

Council

CNL(06)24

Application for NGO Observer Status to NASCO

1. Since the last Annual Meeting there has been one new application for observer status to NASCO. It is from an organization based in Ireland called 'Stop Salmon Drift Nets Now'. Its primary objective is "to raise awareness amongst the public of the threat to stocks of wild salmon in Irish waters constituted by drift netting and to campaign for the abolition of the use of drift nets". 'Stop Salmon Drift Nets Now' exists exclusively to campaign for the abolition of the Irish drift net fishery, which it considers to be against the best scientific advice and to conflict with Ireland's international obligations. After consulting the President, it was decided that this organization has a legitimate interest in the proceedings of NASCO. The organization has accepted the conditions governing observer status to NASCO and has, accordingly, been invited to attend the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting.
2. I am also pleased to report that the Atlantic Salmon Federation (Canada and US) and WWF (US) have accepted the conditions governing NGO participation in NASCO and the suspension of their observer status has, therefore, been lifted. These organizations will be represented at the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting.
3. In total, NASCO currently has 27 accredited NGOs.

Secretary
Edinburgh
22 May 2006