

Council

CNL(05)2

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

(Revised 5 April 2005)

Note: A summary of all the decisions before the Council will be presented in document CNL(05)27.

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1. Opening Session

The Opening Session is open to the public. The President will make a statement on behalf of the Organization and wishes to encourage an Opening Statement by each Party. Subject to a time limit, the President will invite statements from any Inter-Government Organizations present and from the nominated representatives of accredited Non-Government Organizations.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Following distribution of the Provisional Agenda on 21 January 2005, a Draft Agenda (CNL(05)3) is submitted herewith. There were no proposals to include supplementary items. The Council will be asked to adopt the Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(05)4) is submitted herewith.

3. Administrative Issues

3.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary will report to the Council on a number of procedural, administrative, financial and other matters (CNL(05)5).

3.2 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee will present a report of the Committee's meeting to the Council (CNL(05)6). The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2006 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2004;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2005 accounts;
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

3.3 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2004

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2004 (CNL(05)7). This report is not intended for publication.

A report on the activities of the Organization in 2004/2005 will be prepared for publication. The Council had previously decided that the Organization's biennial reports should be agreed by correspondence with Heads of Delegations following the Annual Meeting. A draft report will be sent to Heads of Delegations within 4-6 weeks of the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting.

3.4 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

The President will announce the winner of the Grand Prize of \$2,500. The winners of the Commission prizes of \$1,500 will be announced in each of the Commissions by the Chairman.

4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

4.1 Scientific Advice from ICES

The Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) (CNL(05)8) will be circulated and will be briefly introduced at the meeting by a representative of ICES. The detailed advice will be considered by the Commissions separately at their meetings. ICES will be requested to make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available to NASCO delegates on the ICES website.

4.2 Catch Statistics and their Analysis

The Secretary will present the catch statistics for 2004 as provided to the Organization by the Parties (CNL(05)9). These data will be used in the calculation of the Schedule of Contributions by the Parties for 2006. The updated historical catch record will be presented for information (CNL(05)10).

4.3 Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area

In 1996, the Council unanimously adopted a Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing. The Secretary will advise the Council of any requests to conduct research fishing since the last Annual Meeting. The President will invite any Party conducting research fishing in the last year to present a brief report on its activities.

4.4 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

In 2001, the Council established the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board to direct and coordinate a programme of research to identify and explain the causes of the increased marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and to examine the possibilities to counteract the mortality. The Board has previously established, and is maintaining, an inventory of research on mortality of salmon at sea and has taken steps to improve coordination of research. Last year the Board decided to hold a Workshop to develop a coordinated research programme to investigate the mortality of salmon at sea, drawing on the SALSEA proposal. The Board also decided to seek professional advice in developing a fund-raising strategy. A report on the Board's progress will be presented (CNL(05)11).

4.5 Report of the Standing Scientific Committee

The recommendations of the Standing Scientific Committee concerning the request to ICES for scientific advice will be presented by the Chairman of the Committee

(CNL(05)12). The Council will be asked to adopt a request for scientific advice from ICES.

5. Next Steps for NASCO

5.1(a) *Discussion on the Report of the 'Next Steps for NASCO' Working Group (Open Session)*

Last year the Council established a Working Group on the 'Next Steps for NASCO' with the aim of developing and strengthening the Organization to ensure that it continues to be a world-class regional fisheries organization in future. The Working Group held consultation meetings with stakeholders in London, UK, and Portland, Maine, USA, in January this year. The report of these consultation meetings (CNL(05)13) will be presented. The report of the Working Group's meetings (CNL(05)14) will also be presented under this agenda item which will be an open session so as to allow direct participation by NGOs and all those who contributed to the consultation meetings.

5.1(b) *Decisions by the Council*

The Council will be asked to consider what action it wishes to take in regard to the Next Steps for NASCO in the light of the report of the Working Group and the views expressed by stakeholders at the consultation meetings and during the Open Session (see 5(a) above).

6. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach

At its Fifteenth Annual Meeting NASCO and its Contracting Parties agreed to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of Atlantic salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Under the Action Plan for Application of the Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management, adopted by the Council in 1999, a Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach (SCPA) was established.

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

A summary of the returns made by the Parties under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention will be presented to the Council (CNL(05)15).

6.2 Application of the Decision Structure for Management of North Atlantic Salmon Fisheries

In 2002 the Council adopted a revised Decision Structure which took into account the initial experiences of the Parties in applying an earlier Decision Structure adopted on a provisional basis in 2000. It was agreed that the revised Decision Structure should be widely applied by managers in collaboration with stakeholders and that the Parties should report back to the Council on an annual basis, providing a summary of the

fisheries for which the Decision Structure has been applied; indicating where and how the completed forms are being compiled and retained; providing an example of its application; and commenting on how useful managers have found the Decision Structure. A report on the returns will be presented (CNL(05)16). The President will invite each Party to present a verbal report to the Council.

Last year the Council held a Special Session on the management of homewater fisheries in the UK, Ireland and Norway. A report of this Special Session (CNL(04)53) will be distributed.

6.3 Development and Implementation of Habitat Protection and Restoration Plans

(a) Returns by the Parties

At its Eighteenth Annual Meeting the Council adopted a Plan of Action for Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat. The objective of this Plan of Action is to maintain and, where possible, increase the current productive capacity of Atlantic salmon habitat through the establishment and implementation, by the Contracting Parties, of comprehensive salmon habitat protection and restoration plans. In order to measure and improve progress towards this objective the Plan of Action proposes the establishment of inventories of salmon rivers. A report on actions taken by the Parties since last year will be presented (CNL(05)17). The President will invite each Party to present a verbal report to the Council.

(b) Database of Salmon Rivers

Last year the Council was advised that an expanded database, based on the detailed inventory structure outlined in the Habitat Plan of Action, had been developed by US scientists and made available through a website, www.WildAtlanticSalmon.com. The Council agreed on the potential uses of the salmon rivers database and agreed on the next steps. The Council also agreed that NASCO should assume responsibility for maintaining and further developing the database. A report on progress will be presented (CNL(05)18).

6.4 Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers, and Transgenics

(a) Report of the Workshop on Mass Marking of Farmed Salmon

Last year the Council accepted an invitation from the European Union (Scottish Executive) to host a Workshop to assess the current and developing methods for marking farmed Atlantic salmon. This workshop was held in Edinburgh, Scotland, during 6-8 December 2004 and a report of the meeting will be presented (CNL(05)19). This report has also been made available to the Liaison Group.

(b) The Williamsburg Resolution

In adopting the Williamsburg Resolution at its Twentieth Annual Meeting, the Council had recognised that it would evolve in future in the light of experience with

its implementation; consultations; improved scientific understanding of the impacts of aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics on the wild stocks and developments in measures to minimise them. Last year the Council adopted Guidelines for Stocking Atlantic Salmon, which form Annex 4 of the Williamsburg Resolution. However, it did not resolve the scope of reporting in relation to these Guidelines and this aspect might need further consideration. There will be an opportunity for the Parties to raise any issues in relation to the Williamsburg Resolution or its implementation. Feedback from the North Atlantic salmon farming industry in relation to the Williamsburg Resolution will be presented under item 6.4(d).

(c) *Returns made in accordance with the Williamsburg Resolution*

A report on the returns made in accordance with the Williamsburg Resolution will be presented (CNL(05)20). The President will invite each Party to present a verbal report to the Council.

(d) *Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry*

Last year a meeting was held between NASCO and the International Salmon Farmers' Association (ISFA) to explore how the liaison process could be put back on a firmer footing with a higher level of commitment. A Statement of Commitment had been developed and the Council agreed that the actions outlined in this Statement served as a good basis for further cooperation with the salmon farming industry. It was further noted that the Williamsburg Resolution outlined actions applicable to the salmon farming industry and that this document served as a basis for the NASCO Parties' future involvement in the Liaison Group and for identification of other areas of cooperation. Under the Statement of Commitment it was agreed that a Liaison Group meeting should be held in Brussels in April/May 2005 and a report of the meeting (CNL(05)21) will be presented.

6.5 **Unreported Catches**

The Secretary will introduce a report summarising the annual returns by the Parties in relation to unreported catches (CNL(05)22).

6.6 **By-catch of Atlantic Salmon**

The Council is concerned about the potential level of by-catch of salmon post-smolts in pelagic fisheries for mackerel in the North-East Atlantic Commission area. The advice from ICES in relation to by-catch will be presented. In 2003 the Council decided that, consistent with the Precautionary Approach, it would encourage, and seek appropriate funding for, research on the distribution of salmon at sea, on the spatial and temporal overlap between salmon at sea and pelagic fisheries, on the vertical distribution and behaviour of salmon in the feeding areas, and on the by-catch of salmon in pelagic fisheries, and would encourage pilot studies on technical adjustments to the deployment of gear in pelagic fisheries so as to minimise by-catch. It was agreed that the results of this research would be reviewed at the Council's 2005

Annual Meeting and the President will invite the Parties to present a verbal report on any developments in relation to by-catch of salmon in pelagic fisheries.

6.7 Guidelines on Stock Rebuilding Programmes

A stock rebuilding programme has been defined by the Council as an array of management measures, including habitat improvement, exploitation control and stocking, designed to restore a stock above its conservation limit. These management measures are being addressed by the Council in application of the Precautionary Approach. Last year the Council adopted Guidelines on the Use of Stock Rebuilding Programmes in the context of the Precautionary Management of Salmon Stocks (CNL(04)55) and agreed that each year the Parties should be requested to provide a summary or list of current stock rebuilding programmes and any suggestions for how the guidelines might be improved. A report on the information provided will be presented (CNL(05)23). The President will invite the Parties to present a verbal report to the Council.

6.8 Social and Economic Values of Atlantic Salmon

(a) Reports by the Parties on Application of the Guidelines

Last year the Council adopted Guidelines for Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Decisions under the Precautionary Approach. It was agreed that the Parties should use these guidelines on a trial basis and select one area of application of the Precautionary Approach and report to the Council on an example of the use of the guidelines in relation to the area chosen. A report on the information provided by the Parties will be presented (CNL(05)24). The President will invite the Parties to present a verbal report to the Council.

(b) Report of the Working Group on Bio-economic Modelling

Last year the Council decided to set up a small Working Group, led by the US, to develop a bio-economic modelling approach that would allow social and economic factors to be integrated into a management model for Atlantic salmon. The Working Group has not yet met, but a verbal report on the arrangements made and the work that will be undertaken will be presented.

6.9 Future Actions in relation to Application of the Precautionary Approach

The Council will be asked to consider possible future actions in relation to the Precautionary Approach. A brief paper summarising possible actions will be presented (CNL(05)25).

7. Predator-related Mortality

At its Twenty-First Annual Meeting the Council reviewed information provided by the Parties in relation to predator-related mortality of salmon. It was noted that the issue of predator-related mortality of salmon at sea is an area that will be considered by the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board. The Council recognised that

predation is an important issue that will need to be considered further in the light of increased understanding of its impacts. The President had suggested that the Secretary should summarise the information provided in 2004 and a brief paper will be presented (CNL(05)26).

8. St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

In recent years the North American Commission and the Council have been concerned about catches of salmon 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 an observer for France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) made a presentation to the Council on a sampling programme for salmon at St Pierre and Miquelon undertaken by IFREMER scientists in 2003. The Council was advised that this sampling programme would be continued in 2004 and a genetic sampling programme would be initiated with cooperation from Canadian scientists. The Council was also advised that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) wishes to increase its cooperation with NASCO and to initiate an exchange of information with the Parties which are involved in managing traditional fisheries. Information in relation to the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery will be presented. As requested by the Council, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting.

9. Impacts of Acid Rain on Atlantic salmon

This agenda item was included on the Council's agenda at the request of the North American Commission because of the general interest in this matter and the wide-ranging expertise among NASCO's Parties. Each Party will be invited to present information on the impacts of acid rain on Atlantic salmon and on any mitigation measures being undertaken.

10. Reports on the Work of the Three Regional Commissions

The President will ask the Chairman of each of the regional Commissions of NASCO to report to the Council on the work of their Commission.

11. Other Business

Any other business may be raised.

12. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The proposal will be made that the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting be held during 5-9 June 2006 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

13. Report of the Meeting

A draft report of the meeting will be circulated for the approval of the Council.

14. Press Release

A draft Press Release will be prepared for consideration by the Council.

Secretary
Edinburgh
5 April, 2005