

Council

CNL(07)2

*Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda
(updated 11 April 2007)*

Notes:

- **Under the conditions for attendance by observers, the President may recognise requests from the floor by the accredited NGO Chairperson and/or designee. Last year, the President indicated that he would recognise such requests on all agenda items other than items 2 and 3.**
- **A summary of all the decisions before the Council will be presented in document CNL(07)23.**

CNL(07)2

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

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

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda (CNL(07)1) was issued on 26 January 2007. A Draft Agenda (CNL(07)3), is submitted herewith. There is one new item, Agenda item 5.3: 'EU Proposal for a Performance Review of the work of NASCO'. The Council will be asked to adopt the Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(07)4) is also submitted herewith.

3. Financial and Administrative Issues

3.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Dr Boris Prischepa, will present a report of the Committee's meeting to the Council (CNL(07)5). The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2008 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2006;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2007 accounts;
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

4.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary will report to the Council on a number of procedural, administrative, financial and other matters, including details of applications for NGO observer status to NASCO (CNL(07)21).

4.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2006

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2006 (CNL(07)6). This report is not intended for publication.

4.3 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.

4.4 Scientific Advice from ICES

The Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) (CNL(07)7) 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.

4.5 Catch Statistics and their Analysis

The Secretary will present the catch statistics for 2006 as provided to the Organization by the Parties (CNL(07)8). These data will be used in the calculation of the Schedule of Contributions by the Parties for 2008. The updated historical catch record will be presented for information (CNL(07)9).

4.6 Special Session: Unreported Catches
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A report summarising the annual returns by the Parties in relation to unreported catches (CNL(07)10) will be presented. Last year the Council recognised the importance of a further exchange of information on unreported catches and agreed to hold a Special Session on this topic. A programme for the Special Session will be issued (CNL(07)11).
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4.7 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 brief reports on research fishing conducted in the last year.

4.8 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

A report of the Board's meeting will be presented by the Chairman of the Board, Mr Jacques Robichaud (CNL(07)12).

4.9 Special Session: Salmon at Sea - Research Programmes in the North Pacific and North Atlantic

In 2002, NASCO, ICES, NPAFC, IBSFC and PICES co-sponsored a workshop on the factors influencing salmon mortality at sea. The Board intends to co-sponsor a major international symposium on this topic with NPAFC, and hopefully ICES and PICES,
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possibly in 2010, but believes that there would be benefits from an exchange of information between scientists in the North Atlantic and North Pacific before then, so as to assist in planning the major research programmes envisaged by these organizations (SALSEA in the North Atlantic and BASIS 2 in the North Pacific). Accordingly, following discussions with NPAFC and consultation with the President, it is proposed to hold a Special Session on this topic to allow for presentation of progress with research to date and plans for future research in the Pacific and for an update on progress in implementing the SALSEA programme. It is hoped to obtain media coverage for these research programmes. A programme for the Special Session will be circulated (CNL(07)13).

4.10 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(07)14). The Council will be asked to adopt a request for scientific advice from ICES.

5. Next Steps for NASCO

5.1 Special Session: Progress with the Next Steps Strategy

(a) *Report of the Ad Hoc Review Group on the Parties' Implementation Plans*

Last year the Council established an *Ad Hoc* Review Group to review the Implementation Plans submitted by the Parties or relevant jurisdictions. The report of the *Ad Hoc* Review Group will be presented (CNL(07)15). A compilation of the Implementation Plans reviewed by the Group will be circulated (CNL(07)22).

(b) *Responses to the Ad Hoc Review Group findings*

There will be an opportunity for comments to be made on the findings of the *Ad Hoc* Review Group. The Parties will be asked to submit any revisions to their Implementation Plans within two months of the Annual Meeting. There will also be an opportunity for the Parties to advise of any significant new developments with regard to implementation of NASCO's agreements.

(c) *Report of the Public Relations Group*

Last year the Council established a Public Relations Group, chaired by the Secretary, to advise on implementation of the PR issues identified in the Next Steps process. The report of the Public Relations Group will be presented (CNL(07)16).

5.2 Review of the 'Next Steps for NASCO' Special Session and Decisions by the Council

The Council will be asked to consider what action it wishes to take with regard to the Next Steps for NASCO. In particular, it will be asked to decide on a Focus Area for

reporting under the Implementation Plans in 2008, and to develop Terms of Reference for a new *Ad Hoc* Review Group and agree on its composition and working methods.

5.3 EU Proposal for a Performance Review of the Work of NASCO

The European Union has referred to discussions in recent months in various international fora about regional fisheries management organizations (RFMOs) and their respective performances. This has led to a call for such organizations to undertake, on an urgent basis, performance reviews in order to evaluate their effectiveness. The European Union has, therefore, requested that an item be included on the agenda to allow the Council to consider this. Annex 1 contains a letter from the Head of the EU delegation, Mr John Spencer, that he has asked we circulate to the NASCO Parties and which serves as an explanatory memorandum on this proposal.

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

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(07)17).

6.2 Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers, and Transgenics

(a) The Williamsburg Resolution

In adopting the Williamsburg Resolution in 2003, 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 amended the Williamsburg Resolution, and asked that it be printed as a brochure. Copies of this brochure will be made available. Any proposals for further changes to the Williamsburg Resolution may be raised.

(b) Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

A report of the Liaison Group meeting with the North Atlantic salmon farming industry will be presented (CNL(07)18).

(c) Report of the ICES/NASCO Bergen Symposium

In October 2005 NASCO and ICES co-convened an international symposium entitled “Interactions between aquaculture and wild stocks of Atlantic salmon and other diadromous fish species: Science and Management, Challenges and Solutions”. The Symposium was held in Bergen, Norway during 18 – 21 October 2005. Two reports have now been produced. The scientific papers, accepted following peer review, have been published in the ICES Journal of Marine Science, and a separate report has been

published with the conclusions developed by the Conveners. A preliminary report on the Symposium was presented last year and a brief update will be given.

6.3 New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management

This agenda item was included for the first time last year in accordance with the Strategic Approach for NASCO's 'Next Steps' (CNL(05)49). There will be an opportunity for relevant information to be presented.

6.4 Report of the Working Group on Bio-economic Modelling

In 2004, the Council decided to establish a small Technical Working Group led by the USA to develop a bio-economic modelling approach that would allow social and economic factors to be integrated into a management model for Atlantic salmon. A report on progress will be presented.

6.5 Progress with the Development of the Database of Salmon Rivers

In 2004, US scientists developed a database drawing on the existing rivers listing held by the Secretariat but based on the more detailed inventory format proposed in the Habitat Plan of Action. The Council had previously agreed that the Parties should:

- update the original salmon rivers database annually;
- consider using the database to report basic habitat and habitat impacts information so as to establish the baseline level of salmon production potential against which changes may be assessed;
- enter generalised juvenile and adult salmon production data as data and resources permit.

A report on progress will be made (CNL(07)19).

6.6 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 have been introduced throughout the North-West Atlantic. Information in relation to the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery will be presented (CNL(07)20). As requested by the Council, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting.

6.7 Impacts of Acid Rain on Atlantic salmon

This agenda item was included on the Council's agenda for the first time in 2005 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. Information on the impacts of acid rain on Atlantic salmon and on any mitigation measures being undertaken may be presented.

6.8 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.

7. Other Business

Any other business may be raised.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The proposal will be made that the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting be held during 2-6 June 2008 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

9. Report of the Meeting

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

10. Press Release

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

Secretary
Edinburgh
11 April 2007



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR FISHERIES AND MARITIME AFFAIRS

External Policy and Markets
International and regional arrangements

02.04.2007 D 03779

Brussels,
FISH/B-2 AG/ldb D(2007)

Mr Malcolm Windsor
Secretary
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO),
11 Rutland Square,
Edinburgh EH1 2AS,
SCOTLAND.

Dear Mr Windsor,

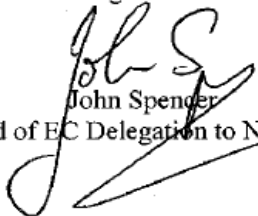
Subject: 2007 Annual Meeting of NASCO, Bar Harbor, Maine, USA -- Performance Review

As you are aware, there have been discussions in recent months in various international fora about regional fisheries management organisations (RFMOs) and their respective performances. This has led for the call for such organisations to undertake, on an urgent basis, performance reviews in order to evaluate their effectiveness. This movement has been underpinned by the recently adopted UN General Assembly Resolution 61/105, the conclusions of the Joint Tuna Regional Fisheries Management Organisations meeting in Kobe in January 2007 and the deliberations of the Committee on Fisheries of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), of March 2007.

The EU strongly believes that RFMOs, such as NASCO, will benefit from undertaking such a review. Indeed, it can serve as a very useful tool to strengthen and reinforce the organisation concerned, both in its internal management and functions, as well as the overall conservation and management function that it has been mandated to undertake through its establishing Convention. Other RFMOs to which the EU is Party have recently undertaken such performance reviews to the benefit of the organisations concerned. The reports of these reviews, which could be used as models for consideration by NASCO, are available on the concerned organisation's web-sites.

Therefore, the EU is of the opinion that it would be appropriate for NASCO to agree at the 2007 Annual Meeting to be held in Bar Harbor in June, the process and timetable for undertaking such a performance review. I would accordingly request that this point be put on the agenda of the NASCO Council. I attach a copy of the ICCAT Performance Review criteria, which could be used as a basis for the development of similar criteria by NASCO.

I would be most grateful if you could circulate this letter to the Contracting Parties of NASCO.


John Spender
Head of EC Delegation to NASCO

CC: EC Member States Representatives to NASCO

Commission européenne, B-1049 Bruxelles / Europese Commissie, B-1049 Brussel - Belgium. Telephone: (32-2) 299 11 11.
Office: J-99 2/91. Telephone: direct line (32-2) 2956858. Fax: (32-2) 2955700.
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ICCAT Proposed Criteria			
	AREA	General Elements	Detailed Elements
1	<i>Conservation and management of Fisheries Resources</i>	Knowledge about the status of marine living resources	Status of major tuna and tuna-like fish stocks in relation to maximum sustainable yield and other relevant biological standards. Trends in status of stocks. Status of species belonging to the same ecosystems as, or are associated with or dependent upon, the major target stocks
		Data Collection and sharing	Extent to which Contracting Parties, individually or through ICCAT, collect and share, in a timely manner, complete and accurate data concerning fishing activities
		Adoption of conservation and management measures	Extent to which ICCAT has adopted measures based on the best scientific evidence available. Extent to which ICCAT has implemented the precautionary approach Extent to which ICCAT has taken due account of the need to conserve marine biological diversity and minimize harmful impacts of fisheries on living marine resources and marine ecosystems.
		Quality and provision of scientific advice	Extent to which the SCRS produces the best scientific advice given the information available
		Over-fishing and capacity management	Extent to which ICCAT has taken measures to prevent or eliminate overfishing and excess fishing capacity
		Compatibility of Management measures	Extent to which measures have been adopted as set out in Article 7 of UNFSA
		Fishing allocations	Extent to which ICCAT successfully allocates fishing opportunities; including taking into account request for participation in a fishery from newcomers in accordance with Article 11 of UNFSA
2	<i>Monitoring, control, compliance and enforcement</i>	Flag State duties	Extent to which Contracting Parties are fulfilling the duties as flag states under the <i>Recommendations by ICCAT Concerning the Duties of Contracting Parties and Cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities in relation to their Vessels Fishing in the ICCAT Convention Area</i> [Rec.03-12], UNFSA Article 18 and the 1993 FAO Compliance Agreement.
		Port State Measures	Extent to which port state obligations are set out in ICCAT management measures in relation to UNFSA Article 23 and extent to which Contracting Parties implement these measures.
		Monitoring, surveillance, and control activities	Extent to which Contracting Parties implement ICCAT measures relating to MCS.
		Other enforcement-related issues, including follow up on infringements	Extent to which Contracting Parties are following up on infringements to management measures by which they are bound.
		Co-operative mechanisms to detect and deter non compliance.	Extent to which ICCAT measures provide for adequate cooperative mechanisms to both detect and deter non-compliance.
3	<i>Decision making and dispute settlement procedures</i>	Dispute Settlement	Extent to which ICCAT has established adequate decision making procedures and mechanisms for solving possible disputes
4	<i>International Cooperation</i>	Transparency	Extent to which ICCATT is operating in accordance with the transparency provisions of Article 12 of UNFSA
		Relationship to cooperating non-Contracting Parties, Entities or Fishing Entities	Extent to which ICCATT grants cooperative non-Contracting Party status in accordance with Recommendation 03-02.
		Relationship of other non-Contracting Parties	Extent of fishing activity by vessels of non-Contracting parties, which are not cooperating with ICCATT and measures to deter such activities
		Cooperating with other RFMO's	Including cooperation in the network of Regional Fishery Body Secretariats
		Special requirements of developing states	Extent to which the Commission recognizes special needs of developing states, and provides assistance
5	<i>Resourcing</i>	Funding of Commission activities	Extent to which financial and other resources are made available to achieve the aims of the Commission and implement the decision taken