

## **CNL(11)40**

### ***Draft Report of the Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council Hotel Arctic, Ilulissat, Greenland***

***4 - 6 June, 2011***

#### **1. Opening Session**

- 1.1 The President, Ms Mary Colligan (US), opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to Greenland (Annex 1). A welcoming address was made by Ms Ane Hansen, Minister of Fisheries, Hunting Agriculture (Annex 2)
- 1.2 The representatives of Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), the European Union, Norway, the Russian Federation and the United States of America made Opening Statements (Annex 3).
- 1.3 An Opening Statement was made by the European Inland Fisheries Advisory Committee (EIFAAC) (Annex 4).
- 1.4 A representative of Kalaallit Nunaanni Aalisartut Piniartullu Kattuffiat (KNAPK - The Association of Fishermen and Hunters in Greenland) addressed the Council (Annex 5).
- 1.5 An Opening Statement was made on behalf of all the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) attending the Annual Meeting (Annex 6).
- 1.5 The President expressed appreciation for these statements and closed the Opening Session.
- 1.6 A list of participants is given in Annex 7.

#### **2. Adoption of Agenda**

- 2.1 The Council adopted its agenda, CNL(11)38 (Annex 8).

#### **3. Financial and Administrative Issues**

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

- 3.1 The Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, Ms Sonja Feldthaus (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), presented the report of the Committee, CNL(11)5. On the recommendation of the Committee, the Council took the following decisions:
  - (i) to accept the audited 2010 annual financial statement, FAC(11)2;

- (ii) to adopt a budget for 2012 and to note a forecast budget for 2013, CNL(11)39 (Annex 9);
- (iii) to appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers (PWC) of Edinburgh as auditors for the 2011 accounts, or such other company as may be agreed by the Secretary following consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- (iv) to adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee.

3.2 Dr Malcolm Windsor will retire as Secretary on 31 August 2012. The Council decided to invite Dr Peter Hutchinson to become Interim Secretary for one year from 1 September 2012. He could then recruit an assistant for up to 12 months from 1 January 2013. The Council intends to agree a recruitment process for a new Secretary at its 2012 Annual Meeting.

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

### **4.1 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary made a report to the Council on the status of ratifications of, and accessions to, the Convention and membership of the regional Commissions.

He reported on fishing for salmon in international waters by non-NASCO Parties. There had been no sightings during the year since 1 April 2010 but surveillance is limited to the summer months.

In accordance with Financial Rule 5.5, the Secretary reported on the receipt of contributions for 2011. All contributions had been received and there were no arrears.

The Secretary reported, (CNL(11)19), that since NASCO's last Annual Meeting, there had been one application for NGO status to NASCO from the Angling Trust, based in England, UK. Following consultation with the President, this application had been approved. NASCO currently has 35 accredited NGOs.

### **4.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2010**

In accordance with Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention, the Council adopted a report to the Parties on the Activities of the Organization in 2010, CNL(11)7.

### **4.3 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize**

The President announced that the winner of the \$2,500 Grand Prize was Mr Sergey Kanev, Murmanskaya oblast, Russian Federation. The Council offered its congratulations to the winner.

### **4.4 Scientific Advice from ICES**

The representative of ICES presented the report of the Advisory Committee (ACOM) to the Council, CNL(11)8 (Annex 10).

#### **4.5 Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area**

The Secretary reported to the Council that there had been no applications to conduct scientific research fishing in the Convention area during 2011.

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

The report of the meeting of the Board, CNL(11)9 (Annex 11), was presented by its Chairman, Professor Ken Whelan.

#### **4.7 Report of the Standing Scientific Committee**

The Chairman of the Standing Scientific Committee, Dr Peter Hutchinson, presented a draft request to ICES for scientific advice. Upon the recommendation of the Committee, the Council adopted a request for scientific advice from ICES, CNL(11)10 (Annex 12).

### **5. Next Steps for NASCO**

#### **5.1 Special Session: Progress with the Next Steps Strategy**

##### **(a) Final Report of the Aquaculture and Related Activities Focus Area Review Group**

Focus area reports (FARs) are intended to provide in-depth assessments of the actions taken on the particular focus area under consideration and provide a basis for review of the actions taken and their efficacy in achieving NASCO's objectives. The third and final focus area in the first round of reporting is aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics. The Council had established an *Ad Hoc* Review Group to review and analyse the aquaculture FARs and highlight issues to be raised with the Parties and jurisdictions. The Group's draft report had been presented to the Council at a Special Session held in 2010, CNL(10)12. In finalising its report, the Group was asked to take into account the comments on its draft report from the Parties, the International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA), the NGOs and those made during the Special Session. The Parties were asked to provide written comments to the Review Group by 31 October 2010. The Review Group had also been asked to review a FAR submitted by EU-Ireland and the relevant sections of a document provided by EU-Spain, CNL(10)36.

The final report of the Aquaculture and Related Activities Focus Area Review Group, CNL(11)11 (Annex 13), was presented by Mr Tim Sheehan in a Special Session and the findings were discussed. Mr Sheehan's presentation is contained in document CNL(11)xx. It had not been necessary for the Review Group to develop recommendations on best practice because in 2009 a Task Force established by the Liaison Group had developed 'Guidance on Best Management Practices to Address Impacts of Sea Lice and Escaped Farmed Salmon on Wild Salmon Stocks', SLG(09)5. Since 2010, the Review Group had completed its Terms of Reference by reviewing the new FAR for EU (Ireland) and by developing an overview of common management and scientific approaches to challenges, as reported in the FARs. The Review Group had considered carefully the feedback it had received and in some

cases the assessments in the draft report had been revised to take into account feedback from the Parties. The Council acknowledged the Review Group's report and thanked the Group for its work. All the FARs are available on the NASCO website.

(b) Report of the 'Next Steps for NASCO' Review Group

Commencing in 2004, NASCO had undertaken a comprehensive and critical review of its work which resulted in the adoption of a Strategic Approach for NASCO's 'Next Steps', CNL(05)49. This Strategic Approach contained recommendations for actions relating to three main challenges: implementation, commitment and accountability; transparency and inclusivity; and raising NASCO's profile. Last year, the Council agreed to review the 'Next Steps' process to highlight what it had delivered, where it had worked well and to recommend any actions required to ensure that the Strategic Approach had been implemented. Accordingly, a 'Next Steps' for NASCO Review Group was established and its report was presented in a Special Session, CNL(11)12 (Annex 14).

The Group had reviewed progress in implementing the Strategic Approach under each of the seven challenges it identifies. The Group recognised that while NASCO has moved quickly in implementing the measures in the Strategic Approach these relate mainly to process. The Group made some recommendations for further actions relating to these challenges and proposed that additional feedback be sought during the Special Session at the 2011 Annual Meeting, with a view to considering updating of the Strategic Approach.

For the next cycle of reporting, the Review Group had suggested some streamlining and it recommends that in the new Implementation Plans greater emphasis should be placed on the activities and actions each jurisdiction plans to take over a period of five years. There should be greater emphasis on monitoring and evaluation of activities with clearly describe identifiable, measurable outcomes and timescales. It is recommended that, in future, Focus Area Reports should be developed around specific themes and that progress on Implementation Plans could be assessed through the Annual Reports, which would be reviewed. The Review Group had proposed the establishment of a Working Group to develop a framework for future reporting and evaluation which would report back to the 2012 Annual Meeting.

The Review Group had also considered the response from ISFA regarding the evolution of the Liaison Group and had recommended that the Council resolve the future role it envisages for NASCO with regard to aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics before responding to ISFA. An initial discussion document on this topic was tabled by Norway, CNL(11)20.

(c) Progress in implementing a Public Relations Strategy

The Council had previously indicated that the main elements in its Public Relations strategy should be the re-design of both the NASCO and IASRB websites and the development of a 'State of the Salmon' report. The work in re-designing the websites had been completed in 2009/10 and this had been welcomed by the Council. Last year, the Council had asked that all jurisdictions verify the information for inclusion in the rivers database by 31 December 2010 with a view to it being made available on the website with map displays before the 2011 Annual Meeting. The Assistant Secretary reported on progress with further development of the NASCO and IASRB websites, including the development of new pages providing socio-economic information (see paragraph 6.4 below), and on incorporating the rivers database information. Since last year,

information on approximately 1,500 rivers had been included in the database following verification by the jurisdictions and it is anticipated that when complete the database will hold information on around 2,500 rivers. Further work has been undertaken to enable mapping of the information. The Council agreed that once the web pages for the rivers database are completed, they should be made available for viewing by the jurisdictions on a test site so that Parties can provide feedback to the Secretariat before the pages are made publicly available

## **5.2 Decisions by the Council in the light of the ‘Next Steps for NASCO’ Special Session**

The Council decided to establish a Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of these Reports to be chaired by Mr Ted Potter (European Union). The Working Group should comprise no more than two representatives from each Party and two representatives from NASCO’s accredited NGOs. These individuals should ideally have been involved in preparing the Implementation Plans and FARs or served on one or more of the Review Groups. The Working Group should complete its work prior to the external performance review and report back to the Council at its Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting. The Terms of Reference for the Working Group are as follows:

- (a) Develop new guidelines for the preparation of Implementation Plans, drawing on document NSTF(06)10 but with greater emphasis on monitoring and evaluation and including criteria for acceptability, and guidelines for the preparation of Annual Reports. These guidelines should describe the content and format of these reports, the timing for submission of these reports, and the timing and process for distribution of these reports;
- (b) Develop a process for the review of Implementation Plans and Annual Reports including the criteria to be used for the reviews, the timing of the reviews, the composition of the Review Groups, and arrangements for reporting on the reviews;
- (b) Develop a schedule for the development and review of Implementation Plans, submission and review of the Annual Reports, and planning for and conduct of theme-based FAR Special Sessions.

The Council agreed that it would consider the need for revisions to the Strategic Approach for NASCO’s ‘Next Steps’ and possible changes to its meeting schedule and agendas in the light of the findings of the external performance review. With regard to NASCO’s future role on aquaculture, the Council decided that this issue should be considered further in the light of the ‘Next Steps’ Working Group’s report and the findings of the external performance review.

## **5.3 Arrangements for the External Performance Review**

At its Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting, the Council had adopted ‘Terms of Reference for a Review of the ‘Next Steps’ Process, and Council Decision Concerning a Further Performance Review’, CNL(10)48. Under these Terms of Reference, the ‘Next Steps’ Review Group (see paragraph 5.1(a) above) was asked to develop proposals for

consideration by the Council on TORs, criteria and a budget for the external review. The 'Next Steps' Review Group had discussed these aspects of the external review and in the light of these deliberations draft Terms of Reference had been developed by the Secretariat, CNL(11)18. The Council adopted Terms of Reference for the external performance review, CNL(11)xx (Annex 15), and made budgetary provision to cover the costs of the panel members. The Council agreed to the appointment of Mr Michael Shewchuk (nominated by UN DOALOS), Ms Judith Swan (nominated by FAO) and Mr Kjartan Hoydal (Secretary of NEAFC). Details of these candidates can be found in document CNL(11)36. The Council agreed that:

- the criteria attached to the TORs are to be used by the Review Group as it determines appropriate;
- the review should examine the past, present and future of NASCO and the fitness of the organization given the current challenges facing the salmon;
- the Review Panel should produce a report which critically evaluates the performance of NASCO and makes recommendations for change and improvements;
- the Review Panel should decide how best to carry out its work including holding a second meeting;
- the President and Secretary will assist the Panel, as needed, including providing background material and points of context.

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

### **6.1 Annual Reports on Implementation Plans**

The Council's Guidelines for the Preparation of Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress, NSTF(06)10, indicate that reports to the Council should be provided in two formats: written annual reports and focus area reports (FARs) presented at Special Sessions and subject to review. The primary purpose of the annual returns is to track progress in implementing the actions contained in the Implementation Plans. A summary of these returns was presented, CNL(11)13. The returns themselves are contained in documents CNL(11)21 – CNL(11)35. The representative of the European Union highlighted several positive developments in this report.

### **6.2 Liaison with the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry**

The Chairman of the Liaison Group, Mr Sebastian Belle, presented the report of the Group's meeting, CNL(11)14 (Annex 16). He indicated that at its meeting held on 18 and 19 March 2011, the Liaison Group had, *inter alia*, reviewed the final report from the Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics FAR Review Group (see 5.1(a) above), considered reporting arrangements on the BMP Guidance, agreed on possible actions to improve communication of the Liaison Group's work, and discussed the evolution of the Liaison Group. With regard to the FAR Review Group's report, the Liaison Group had agreed the following response:

- The Liaison Group thanks the Review Group for its report, complete with its 8 annexes, and encourages NASCO's Parties to make full use of the wealth of information provided;
- Going forward, NASCO Parties should carefully consider the following in its 'Next Steps' process:
  - the extent of NASCO's role with respect to aquaculture, introductions and transfers and transgenics;
  - the roles and responsibilities of the Parties, industry and NGOs with respect to NASCO's role;
  - activities and studies that would best serve NASCO's role going forward.

With regard to reporting on the BMP Guidance, the Liaison Group had noted that the 'Next Steps' for NASCO review would be considering future reporting in relation to all of NASCO's agreements, and had agreed to reconsider the reporting requirements under the BMP Guidance in the light of this review. A proposal from Canada on the reconstitution of the Liaison Group had been discussed. A number of options were considered and ISFA had indicated after the meeting (see Attachment 1 of CNL(11)14) that it would prefer to engage directly with the Parties through a seat at the NASCO Annual Meeting, consistent with that afforded to the NGOs. The Liaison Group had also proposed a change to its Constitution to allow for the election of a Vice Chairman.

The Council decided that, in view of the ongoing 'Next Steps' process and the external performance review, it would consider the most appropriate approach to continuing its liaison with the salmon farming industry, which it greatly valued, at its 2012 meeting. The Council agreed that the Liaison Group did not need to meet prior to the 2012 Annual Meeting. The Council agreed that the Constitution of the Liaison Group should be changed to allow for election of both a Chairman and Vice Chairman.

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

In accordance with the 'Strategic Approach for NASCO's Next Steps', this item had been included on the Council's agenda and ICES had been requested to provide relevant information, which is contained in document CNL(11)8. Information is also provided by jurisdictions in the annual returns under Implementation Plans (see CNL(11)13 for details).

### 6.4 **Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management**

A progress report on the work of the Socio-economic Sub-Group was presented, CNL(11)15. Over the last twelve months, the Sub-Group has further developed web pages relating to socio-economic values and its proposal for a Special Session on socio-economics to be held during the 2012 Annual Meeting. The objective of the 2012 Special Session is to provide an opportunity for a more detailed exchange of information on how jurisdictions are incorporating socio-economic factors in decisions relating to: management of salmon fisheries; habitat protection and restoration; and aquaculture and related activities. In addition, however, the Sub-Group had recommended that the Special Session should allow for feedback from the Parties on the usefulness of the NASCO Guidelines and discussion of the future role of NASCO in relation to the social and economic aspects of salmon management.

The Council recognised that in view of the external performance review and the ‘Next Step’s Working Group there would be limited time available at the 2012 Annual Meeting. However, it agreed that it was important to make progress on this topic and asked the Sub Group to liaise with the NASCO Secretariat on the arrangements for a half day Special Session to be held at the 2012 Annual Meeting. The Council believes that this session would have most value if it included a small number of presentations illustrating different concepts of how socio-economic factors are used in salmon management. The Session should also allow for feedback on the usefulness of the NASCO Guidelines and consideration of NASCO’s future work on this topic. The Sub-Group was asked to proceed and develop the programme. The Council suggested that the Sub-Group might wish to consult EIFAAC with a view to its involvement in the Special Session.

The Council agreed that the new web pages should be made publicly available on the NASCO website. The Parties were asked to provide, to the extent possible, by the end of the calendar year updated information for inclusion in the tables relating to ‘rod and line’ and ‘net and trap’ fisheries with a view to making these available on the website.

#### **6.5 St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) introduced document CNL(11)19 (Annex 17) containing information on management of the fishery, details of catches and of the number of licenses issued and the sampling programme in 2010. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) had reiterated that it wishes to retain its observer status to NASCO and to develop scientific cooperation with NASCO given that salmon fishing is a traditional, seasonal activity for the inhabitants of the islands. The Council expressed its appreciation for the information provided and welcomed resumption of the sampling programme, including genetic analyses.

The representative of the NGOs recognised the subsistence nature of the fishery but noted that it exploits salmon of US and Canadian origin including endangered stocks. The NGOs believe therefore that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) should accede to the NASCO Convention as previously suggested by the Council.

#### **6.6 Reports on the Work of the Three Regional Commissions**

The Chairman of each of the three regional Commissions reported to the Council on the activities of their Commission.

### **7. Other Business**

- 7.1 The Secretary advised the Council that he had been approached by the OSPAR Commission concerning the development of an MoU between NASCO and OSPAR. The Council recognised the need for cooperation with OSPAR and asked the Secretary to liaise with OSPAR on the development of a draft MoU to be brought to the Council in 2012.

7.2 There was no other business.

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

8.1 The Council agreed to hold its Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting during 5 - 8 June 2012 in Edinburgh.

8.2 The Council agreed to hold its Thirtieth Annual Meeting during 4 – 7 June 2013.

**9. Report of the Meeting**

9.1 The Council agreed the report of the meeting.

**10. Press Release**

10.1 The Council agreed a press release, CNL(11)XX(Annex 18).