

Agenda item 7.6
For information/decision

Council

CNL(06)20

***Report on progress with the development of a database of salmon
rivers***

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Report on progress with the development of a database of salmon rivers

1. At its 1988 Annual Meeting the Council had decided to establish a database of salmon rivers comprising a simple listing of rivers with information, for each Party, on river name, location (latitude and longitude of the river mouth) and a category based on the status of its salmon stock (lost, maintained, restored, threatened with loss, or not threatened with loss). This database is held and maintained by the Secretariat, on the basis of information provided by the Parties. Information for 2,150 rivers has been included. It was not web-based and much of the information it contains has not been updated for ten years or more.
2. Under the NASCO Plan of Action for Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat, CNL(01)51, it is recommended that NASCO, its Parties and their relevant jurisdiction(s) establish inventories of rivers in order to measure and improve progress in meeting the objective of the Plan. The main reasons identified for developing inventories of salmon rivers were:
 - to establish the baseline level of salmon production against which changes may be assessed;
 - to provide a list of impacts responsible for reducing the productive capacity of rivers, so as to identify appropriate restoration activities;
 - to provide a valuable tool for dissemination of information on salmon rivers to user groups and for educational purposes to encourage improved stewardship of the resource.
3. The structure of the inventories envisaged under the Plan of Action includes river data, salmon production data and habitat impact data. During 2004/2005 the US developed a web-based database based on the more detailed inventory format proposed in the Plan of Action. Following testing this database had been made available for data entry by NASCO's Parties. The Council agreed that:
 - the Parties should update the original NASCO salmon rivers database information annually (via the expanded web-based database) to correct errors and inaccuracies and to ensure the specific information conformed to the new format. It was recognised that this process should not involve a significant amount of time and effort;
 - the Parties should consider using the database to report basic salmon habitat and habitat impacts information;
 - as data and resources permit, the Parties should enter generalised juvenile and adult salmon production data although such data entry would be optional but of benefit to the database.
4. Last year, the Council noted that co-ordinators responsible for updating the database had been appointed by the Parties (see Annex 1) and agreed that the database should be transferred to the NASCO website. This transfer and re-design of the website is

now complete, and 2,160 rivers have been listed. After some initial problems of accessing the database following its transfer, it is now available to the Parties for data entry. It will be important that, as the database is now available to the general public, the information presently held is very carefully checked. The Secretariat is aware of some rivers which are not included but which were in the original database, and will liaise with the Parties on any omissions that are apparent. It is hoped that the Parties will also be able to provide the additional data referred to in paragraph 3, as resources permit.

Secretary
Edinburgh
9 May 2006

RIVERS DATABASE COORDINATORS

ANNEX 1

Party	Country/ province/ region	Organization name	Contact name	Contact e-mail	Contact telephone number
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