

Council

CNL(11)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 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(11)17.**

CNL(11)3

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

1. Opening Session

The Opening Session is open to the public. The President, Ms Mary Colligan (USA), will make a statement on behalf of the Organization and wishes to encourage an Opening Statement by each Party. The President will also 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(11)1) was issued to the Parties on 24 January 2011. The Parties may propose supplementary items by informing the Secretary. None have been received. A Draft Agenda (CNL(11)2) is being issued herewith. The Council will be asked to adopt an Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(11)4) has been issued.

3. Financial and Administrative Issues

3.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Ms Sonja Feldthaus (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), will present the report of the Committee's meeting to the Council, CNL(11)5. The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2012 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2010;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2011 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 any applications for NGO observer status to NASCO, CNL(11)6.

4.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2010

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2010, CNL(11)7. 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 ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(11)8, will be circulated by ICES 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 Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area

In 1996, the Council unanimously adopted a Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing, CNL(96)60. The Secretary will advise the Council of any requests to conduct research fishing since the last Annual Meeting. Reports on research fishing conducted in the last year will be covered in the report of the IASRB (see paragraph 4.6 below).

4.6 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

The Chairman of the Board, Professor Ken Whelan, will present the report of the Board's meeting, CNL(11)9.

4.7 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, Dr Peter Hutchinson, CNL(11)10. 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) *Final Report of the Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics Focus Area Review Group*

In 2009, the Council agreed that the third focus area reports should be on Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics. Last year, the Review Group's Draft Report was presented to the Liaison Group and then to the Council, CNL(10)12. The Council asked that the Review Group complete its work by taking into account the comments on its Draft Report from the International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA), CNL(10)33, the NGOs, CNL(10)37 and the Parties including those arising from the 2010 Special Session. The Parties were asked to submit any comments in writing to the Secretariat by 31 October 2010. The Review Group was also asked to prepare an overview of approaches to challenges as identified in the FARs. The Review Group's Final Report will be presented, CNL(11)11.

(b) *Report of the 'Next Steps' Review Group*

Last year, the Council decided to establish a Review Group to, *inter alia*, review the 'Next Steps' process, highlighting what this process had delivered, where it had worked well and making recommendations for any actions required to ensure that all the recommendations in the Strategic Approach for NASCO's 'Next Steps' had been implemented. The Group would also review the process used for reporting and evaluation and advise on any changes for the next reporting cycle. The Review Group's report will be presented CNL(11)12.

(c) *Progress in Implementing a Public Relations Strategy*

A report on progress in further developing the NASCO and IASRB websites and on incorporating the rivers database on the website will be presented.

5.2 Decisions by the Council in the light of the 'Next Steps for NASCO' 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 the light of the Special Session.

5.3 Arrangements for an External Performance Review

Last year, the Council decided to conduct a further performance review of NASCO by a panel comprising three internationally recognised external experts and, if necessary, additional individuals needed to facilitate the work. The 'Next Steps' Review Group was asked to develop proposals on TORs, criteria and a budget for this external review. The Council will be asked to confirm arrangements for the external review.

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

6.1 Annual Reports on Implementation Plans

Annual reports on Implementation Plans by each jurisdiction will be issued. A compilation of these annual reports will be presented, CNL(11)13.

6.2 Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

The Liaison Group met during 18 and 19 March 2011 and *inter alia* considered developments in relation to the BMP Guidance, including reporting arrangements, and the Final Report of the Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics FAR Review Group. The report of the Liaison Group meeting will be presented, CNL(11)14.

6.3 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.

6.4 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

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. In 2007, the Council established a Working Group on Socio-Economics. An interim report of the first meeting of the Working Group was presented at the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting (CNL(08)17). The Working Group had established a Sub-Group to continue the collation of socio-economic information and in 2009 the Council had agreed a work programme for the Sub-Group for the period 2010-2012. A report, CNL(10)17, on the progress of the Sub-Group was presented at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting and the Council welcomed the progress made in developing tables for presenting social and economic information relating to Atlantic salmon and for including social and economic information on the NASCO website. It was agreed that the Secretariat should make appropriate arrangements to allow for consideration of social and economic issues either as a regular agenda item or if time permits a Special Session during the 2011 Annual Meeting. After consulting the President it was agreed that time should be allocated to a Special Session on this subject at the 2012 Annual Meeting. A progress report on the Sub-Group's work will be presented, CNL(11)15.

6.5 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 strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the Northwest Atlantic. Any new information in relation to the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery will be presented, CNL(11)16. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting.

6.6 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. In 2008, the Council agreed to seek close cooperation on matters concerning Baltic salmon through the European Union and Russia. There will be an opportunity for any new information to be presented.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The Council will be asked to agree on a venue for its Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting to be held during 5 - 8 June 2012.

The Thirtieth Annual Meeting may be held during 4 - 7 June 2013 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
7 April 2011