

## **Council**

**CNL(08)3**

### *Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda*

**Notes:**

- **Under the conditions for attendance by observers, the President may recognise requests from the floor by the accredited NGO Chairperson and/or designee. In 2006 and 2007, the President indicated that he would recognise such requests on all agenda items other than items 2, 3 and 4.**
- **A summary of all the decisions before the Council will be presented in document CNL(08)20.**



## CNL(08)3

### *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(08)1) was issued to the Parties on 24 January 2008. The Parties may propose supplementary items by informing the Secretary. None have been received. A Draft Agenda (CNL(08)2) has therefore been issued. The Council will be asked to adopt an Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(08)4) has been issued.

#### **3. Election of Officers**

In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the Council will be asked to elect a President and Vice-President. The President (Dr Ken Whelan, European Union) and Vice-President (Mr Arni Isaksson, Iceland) have both served for four years and are not eligible for re-election.

#### **4. Financial and Administrative Issues**

##### **4.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee**

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Dr Boris Prischepa (Russian Federation), will present a report of the Committee's meeting to the Council (CNL(08)5). The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2009 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2007;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2008 accounts;
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

## **5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information**

### **5.1 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.

### **5.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2007**

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2007 (CNL(08)6). This report is not intended for publication.

### **5.3 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.

### **5.4 Scientific Advice from ICES**

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), (CNL(08)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.

### **5.5 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.

### **5.6 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

A report of the Board's meeting will be presented by the Chairman of the Board, Dr Ken Whelan (CNL(08)8).

### **5.7 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(08)9). The Council will be asked to adopt a request for scientific advice from ICES.

## 6. 'Next Steps' for NASCO

### 6.1 Special Session: Progress with the Next Steps Strategy

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

In 2006 the Council established an *Ad Hoc* Review Group to review the Implementation Plans submitted by the Parties or relevant jurisdictions. This group presented its report at the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting (CNL(07)15). In the light of this report, the Council asked that Implementation Plans be submitted or re-submitted to the Secretariat in final form by 1 November 2007 and that the *Ad Hoc* Review Group would then conduct a final review, the results of which should be sent to the Parties by 1 March 2008. The final report of the First *Ad Hoc* Review Group will be presented (CNL(08)10). A compilation of the final Implementation Plans will be made available on CD, CNL(08)11.

(b) *Questions to the Parties from the Second Ad Hoc Review Group on the Focus Area Reports on 'Management of Fisheries'*

Last year the Council decided that the next stage of the 'Next Steps for NASCO' process would be to focus on the area of fisheries management in the Implementation Plans. A compilation of focus area reports will be issued, CNL(08)12. A second *Ad Hoc* Review Group was established to review this focus area with terms of reference, details of its composition and a timeframe for its work, CNL(07)47. The Group's Terms of Reference request that it review and analyse the fisheries management focus area reports prepared by the Parties or jurisdictions, 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. These issues/questions will be tabled, CNL(08)13, and introduced by the Review Group.

(c) *Presentations by the Parties and Jurisdictions on their Focus Area reports on Management of Salmon*

The Parties will have an opportunity to introduce their focus area reports and to address the issues and questions raised by the Second *Ad Hoc* Review Group.

### 6.2 Decisions by the Council in the light of the 'Next Steps for NASCO' Special Session

The Second *Ad Hoc* Review Group will prepare a short report in the light of the discussions during the Special Session. The Council will be asked to consider what further 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 2009, and to develop Terms of Reference for a new *Ad Hoc* Review Group for this new Focus Area and agree on its composition and working methods.

### 6.3 **Progress in implementing a Public Relations Strategy**

Last year the Council decided that as a first step in implementing its Public Relations Strategy it would upgrade and improve the NASCO and IASRB websites and ask the Secretary to produce a model ‘State of the Salmon Stocks’ document using information from the Parties and from ICES. The Parties were also asked to provide the Secretariat with details of educational programmes concerning wild Atlantic salmon so that these could be included in a database of such programmes. A report on progress in implementing the Public Relations Strategy will be presented (CNL(08)14).

### 6.4 **Performance Review of the Work of NASCO**

This item was added to the agenda for the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting at the request of the European Union and proposals for a performance review of NASCO were tabled. The Council considered this matter in the light of the ‘Next Steps’ review process, which has been carried out in an open and public fashion over the past three years, and the detailed nature of the decisions taken by the Council to implement broad-ranging changes in the manner in which NASCO operates and its relationship with its NGOs. While recognising that an assessment of the work of NASCO, the ‘Next Steps’ process and its performance would be a helpful and positive step, it was the Council’s view that the timing of such a review was critically important given that the organization was in the midst of implementing the core elements of the ‘Next Steps’ process. The Council will be asked to further consider this matter and decide on appropriate action.

## 7. **Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach**

### 7.1 **Annual Reports on Implementation Plans**

The Council’s Guidelines for the Preparation of NASCO ‘Implementation Plans’ and for Reporting on Progress; NSTF(06)10, detail the information that should be included in the annual reports on Implementation Plans. A format was developed for these reports based on the guidelines and issued to all Parties on 18 February. It was suggested that the Council may wish to review the format in the light of experience with its use. A summary of the annual reports on the Implementation Plans will be presented CNL(08)15. This summary will include the annual returns under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention and information on catch statistics and unreported catches, together with reports on any changes to the Parties’ and jurisdictions’ Implementation Plans.

### 7.2 **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. In 2006 the Council amended the Williamsburg Resolution, and it was printed as a brochure. Any issues relative to the Williamsburg Resolution and proposals for further changes to it may be raised.

(b) *Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry*

Last year the Council had considered a discussion document from the International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA) entitled 'Incentivising the Industry', CNL(07)30. The Council had noted the findings of the Bergen Symposium, the continued high level of escapes as presented to the Liaison Group, and the suggestion by ISFA of support for dissemination of information on best practice and collaborative problem-solving. The Council had asked that a response be made to ISFA welcoming their communication but indicating that there were proposals in their document that would be acceptable, some that would be the subject of cooperation and others that would need further consideration. To advance this initiative the Council had agreed to propose to ISFA that a Joint Technical Task Force be set up with membership from the two Secretariats and two or three nominated experts from NASCO and from ISFA. Terms of Reference for this Task Force were agreed. The Task Force would for the time being replace the NASCO/North Atlantic salmon farming industry Liaison Group. A report on subsequent liaison with the salmon farming industry will be presented, CNL(08)16.

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

This agenda item was included for the first time in 2006 in accordance with the Strategic Approach for NASCO's 'Next Steps' (CNL(05)49). There will be an opportunity for any relevant information to be presented by the Parties. ICES has also been asked to report on any significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management.

**7.4 Report of the Working Group on Socio-Economics**

In 2003 and 2004 reports on Technical workshops on socio-economics were presented to the Council. These workshops had

- listed the elements making up the salmon's economic value and impacts;
- developed broad guidelines on the type of economic analysis that would be needed to produce estimates of value and the data required;
- developed guidelines for incorporating social and economic factors in decisions under the Precautionary Approach.

There had been no meetings on socio-economic aspects of salmon since 2004. However, under the 'Strategic Approach for NASCO's 'Next Steps'', CNL(05)49, it is noted that the key issues in relation to the social and economic aspects of the Atlantic Salmon include: ensuring that appropriate emphasis is given to the social and economic aspects; that these aspects are integrated into the decision making process in an open and transparent manner; and that information on these aspects is disseminated in order to ensure they are given due weight compared to other important commercial

and public interests. Last year the Council, therefore, decided to establish a Working Group on Socio-economics and agreed Terms of Reference for the Group. A report on the first meeting of the Working Group will be presented CNL(08)17.

#### **7.5 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(08)18.

#### **7.6 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. Last year the Council asked the President of NASCO to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to accede to the Convention. Information in relation to the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery and on the response from France will be presented CNL(08)19. As requested by the Council, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting.

#### **7.7 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.

#### **7.8 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.

### **8. Other Business**

Any other business may be raised. Last year the representative of the NGOs suggested that information on Baltic salmon would be of interest to NASCO. The representative



of the EU has agreed to provide such information. There will be an opportunity for any such information to be presented.

**9. Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The Council has accepted an invitation from Norway to hold its Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting, at a venue to be decided, in Norway during 2 – 5 June 2009. The Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting may be held during 1 – 4 June 2010 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

**10. Report of the Meeting**

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

**11. Press Release**

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

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
9 April 2008