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Draft Press Release

Twenty-Second Annual Meeting
Vichy, France
June 6-10, 2005

**Conservation Organization
Adopts New Approach for Salmon Conservation**

***Historic Agreement Aims to Reverse Decline in Atlantic Salmon and Make
Countries More Accountable***

On 10 June 2005, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) acted to address future challenges to Atlantic salmon. After its 2004 meeting, the Organization embarked on a dynamic process to re-evaluate itself and to identify ways to improve the conservation of Atlantic salmon. NASCO has reached out to stakeholders across the North Atlantic, including non-governmental and others organizations.

The results of this review represent a roadmap to guide future activities of the Organization. Key elements of the agreement include:

- developing clear procedures for evaluating compliance by parties with NASCO rules and how to improve those agreements;
- raising international awareness on the plight of Atlantic salmon and the role of NASCO in the recovery of the species; and
- improving the involvement of stakeholders in NASCO's work.

NASCO will now work intensively to implement the decisions agreed this week.

“This is an historic moment for salmon,” said Dr. Ken Whelan, President of NASCO. “The status of salmon across the Atlantic is of serious concern; however, the strategic agreement reached this week gives new hope for the future of Atlantic salmon.”

Over the last two decades, the abundance of stocks of Atlantic salmon has seen extensive decline; certain stocks are in danger of disappearing altogether. To help address this situation, NASCO has adopted conservation measures over time that have dramatically reduced catches. At its 2005 meeting, NASCO agreed to continue harvest rules for the West Greenland fishery that limit catches to subsistence levels. At the Faroe Islands, formal harvest rules were not agreed for the Faroe Islands fishery; however, authorities there will continue to manage their fisheries in a sustainable manner.

Fishing is only one of the many threats faced by Atlantic salmon during their incredible journey from the rivers to the sea and back to reproduce. NASCO has developed wide-ranging agreements over the years aimed at reducing these threats. The strategic agreement adopted this week by the NASCO Parties will ensure the success of these measures.

In another key decision, the NASCO parties endorsed a state-of-the-art international research initiative, SALSEA (Salmon at Sea), a major public/private partnership aimed at unravelling the reasons behind an unprecedented decline of North Atlantic salmon stocks. The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, spawned by NASCO in 2001, is launching this ambitious project.

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), an intergovernmental organization formed to promote the conservation, restoration, enhancement, and rational management of salmon stocks in the North Atlantic Ocean, met from 6 to 10 June 2005, in Vichy, France. Its members 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. Representatives from XX non-governmental organizations (NGOs) also attended the meeting.

The next Annual Meeting of NASCO will be held from 5-9 June 2006 in Finland.

The report of the NASCO Annual Meeting, including the annexed documents, as well as other essential information on the Organization, can be accessed at the NASCO website: www.nasco.int.

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