

Council

CNL(07)47

Fisheries Management Focus Area

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The first phase of the Next Steps process focused on the development of Implementation Plans by the Parties. The *Ad Hoc* Review Committee that met in March 2006 reviewed these plans for uniformity with the Council's Guidelines for their preparation NSTF(06)10, and assessed how well the plans would lend themselves to evaluation in relation to NASCO's Resolution and Agreements.

Under the Next Steps process, Special Sessions addressing particular Focus Areas (as described in NSTF(06)10) are intended to provide a more in-depth assessment of measures to implement NASCO Agreements, Resolutions, and Guidelines. Reports prepared for the Special Session are intended to provide the basis for review of the current management approach and proposed actions and to assess their efficacy in addressing the overall objectives of NASCO and in particular, to conserve and restore salmon stocks.

The Next Steps process identified three focus areas: Fishery Management, Protection and Restoration of Habitat, and Aquaculture and Associated Activities. The Council has agreed that the first focus area to be examined under the Next Steps Process is Fishery Management. As stated in the Action Plan for Application of the Precautionary Approach, (CNL(99)48) and in the Decision Structure for Management of North Atlantic Salmon Fisheries (CNL31.332), the goals for the management of salmon fisheries for NASCO and its Parties are to promote the diversity and abundance of salmon stocks and maintain all stocks above their conservation limits. The NASCO Agreement on the Adoption of the Precautionary Approach states that conservation limits and management targets should be set for each river and combined, as appropriate, for the management of different stock groupings defined by managers.

The Decision Structure specifies that the management procedure for all salmon fisheries should:

- (a) specify the reference points (conservation limit and/or management target) or alternative measures used to define adequate abundance of the stock;
- (b) describe the status of the stock(s) relative to the abundance specified in (a);
- (c) utilize only the surplus according to (a) and (b) above; and
- (d) consider socio-economic factors.

Fisheries Management Focus Area Reports

In preparation for the Special Session, each Party or Jurisdiction will prepare a Fisheries Management Focus Area Report to provide a more in-depth assessment of:

- the measures already in place that address the NASCO Agreements relating to fisheries management;
- further actions proposed within their Implementation Plans to meet those Agreements;
- progress with implementing these actions.

These reports are intended to provide the basis for evaluating the extent to which the fisheries management approach is meeting, or expected to meet, NASCO's goal to promote the

diversity and abundance of salmon stocks and maintain all stocks above their conservation limits. To the extent that gaps are identified, the planned future actions included in the plan will be evaluated for their ability to reach NASCO's goal within a reasonable timescale.

The Fisheries Management Focus Area Report could contain, *inter alia*:

- (1) A brief description of the fisheries, including an overview of the stocks exploited, gear types, fishery location, magnitude of the fishery, current management restrictions and others planned;
- (2) Identification of exploited stocks and the reference points (conservation limit and/or management target) or alternative measures used to define adequate abundance of the stock;
- (3) The status of the stock relative to the abundance criteria specified;
- (4) The extent to which the stock is meeting other diversity criteria (e.g. age groups, size groups, populations), if such information is available;
- (5) For mixed stock fisheries, the information in numbers 3 and 4 above should be presented for each contributing stock;
- (6) The management actions that will be employed to control harvest, including measures that will be used to address any failure or trend in abundance or diversity;
- (7) The extent to which the following issues are taken into account.
 - a. uncertainty in the assessments;
 - b. abundance of the stock/diversity of the stock;
 - c. selectivity of the fisheries;
 - d. any non-fishery factors affecting the stock;
 - e. other fisheries exploiting the stock.
- (8) The expected extent and timescale of effects.
- (9) An explanation of how socio-economic factors are applied in the development of fisheries management actions and how this affects the attainment of NASCO's goals.
- (10) Programs that will be used to monitor the effect of the management measures and identify information deficiencies and timeframe for resolution.

The Fisheries Management Focus Area Reports are to be provided to the NASCO Secretariat as soon as possible after 1 January, 2008, and no later than 31 March, 2008.

The *Ad Hoc* Review Group for the Fisheries Focus Area

1. Functions

- a. The *Ad Hoc* Review Group shall review and analyze the Fisheries Management Focus Area Reports prepared by the Parties or Jurisdictions.
- b. In carrying out this task, the *Ad Hoc* Review Group should seek to assess the extent to which the information provided in the Fisheries Management Focus Area Reports indicates that NASCO's goals are being, or will be, achieved.
- c. The *Ad Hoc* Review Group will meet in May 2008 to review the Fisheries Management Focus Area Reports submitted for the Special Session, and collaborate to highlight issues to be raised during the 2008 Special Session and to provide any questions to the Parties or Jurisdictions by 15 May, 2008.

- d. Following discussions in the Special Session on Fisheries Management, the *Ad Hoc* Review Group should prepare a short report to be submitted to the President in the course of the 2008 Annual Meeting, suggesting additional actions to ensure the consistency of fisheries management efforts with NASCO Agreements.

2. Composition of the *Ad Hoc* Review Committee

- a. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands or Greenland (but not both));
- b. The remaining Parties to NASCO – 2 persons (to the extent possible, reflecting balance among the membership and appropriate expertise);
- c. The Standing Scientific Committee;
- d. Accredited NGO representatives – 2 persons (ideally one NGO from Europe and one from North America).

For 2007/2008, it was agreed that the persons representing NASCO would be [X]. The NGO representatives will be [Y].

The Secretary should act as *Ad Hoc* Review Group Coordinator. The individuals appointed by Parties should act in the interests of NASCO and in a personal capacity, specifically not representing their Party.

3. Schedule of Work

January - March 2008:	Parties submit Fisheries Management Focus Area Reports no later than 31 March, 2008
April 2008:	<i>Ad Hoc</i> Review Group reviews Reports submitted
Early May 2008:	<i>Ad Hoc</i> Review Group meets to review Reports
May 15, 2008:	<i>Ad Hoc</i> Review Group provides questions to Parties or Jurisdictions
June 2008:	Special Session conducted during the Annual Meeting and brief report provided to the President

Note: The Guidelines for the Preparation of NASCO “Implementation Plans” and for Reporting on Progress identify the need for written annual reports. These reports are intended to provide a summary of actions taken under the Implementation Plan. The annual progress report to be submitted to the 2008 Annual Meeting of NASCO would not need to address fishery management since that is the subject of the Focus Area review.