

CNL(06)13

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 production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2006;
- 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management;
- 1.3 provide a framework of indicators which would be used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice for each Commission area;
- 1.4 examine associations between changes in biological characteristics of all life stages of Atlantic salmon and variations in marine survival ¹;
- 1.5 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2006;
- 1.6 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements ²

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

- 2.1 describe the key events of the 2006 fisheries and the status of the stocks; ³
- 2.2 provide any new information on the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in recent years have been achieved;
- 2.3 further develop the age-specific stock conservation limits where possible based upon individual river stocks;
- 2.4 provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2008-2010, if possible based on forecasts of PFA for northern and southern stocks, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding; ⁴
- 2.5 provide estimates of by-catch and non-catch fishing mortality of salmon in pelagic fisheries with an assessment of impacts on returns to homewaters.

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

- 3.1 describe the key events of the 2006 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon) and the status of the stocks;³
- 3.2 provide any new information on the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in recent years have been achieved;
- 3.3 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available;
- 3.4 provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2007-2010 with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding;⁴
- 3.5 provide a comprehensive description of coastal fisheries including timing and location of harvest, biological characteristics (size, age, origin) of the catch, and potential impacts on non-local salmon stocks.

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

- 4.1 describe the events of the 2006 fisheries and the status of the stocks;^{3,5}
- 4.2 provide any new information on the extent to which the objectives of any significant management measures introduced in recent years have been achieved;
- 4.3 provide annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2007-2009 with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits and advice on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding;⁴

Notes:

1. *With regard to question 1.4, there is interest in determining if declines in marine survival coincide with changes in the biological characteristics of juveniles in fresh water or are modifying characteristics of adult fish (size at age, age at maturity, condition, sex ratio, growth rates, etc.).*
2. *NASCO's International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's inventory of on-going research relating to salmon mortality in the sea will be provided to ICES to assist it in this task.*
3. *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 on the by-catch of salmon in any existing and new fisheries for other species is also requested.*
4. *In response to questions 2.4, 3.4 and 4.3 provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice.*
5. *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.*