

CNL(18)42

Summary of discussions during the Special Session on Progress Reports on Planning for the International Year of the Salmon

Arnaud Peyronnet (European Union): noted that when the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) was being discussed in 2017, it was difficult to see if it could be as successful as hoped. However, there are now concrete elements which are the result of some very hard work. He expressed the European Union's appreciation for this work, and that which lies ahead, to all involved in the process, particularly the Secretariat.

Serge Doucet (Canada): thanked the Committees and the Secretariat for the hard work that has been put into preparing for the IYS. He noted that Canada was looking forward to the IYS and supported the activities of the Parties as well.

Steve Sutton (Atlantic Salmon Federation): indicated that he had understood that one of the products coming out of the workshop held in Edinburgh on communication outreach was going to be an Engagement Plan. He asked if that was correct and, if so, what was the status of that Plan.

Emma Hatfield (NASCO Secretary): replied that it was on the list of things which need to be done. The workshop was held at the end of March and both April and May were busy with preparations for the Annual Meeting. There are a number of things which the Secretariat hopes to do, such as issuing briefing documents to Heads of Delegations for information for the ministerial launch, however, these have had to wait while preparations for the Annual Meeting have been ongoing.

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): reported on NGO activities in planning for the IYS. He noted that planning is much more advanced in Norway than most of the other jurisdictions and the NGOs have been heavily involved with the various departments there. In the UK, a meeting is planned at which it is hoped that they can expand the ideas on the table into action points and Lawrence Talks, from the EU delegation, is involved in that. They also hope to employ, possibly on a part-time basis, a co-ordinator to co-ordinate the work within the NGOs and have been discussing this with the EU delegation. The NGOs have some plans and hope to be able to report to the Secretariat soon as to how those plans are developing.

Don Sprangers (Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network): directed delegates' attention to a slide on the screen showing a map of an international schools network working on salmon, and encouraged participants to talk to their local schools about their potential involvement in this expanding programme. He referred to the programmes the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network has planned as part of the IYS, and noted his excitement that a lot of the work the network would be undertaking would be featured on social media and the websites of others present at the session.

Schools involved in the network can participate in four different programmes: a genetics study looking at the origin of the species; scale sample analyses and the life-cycle of the salmon; stream studies, looking at both biological and chemical water quality; and film projects where students will put together short films about different aspects of their rivers, the history of their rivers and the status of salmon in these rivers. The primary goal of the organization is to get students involved in their local rivers, looking at what the status of the salmon is and what conservation efforts are being undertaken. He stated that students are the next generation of stewards on our rivers and we need to reach out to them and the organization was a great way to do this. Funding was available in Europe through the ERASMUS programme and funding

in the USA had been provided by NOAA Fisheries and the Maine Community Foundation. He indicated that colleagues in Canada lacked funding and needed help with that.

Mark Saunders (NPAFC): noted that Dr Suam Kim, the President of NPAFC, had to leave and regretted not being able to attend the session. Mr Saunders congratulated NASCO on the very significant progress made on the implementation of, and working towards, the focal year of the IYS. He noted that it had been a very exciting year, which started with NPAFC and NASCO working more closely together and building the relationship between the two organizations, setting the foundations for the governance and the ability to work together. He stated that now it is time to do the ‘fun stuff’: making things happen in this International Year of the Salmon. He was interested to see the ideas coming out of the different countries and encouraged organizers to consider whether any new activity being planned would be of interest at the hemispheric scale.

With regards to the State of the Salmon report, Mr Saunders indicated that there was increasing interest in the Pacific in building stories from local areas from indigenous peoples and in understanding the situation elsewhere in the hemisphere and connecting through these stories. He referred to some excellent projects in Alaska, which have spent three years collating stories related to subsistence fishing and the cultural importance of salmon in Alaska. Some of those involved had been represented at the outreach workshop in Edinburgh and he felt that there could be interest on the Pacific side in similar projects. A photo competition to get more stock photos was under consideration, which could be linked to the website and the respective basins. He felt that stories and maps of what was taking place would be very interesting for people, allowing them to see the events and salmon issues plotted on maps. NPAFC was certainly considering the State of the Salmon report at the hemispheric level, and the rivers database and presentation by Sarah Robinson, the NASCO Assistant Secretary, shows the power of video representations of the state of salmon rivers. There will always be challenges for scientists when it comes to categorising rivers. While NASCO has been through a process to standardise categories, he hoped that this could be broadened to the hemisphere as there is a lot of interest in the Pacific in finding a standardised approach to representing the state of salmon.

Mr Saunders stated that NPAFC have a lot to share with NASCO. Lots of activities have been arranged related to an opening event taking place in Vancouver on 11 October. The Presidents of NPAFC and NASCO had recently met to discuss how representatives from both organizations could participate together in events taking place over the next year to support and facilitate exchange. Mr Saunders also indicated that he had had a very productive interaction with the IASRB and SAG. He believed that there is a basis for some research in each of the research themes and outcomes that could be developed over the next year.

Part of the IYS will be setting up both organizations to be relevant and nimble in the future as we try to respond to the ongoing declines. When looking at catches, it may seem that the Pacific is not suffering, but the declines in a lot of Pacific species are masked by a large tonnage of catch in several species that are doing well under climate change. He said that we share the same timeline of decline and productivity, and interest in both solving it and engaging our people. Mr Saunders stated that in working together we can show how the organizations can do something which no other organizations can, in bringing these communities of salmon people together. He noted that he was very excited to take home what he has learned and to start to figure out how to more actively connect with some of the projects being developed, and this is just the tip of the iceberg in terms of activities.

Noel Carr (Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea Trout Anglers): noted that one of the events included under the IYS is a forum in St. Petersburg in September 2018, organized by the

Russian Federal Agency for Fisheries, with a chapter devoted to mixed-stock fishing. He asked if Russia would be inviting foreign participants to that event.

Sergey Prusov (Russian Federation): indicated that there would be a small meeting conference on mixed- stock fisheries. The Russian Delegation, on behalf of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, invited all Parties to participate in this forum in St. Petersburg. He advised that detailed information would be provided to the NASCO Secretariat at a later date, to be forwarded to the Parties.

Rory Saunders (United States of America / Chair of the IASRB): referred back to some of the points raised by Mark Saunders. He stated that there had been some very useful discussions at both the IASRB and SAG meetings regarding projects that would be of relevance at the salmospheric level. Two projects in particular were the ‘ROAM’ project and the ‘Likely Suspects’ project, which had received some IASRB funding over the past year. Both projects fit within the context of NASCO’s existing research priorities. He indicated that more information would be provided under the Agenda item related to the work of the IASRB, and that he looked forward to further informal collaboration on research.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): read a list of decisions to be taken in the light of this Special Session. This list, and subsequent discussion and agreement, is included in the Report of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO, CNL(18)45.