salmon in the river Enningdalselven was still imminent, almost 6 months after the parasite was detected at the farm. The Swedish authorities have, however, agreed to remove or treat all the remaining fish in the farm by the end of April.

Gene-bank and milt-bank

In the period 1986 - 2001, milt from a total of 6,502 wild salmon from 169 stocks had been frozen in the Norwegian Gene Bank to provide an opportunity to protect stocks from extinction. In 2001, milt from 72 individuals, from 7 different stocks, was frozen. At present 32 characteristic and valuable stocks are being protected in "living gene banks". In 2001 material from 18 stocks was used for re-establishing or enhancing the salmon stocks in their native rivers. Two stocks, one from northern Norway and one from mid-Norway, have been successfully re-established in their native rivers using the gene bank. The stock from mid-Norway has been removed from the gene bank. Norway today operates 3 living gene banks: one in northern Norway, one in mid-Norway and one in south-western Norway.

International research programmes

Cooperation between Norway and Russia on environmental issues, on research and management of Atlantic salmon has continued, especially concerning the Pechora River.

Supervision

In 2001 the total cost of supervision in territorial sea areas and watercourses was NOK 6.5 million (approximately £0.5 million).

USA

Following the listing of the Gulf of Maine distinct population segment of Atlantic salmon as endangered under the US Endangered Species Act, the US is currently in the process of drafting a recovery plan for the species. A team consisting of the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission is currently in the process of preparing a draft plan. The plan will include recovery criteria and recovery tasks including identification of the responsible entity and costs. The draft plan is expected to be distributed this summer for public review and comment.

Other Parties

No new commitments reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

5. Other Factors Which May Significantly Affect The Abundance Of Salmon Stocks Subject To The Convention *(Article 15, Paragraph 5(c))*

European Union

Ireland

Catchment management groups have been established in 6 major catchments in Ireland by the Minister for the Marine and Natural Resources. These groups comprise representations from all of the major users of the freshwater resource including agricultural, tourism, state utilities and local councils as well as fishery interests. The process of catchment management is seen as an inclusive process to bring the interests of all user groups to the fore with the intention of allocating and sharing the resource by the local communities and their representatives. Two significant draft net fisheries ceased fishing in 2000 following local financial arrangements negotiated by Catchment Management Groups.

Other Parties

No factors reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

ANNEX 15

Council

CNL(02)17

Report of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach

CNL(02)17

Report of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach

1. At its Eighteenth Annual Meeting the Council had agreed that the next tasks for the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach were as follows:

Task 1	to undertake a detailed evaluation and development of the Decision Structure for the management of Atlantic salmon fisheries;
Task 2	to develop Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on how social and economic factors can be taken into account in applying the Precautionary Approach;
Task 3	to develop terms of reference for a meeting of the SCPA on application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics.

2. A meeting of the SCPA was held during 11-13 March 2002 in Vancouver, Canada to address these three tasks and the report of the meeting (SCPA(02)20) is attached (Attachment 1). In summary the outcome of the meeting was as follows:

Task 1

3. With regard to management of salmon fisheries, the SCPA developed a revised Decision Structure (contained in Annex 3 of the report) and has recommended that, following its adoption by the Council, the Decision Structure should be used immediately by NASCO and its Contracting Parties to assist in application of the Precautionary Approach to management of salmon fisheries. The Committee also considers that it would be appropriate to implement a reporting and review procedure so that the effectiveness of the Decision Structure can be assessed.

Task 2

4. The Committee has developed Draft Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on incorporating social and economic aspects in the application of the Precautionary Approach (contained in Annex 4 of the report). The Committee has asked that all Parties compile, summarise and provide to the Secretariat before the 2002 Annual Meeting available information on the social and economic values of Atlantic salmon. Furthermore, the Secretary was asked by the Committee to develop, in consultation with the Parties, a project proposal for the development of an internationally agreed framework or template for assessing social and economic values of Atlantic salmon. Following the meeting of the SCPA a small drafting group, made up of representatives of the Contracting Parties, met to develop a project proposal which is contained in Attachment 2. The intention is that the work in developing the framework or template be carried out by a technical workshop of the Contracting Parties in advance of the next SCPA meeting on social and economic aspects of the Precautionary Approach.

Task 3

5. The Committee also developed Draft Terms of Reference in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics (contained in Annex 5 of the report). In accordance with the decision of the Council at its last Annual Meeting these Draft Terms of Reference were discussed with representatives of the salmon farming industry at the Liaison Group meeting held on 8-9 April 2002. The views from this Group are contained in Council document CNL(02)24. However, the SCPA has noted that, as its work will be covering issues wider than just salmon farming, the Council will need to clarify the extent of involvement of all relevant stakeholders in this phase of the SCPA's work.

6. In summary, the Council is asked to consider:

i adoption of the revised Decision Structure for management of salmon fisheries;
ii introduction of reporting and review procedures to assess the effectiveness of the Decision Structure;
iii adoption of the Terms of Reference in relation to social and economic aspects of applying the Precautionary Approach;
iv agreeing the project proposal to develop an internationally agreed framework or template to assess social and economic values of Atlantic salmon;
v adopting the Terms of Reference in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics;
vi clarifying the extent of involvement of stakeholders in the work of the SCPA in relation to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics.

Secretary
Edinburgh
12 April, 2002

SCPA(02)20

Report of the Meeting of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach

Garibaldi Room, Four Seasons Hotel, Vancouver, Canada 11-13 March, 2002

1. Opening of the meeting

1.1 The Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach (SCPA), Mr Jacque Robichaud (President of NASCO), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Vancouver. He referred to the considerable progress already made by the SCPA in relation to development of a Decision Structure for the management of salmon fisheries and a NASCO Plan of Action for Habitat Protection and Restoration. The next tasks were to consider socio-economic aspects and the application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics.

1.2 A list of participants is contained in Annex 1.

2. Nomination of a Rapporteur

2.1 The Committee appointed Dr Peter Hutchinson, Assistant Secretary of NASCO, as Rapporteur for the meeting.

3. Adoption of the Agenda

3.1 The Committee adopted its agenda SCPA(02)9 (Annex 2).

4. Tasks for the SCPA at its Vancouver meeting

4.1 The Committee considered a document detailing its tasks for the meeting, SCPA(02)2, and agreed that it would:

- undertake a detailed evaluation and development of the decision structure for implementing the Precautionary Approach to the management of Atlantic salmon fisheries;
- develop Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on how socio-economic factors can be taken into account in applying the Precautionary Approach;
- develop Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics.

5. Evaluation and further development of the Decision Structure for implementing the Precautionary Approach to the management of Atlantic salmon fisheries

5.1 At its Seventeenth Annual Meeting in 2000 the Council had adopted, on a provisional basis, a Decision Structure, developed by the SCPA, to aid NASCO and the relevant authorities in implementing the Precautionary Approach to the management of North Atlantic salmon fisheries. It had been agreed that this should be evaluated over a two-year period (2000-2002). In 2001, the Parties had made reports to the Council on progress in implementing this Decision Structure and ICES had also provided comments. A summary of this information was presented, SCPA(02)3. These initial reports were based on only one year's experience of applying the Decision Structure to a small number of rivers and fisheries but the feedback from the Parties had indicated that the Decision Structure provided a useful basis for application of the Precautionary Approach to the management of salmon fisheries. However, it was clear from the initial feedback that some refinement to the Decision Structure was needed.

5.2 The Parties reported to the Committee on their experiences of applying the Decision Structure since the annual meeting of NASCO. Proposals for revisions to the Decision Structure were tabled by the USA (SCPA(02)10), the EU (SCPA(02)12) and Norway (SCPA(02)13). In particular, it was noted that greater emphasis should be given within the Decision Structure to reporting on management actions to be taken to control harvests and on the programmes that will be used to monitor the effects of these measures. However, since the Decision Structure has already been applied to a number of rivers and fisheries the Committee recognised the desirability of retaining the present format while incorporating the necessary amendments.

5.3 The Committee reviewed the Decision Structure and agreed revisions on the basis of experience in applying it on a trial basis. The Committee recommends that the revised Decision Structure, SCPA(02)16 (Annex 3), be adopted by the Council and used immediately by NASCO and its Contracting Parties to assist in application of the Precautionary Approach to management of salmon fisheries. The Committee believes that it would be appropriate to implement a reporting and review procedure so that the effectiveness of the Decision Structure can be regularly assessed.

6. Development of Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on how socio-economic factors can be taken into account in applying the Precautionary Approach

6.1 At its Eighteenth Annual Meeting the Council had asked that the Parties make available to the SCPA information on socio-economic issues relating to salmon conservation. Four Parties had been asked to provide possible frameworks to assist the Council in considering socio-economic factors in applying the Precautionary Approach. Prior to the meeting information had been received only from Norway, SCPA(02)5, and Canada, SCPA(02)4. The approaches proposed by these Parties were summarised in document SCPA(02)6. In addition, draft Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on socio-economics and the Precautionary Approach were tabled by the USA, SCPA(02)11. The Secretary briefly summarised this information.

6.2 The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council Draft Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on how social and economic factors could be taken into account in applying the Precautionary Approach, SCPA(02)17 (Annex 4).

6.3 The Committee agreed that the Parties should compile, summarise and provide to the Secretariat before the 2002 Annual Meeting of NASCO available information on the social and economic values of Atlantic salmon referred to in paragraph 1 of SCPA(02)17. The Committee also recommends that the development of an internationally agreed framework or template referred to in paragraph 2 of SCPA(02)17 would need to be further advanced before a future meeting of the SCPA on this subject. To this end the Secretary was asked to develop in consultation with the Parties a project proposal which could be considered by the Council.

7. Development of Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics

7.1 The Committee considered document SCPA(02)7 proposing draft Terms of Reference for application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics, which incorporated ideas provided by Norway and guidance in the Council's Action Plan for Application of the Precautionary Approach.

7.2 The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council Draft Terms of Reference for a future meeting of the SCPA on application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics, SCPA(02)19 (Annex 5). In accordance with the decision of the Council these Terms of Reference will be discussed with the salmon farming industry at a Liaison Group meeting on 8/9 April and comments arising from that Group will be considered by the Council at its 2002 Annual Meeting. However, recognising that the work of the Committee will be covering issues wider than salmon farming, i.e. introductions and transfers, enhancement, and transgenics, the Parties would need to undertake consultations on these issues with the relevant stakeholders. The extent of involvement of all of the relevant stakeholders in the SCPA's work will need to be clarified by the Council at its 2002 Annual Meeting.

8. Date and place of next meeting (if required)

8.1 The Committee agreed that it would not meet again before the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of NASCO, at which time the Council would consider arrangements for the next meeting of the SCPA in accordance with the Action Plan for Application of the Precautionary Approach.

9. Any other business

9.1. There was no other business.

10. Consideration of the draft report of the meeting

10.1 The Committee agreed a report of the meeting.

11. Close of the meeting

11.1 The Chairman closed the meeting and thanked all members of the Committee for their contributions.

Annex 1 of SCPA(02)20

List of Participants

Canada

Ms Julia Barrow	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Vance McEachern	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr David Meerburg	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Rex Porter	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, St John's, Newfoundland
Mr Barry Rashotte	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Jacque Robichaud (Chairman)	President of NASCO
Mr Gorazd Ruseski	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Pierre Tremblay	Sainte-Foy, Quebec
Mr Tim Young	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ottawa, Ontario

Denmark (Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Dr Jan Arge Jacobsen	Fisheries Laboratory of the Faroes, Torshavn
Mr Emanuel Rosing	Greenland Home Rule, Nuuk, Greenland
Mr Hedin Weihe	Ministry of Fisheries, Torshavn

European Union

Ms Paloma Carballo	Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Madrid, Spain
Ms Carmen Beraldi	Ministerio de Agricultura y Pesca, Madrid, Spain
Mr Richard Cowan	Department of the Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs, London, UK
Mr David Dunkley	Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department, Edinburgh, UK
Ms Jinny Hutchison	Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department, Edinburgh, UK
Mr Eskild Kirkegaard	European Commission, DG Fisheries, Brussels, Belgium

Dr Guy Mawle	Environment Agency, Bristol, UK
Mr Pentti Munne	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki, Finland
Dr Niall O'Maoileidigh	Marine Institute, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Ted Potter	CEFAS, Lowestoft, UK
Dr Ken Whelan	Marine Institute, Newport, Ireland

Iceland

Mr Arni Isaksson	Directorate of Freshwater Fisheries, Reykjavik

Norway

Mr Raoul Bierach	Directorate for Nature Management, Trondheim
Dr Lars Petter Hansen	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Oslo

Russian Federation

Ms Svetlana Krylova	Murmanrybvod, Murmansk
Mr Vladimir Moskalenko	PINRO, Murmansk
Dr Boris Prischepa	Murmanrybvod, Murmansk
Ms Elena Samoylova	PINRO, Murmansk
Dr Alexander Zubchenko	PINRO, Murmansk

USA

Mr Ed Baum	Atlantic Salmon Unlimited, Hermon, Maine
Ms Kim Blankenbeker	National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland
Ms Mary Colligan	National Marine Fisheries Service, Gloucester, Massachusetts
Dr Fred Kircheis	Maine Atlantic Salmon Commission, Augusta, Maine
Mr John Ward	National Marine Fisheries Services, Silver Spring, Maryland

Secretariat

Dr Malcolm Windsor	Secretary
Dr Peter Hutchinson	Assistant Secretary

SCPA(02)9

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the meeting

2. Nomination of a Rapporteur

3. Adoption of the Agenda

4. Tasks for the SCPA at its Vancouver meeting

5. Evaluation and further development of the decision structure for implementing the Precautionary Approach to management of Atlantic salmon fisheries

6. Development of Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on how socio-economic factors can be taken into account applying the Precautionary Approach

7. Development of Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA on application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics

8. Date and place of next meeting (if required)

9. Any other business

10. Consideration of the draft report of the meeting

11. Close of the meeting

Annex 3 of SCPA(02)20

SCPA(02)16

Decision Structure to Aid the Council and Commissions of NASCO and the Relevant Authorities in Implementing the Precautionary Approach to Management of North Atlantic Salmon Fisheries

A. Brief description of the fishery(ies): ***Date of review:***

Fishery location:	
Gear types:	
Magnitude of fishery (e.g. catch or effort):	
Current management restrictions:	
Outline pre-agreed procedures (or provide references):	
Principal river stock(s) exploited:	
Other fisheries exploiting stock(s):	
Other information:	

If fishery primarily exploits salmon from only one river answer all questions in Section B; If fishery exploits salmon from more than one river answer all questions in section C.

B. Single River Stock Fisher(ies)

B1. Specify the reference points (Conservation Limit and/or Management Target) or alternative measures used to define adequate abundance of the stock.

B2. Describe the status of the stock relative to the abundance criteria in B1.

- Include trends and forecasts of abundance.

B3. Is the stock meeting other diversity criteria (e.g. age structure, run-timing, fecundity)?

- Describe criteria assessed;
- Identify possible reasons for any failure.

Yes/No

B4. Is the fishery(ies) selective for certain stock components (e.g. age groups, size groups, populations)?

- If yes, describe reasons.

Yes/No

B5. Is the stock threatened by factors other than fisheries (e.g. habitat degradation, disease/parasites, predators)?

- If yes, describe threat and management action that will be taken (e.g. establish gene bank; habitat mitigation).

Yes/No

B6. Describe management actions that will be employed to control harvest, including measures that will be used to address any failure or trend in abundance or diversity, taking account of pre-agreed procedures:

- Decisions should take account of: uncertainty in the assessments; abundance of the stock (q. B2); diversity of the stock (q. B3); selectivity of the fishery (q. B4); any non-fishery factors affecting the stock (q. B5); and socio-economic factors; other fisheries exploiting the stock;
- Describe the expected extent and timescale of effects.

B7. Outline programmes (including in-season programmes) that will be used to monitor the effect of the management measures and identify information deficiencies and time-frame for resolution:

C. <u>Mixed River Stock Fishery</u>

C1. Specify the reference points (Conservation Limits and/or Management Targets) or alternative measures used to define adequate abundance of the exploited stocks.

C2. Describe the status of all stocks relative to the abundance criteria in C1.

- Include trends and forecasts of abundance.

C3. Are all the stocks meeting other diversity criteria (e.g. age structure, run-timing, fecundity)?

- Describe criteria assessed;
- Identify possible reasons for any failures.

Yes/No

C4. Is the fishery selective for certain stock components (e.g. age groups, size, populations, river stocks)?

- If yes, describe reasons.

Yes/No

C5. Are any of the stocks threatened by factors other than fisheries (e.g. habitat degradation, disease/parasites, predators)?

- If yes, describe threat and management action that will be taken (e.g. establish gene bank; habitat mitigation).

Yes/No

C6. Describe management actions that will be employed to control harvest, including measures that will be used to address any failure or trend in abundance or diversity, taking account of pre-agreed procedures:

- Decisions should take account of: uncertainty in the assessments; abundance of the stock (q. C2); diversity of the stock (q. C3); selectivity of the fishery (q. C4); any non-fishery factors affecting the stock (q. C5); and socio-economic factors; and other fisheries exploiting the stock.
- Describe the expected extent and timescale of effects.

C7. Outline programmes (including in-season programmes) that will be used to monitor the effects of the management measures, and identify information deficiencies and the timeframe for their resolution:

SCPA(02)17

Draft Terms of Reference for Incorporating Social and Economic Aspects in the Application of the Precautionary Approach

Recognising that the true social and economic values of wild Atlantic salmon are unknown, that there is a need to include social and economic factors in management decisions under a Precautionary Approach without negating the effectiveness of this approach, and that consideration of social and economic factors may be complementary to conservation and management objectives, the SCPA is asked to:

1. review available information, compiled and summarised by the Parties, on the social and economic values of Atlantic salmon;

2. develop, using external resources if required, an internationally agreed framework or template for assessing absolute, and changes in, social and economic values of the Atlantic salmon. The framework or template should include definitions of these values and recognise differences between jurisdictions;

3. develop guiding principles for taking into account social and economic factors over both the short and long term in applying the Precautionary Approach. These guiding principles might include, but should not be restricted to, the need to:

    - set clear conservation and management goals;
    - recognise the primacy of conservation and, at a minimum, maintain a policy of 'no net loss';
    - recognise the interests of communities which are particularly dependent on salmon fisheries;
    - establish monitoring and reporting procedures;
    - identify and include appropriate stakeholders in the consultation process;

4. recommend, as appropriate, approaches (e.g. impact assessment, hazard analysis, bio-economic models), based on the guiding principles, that would serve as additional information tools to assist NASCO and its Contracting Parties in taking into account social and economic factors relating to Atlantic salmon.

Note : *With regard to points 3 and 4 above the SCPA is asked to consider social and economic factors in relation inter alia to: salmon fisheries management; habitat protection and restoration; aquaculture; introductions and transfers; stock rebuilding programmes; transgenics; and by-catches.*

Annex 5 of SCPA(02)20

SCPA(02)19

Draft Terms of Reference for Application of the Precautionary Approach to Introductions and Transfers, Aquaculture and Transgenics

Having regard to:

(a) the North American Commission's Protocols on Introductions and Transfers (NAC(92)24 as amended by NAC(94)14);

(b) the North-East Atlantic Commission's Resolution on Introductions and Transfers (NEA(97)12);

(c) the Council's Oslo Resolution (CNL(94)53);

(d) the Council's Guidelines for Action on Transgenic Salmon (CNL(97)48);

(e) the Liaison Group's Guidelines for Containment of Farm Salmon (CNL(01)53);

the SCPA is asked to review these agreements and measures, advise on their consistency with the Precautionary Approach and make recommendations for additional measures, taking account of appropriate risk assessments. In carrying out these tasks the SCPA should consider the adequacy of the reporting procedures in these agreements, and other work by the SCPA concerned with incorporating social and economic factors in applying the Precautionary Approach. The SCPA is asked to ensure that in reviewing these agreements and measures consideration is given to both intentional and unintentional introductions and transfers.

Attachment 2 of CNL(02)17

Draft Project Proposal on the Development of a Framework for Assessing Social and Economic Values Related to Wild Atlantic Salmon

This draft project proposal is in furtherance of the application of the Precautionary Approach to managing wild Atlantic salmon by NASCO and its Contracting Parties. It is intended to progress the tasks detailed in items 1 and 2 of the Terms of Reference for the SCPA. The objective of the project is to enable Contracting Parties to analyze the social and economic costs and benefits derived from the wild Atlantic salmon resource. The proposed project involves the following:

1. Based on available information compiled and summarised by the Contracting Parties, prepare an inventory of the various social and economic values related to Atlantic salmon. The inventory would include definitions and explanations of these values and, if applicable, monetary estimates, as expressed in these studies.

2. For those values that have been expressed in monetary terms in these studies:

    i. examine critically the alternative monetary estimation methods that are used; and,
    ii. advise on a possible standard method(s) (including examples) for estimating the absolute and/or relative changes in these values that may result from salmon fishery management changes or other human activities that have an impact on the salmon resource and/or habitat.

3. For those values that have not been estimated in monetary terms in any studies:

    i. where possible, advise on a possible standard method(s) (including examples) for estimating (either in monetary or non-monetary terms) absolute and/or relative changes in these values that may result from salmon fishery management changes or other human activities that have an impact on the salmon resource and/or habitat; and
    ii. consider the need for and feasibility of pilot projects aimed at producing monetary estimates of these values.

4. Based on the values and monetary estimation methods considered in 1 – 3 above, develop a proposed framework/template for assessing social and economic values related to Atlantic salmon. The framework/template and monetary estimation methods contained therein should allow comparison of values over the short term and long term, and should allow comparison across jurisdictions.

This work should be undertaken by a technical workshop of the Contracting Parties to be held in advance of the next SCPA meeting on social and economic aspects of the Precautionary Approach.

ANNEX 16

Council

CNL(02)52

Terms of Reference for Application of the Precautionary Approach to Introductions and Transfers, Aquaculture and Transgenics

Having regard to:

(a) the North American Commission's Protocols on Introductions and Transfers (NAC(92)24 as amended by NAC(94)14);

(b) the North-East Atlantic Commission's Resolution on Introductions and Transfers (NEA(97)12);

(c) the Council's Oslo Resolution (CNL(94)53);

(d) the Council's Guidelines for Action on Transgenic Salmon (CNL(97)48);

(e) the Liaison Group's Guidelines for Containment of Farm Salmon (CNL(01)53);

the SCPA is asked to review these agreements and measures, advise on their consistency with the Precautionary Approach and make recommendations for additional measures, taking account of whether the risks being assessed are those relevant to the conservation of Atlantic salmon and, if so, if the risk assessment process is effective. In carrying out these tasks the SCPA should consider the adequacy of the reporting procedures in these agreements, and other work by the SCPA concerned with incorporating social and economic factors in applying the Precautionary Approach. The SCPA is asked to ensure that in reviewing these agreements and measures consideration is given to both intentional and unintentional introductions and transfers.

Note: NASCO has defined "salmon aquaculture" as "the culture or husbandry of Atlantic salmon and includes salmon farming, salmon ranching and salmon enhancement activities".

ANNEX 17

Council

CNL(02)19

Unreported Catches – Returns by the Parties

CNL(02)19

Unreported Catches – Returns by the Parties

Introduction

1. The Council has previously agreed that the Parties should be requested to provide, on an annual basis, the following information in relation to unreported catches:

   (i) a description of its management control and reporting systems by country;
   (ii) an estimate of unreported catch by country, broken down by category and indicating whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities;
   (iii) an explanation of how it arrives at the figure for unreported catch;
   (iv) the extent of catch and release fishing;
   (v) the measures taken to further minimise the level of unreported catch.

2. In the returns for the 2001 calendar year, the fourth year in which the Parties have reported to the Council on unreported catches, there have been some changes to the management control and reporting systems used in the European Union. Carcass tagging and logbooks have been introduced in Ireland and Northern Ireland, and in England and Wales second reminders were issued to anglers to report their catches. Information on the management control and reporting systems in Denmark has also been provided. It is clear from the information provided that a substantial proportion of the total catch still goes unreported. In 2001, between 962-1,374 tonnes were estimated to be unreported compared to a provisional declared catch of 3,083 tonnes, i.e. the estimate of unreported catch is between 31 - 45% of the reported catch. However, the estimate of unreported catch for 2001 represents a reduction on the estimate for 2000 of 1,065-1,445 tonnes which was 37 - 51% of the reported catch, which in turn was a reduction in the proportion unreported in 1999 (41 - 52%). More than 110,100 salmon were released following capture in recreational fisheries in 2001, an increase of about 19% compared to the estimate of about 93,000 salmon for 2000, although catch and release angling is not practised in all countries and in some countries no statistics are available on the extent of its use. A number of new measures to minimise the level of unreported catch have been reported in the EU and these have been referred to above. In Greenland efforts are being made to reduce unreported catches arising from home consumption. No new measures to minimise unreported catches have been reported by the other Parties.

3. Last year the Council welcomed the progress made by the Parties in relation to reducing the level of unreported catches but emphasised the need to take stronger measures to minimise the level of such catches. This year's returns indicate further progress by the Parties in reducing the level of unreported catch in 2001. The Council is asked to consider what, if any, additional actions it wishes to take in relation to unreported catches. The Secretary will continue to request the information on unreported catches, referred to in paragraph 1 above, on an annual basis.

4. At the time of preparation of this paper, information had not been received from all EU Member States which have salmon interests. No return of information was made by France, Portugal or Spain.

Secretary
Edinburgh
3 May, 2002

1. Description of management control and reporting systems by country

European Union

Denmark

At sea, control is based on registration (logbooks) and landing control. (Denmark has national technical rules but no quota regulations). In rivers, private landowners, in cooperation with angler associations, are responsible for the control of the recreational fisheries.

Ireland

Until 2000, catch statistics were derived primarily from recorded sales in licensed salmon dealers' registers. An estimate of private sales of legally caught salmon was included in unreported catch estimates. A carcass tagging and logbook system was introduced in 2001. Under this scheme all salmon landed are tagged with the appropriate coloured and coded tag and catch details are recorded in an official logbook. A national database of catch information has been established. Initial analyses indicate a significant increase in the reported catch compared to the previous 5 years due mainly to the inclusion of previously unreported catches and, therefore, a corresponding decrease in the unreported catch.

United Kingdom

In England and Wales anglers were issued with a second reminder, in respect of catches in the 2001 season, in an effort to reduce the level of unreported catch. No change for net fisheries or in the methodology applied for assessing illegal catches.

In Northern Ireland, control of commercial netting and sport angling exploitation in the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission (FCILC) area is in real time based on management targets for salmon. Salmon carcass tagging and logbooks have been introduced for all forms of exploitation. In the Fisheries Conservancy Board (FCB) area a salmon tagging and log book scheme was introduced in 2001 and should provide angling and commercial effort data which has previously been unreported.

Other Parties

No changes to the management control and reporting systems were reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States. A description of these systems was presented in document CNL(00)19. The following information has been provided with regard to enforcement activities in Greenland:

The inspection of the Atlantic salmon fishery by Greenland Fisheries Licence Control (GFLK) was a high priority in 2001. It is estimated that there were significantly fewer illegal fishing incidents in 2001 than in 2000, when the short fishing period of 5 days was estimated to have caused more illegal fishing incidents than in the previous years. During 2001, GFLK officers reported incidents of illegal gill net fishing in the municipalities of Qaqortoq, Paamiut, Nuuk and Sisimiut, resulting in confiscation of 10 gill nets and the illegal catches.

Furthermore, inspection vessels of the Danish Navy inspected the fishery for Atlantic salmon, but there were no reported incidents in 2001.

The Police in the town of Narsaq in South West Greenland confiscated 3 Atlantic salmon caught as by-catch from a fisherman who tried to sell them on the local market on 25 May 2001, 2½ months before a possible official season opening. He therefore had no licence and had not reported the catch to GFLK. The fisherman was fined 1,000 DKK. GFLK officers have established that three persons with no licence attempted to sell Atlantic salmon at the local market in Nuuk during the 2001 salmon fishery season. Two of them later acquired licences as they were professional fishermen, the third was cautioned.

2. Estimate of unreported catch by country, broken down by category and indicating whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities

Party	Estimate (tonnes)	Breakdown
Canada	81	Illegal activities. Labrador - 4 tonnes; Newfoundland - 45 tonnes; Quebec - 32 tonnes; Gulf and Scotia Fundy Regions - <1 tonne each.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)		
Faroe Islands	0	
Greenland	Approx. 10	Especially from the fishery for home consumption, but also part of the catch from the commercial fishery which is sold at local markets, hotels, etc. The reporting of commercial landings by the fishing plants is considered to be very reliable, and all the fishermen in this fishery are estimated to be licence holders as required by statutory provision. In total 390 licences for Atlantic salmon fisheries were issued to professional fishermen, but only a total of 76 licences were reported active. It is not possible to assess whether the unreported catch is the result of legal or illegal activities, but it is believed that there were significantly fewer illegal fishing incidents in 2001 than in 2000.
European Union		
Denmark	No estimate available	No estimate of unreported catch, but it is believed to be insignificant.
Finland	20	River fisheries, mostly legal.
Ireland	67	Mainly illegal catch.
Sweden	3.3	Approximately 10% of catch. Largely the result of legal activities (see CNL(01)19 for further details).
UK – England and Wales	33	Estimates are not made for separate categories of unreported catch.
UK – Northern Ireland	2.6	FCB area figure reported to ICES but not disclosed on a national basis. In FCILC area for drift and draft nets, 100% return and estimate that, as a result of carcass tagging scheme, negligible unreported catch likely. Returns obtained from 70% of sport angling licenses.
UK – Scotland	43	Legal and illegal components.
Iceland	1.8	
Norway	680 (uncertainty ± 180 tonnes)	Illegal catch in the sea: 170 tonnes By-catch in commercial sea fishing: 20 tonnes Legal catch in sea by bag-net and bend net: 150 tonnes Legal catch in sea by angling: 150 tonnes Illegal catch in rivers: 20 tonnes Legal catch in rivers, mainly by angling 170 tonnes
Russian Federation	200-252	Legal coastal fishery: 34-46 tonnes Illegal coastal fishery: 6-12 tonnes Legal in-river fishery: 10-14 tonnes Illegal in-river fishery: 150-180 tonnes
USA	0	
TOTAL	962-1,374	

3. Explanation of how the figure for unreported catch is arrived at

Party	*Explanation of how the figure for unreported catch is arrived at*				
	Absence of a requirement for catch statistics to be collected	**Suppression of information thought to be unfavourable**	**Local sale or consumption**	**Innocent inaccuracy in making returns**	**Illegal fishing**
Canada	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)					
*Faroe Islands**					
Greenland	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19 and enforcement information in section 1.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19 and enforcement information in section 1.
European Union					
*Denmark**					
Finland	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.	No explanation provided.
Ireland	All catches must be declared in logbooks.	Unlikely given the presumption of buy-outs, quotas or set-asides in recent years.	It is obligatory to provide details in logbooks of all disposal of salmon landed in Ireland.	A small element of this may occur given that the carcass tagging/logbook scheme was only introduced in 2001.	Thought to represent most of the unreported catch but still difficult to assess accurately.
Sweden	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
UK - England and Wales	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19. Figure of 10% of declared catch used in rod fisheries may be reviewed in the light of issuing second reminders in 2001.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
UK - Northern Ireland	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
UK - Scotland	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
Iceland	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
Norway	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
Russian Federation	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.	No change - see CNL(01)19.
USA *					

***** Unreported catch estimated to be zero or no estimate available.

4. The extent of catch and release fishing

Party	Estimated Number Released	Comment
Canada	56,597	31,228 small salmon; 25,369 large salmon. (Estimate for 2000 raised from 49,737 as reported last year to 62,106).
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)		
Faroe Islands	0	
Greenland	0	
European Union		
Denmark	No statistics available.	Catch and release techniques are used in some rivers in Denmark, but the exact number of salmon released is unknown.
Finland	No information provided.	
Ireland	No statistics available.	Only practised in limited circumstances on a small number of fisheries.
Sweden	No statistics available.	Catch and release fishing is practised in a few rivers in order to improve the protection of females during their spawning period.
UK - England and Wales	6,143	Provisional estimate for 2001 is 43% of rod-caught fish released.
UK - Northern Ireland	No statistics available.	An increase in the incidence of catch and release angling has been observed but no accurate data available.
UK - Scotland	27,361	39% of all salmon caught by rod and line were subsequently released (both voluntary and compulsory catch and release).
Iceland	3,607	12% of all rod-caught salmon.
Norway	0	The extent of catch and release fishing is sporadic and accidental.
Russian Federation	16,410	75.8% of the total catch by rod.
USA	0	There is no catch and release fishing for sea-run Atlantic salmon allowed in the US.
TOTAL	110,118	

5. Any measures taken to further minimise the level of unreported catches

Party	Measures taken
Canada	No new measures. The Province of Quebec is introducing on-line catch reporting to provide real-time data; this system will be in place for 2003.
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)	
Faroe Islands *	
Greenland	In order to reduce the presumed heavy under-reporting of catches for home consumption, increased information on the rules and procedures concerning salmon fishing has been made available to fishermen and the municipalities.
European Union	
Denmark	No new measures.
Finland	No new measures reported.
Ireland	Introduction of a mandatory carcass tagging and logbook scheme in 2001.
Sweden	No new measures. Quality control of the present system of collection of catch data is continuing and the results from this survey are used to increase the level of reporting.
UK - England and Wales	For the first time, a nationwide second reminder was issued to anglers in England and Wales in respect of catches in the 2001 season in an effort to reduce the level of unreported catch. Provisional indications suggest a substantial improvement in the catch return rate (86% for annual licence holders in 2001, compared with an average of 75% for the period 1998-2000).
UK - Northern Ireland	The salmon tagging and logbook scheme will provide accurate catch statistics of angling and commercial fishery exploitation.
UK - Scotland	No new measures.
Iceland	No new measures.
Norway	No new measures.
Russian Federation	No new measures.
USA*	

***** Unreported catch estimated to be zero.

ANNEX 18

Council

CNL(02)20

Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board

CNL(02)20

Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board

1. At its Eighteenth Annual Meeting, in the light of the report of a Working Group on International Cooperative Research, the Council decided to establish an International Cooperative Salmon Research Board (hereinafter referred to as "the Board") to direct and coordinate a programme of research to identify and explain the causes of marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and to examine the possibility to counteract the mortality. The inaugural meeting of the Board was held in London during 5-7 December 2001 and the report of the meeting (ICR(01)12) is attached.

2. The Board has developed a flow chart describing an International Cooperative Salmon Research Programme which consists of two principal elements - Cooperative Salmon Research and the Fund. Three phases to the Programme are envisaged, as follows:

   - development and maintenance of an inventory of relevant research;
   - setting of priorities for research needs and analysis of the inventory against these needs;
   - better coordination of research and funding of new research to fill the gaps identified by the Board. The Fund will be used to finance these gaps in the research.

3. The Council is asked to consider the recommendations in the report of the inaugural meeting of the Board and to decide if it can accept:

   - the structure of the Programme comprising Cooperative Salmon Research and a Fund and the proposed phases for this programme (see paragraph 2 above);
   - the format and content of the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea (presented separately in document CNL(02)21);
   - the priorities for cooperative research and funding and the proposal that the initial focus be on distribution and migration of salmon at sea;
   - the Rules of Procedure for the Board;
   - the Financial Rules to govern the administration of the Fund and the Guidelines on Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions to the Fund;
   - the proposals on external representation;
   - the strategy for initial fund-raising (presented separately in document CNL(02)33);
   - the proposal to make budgetary provision in relation to the initial fund-raising activities. The Finance and Administration Committee will also consider this proposal and make its recommendations to the Council in its report (CNL(02)7).

Secretary
Edinburgh
12 April, 2002

ICR(01)12

Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board

Thistle Kensington Park Hotel, London
5-7 December 2001

1. Opening of Meeting

1.1 The Secretary of NASCO, Dr Malcolm Windsor, opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the inaugural meeting of the Board. He referred to the crisis in abundance of Atlantic salmon over at least the last decade that seems to be related to poor survival of salmon at sea. He noted that there is a lack of understanding of the marine phase of Atlantic salmon partly due to the considerable expense in conducting research at sea. However, if the key to rational salmon management is good knowledge then the lack of understanding of the factors affecting salmon at sea is a serious concern for NASCO. There are, therefore, likely to be benefits from international cooperation on research including possible cost savings through enhanced coordination. He noted that the tasks before the Board were to review existing research programmes on salmon at sea, to examine the options for better coordination of this research and to develop new administrative and financial systems that will work well in the future. In addition, the Board would need to look at the possibilities of accessing new sources of funding and to decide which research should be supported from funds raised. He cautioned that even with a well-funded programme of research there might be limited possibilities to counteract the mortality although this would only become clear in the light of research conducted under the programme.

1.2 A list of participants at the inaugural meeting of the Board is contained in Annex 1.

2. Appointment of Chairman

2.1 The Board appointed Dr Malcolm Windsor to serve as its Chairman for the inaugural meeting. The Board agreed to appoint a Chairman to serve a term of office in accordance with the Board's Rules of Procedure, when these have been agreed by the Council.

3. Appointment of Rapporteur

3.1 The Board appointed Dr Peter Hutchinson, Assistant Secretary of NASCO, as rapporteur.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

4.1 The Board adopted its agenda, ICR(01)13 (Annex 2).

5. Consideration of the Terms of Reference for the Board

5.1 The Board considered its Terms of Reference, ICR(01)2.

6. Consideration of a Constitution for the Board

6.1 The Board considered a draft Constitution, ICR(01)3. The Board recognised that while it would have authority to establish and administer an International Cooperative Salmon Research Programme (hereafter referred to as 'the Programme'), it was nonetheless a constituent body of NASCO, which already has a Constitution. The Board therefore decided that it would be most appropriate to develop only new Rules of Procedure to guide its work, ICR(01)9 (Annex 3).

7. Research Projects

Inventory of research

7.1 The Council had asked that the Secretariat, on behalf of the Board, compile an inventory of all on-going or scheduled marine salmon research which NASCO's Contracting Parties plan to carry out on the high seas or in estuarine areas during 2002, 2003 and 2004. This inventory, ICR(01)5, was reviewed by the Board.

7.2 The Standing Scientific Committee had been requested to review the inventory, to advise on opportunities for cooperative research and to identify research priorities. The report from this Committee was presented, ICR(01)8. The Committee had recommended that for the Programme to be fully effective it would be important that research in fresh water of relevance to marine mortality also be reported to the Board and coordinated through the Programme, although the main focus of the Board may be research at sea. The Committee had recognised that there are likely to be general benefits to the Programme in maintaining close liaison between research groups and in rapid dissemination of the results. The need for cooperation and collaboration would, however, differ between projects but would be particularly important in studies concerned with the distribution and migration of post-smolt and adult salmon, which should enhance understanding of the factor or factors having the greatest effect on marine mortality. The Committee also indicated that there was considerable scope for cooperation in relation to studies on by-catch, in sharing experience of sampling methods and the use of new technologies such as data storage tags (DSTs), and in bulk purchasing of equipment such as DSTs so as to reduce cost. The Committee had recommended that high priority should initially be given to projects intended to improve understanding of post-smolt and adult distribution and migration. Other priority areas of research include continuing analysis of trends in marine survival in relation to environmental and biological data, by-catch of salmon and modelling studies.

7.3 The development of an inventory of current and scheduled funded research is an essential precursor to defining areas of research requiring new cooperative initiatives or additional funding. The Board agreed upon a structure for an Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea (Table 1).

Format of the inventory:

7.4 The Inventory is divided into five Topic Areas.

Topic 1 addresses long-term monitoring projects such as smolt enumeration and tagging studies on monitored rivers to obtain time series of survival estimates. While such projects are expected to be funded by the Contracting Parties, the Board considered it essential to ensure continued commitments to long-term funding of these projects. There will be benefits in ensuring cooperation in the analysis of these data sets.

Topic 2 addresses a range of studies to investigate, and then model, the distribution and movements of salmon in the sea. The investigations will range from general surveys to attempts to identify recaptured fish (e.g. by smolt marking or genetic analysis) or to track individuals. Projects in this area are likely to be expensive because of the use of research vessels or expensive technologies. They are, therefore, particularly suitable for funding by the Board. In addition, the value of these projects could be greatly enhanced through cooperation. For example, coordinated stratified surveys in space and time could provide a comprehensive description of the distribution of post-smolts. Similarly, efforts to recapture tagged fish might be greatly enhanced by organising additional tagging projects. Studies of by-catches in the pelagic fisheries and sampling in salmon fisheries may benefit from cooperation between the various nations involved in the fisheries and conducting marine surveys, and coordination of surveys and sampling is highly desirable.

Topic 3 comprises more specialised investigations of biological and life history processes. While there is a requirement for good dissemination of results in these areas, there is less general need for cooperative studies.

Topic 4 addresses new methods and technologies. While there may be little need for cooperation in the development of new methods (e.g. trawl designs) it is important that improvements are disseminated quickly to other research groups. Development of new technologies (e.g. electronic tags) can be expensive, but production costs can be greatly reduced if large numbers of units are produced.

Topic 5 relates mainly to specific natural and anthropogenic factors. They may be more amenable to measures to counteract them. They are often very important on a local or national basis and may be the most important factors driving marine mortality in these areas. The findings from these projects will often have relevance to other areas of the North Atlantic. Where factors such as predation and parasites and diseases are investigated on a more widespread basis in the North Atlantic and are considered to be major driving forces of marine mortality, they will be included in Topic 3. While Projects in Topic 5 will normally be funded by Contracting Parties, the Board does not preclude the possibility of funding such projects from the International Cooperative Salmon Research Fund (hereafter referred to as 'the Fund'). It is anticipated that the Inventory will aid the development of cooperative links in these areas.

Prioritisation:

7.5 The Board considered the priorities for cooperation between the Contracting Parties and for access to the Fund. These are indicated as high, medium or low in Table 1. The priorities of high, medium, and low assigned to the topic areas in Table 1 are those currently considered appropriate for international cooperation and funding. The Board will keep them under review. They are not intended to reflect overall importance of these topics. Both cooperation and access to the Fund was thought to be highly desirable for practical studies of the distribution and migration of salmon in the sea (Project areas 2a, 2b, and 2e) and studies of biological processes relating to the marine phase of the life history (Project areas 3b and 3c). Monitoring of distant water fisheries is also considered to have a high priority for cooperation, but since there are existing programmes there is little need for access to the Fund. The Board will focus its initial cooperative research and funding on the distribution and migration of salmon at sea as its highest priority.

Review of projects submitted for inventory:

7.6 The Board reviewed the details of the projects that had already been submitted to the Secretariat in document ICR(01)5. The Board noted that the costs provided by Parties did not appear to be consistent between projects and concluded that the Secretariat should seek information on the full economic cost of each study, including staff costs, equipment costs and overheads.

7.7 The Board raised specific questions about some projects reported to date and asked the Secretariat to follow these up with the Contracting Parties. The Board also omitted some projects from the inventory because they were not relevant or did not yet have funding. In the future, the Board intends to extend the inventory to include project proposals to other funding agencies in addition to projects which have already been funded.

Updating the inventory:

7.8 The Board noted that a number of projects had not been included in the submissions to date and recommended that the NASCO Secretariat should seek revisions to the present inventory taking account of the guidance on costing in paragraph 7.6. The Board is aware that decisions on funding of new projects in Faroes, Norway, Iceland and the US are expected within the next two months, hence a revised inventory could be compiled by mid-February 2002. The Board noted that additional monitoring projects to estimate marine survival are known to be underway in Scotland, England, Wales, France, Sweden, Canada, Norway, Denmark and Russia, and these should be added to the inventory. The Board also suggests that appropriate parts of the EU SALMODEL Concerted Action programme should be included in the inventory. The Board asked the Secretariat to update the inventory, which would then be agreed by the Board by correspondence and presented to the Council at its Nineteenth Annual Meeting.

Table 1 : Inventory of research relating to salmon mortality in the sea

Topic Area	Objective/Issue	Comments/examples	Projects	Potential for cooperation among Contracting Parties	Priority for access to 'Fund'
1. Long-term monitoring	a. Time-series of marine survival/growth estimates	Essential on-going tagging/monitoring programmes; require long-term national funding.	E5, E8, I1, N12, U3	Medium	Low
	b. Time series of marine survival in relation to environmental parameters (e.g. SST)	Desk studies on time series.	E6, I2	Medium	Medium
2. Distribution/ migration in the sea	a. Distribution of salmon in the sea	Marine surveys of post-smolt distributions in NEAC and NAC areas; identification of fish caught (e.g. tagging, genetics).	C2, C3, U4	High	High
	b. Migratory behaviour of individual fish	Active smolt tracking; automated data collection by DSTs.	C1, E3, I3, I4, U2	High	High
	c. Origin of catches in directed fisheries	Catch sampling in distant water fisheries; genetic analysis and scale analysis, etc; changes over time.	U6	High	Low
	d. Migration and bioenergetic models	Desk studies based on data obtained from other studies.	E1	Medium	Medium
	e. By-catches in pelagic fisheries	Can be conducted as part of marine surveys of post-smolt distributions; sample commercial pelagic catches.		High	High
3. Life history/biological processes	a. Freshwater factors	Age, growth, migration timing, etc.		Low	Low
	b. Pre-fishery-recruitment marine factors	Environment, food, predation, growth, parasites and diseases, etc.		High	High
	c. Post-fishery-recruitment marine factors	Environment, food, predation, maturation processes, growth, etc.		High	High
4. Development of methods	a. Post-smolt survey methods	Development of trawls with cameras, tag detection, etc.		Medium	Medium
	b. Electronic tag technology	Development of smaller/smarter/cheaper tags.		Medium	High
5. Specific natural and anthropogenic factors	a. Fish farms	Increased sea lice infestations.		Low	Low
	b. Predation	Predation by seals, birds, fish, etc. in estuaries/coastal areas.		Low	Low
	c. Obstructions to fish movements	Barrages, etc.	E2	Low	Low
	d. Pollutants	Acidification; freshwater contaminants.		Low	Low

Note:
The priorities of low, medium and high assigned to the topic areas in this table are those currently considered appropriate for international cooperation and funding. The Board will keep them under review. They are not intended to reflect overall importance of these topics.

8. Administrative and Financial Issues

8.1 The Board considered document ICR(01)4, which reviewed the financial and administrative issues concerning the Fund. The Board developed a flow chart to show the structure of the Programme and its relationship with the Fund (see below).

8.2 The Programme consists of two principal components. The first is Cooperative Salmon Research and the second is the Fund. The flow chart describes the steps that the Board will follow in implementing the Programme and how the processes for implementing each of the two main components of the Programme relate to each other.

8.3 There are three phases involved in implementing the Cooperative Research component of the Programme:

- development and maintenance of an inventory of relevant research regarding marine mortality of Atlantic salmon (see section 7 of this report);
- the setting of priorities for research needs and analysis of the inventory against these needs;
- better coordinated international research and funding of new research to fill the gaps identified by the Board;

The flow chart provides a more detailed explanation of these steps.

8.4 The flow chart outlines the processes to be undertaken to establish and manage the Fund component of the Programme. The relationship between the two components of the Programme is indicated in the chart. The Fund will be used by the Board to finance the gaps in research. The Board will implement the Programme as in the steps shown in the flow chart and in accordance with its Rules of Procedure contained in Annex 3. Financial contributions from individuals and other interested parties will be accepted in accordance with Guidelines on Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions to the International Cooperative Salmon Research Fund, ICR(01)10 (Annex 4). Financial Rules governing the management of the Fund, ICR(01)11, are contained in Annex 5. Taken together, these documents describe the processes and the rules governing the Programme being undertaken in response to the challenge of understanding marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and the steps that may be taken to improve salmon survival at sea.

8.5 The Board considered the matter of contributions from individuals and other interested parties and agreed that any fund-raising effort would best be targeted at individuals with a strong interest in the wild Atlantic salmon and its survival, and at companies or industries which might gain from being identified with the wild Atlantic salmon and its conservation. The Board believes that the image of the wild salmon as an indicator of healthy freshwater and marine environments might be of significant interest to some potential donors. It was agreed that, in the first instance, the Board would have to show it had put its own house in order by coordinating existing research and identifying gaps. Once this had been done the Board believed that audio-visual material should be developed which would be suitable for presentation to the individuals and other interested parties referred to above.

8.6 The Board asked the Secretariat to draft an initial strategy for fund-raising in consultation with the members of the Board. Following approval by the Council of NASCO of this report, the Board would approve the strategy at the earliest opportunity. The Council would be asked at its Nineteenth Annual Meeting to consider making budgetary provision in relation to the initial fund-raising activities of the Board, although the intention would be that in the longer term these costs would be met from the Fund.

8.7 The Board believes that it is important that it has a logo and acronym which convey to the public the intention of the Programme. It was agreed that the members of the Board should give this aspect further consideration prior to its next meeting but it was recognised that there may be a need for professional advice in relation to developing appropriate publicity material and in relation to the documents concerning the financial aspects of the Fund. The budgetary provision referred to in paragraph 8.6 should include an element to cover these anticipated costs.

9. Recommendations on any External Representation on the Board

9.1 The Board considered a brief background paper from the Secretariat on the issue of external representation, ICR(01)6. As initially constituted by the Council, participation on the Board was restricted to one nominated member from each NASCO Party, assisted by one or more advisors. The clear intention of the Council was to limit the size of the Board so as to ensure its effective functioning. There had been interest in participation on the Board from NASCO's NGOs and it was recognised that individuals or organizations offering substantial donations to the Fund may request a place on the Board as a condition of the donation.

9.2 The Board decided that it would not, for the time being, invite external representation but recognised that there was considerable expertise within NASCO's NGOs in relation to fund-raising, public relations aspects and identifying research priorities. The need to further strengthen the relationship with the NGOs so as to draw on this expertise was highlighted. It was agreed that the NGOs should be given the opportunity to review the inventory of marine research and to provide their views on research priorities. The Board decided to include in its Rules of Procedure an element of flexibility to allow external representation on the Board in exceptional circumstances and to allow for the appointment of one or more Patrons to the Fund. The Board asked the Secretary to contact the NGOs following the Annual Meeting soliciting their comments on the inventory and priorities for research, and to see if there are possibilities for their involvement in relation to public relations and fund-raising.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 There was no other business.

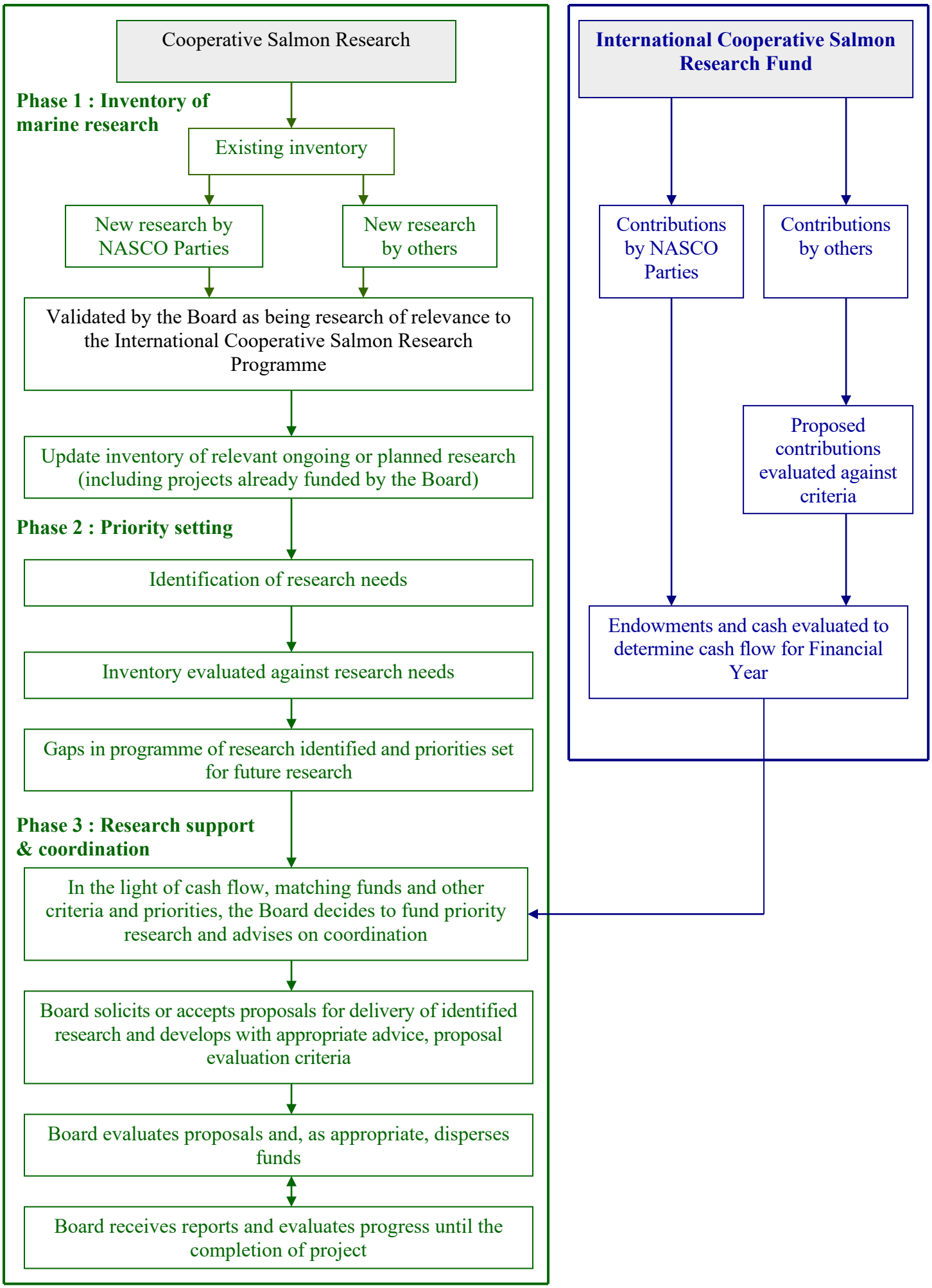
11. Report of the Meeting

11.1 The Board agreed a report of its meeting.

12. Date and Place of Next Meeting

12.1 The Board agreed that in accordance with its Rules of Procedure it should meet on an annual basis and that, subject to approval from the Council, its next meeting should be held between Autumn 2002 and Spring 2003 at a venue to be decided.

NASCO's International Cooperative Salmon Research Programme



Annex 1 to ICR(01)12

International Cooperative Salmon Research Board

Members of the Board

Canada

Mr David Bevan
Adviser: Mr Dave Meerburg

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Mr Hedin Weihe
Adviser: Dr Jan Arge Jacobsen

European Union

Dr Ken Whelan
Advisers: Mr Ole Tougaard, Mr Ted Potter

Iceland

Mr Arni Isaksson

Norway

Mr Arne Eggereide
Advisers: Mr Raoul Bierach, Dr Lars P Hansen

Russian Federation

Dr Boris Prischepa
Advisers: Ms Svetlana Krylova, Dr Alexander Zubchenko
Interpreter: Ms Elena Samoylova

United States

Ms Mary Colligan

Annex 2 to ICR(01)12

ICR(01)13

Inaugural Meeting of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board

Thistle Kensington Park Hotel, London
5-7 December 2001

Agenda

1. Opening of Meeting
2. Appointment of Chairman
3. Appointment of Rapporteur
4. Adoption of the Agenda
5. Consideration of the Terms of Reference for the Board
6. Consideration of a Constitution for the Board
7. Existing Research Programmes
   - (a) Inventory of ongoing or scheduled marine salmon research, 2002-2004
   - (b) Opportunities for cooperative research under existing programmes
   - (c) Priorities for marine research for 2002-2004
   - (d) Administrative and financial issues associated with existing research programmes
8. Possible New Funds and Resources
   - (a) Mechanisms for seeking and accepting new funds and resources
   - (b) Mechanisms for considering applications for new funds and resources
   - (c) Administrative and financial issues associated with new funds and resources
9. Recommendations on any External Representation on the Board
10. Any Other Business
11. Report of the Meeting
12. Date and Place of Next Meeting

ICR(01)9

Rules of Procedure for the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board

1. The International Cooperative Salmon Research Board is a body, established by and reporting to the Council of NASCO, to promote collaboration and cooperation on research into the causes of marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and the opportunities to counteract this mortality.

2. The Board shall establish and administer an International Cooperative Salmon Research Programme into the causes of marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and the opportunities to counteract this mortality with the following Terms of Reference:

   - maintaining an inventory of relevant research projects which are ongoing or planned and for which budgets have been confirmed;
   - identifying research needs;
   - evaluating the inventory against research needs;
   - identifying gaps in the inventory of research and setting priorities for further research;
   - providing a forum for coordination of relevant research efforts by the Contracting Parties of NASCO;
   - developing administrative mechanisms to accept financial contributions to an International Cooperative Salmon Research Fund;
   - soliciting and accepting financial contributions and managing the Fund;
   - establishing terms and conditions for soliciting, evaluating, approving and funding relevant research projects;
   - funding approved projects and reviewing results in relation to the objectives of the Programme.

3. The Board shall comprise one Member from each Contracting Party assisted, as appropriate, by one or more advisers. The costs associated with representation on the Board shall be borne by the Contracting Parties. In exceptional circumstances the Board may, by consensus, deviate from this rule concerning membership and costs.

4. The Board may establish criteria for appointment of, and may appoint, Patrons to the International Cooperative Salmon Research Fund.

5. The Board shall work by consensus but in the event that agreement cannot be reached the matter concerned shall be referred to the Council of NASCO for resolution.

6. The Board shall meet on an annual basis or at more frequent intervals if it, or the Council of NASCO, so decides.

7. Between meetings the Board may conduct its work and take decisions by correspondence.

8. The Board shall accept, for consideration, relevant written statements concerning the work of the Board from NASCO's NGOs.

9. The Board shall appoint a Chairman by consensus, who shall serve for a term of two years and who may be eligible for re-election for a further term of two years. A Contracting Party providing the Chairman shall also be entitled to provide a Member of the Board and one or more advisers.

10. The Board may establish Working Groups in order to progress specific areas of its work.

11. The Secretariat shall provide a Rapporteur and reports of the Board's meetings shall be presented to the Council in a timely manner.

12. The Board may seek advice from NASCO's Standing Scientific Committee.

13. The Board may make arrangements for external scientific evaluation of research projects funded by the Board or any research projects considered for funding under the International Cooperative Salmon Research Programme.

14. These Rules of Procedure may be subject to review by the Council of NASCO at any time and shall be reviewed no later than 2005.

ICR(01)10

Guidelines on Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions to the International Cooperative Salmon Research Fund

Voluntary contributions offered by individuals or other interested parties in accordance with NASCO's Financial Rule 7.2 may be accepted to the International Cooperative Salmon Research Fund provided:

(1) that the Board shall decide if the purpose of the contribution is consistent with the purpose of the Fund;
(2) that voluntary contributions from individuals or other interested parties may be accepted for research in relation to the causes of marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and the opportunities to counteract this mortality. (Provided this criterion and criterion 1 are met, a donor may direct the contribution to specific research);
(3) that those offering the voluntary contribution recognize that acceptance of the contribution does not signify that the Board endorses the products, aims or objectives of those making the donations;
(4) that those offering the voluntary contributions may not attach conditions to the contribution that are inconsistent with the rules and procedures of the Board;
(5) that voluntary contributions do not confer any rights to participate in or influence the general work of NASCO;
(6) that those offering voluntary contributions may not use NASCO's or the Board's name and/or logo without prior approval from the Secretary; they may, however, indicate their general support for the objectives of NASCO or the Board;
(7) that those offering voluntary contributions accept these conditions in writing prior to the contribution being accepted.

ICR(01)11

Financial Rules of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Fund

Rule 1: Applicability

1.1 These Rules shall govern the financial administration of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization's International Cooperative Salmon Research Fund (hereafter referred to as "the Fund"). The principal purpose of the Fund is to provide financial support for research to identify and explain the causes of marine mortality of salmon and the opportunities to counteract this mortality.

1.2 In these Financial Rules the word 'Secretary' shall refer to the Secretary of NASCO. The Board may decide at some future date, with the agreement of the Council of NASCO, to appoint its own Secretary

Rule 2: Financial Year

2.1 The financial year shall be the period from 1 January to 31 December.

Rule 3: Budget

3.1 The Secretary shall prepare a draft budget comprising estimates of income and of expenditure for the Fund for the ensuing financial year and commitments made for future expenditures in subsequent years.

3.2 The draft budget shall include an estimate of the financial implications for subsequent financial years.

3.3 The Secretary shall submit the draft budget to all members of the Board at least 60 days prior to the start of the financial year.

3.4 The draft budget shall be presented in UK currency.

3.5 The Board shall adopt its budget by consensus.

Rule 4: Payments from the Fund

4.1 The Secretary, on behalf of the Board, is authorised to make payments from the Fund provided such payments are consistent with the decisions of the Board.

4.2 The administrative costs of operating the Programme (including the Fund) shall be budgeted for initially by the Council of NASCO but once adequate funding is in place these costs shall be met from the Fund.

Rule 5: Contributions

5.1 The Fund shall be established as a Special or Trust Fund in accordance with NASCO's Financial Rule 6.1 in order to hold voluntary contributions above and beyond NASCO members' budget contributions and contributions by individuals or other interested parties. Contributions by non-NASCO members shall only be accepted if they comply with the Board's guidelines on acceptance of voluntary contributions.

5.2 The Fund shall be able to accept payments which may be spent in full, or endowments in which only the interest accruing may be spent.

5.3 The Fund may carry over its resources from one year to the next or to future years.

Rule 6: Custody of Funds

6.1 The Secretary shall designate a bank or banks in the United Kingdom in which the funds shall be kept and shall report the identity of the bank or banks to the Board.

6.2 The Secretary may make short-term investments of monies not needed for the immediate requirements of the Board. Such investments shall be restricted to securities and other investments issued under Government guarantee or interest-bearing accounts operated by the bank where the Organization's account is held. The details of investment transactions and income derived shall be reported to the Board.

6.3 In the case of contributions received for the explicit purpose of creating endowments, the Secretary shall take appropriate financial advice and invest accordingly.

Rule 7: Internal Control

7.1 The Secretary shall:

(a) cause all payments to be made on the basis of supporting vouchers and other documents which ensure that the research work, the goods or the services have been received and that payment has not previously been made. However, staged payments may be made for long-term research in progress;

(b) designate officers who may receive monies, incur obligations and make payments on behalf of the Board;

(c) maintain and be responsible for internal financial control.

Rule 8: Accounts

8.1 The Secretary shall ensure that appropriate records and accounts are kept of the transactions and affairs of the Fund and shall do all things necessary to ensure that all payments out of the Fund are correctly made and properly authorised.

8.2 The Secretary shall submit to the members of the Board, not later than 15 February immediately following the end of the financial year, annual financial statements. The

Secretary shall also give such other information as may be appropriate to indicate the financial position of the Fund. These financial statements shall be prepared in a form approved by the Board after consultation with the external auditor.

8.3 The accounting transactions of the Fund shall be recorded in UK currency.

8.4 The annual financial statements shall be submitted by the Secretary to the external auditor.

Rule 9: External Audit

9.1 The Fund shall be audited in accordance with NASCO Financial Rule 11 by the auditor to NASCO at the time the Organization's accounts are audited.

Rule 10: Acceptance of Annual Financial Statements

10.1 The Board shall, following consideration of the audited annual financial statements and audit report submitted to its members, signify its acceptance of the audited annual financial statements or take such other action as it may consider appropriate.

ANNEX 19

Council

CNL(02)22

Report of the Joint Meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC on Causes of Marine Mortality of Salmon

CNL(02)22

Report of the Joint Meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC on Causes of Marine Mortality of Salmon

Introduction

1. The increased marine mortality of some salmon stocks in recent years is a concern in both the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea. Last year the Council agreed to hold a meeting with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC). This meeting was held in Vancouver, Canada during 14-15 March 2002 under the Co-Chairmanship of Dr Yukimasa Ishida (Japan) and Dr Malcolm Windsor. The objectives of the meeting were to:

   - improve understanding of the mechanisms resulting in the increased marine mortality of salmon;
   - identify research priorities;
   - stimulate enhanced cooperation and information exchange in the future.

2. The meeting, which was co-sponsored by NPAFC, NASCO, IBSFC, PICES and ICES, was the first of its kind to bring together five inter-governmental organizations to review information on salmon in the three areas. Almost 150 delegates attended. Sessions were held on the status of salmon stocks and fisheries and the possible factors associated with increased marine mortality, which were considered under three groupings - climate and oceanography, human-induced effects and ecological factors. In addition there was a synthesis and general discussion session. The main points arising from these sessions are briefly summarised below.

Status of Stocks and Fisheries

3. On the basis of the information presented on status of stocks and fisheries, it is clear that there is concern about the low marine survival of some salmon stocks in all three areas, that in response to these concerns there have been major reductions in marine fisheries and that for some stocks these restrictive measures have not yet resulted in improvements in status. Particular concern was expressed about the status of stocks at the southern limit of the range, inevitably raising concerns about the possible effects of global warming. For example, some US stocks of both Pacific and Atlantic salmon have been designated under the Endangered Species Act. For North American origin Atlantic salmon it has been suggested, on the basis of reconstructed climate cycles that the present abundance is the lowest it has been for 300 years and that there are increasing anthropogenic influences on these stocks.

Factors affecting marine mortality

4. Research on salmon at sea has, until recently, been given relatively low priority and, as a result, the factors affecting survival at sea are poorly understood but appear to be driving abundance. If the key to good management is knowledge, then it is important that there is a clearer understanding of this phase of the salmon's life-cycle. The joint

meeting provided an opportunity to review new information on the factors affecting survival of salmon at sea. The following points emerged:

Climate and oceanography

- correlations suggest the importance of environmental variability, such as sea surface temperature, to salmon survival at sea, and provide a basis for the provision of management advice;
- decadal-scale climate regimes lead to major changes in marine ecosystems, affect salmon production, and can have a profound effect on the population structure and diversity of salmon;
- links between the Pacific and North Atlantic climate regimes have resulted in common responses in salmon stocks;
- while the precise factors affecting mortality at sea remain unclear, and may differ within and between ecosystems, changes in early marine growth of post-smolt salmon appear to be important;
- the effects of even small shifts in climate can exceed, in a short period of time, the effects of long-term management actions.

Human-induced effects

- exposure to sub-lethal concentrations of contaminants in fresh water, such as pesticides and endocrine-disrupting chemicals, may delay or inhibit smolt migration, affect adaptation to marine conditions or lead to poor growth;
- other factors in fresh water (e.g. water temperature, acidification) may subsequently affect survival at sea and appropriate targeting of management action will require better identification of the relevance of these factors;
- there is concern about the impacts from aquaculture in all three areas. In Norway it has been estimated that, although there is great temporal and spatial variation in infection levels, sea lice from salmon farming may result in up to 95% mortality of wild Atlantic salmon, despite target lice levels in farms conforming to regulatory requirements;
- human-induced changes in genetic diversity may reduce the resilience of salmon to environmental changes in both freshwater and marine environments. Maintenance of genetic diversity should be one of the key goals of salmon management.

Ecological factors

- there are concerns about the impact of predation on salmon stocks in all three areas;
- in recent years the populations of salmon predators, a number of which are protected by legislation, are known to have increased while salmon abundance has declined;
- there is little quantitative information on the impact of predators on salmon fisheries and stocks, particularly at sea, but the impact of some species is thought to be significant;
- the intensity of predation is variable and may be related to climate change and availability of other prey. For example, a significant cold-water event in the early 1990s led to a shift in diet of gannets off Newfoundland and an increase by an

order of magnitude in the proportion of salmon post-smolts in the diet. While the proportion of post-smolts remained low (2.5%) in most years, this further increased to 20% in 2001.

5. During the discussion period a number of points emerged as follows:

- the meeting had provided a valuable exchange of information and efforts should be made to continue the dialogue, to enhance coordination of the work being undertaken in the three areas and to improve cooperation in the development of new technologies for studying salmon at sea;
- it was suggested that an expanded international symposium might be held in the near future to facilitate improved coordination, cooperation and exchange of ideas, and to communicate findings to the public in order to achieve support for research on salmon at sea;
- it is likely that a variety of factors are influencing mortality at sea and that a clearer understanding of these will require a multi-disciplinary research effort;
- a priority of research is to improve understanding of migration patterns and distribution of salmon at sea;
- a serious problem in understanding the marine phase of the salmon's life-cycle is related to the scale, and therefore the cost, of the research. There is a need to build on the progress being made and a number of suggestions as to the way forward were proposed, including analysis of historical scale collections, use of electronic tags, and international cooperative research focusing on specific areas of the migratory range;
- salmon are highly prestigious species, in which there is much public interest and there is a need for effective communication so as to gain public support for scientific research on salmon at sea.

Conclusion

6. This meeting was a unique opportunity to bring together knowledge on wild salmon from three different areas. Feedback from the participants suggested that it was well received and very useful. A report of the meeting is being published as an NPAFC Technical Bulletin and copies will be made available to all NASCO delegates. The views of the meeting with regard to research priorities and the way forward appeared generally consistent with the approach being adopted by NASCO's International Cooperative Salmon Research Board.

Secretary
Edinburgh
3 May, 2002

ANNEX 20

Council

CNL(02)23

Returns Made Under the Oslo Resolution

CNL(02)23

Returns Made Under the Oslo Resolution

1. The Resolution by the Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean to Minimise Impacts from Salmon Aquaculture on the Wild Salmon Stocks (the "Oslo Resolution") was adopted by the Council in 1994. Under Article 5 of the Resolution each Party is required to provide to the Organization, on an annual basis, information of a scope to be determined by the Council concerning measures adopted under Article 2 (measures to minimise genetic and other biological interactions), Article 3 (measures to minimise the risk of transmission of diseases and parasites to the wild stocks of salmon) and on research and development (Article 4). A format for the return of information was agreed in 1995 and the first returns (covering the calendar year 1995) were presented to the Council at its 1996 Annual Meeting. In 1998 the Council adopted a revised format for the returns by the Parties under the Oslo Resolution so as to ensure that the Organization has available to it comprehensive information concerning the measures in force when deciding if additional measures to those contained in the Oslo Resolution may be necessary.

2. The request for the return of information for the calendar year 2001 was circulated on 4 January 2002. At its 2000 Annual Meeting the Council had agreed that it wished only to be advised of new measures. Therefore measures reported in earlier years have not been reported here but the information returned to the Organization in these and all earlier returns has been incorporated in a database and the information is now available to the Parties if requested. The entries in the database indicate, where appropriate, that while a Party may not have reported any new measures in a particular year, previously reported measures still apply. It should be noted that not all forms of aquaculture are practised by all Parties. Greenland has no aquaculture at all. At the time of preparation of this paper, no return of information for 2001 was available for three EU Member States with salmon interests (France, Spain and Portugal).

Secretary
Edinburgh
3 May, 2002

1. General Measures

1.1 Sites

1.1.1 Sites only to be assigned for aquaculture where hydrographical, epidemiological, biological and ecological standards can be met

European Union

UK (Northern Ireland)

Pre-licensing public consultation including mandatory conditions enforced by inspection and/or sampling. Aquaculture licence applications for marine sites also subject to the provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (Fish Farming in Marine Waters) regulations (Northern Ireland) 1999 which transpose Council directive 85/337/EEC as amended by Council Directive 97/11/EC.

Iceland

Revised aquaculture licensing system.

Russian Federation

No federal regulations exist. Regional guidelines have been developed including requirements relating to siting of aquaculture units and transfers of fish in the Murmansk Region. Regional authorities have the authority to issue licences for aquaculture based on these guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

1.1.2 Siting of units to avoid risk of damage by collision

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

1.1.3 Adequate marking of aquaculture units

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

1.2 Operations

1.2.1 Management of aquaculture units to prevent and control diseases and parasites

European Union

Ireland

Implementation of a new Quality Scheme which most farms have signed up to. This sets down protocols with respect to disease control, fish husbandry, etc. The scheme is audited annually by independent assessors who determine whether the desired standard has been achieved or not. Successful enterprises are awarded a Quality mark.

UK (Northern Ireland)

High existing fish health status. Only ova can be imported. Twice yearly government inspection and testing every 2 years. Controlled access to sites. Permits required for fish movements.

Iceland

Revised aquaculture licensing system and increased enforcement.

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

USA

An Infectious Salmon Anemia (ISA) Programme was implemented by the US Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service which establishes procedures for the prevention and containment of ISA from farm-raised Atlantic salmon. As part of this program, indemnity payments will be made to producers provided established procedures and standards are followed.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

1.2.2 Management of aquaculture units to prevent escape of fish

Canada

Containment Codes are in place or are under development within provinces; they are under provincial jurisdiction. The Newfoundland Code of Containment is being fully implemented. Industry in Nova Scotia has developed a draft Code of Containment.

Iceland

Improved enforcement and improved control of sea-cages.

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

1.3 Transfers

1.3.1 Transfers conducted so as to minimise potential for disease/parasite transmission and for genetic and other biological interactions

Iceland

Improved control of transfers between rearing stations.

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

1.3.2 Introduction of mechanisms to control transfers where necessary

Canada

By federal regulation fish may not be introduced to waters without a licence. A National Code for Introductions and Transfers was signed by Provincial and Federal Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers in Fall 2001. It will ensure uniform application of Risk Analysis evaluation criteria prior to movements of fish. There is an 18-month implementation and review period for the National Code, beginning January 2002.

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

2. Measures To Minimise Genetic And Other Biological Interactions

2.1 Design standards for aquaculture units

2.1.1 Establishment of standards and technical specifications for the design and deployment of aquaculture units (marine and freshwater)

Iceland

Increased enforcement.

Russian Federation

In accordance with standards and technical specifications used in Norway.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

2.1.2 Optimisation of containment of fish through use of appropriate technology for prevailing conditions

Canada

Containment Codes fully implemented in Newfoundland. Newfoundland Containment Guidelines specify net type and configuration and specify minimum smolt size. Containment codes under development in New Brunswick.

Russian Federation

See return under 2.1.1.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

2.1.3 Regular routine inspection and maintenance of aquaculture systems and upgrading of equipment as new technological improvements become available

Iceland

Increased enforcement.

Russian Federation

See return under 2.1.1.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

2.1.4 Regular monitoring and use of efficient security systems

Iceland

Larger marine farms have underwater surveillance systems.

Russian Federation

See return under 2.1.1.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

2.2 Salmon enhancement

2.2.1 Use of local stocks wherever possible

European Union

UK (Northern Ireland)

Have been used but are scarce. Genetic profiling of salmon in Foyle catchment is being undertaken and this information will be used in making decisions in relation to viability of restocking/enhancement work.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

2.2.2 Implementation of criteria for broodstock selection and management

European Union

UK (Northern Ireland)

Wild stock held in hatcheries for selection and return of progeny to own waters. In the Foyle, Carlingford and Irish Lights Commission area, where necessary, stocking is on a sub-catchment basis.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

2.3 Salmon ranching

2.3.1 Use of local stocks or alternatively local ranching stocks

No new measures reported by any Party.

2.3.2 Harvesting of ranched fish at or close to release site or in fisheries managed in a way that prevents over-harvesting of wild stocks

No new measures reported by any Party.

2.4 Salmon farming

2.4.1 Use of local broodstocks where practicable

Russian Federation

Smolts originate from Northern Norway.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

2.4.2 Efforts to recapture escaped farmed salmon

No new measures reported by any Party.

2.4.3 Establishment of site-specific contingency plan in the event of large escapes

Iceland

Specified in an operating licence.

Russian Federation

A contingency plan has been developed for a salmon farm in the Murmansk region, including early notification of escapes and recapture measures.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

3. Measures To Minimise Disease And Parasite Interactions

3.1 Control and prevention of diseases and parasites

3.1.1 Aquaculture production process conducted in accordance with appropriate fish health protection and veterinary controls, including the application of appropriate husbandry techniques to minimise risk of diseases

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

USA

The ISA Programme includes components to address the risk of ISA.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

3.1.2 Treatment or removal of diseased stock and measures to ensure diseased fish are not released to the wild

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

USA

This factor is addressed in the ISA Programme.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

3.2 Stocking density

3.2.1 Aquaculture production adapted to the site's holding capacity and stocking density should not exceed levels based on good husbandry practices

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

3.3 Removal of dead or dying fish

3.3.1 Removal of dead/dying fish and disposal along with waste materials in an approved manner

European Union

Ireland

Routine mortalities are removed regularly by divers. They are generally ensiled on site and stored in an ensiler for collection and subsequent disposal either by rendering or by use as a fertilizer.

UK (England, Wales and Scotland)

Disposal of fish from sites with List I (ISA) or List II (VHS and IHN) diseases controlled by official service. Routine mortality disposal is the responsibility of the operator. Disposal must be by incineration or rendering.

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

3.3.2 Establishment of procedures for effective removal and disposal of infectious material

European Union

UK (Scotland)

Infrastructure continues to be developed (such as strategic location of holding tanks for ensiled waste).

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

3.3.3 Establishment of contingency plans for disposal of mortalities from emergency situations

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

3.4 Adequate separation

3.4.1 Separation of aquaculture facilities on the basis of a general assessment of local conditions

Canada

In progress. New Brunswick has a recommended minimum separation of 300 m between sites, but the actual separation is usually greater and is dependent on site-specific factors.

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

3.5 Year-class separation

3.5.1 Rearing of different generations in separate locations where possible

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

3.6 Fallowing of sites

3.6.1 Use of a fallowing regime wherever possible

Canada

In progress. Some sites have been fallowed, but the number of infected sites has decreased, so less fallowing has been required.

European Union

UK (England and Wales)

There would be a compulsory fallow period following any outbreak of a serious notifiable disease.

USA

This is contained in the ISA Programme standards.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

3.7 Use of medicines and disinfectants

3.7.1 Careful use of medicines and disinfectants in accordance with manufacturers' instructions, Codes of Practice and in compliance with regulatory authorities

European Union

UK (Northern Ireland)

In practice. Organic standards maintained.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

3.8 Lists of diseases

3.8.1 Lists of prevailing infectious diseases and parasites and methods for control to be maintained by appropriate authorities

Russian Federation

See return under 1.1.1 concerning regional guidelines.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

4. Research And Development

4.1 Research, small-scale testing and full-scale implementation of:

4.1.1 Wild salmon protection areas

Iceland

Prohibition of rearing of fertile salmon close to salmon rivers in accordance with Regulation no. 226/2001.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

4.1.2 Sterile salmon

Canada

Development of culture techniques and environmental assessment of triploid salmon is in progress in New Brunswick. Sea cage trials are planned for 2002. No new trials took place in Baie d'Espoir in 2001. It was found that the superior salmon strain used from Washington State produced a superior triploid salmon.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

4.1.3 Tagging and marking

Iceland

Minimal micro-tagging of 5% of smolts put into sea-cages.

USA

A Workshop was held in Maine to identify and discuss available marking and tagging techniques and technologies. A Working Group was subsequently created with membership from the federal government, state government, conservation organizations and the aquaculture industry. The Working Group has compiled existing information on marking and tagging approaches and laboratory trials have been initiated.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

4.1.4 Designation of aquaculture regions

European Union

UK (Scotland)

A review of hydrographic definition of aquaculture regions has begun. Research commissioned into aquaculture carrying capacity of coastal waters.

Iceland

Feasible by law to designate such regions and specify quantity produced.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

4.1.5 Alternative production methods (land-based, closed or contained floating facilities and other containment technologies)

Iceland

Advanced land-based technology.

No new measures reported by the other Parties.

4.1.6 Use of local broodstocks

No new measures reported by any Party.

4.1.7 Understanding of genetic interactions

No new measures reported by any Party.

4.1.8 Prevention and control of disease and parasites

European Union

UK (England and Wales)

Range of governmental funded research programmes.

Sweden

The parasite *Gyrodactylus salaris* was found in a Swedish rainbow trout farm located in the border river to Norway, Enningdalsälven. As the parasite is not on the list of notifiable diseases in Sweden, effective measures to avoid spreading the infection to the salmon stock have been difficult to implement.

Norway

Studies on DNA vaccines primarily VHS and IHN.

USA

The ISA Programme was designed to control ISA.

No new measures reported by the other Parties or the other EU Member States.

ANNEX 21

Council

CNL(02)24

Report of the Third Liaison Meeting with the Salmon Farming Industry

CNL(02)24

Report of the Third Liaison Meeting with the Salmon Farming Industry

1. Since February 2000, the Liaison Group between NASCO and the North Atlantic salmon farming industry has met annually. The Council had previously welcomed this closer, more open and broader cooperation with the salmon farming industry and the commitment to work together on issues of mutual concern. The third meeting of the Liaison Group was held in Westport, Ireland during 8-9 April and the report of the meeting is contained in Attachment 1.

2. At its second meeting the Liaison Group had developed Guidelines on Containment of Farm salmon. The Council had agreed these Guidelines and had asked that the Liaison Group monitor the development of the Action Plans envisaged under the Guidelines and their implementation, and advise the Council on progress on an annual basis. At the Westport meeting verbal reports were made on progress in developing and implementing Action Plans on Containment of Farm Salmon. While it was recognised that salmon farming countries would proceed at different speeds in implementing their Action Plans, the Liaison Group agreed that there was a need to develop a systematic process for reporting on implementation of these Action Plans. A format for reporting on an annual basis is contained in Annex 4 of the report.

3. The Liaison Group also received a progress report from its Salmon Cooperation Group, established to explore options for enhanced cooperation between wild and farmed salmon interests. The Group has identified ten areas for joint initiatives but initially will review existing cooperative ventures between wild and farmed salmon interests. Funding for this review has been secured from industry sources. The Liaison Group has asked that the Salmon Cooperation Group proceed with this review and further develop its proposals for joint initiatives.

4. The Council had requested that the Terms of Reference developed by the SCPA in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics (see document CNL(02)17) be made available to the Liaison Group so that the Group's comments could be considered at NASCO's Nineteenth Annual Meeting. The industry representatives indicated that they would need time to develop a response to these Terms of Reference but that they would be considered at a meeting of the International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA) in late April. At the time of preparation of this paper, no response had been received from the salmon farming industry but we expect that any comments will be available at the Annual Meeting. The Council will be considering these Terms of Reference under agenda item 6.2(d) of its agenda.

5. The industry representatives proposed to the Liaison Group that the ISFA should, in future, be the organization which would represent the industry within the Liaison Group. NASCO requested that a copy of the Constitution of the ISFA be provided and asked for an indication of how a North Atlantic group within ISFA might be structured. At the time of preparation of this paper, no response had been received from the salmon farming industry but we expect that this information will be available at the Annual Meeting.

6. The Council is asked to:

- note the format for reporting to the Liaison Group annually on implementation of Actions Plans on Containment of Farm Salmon;

- note the proposals from the Salmon Cooperation Group;

- consider any comments from the industry on the Terms of Reference in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics and decide on appropriate action;

- consider the proposal that the ISFA should be the organization to represent the salmon farming industry in the Liaison Group.

Secretary
Edinburgh
3 May, 2002

SLG(02)9

Report of the Meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry and NASCO Liaison Group

Hotel Westport, Westport, Co. Mayo, Ireland

8 and 9 April, 2002

1. Introduction

1.1 The Secretary of NASCO, Dr Malcolm Windsor, opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Westport. He expressed sincere thanks to the Marine Institute and the Irish Salmon Growers Association for the arrangements made and for their excellent hospitality. An opening statement was made on behalf of the North Atlantic salmon farming industry (Annex 1). An opening statement was made on behalf of NASCO (Annex 2).

1.2 A list of participants is contained in Annex 3.

2. Appointment of a Chairman

2.1 The Liaison Group appointed Mr James Ryan as its Chairman for a period of two years. The Liaison Group expressed appreciation to the previous Chairman, Mr. Andrew Thomson, for his excellent work on behalf of the group.

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

3.1 Dr Peter Hutchinson, Assistant Secretary of NASCO, was appointed as Rapporteur.

4. Adoption of the Agenda

4.1 The Liaison Group adopted its agenda, SLG(02)7. It was agreed to consider two new items, NASCO's policy on communications and the structure for future representation by the industry in the Liaison Group, under "Any Other Business" (agenda item 10).

5. Matters Arising since the First Meeting of the Liaison Group

(a) Attendance at NASCO meetings

At its meeting in 2001 the Liaison Group had agreed to recommend to the Council of NASCO that both the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Liaison Group be invited to attend future NASCO meetings so as to contribute to the relevant agenda item where a report on the work of the Liaison Group is made. This proposal had been accepted by NASCO and was acceptable to the North Atlantic salmon farming industry. Clarification was sought by the industry on the funding arrangements concerning

attendance at NASCO's annual meetings by the Chairman or Rapporteur of the Liaison Group when these posts are held by industry representatives. It was confirmed that this would be an issue for the industry or Contracting Party concerned.

(b) Report on NASCO's Special Liaison Meetings on Measures to Minimise Impacts of Aquaculture on Wild Salmon Stocks

A report of NASCO's three Special Liaison Meetings, which had been attended by representatives of the North Atlantic salmon farming industry, was made available to the Liaison Group, CNL(01)69.

(c) Guiding Principles for Cooperation between NASCO and its Contracting Parties and the North Atlantic salmon farming industry

The Guiding Principles for Cooperation between NASCO and its Contracting Parties and the North Atlantic salmon farming industry had been proposed by the Liaison Group at its 2001 meeting. These were acceptable to NASCO and to the industry.

(d) Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon

The Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon, adopted by the Liaison Group at its 2001 meeting, had been considered by the Council of NASCO at its Eighteenth Annual Meeting. The Council had agreed to these guidelines but had stressed the need for these to be reviewed and updated on a regular basis to take account of new technology and better information on impacts of escaped farm salmon on the wild salmon stocks. The Council had asked that the Liaison Group monitor the development of the Action Plans envisaged under the Guidelines and their implementation and advise the Council of NASCO on progress on an annual basis (see agenda item 6). The North Atlantic salmon farming industry representatives confirmed that the Guidelines were acceptable to them.

(e) NAC Protocols on Introductions and Transfers

At the Liaison Group's 2001 meeting, representatives of the salmon farming industry in North America had referred to the need to re-examine NASCO's North American Commission's Protocols on Introductions and Transfers in the light of the development by the Liaison Group of Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon. Canada indicated that it had developed a new policy on introductions and transfers and that consultations were ongoing in Canada with relevant stakeholders. Once this process was complete there would be consultations with the US with regard to reviewing the NAC Protocols in the light of the new policy. The Liaison Group agreed to keep this matter under review.

(f) Norwegian Research Council's Scientific Research Programme on Salmon

The representative of the Norwegian Fish Farmers Association provided an update on the new scientific research programme on wild Atlantic salmon, initiated in 2001, which is being funded through the Norwegian Research Council from public and private (including aquaculture industry) sources. The Norwegian salmon farming industry has made a financial contribution to the programme in 2002 with the aim of

increasing understanding of sea lice impacts on wild salmon stocks. It is hoped that the hydro-electric generation industry might also contribute to the programme A separate programme on aquaculture research operates on issues such as rearing new species in aquaculture, improved cage design and fish health, etc. This programme also involves funding from the aquaculture industry.

6. Progress in Developing and Implementing Action Plans on Containment

6.1 Verbal reports were made by the Parties on progress in developing and implementing Action Plans on Containment of Farm Salmon. The reports indicated that each country with salmon farming had begun the process of implementing Action Plans by cooperation between industry and government. Detailed discussions on these plans had been initiated and the reports confirmed that there had been progress in implementation. Furthermore, progress had been made on the establishment of reporting procedures following an escape. The industry stressed the need for rapid authorization for recapture procedures to recover farmed fish following an escape.

6.2 It was accepted that salmon farming countries would inevitably proceed at different speeds in implementing their Action Plans. Nevertheless, the Liaison Group agreed that there was a need to develop a systematic process for reporting on implementation of these Action Plans. The Liaison Group agreed a format, in accordance with Section 7 of the Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon, SLG(01)12, for reporting on an annual basis on implementation of the Action Plans, SLG(02)8 (Annex 4).

7. Report of the Salmon Cooperation Group

7.1 At its 2001 meeting the Liaison Group had established a Salmon Cooperation Group to explore options for enhanced cooperation between wild and farmed salmon interests. A progress report was made on the work of this Group, SLG(02)6 (Annex 5). The Group had identified ten areas for possible joint initiatives but initially would be working to review all existing cooperative ventures between wild and farmed salmon interests. Funding for this review had been secured from industry sources. The NASCO representatives expressed their appreciation to the industry for agreeing to fund this review. The Liaison Group asked the Salmon Cooperation Group to proceed with this review and to further develop its proposals for joint initiatives between wild and farmed salmon interests.

8. Reports on the Status of Wild Salmon Stocks

8.1 A summary of the scientific advice from ICES on the status of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic in 2000 was presented. In addition, brief reports were made by the NASCO Parties which provided updated information on the status of wild salmon stocks in 2001. These reports highlighted the very low abundance of both European and North American salmon which appears to be linked to increased mortality of salmon at sea. NASCO's new International Cooperative Salmon Research Board, established to investigate the causes of marine mortality of salmon, was described. NASCO indicated that in view of the crisis situation facing wild salmon stocks, the challenge is to protect the very existence and the genetic diversity of the wild stocks which form a living gene bank. Moreover, there is a need to safeguard the very significant social and economic

benefits associated with wild salmon. In these circumstances it will be necessary to look at all the threats to the resource, including those associated with aquaculture, so as to ensure the conservation of the resource, which will ultimately be of benefit to both wild and farmed salmon interests.

8.2 The industry stated that it has resources and technical expertise of relevance to conservation of wild salmon and has put significant efforts into the protection of genetic diversity.

9. Application of the Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management

9.1 NASCO and is Contracting Parties have agreed to adopt and apply the Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. A brief report was made by NASCO on progress in applying the Precautionary Approach to management of salmon fisheries in the North Atlantic and to habitat protection and restoration. It was agreed that all of the agreements developed by NASCO in relation to the Precautionary Approach would be made available to industry representatives. NASCO's Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach (SCPA) will next consider application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics. It will also separately consider how social and economic aspects can be incorporated in application of the Precautionary Approach.

9.2 NASCO's SCPA had recently developed draft Terms of Reference for a future meeting of the Committee on application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics. The Council of NASCO had agreed that these Draft Terms of Reference, SLG(02)3, should be made available to the Liaison Group before their consideration by NASCO so that the Group's comments could be reviewed at NASCO's Nineteenth Annual Meeting. Under the Liaison Group's Guiding Principles for Cooperation, the Parties agree to work cooperatively when consideration is given to application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon aquaculture.

9.3 The industry representatives referred to their existing commitment to the Precautionary Approach through use of environmental management schemes and existing measures required by regulatory bodies. In the light of these commitments, the industry expressed some concern that the Precautionary Approach could be used as a mechanism to prevent the further development of their industry. Concern was also expressed about the possible amendment of NASCO's agreements, as a result of the review envisaged in the Terms of Reference, before they had even been implemented. Furthermore, the industry pointed out that existing national and regional laws and regulations would need to be taken into account in the review. The industry indicated that it would prefer a risk management approach to application of the Precautionary Approach. NASCO indicated that the need to take account of appropriate risk assessments is already incorporated in the Terms of Reference, that the review is an essential process in applying the Precautionary Approach and that its successful resolution should help the industry in dealing with its critics. The industry indicated that they would need time to develop a response to these Terms of Reference. They agreed to consider them at the next meeting of the International Salmon Farmers' Association (ISFA) to be held in late April and to develop a

response well in advance of NASCO's next annual meeting in June, including proposals as to how the industry might contribute to this aspect of the SCPA's work.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 The industry representatives referred to the problems caused at NASCO's last annual meeting as a result of the issue by one NGO of a press release at a sensitive stage of the meeting. They asked if there had been any progress on the proposed development by NASCO of a policy on communications. The Secretary of NASCO reported that the NGOs were developing their own code of practice concerning contact with the media during NASCO meetings. This would be examined by the Council prior to a decision in June on possible new rules for NGOs. The Secretary expected that there would be sanctions incorporated in the new rules. It was agreed to circulate the NASCO paper on communications policy to the Liaison Group.

10.2 The industry representatives reported that all countries farming salmon in the North Atlantic area are now represented within ISFA, which represents 91% of production, and they proposed that this organization, which is a federation of national salmon farming associations, should in future be the organization which would represent the industry within the Liaison Group. NASCO requested the industry representatives to provide it with a copy of the Constitution for ISFA. They also asked for an indication of how a North Atlantic group within ISFA might be structured.

10.3 Reference was made to the need for research to examine the hypothesis that escaped farm salmon from one country might be carried with ocean currents into territorial waters of, and enter rivers in, other countries. The Liaison Group asked the Salmon Cooperation Group to consider this proposal.

11. Date and Place of Next Meeting

11.1 The Liaison Group proposed to hold a further meeting in about a year's time, principally to review the reports on implementation of the Action Plans on containment using the newly agreed format and to consider the proposals from the Salmon Cooperation Group. The date and place of the meeting would be agreed by correspondence.

12. Report of the Liaison Group Meeting

12.1 The Liaison Group agreed a report of its meeting.

Annex 1 to SLG(02)9

Opening Statement by Mr James Ryan on behalf of the North Atlantic salmon farming industry

On behalf of both the Irish Salmon Growers Association and myself, as I actually live here in Westport, I would like to welcome you all to this small but thriving little town on the west coast of Ireland. Both aquaculture and angling contribute in no small way to the economy of Westport. I hope after your stay here that you will go back to your own countries and promote the west of Ireland as THE place to come to for your holiday in the sun – it's always like this here.

On behalf of the Atlantic salmon farming industry, I would like to say that we are very pleased with the progress that has been made by this Group over the last two years. We have enjoyed getting to know each other and we have even managed to do some very significant work. We have produced the Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon and this is not just a document to sit gathering dust on a shelf. Even as we speak here now, those guidelines are being applied by ordinary individual fish farm workers in the remotest of locations – from the Bay of Fundy in New Brunswick to the most obscure corners of Scottish lochs and Norwegian fjords. This is a classic example of what international cooperation can achieve in spite of major differences in outlook between the negotiating parties.

In this age when everyone is so short of time, these meetings are, of course, a burden to all parties but in spite of this the salmon farming industry is an enthusiastic supporter of the process provided it continues to result in the streamlining and simplification of regulation and enforcement. We have no interest in being part of something which ultimately makes our business impossible to operate.

We believe that over the last two years we have shown our bona fides and as a kind of payback to NASCO, which should not be too onerous, we would now like you to assist us in applying our extensive knowledge of salmon husbandry to the cause of the restoration of wild salmon stocks. While our industry has had a very difficult year in the market place, and this has forced us to concentrate on the survival of our businesses, I believe that this meeting, here in Westport, can act as the launch pad for a new era of cooperation between wild salmon interests and aquaculture. I am confident, therefore, that we will have a good meeting. Thank you.

Opening Statement by Dr Malcolm Windsor on behalf of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)

First, on behalf of the NASCO delegates to this Liaison Group Meeting, I would like to thank our Irish colleagues in the Marine Institute and the salmon farming industry here in Ireland for the arrangements made for this meeting. It is a pleasure for us to be here in the west of Ireland and we greatly appreciate the meeting facilities you have provided and the excellent visits which allowed us to learn more about management of both wild salmon stocks and the salmon farming industry here.

We in NASCO greatly value the spirit of cooperation that has developed through these meetings and we look forward to building on the progress made at earlier Liaison Group meetings. At our second meeting in Ottawa last year we made good progress in developing Guidelines for Containment of Farm Salmon. We need your confirmation that the guidelines are acceptable to the industry. The Council of NASCO has welcomed this and asked that the Liaison Group monitor the development and implementation of the action plans envisaged under these Guidelines and advise on progress on an annual basis. We look forward to receiving reports on this important initiative from the countries represented here today.

In Ottawa we also established a Salmon Cooperation Group to further explore options for enhanced cooperation between wild and farmed salmon interests. I know that this group has been active over the last twelve months and I hope will have some interesting proposals for us to consider over the next two days.

The Council of NASCO has also asked that draft Terms of Reference for a meeting of its Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach to consider application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture (including ranching and stocking) and transgenics be considered by this Group. By this NASCO means the risks to the wild stocks from these activities. You may recall that under our Guiding Principles we agreed to work cooperatively when consideration is given to application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon aquaculture and we would like to have some feedback from the industry on these Terms of Reference which will be conveyed to NASCO Council when it meets in June. At that stage the Council will also resolve the extent of stakeholder participation in the Committees work.

Let me reassure the industry that we do not believe that salmon farming is the cause of all the problems with the wild stocks, but the wild stocks are in a desperate situation and we cannot afford to ignore any threat.

Finally the salmon farming industry has requested that reports be made by NASCO's Parties on the current status of wild salmon stocks, which is still giving rise to serious concerns.

So we have much to consider over the next couple of days but I am confident that the goodwill and spirit of cooperation that has been so evident in our work over the last two years will allow us to make further real progress on issues of mutual concern. We in NASCO look forward to working with you here in Westport and to a productive meeting.

North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry and NASCO Liaison Group

Hotel Westport, Westport, Ireland
8-9 April 2002

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SLG(02)8

Guidelines for Containment of Farm Salmon
Development and Implementation of Action Plans
Format for Reporting to the Liaison Group

1. Is there currently an Action Plan for containment of farm salmon so as to achieve a level of escapes that is as close to zero as practicable? If yes, please attach a copy. If no, what is the anticipated timetable for development of an Action Plan?

2. Is information available on the level and causes of escapes? If yes, please provide details.

3. Is information available on implementation of and compliance with the Action Plan? If yes, please provide details.

4. Is information available on the effectiveness of the Action Plan in minimizing escapes? If yes, please provide details.

5. Have areas for research and development in support of the Action Plan been identified? If yes, please provide details.

Note :

"Action Plan" means a national Action Plan or regional Plans. Action Plans are the process through which internationally agreed guidelines on containment are implemented at national or regional level through existing or new voluntary codes of practice, regulations, or a combination of both.

SLG(02)6

Report of the Salmon Cooperation Group

At its meeting in Ottawa in February 2001, the North Atlantic salmon farming industry and NASCO Liaison Group discussed how the salmon farming industry might assist with restoration and enhancement of wild salmon stocks. The meeting recognised that the industry has considerable experience in hatchery techniques, in reducing costs of rearing salmon and in genetic aspects, and some experience in rearing triploid salmon. The Liaison Group considered a proposal from the salmon farming industry representatives to establish a Committee on Future Cooperation to further explore the options for enhanced cooperation between wild and farmed salmon interests.

The Liaison Group appointed:

James Ryan, Managing Director, Killary Salmon Limited, Ireland
Dr Ken Whelan, Director Salmon Management Services Division, Marine Institute, Ireland
Jack Taylor, Executive Director, Office of the Commissioner for Aquaculture Development, Fisheries and Oceans, Canada
Sebastian Belle, Executive Director, Maine Aquaculture Association, USA

to the Committee and asked that it report back on progress to the Liaison Group's next meeting, scheduled for Westport, Co. Mayo in April 2002.

Since its formation the Salmon Cooperation Group has largely corresponded by e-mail and has identified the following as its overall objectives:

1. To carry out a full review of all existing cooperative ventures between wild salmon and fish farming interests;

2. To identify future areas of cooperative work;

3. To seek financial support or support in kind for such programmes;

4. To put in place a fund to support such programmes.

It has identified the following as possible areas for joint initiatives:

- Wild salmon restoration programmes
- Wild salmon enhancement programmes
- Studies of wild/farmed interactions
- The compilation of a manual of modern rearing/husbandry techniques
- Educational programmes regarding the biology, management and rearing of wild and farmed stocks
- Provision of smolts for large-scale marine research programmes
- Involvement with community-based management initiatives
- Organise a special session of NASCO on restoration and enhancement

- Genetic studies
- Disease and parasite studies

At its meeting in Mondariz, Spain, NASCO endorsed the work of the Group and it was agreed that objective 1 (*To carry out a full review of all existing cooperative ventures between wild salmon and fish farming interests)* should commence as soon as possible. It was agreed that this project should identify the key cooperative programmes currently taking place and prioritise areas where future cooperation would prove most fruitful. The project would also identify possible partnerships between the salmon farming industry and wild fish interests.

Funding to support this initial review has now been secured from industry sources and with the agreement of the Liaison Group a six-month contract for a Research Assistant will be advertised and the work will commence as soon as possible.

ANNEX 22

Council

CNL(02)49

Update on Transgenic Salmon

(tabled by the USA)

CNL(02)49

Update on Transgenic Salmon

(tabled by the USA)

The US Food and Drug Administration (US FDA) and Aqua Bounty Farms have approached the National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Canadian regulatory agencies to share information preparatory to designing an environmental risk assessment of transgenic salmon. Topics of relevance include the regulatory context, risk management in the regulation of transgenic plants, risks presented by salmon cultivation, changes induced by genetic modification, and risk mitigation and management.

The US FDA has determined that it will regulate transgenic fish as a new animal drug. A drug is defined as any articles intended to affect the structure and function of an animal. The approval process for a new animal drug is rigorous and includes a review of the environmental safety of the drug, its mechanisms of use and its disposal. The US FDA has further determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) is required. The EA will include an assessment of the potential risks to wild populations of Atlantic salmon, related species, other non-target animals and the habitat and resources on which the species depend. The EA process is currently at the problem formulation stage where all of the issues and concerns that need to be addressed within the EA are identified. Conducting the risk analysis for the EA is expected to take at least one year.

The National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service will remain involved in this process with the US FDA and the applicant to ensure that concerns for wild populations are adequately identified and addressed, including conducting the appropriate section 7 consultation under the ESA. The US has made the FDA aware of the action NASCO has taken on transgenic salmon and the US FDA was also notified separately by the NASCO Secretariat.

ANNEX 23

Council

CNL(02)47

NASCO Resolution Concerning Cooperation with St. Pierre and Miquelon

CNL(02)47

NASCO Resolution Concerning Cooperation with St. Pierre and Miquelon

RECALLING that the NASCO Convention recognizes that Atlantic salmon originating in the rivers of different States intermingle in certain parts of the North Atlantic Ocean,

NOTING that the NASCO Convention desires to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean through international cooperation,

EMPHASIZING that the Convention desires to promote the acquisition, analysis and dissemination of scientific information pertaining to Atlantic salmon stocks in the North Atlantic,

CONSIDERING the comprehensive efforts NASCO and its Contracting Parties are making to acquire additional scientific information to characterize mixed stocks of Atlantic salmon and the importance of these data to NASCO's ability to make informed management decisions,

RECALLING Article 66 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning anadromous fish stocks, as well as Article 242 concerning international cooperation,

ENDORSING more recent developments in international law that stipulate that countries that are not members of a relevant regional fishery management organization have a duty to cooperate with that organization,

RECALLING the adoption by NASCO in 2000 of the *Resolution by the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean Concerning St. Pierre et Miquelon*,

TAKING NOTE OF the extensive efforts by NASCO and its Contracting Parties to seek the cooperation of France, on behalf of St. Pierre and Miquelon, in gathering information to improve the understanding of Atlantic salmon as well as to support ongoing conservation efforts,

RECOGNIZING that France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, has provided some information concerning the mixed stock salmon fishery prosecuted by St. Pierre and Miquelon,

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that French scientific personnel routinely participate in the ICES North Atlantic Salmon Working Group, which provides scientific advice to ICES on the status of Atlantic salmon stocks,

STRESSING the need for additional scientific information concerning the mixed stocks exploited by St. Pierre and Miquelon,

Now, therefore, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization resolves that:

1. Its Contracting Parties should use all means and influences available to encourage France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, to cooperate with NASCO and its members in instituting a scientific sampling program for the fishery in St. Pierre and Miquelon beginning in 2003 in order to gather information on the origin and biological characteristics of the catch, on the disease status of salmon harvested, and on the proportion of escapees from salmon aquaculture operations,

2. NASCO and its Contracting Parties should continue to encourage France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, to provide all available information on the St. Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery, including catch data, licensing and other management measures, reporting mechanisms, and unreported catch estimates,

3. At the earliest opportunity, the NASCO Secretariat should invite France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, to attend the 2003 Annual Meeting of NASCO, and the NASCO Contracting Parties should also strongly encourage France, in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon, to attend the 2003 and future annual meetings of NASCO in order to enhance cooperation and information exchange.

ANNEX 24

Council

CNL(02)46

Predator-Related Mortality

(Tabled by the European Union)

CNL(02)46

Predator-Related Mortality

(Tabled by the European Union)

Seals

In 2000 there were an estimated 114,200 grey seals and an estimated minimum of 32,000 common seals in Scottish waters. The UK has about 40% of the world and 50% of the EU population of grey seals and about 5% of the world and 45% of the EU population of common seals. Approximately 90% of the UK populations of both these species are in Scottish waters.

Seals are protected under the EC Habitats Directive. A number of Special Areas of Conservation have been designated which support more than 40% of the grey seals and some 20% of the common seals living in UK waters.

Powers to take action against seals to protect fisheries already exist under the Conservation of Seals Act 1970.

In Scotland there are currently relatively large populations of seals and relatively small populations of salmon. This means that a small proportion of seals which regularly predate on salmon or a large proportion of seals which only occasionally predate on salmon could potentially have a significant effect on salmon populations.

The information currently available on seal diet does not suggest that the majority of seals spend their time feeding on salmon. On current evidence it seems more likely that small numbers of "rogue" seals predate on salmon as they enter river mouths.

There are a number of projects currently underway which are seeking to clarify the relationship between seals and salmonids in order to inform the management of seal populations.

Birds

Salmon are also predated by a number of bird species, notably goosanders, red-breasted mergansers and cormorants. These species are protected under the EC Birds Directive, but may be killed where they can be shown to be causing serious damage to fisheries. Licences may be issued under the provisions of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

Applications for licences must provide information on numbers of birds, estimates of the level of damage, and details of non-lethal methods of control that have been attempted.

A 2-year EU-funded programme, REDCAFE, to coordinate information from across Europe on cormorant numbers, their impact, and existing and potential management tools is due to finish and report this year.

An Intergroup of the European Parliament met earlier this year to discuss the status of cormorants and their impact on fisheries. The meeting called for the creation of a Europe-wide management plan. This call has been supported by all European angling NGOs.

In the UK there has been close cooperation between Government, angling groups and conservation organisations, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds. A leaflet outlining the way forward has been produced jointly by the 17 organisations involved in a meeting held earlier this year.

These initiatives are to be extended to consider the impact of sawbill ducks on fish and fisheries.

ANNEX 25

CNL(02)50

PRESS RELEASE

Nineteenth Annual Meeting

Tórshavn, Faroe Islands
June 3-7 2002

"The Promotion of international co-operation on the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of wild Atlantic salmon stocks."

These are the objectives of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), which held its 19th Annual meeting in the fishing community of Tórshavn, on the Faroe Islands.

"***There is only one cause for the members of NASCO and that is the future of the wild salmon. Our reward will be their continued sustainable existence.***"

– Jacque Robichaud, President of NASCO

The members of NASCO are Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America.

The Parties have made real progress in addressing the poor state of the wild Atlantic salmon stocks. At a special session on the application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon habitat protection and restoration, it became clear that we are moving into a period of net gain of habitat after years of decline. Partnerships with business, communities and organizations and fish management agencies have contributed to this process of providing a healthy environment in order for the stocks to flourish. Significant work has also been undertaken in the area of habitat reclamation and in developing inventories of habitat information, which will also aid wild salmon recoveries. This substantial progress has shown very clearly that the Precautionary Approach to the management of wild salmon is not just a theory but has contributed towards the very real progress seen in the improved habitat of the wild Atlantic salmon.

In the area of fisheries management, in applying the Precautionary Approach, NASCO is a leader among international organizations, where the NASCO Parties have significantly reduced efforts on mixed stock fisheries for salmon. A decision structure to assist in making sound management decisions in Atlantic salmon fisheries has been developed and will now be applied widely. A Precautionary Approach to the intentional introductions and transfers of fish species, aquaculture and to transgenics will also be developed in the coming year.

All NASCO Parties appreciate the sacrifices made by Greenland fishermen in reducing their commercial fishery. However, NASCO Parties recognize there will be an on-going requirement to meet subsistence needs in areas such as Greenland. Major steps have been taken to reduce the harvest at West Greenland and this will assist in the rebuilding of many depleted stocks.

Despite the progress made to date, the Parties remain concerned about the poor status of many wild Atlantic salmon stocks. Although Northern European stocks have experienced gains, North American and Southern European stocks are still giving great cause for concern. The status of stocks in the southern portion of the North American range is especially tenuous. NASCO encouraged all Parties to redouble their efforts in restoring depleted stocks.

Marine mortality remains an obstacle in limiting the rebuilding of stocks that are at or below conservation limits. To address this issue, NASCO co-sponsored an international symposium this past spring bringing together, for the first time, the collective knowledge of the international community on factors contributing to marine mortality in the Baltic Sea and the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans.

NASCO has established an International Cooperative Salmon Research Board to provide a new cooperative effort in addressing the marine mortality issues. The first step has been to coordinate significant existing efforts. The Parties themselves, along with their partners, will have invested approximately £4 million (US$6 million) in 2002 in order to address this issue. Although an initial amount has been provided to fund future programs for joint research under the Board, the Board will need to seek additional funds to enable it to adequately address the causes of marine mortality. It is expected that Parties will commit to providing additional new funds of over £500,000 (US$750,000). Efforts will be underway shortly to seek additional contributions from private companies and individuals with an interest in the conservation of wild salmon stocks, so as to fill gaps in the current programmes.

It was decided unanimously that Mr. Jacque Robichaud from Canada would be re-elected as President of NASCO. Mr. Ole Tougaard from the European Union was elected as Vice-President.

There were representatives from 14 non-government organizations attending the meeting from North America and Europe. They participated positively with their own papers on issues related to wild Atlantic salmon stocks.

The next annual meeting of NASCO is scheduled for June 2 – 6, 2003 in Edinburgh, Scotland at the invitation of the European Union on behalf of the Scottish Executive.

The report of the annual meeting, including the annexed documents, as well as other information on NASCO can be freely accessed at the NASCO website: www.nasco.int.

"By the results it has achieved at its 19th Annual Meeting, NASCO has shown itself to be alive and well and continues to contribute in its work to the survival of the wild Atlantic salmon."

– Jacque Robichaud, President of NASCO

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ANNEX 26

CNL(02)0

List of Council Papers

Paper No.	Title
CNL(02)0	List of Papers
CNL(02)1	Provisional Agenda
CNL(02)2	Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda
CNL(02)3	Draft Agenda
CNL(02)4	Draft Schedule of Meetings
CNL(02)5	Election of Officers
CNL(02)6	Secretary's Report
CNL(02)7	Report of the Finance and Administration Committee Meeting
CNL(02)8	NASCO Communications
CNL(02)9	Report on the Activities of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization in 2001
CNL(02)10	Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management
CNL(02)11	Report of the Standing Scientific Committee Meeting
CNL(02)12	Catch Statistics - Returns by the Parties
CNL(02)13	Historical Catch Record 1960-2001
CNL(02)14	Review of International Salmon-Related Literature Published in 2001
CNL(02)15	Returns under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention
CNL(02)16	Programme for the Special Session on Habitat Protection and Restoration
CNL(02)17	Report of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach
CNL(02)18	Future Actions in relation to Application of the Precautionary Approach
CNL(02)19	Unreported Catches - Returns by the Parties

CNL(02)20	Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board
CNL(02)21	Inventory of Research relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea
CNL(02)22	Report of the Joint Meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC on Causes of Marine Mortality of Salmon
CNL(02)23	Returns Made under the Oslo Resolution
CNL(02)24	Report of the Third Liaison Meeting with the Salmon Farming Industry
CNL(02)25	Transgenic Salmon
CNL(02)26	St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery
CNL(02)27	Not issued
CNL(02)28	Report on Initiatives within FAO of Relevance to NASCO
CNL(02)29	Not issued
CNL(02)30	Summary of Council Decisions
CNL(02)31	Draft Report
CNL(02)32	Draft Press Release
CNL(02)33	Strategy for Initial Fund-Raising Activities of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board
CNL(02)34	Draft Operating Protocols for NASCO Non-Government Organizations
CNL(02)35	Response from ISFA to Matters Arising at the Liaison Group Meeting
CNL(02)36	Application for NGO Status to NASCO
CNL(02)37	Not issued
CNL(02)38	International Salmon Farmers Association – Constitution
CNL(02)39	Agenda
CNL(02)40	2003 Budget, 2004 Forecast Budget and Schedule of Contributions
CNL(02)41	Draft Terms of Reference for Application of the Precautionary Approach to Introductions and Transfers, Aquaculture and Transgenics
CNL(02)42	NASCO Staff Fund – Rules

CNL(02)43	Summary of ACFM Presentations
CNL(02)44	Statement by the Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland
CNL(02)45	Conditions for Non-Government Observers at NASCO Meetings
CNL(02)46	Predator-Related Mortality (tabled by the European Union)
CNL(02)47	NASCO Resolution concerning Cooperation with St Pierre and Miquelon
CNL(02)48	Report of the Nineteenth Annual Meeting
CNL(02)49	Update on Transgenic Salmon (tabled by the USA)
CNL(02)50	Press Release
CNL(02)51	Request for Scientific Advice from ICES
CNL(02)52	Terms of Reference for Application of the Precautionary Approach to Introductions and Transfers, Aquaculture and Transgenics
CNL(02)70	NGO Statement – European Anglers Alliance: Resolution on Mixed Stock Fisheries
CNL(02)71	NGO Statement – Regulation of Aquaculture
CNL(02)72	NGO Statement – Joint Statement with Scottish Quality Salmon
CNL(02)73	NGO Statement – Atlantic Salmon Federation and World Wildlife Fund – Impact of the West Greenland Fishery on North American Stocks
CNL(02)74	NGO Statement – World Wildlife Fund and Atlantic Salmon Federation – Call to Action
CNL(02)75	NGO Statement – Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers

Note: This is a listing of all the Council papers. Some, but not all, of these papers are included in this report as annexes.