



Agenda item 2
For information

Council

CNL(19)03

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

Under the conditions for attendance by observers, the President may recognise requests from the floor by the Co-Chairs of accredited NGOs and / or their 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(19)20

CNL(19)03

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting

Following the welcome from our hosts, the President, Mr Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), will make a statement on behalf of the Organization. The Opening Session will not include verbal Opening Statements by the Parties and Observers this year, but the President wishes to encourage each Party, Inter-Governmental Organization and NASCO's accredited Non-Governmental Organizations to submit a written Opening Statement for distribution at the meeting. These written statements will be annexed to the report of the meeting. It would be of assistance if these statements could be made available to the Secretariat prior to the Annual Meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda (CNL(19)01) was issued on 21 February 2019. No supplementary items have been proposed by the Parties so a Draft Agenda (CNL(19)02) is issued herewith. The Council will be asked to adopt its Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(19)04) was also issued with the Provisional Agenda.

3. Financial and Administrative Issues

3.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, Ms Kim Blankenbeker (USA), will present the report of the Committee's 2019 meeting to the Council. The Council will be asked to:

- accept the Audited Accounts for 2018;
- confirm the auditors for the 2019 accounts;
- adopt a budget for 2020;
- decide on any actions required under its MoUs with ICES and the OSPAR Commission; and
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee, CNL(19)05.

4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

4.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary will refer to document CNL(19)06, containing an update for the Council on a number of procedural, administrative, financial and other matters, including details of new applications for NGO observer status to NASCO and any applications to conduct scientific research fishing in the Convention area. Due to the shorter duration of the 2019 Annual Meeting, this report will be taken as read. The Council will be asked if it has any questions on the report.

4.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2018

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention, a

report on its activities in 2018, CNL(19)07. Please note, this report will be taken as read and 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 £1,500. The winners of the Commission prizes of £1,000 will be announced in each Commission.

4.4 Scientific Advice from ICES

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(19)08, will be circulated by ICES in early May. The advice relating to the North Atlantic area will be presented to the Council. The advice relating to the individual Commission areas will be considered by the Commissions separately at their meetings. ICES will again make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available on the ICES website after the scientific advice is released.

4.5 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

In 2015, the Board endorsed the need for an international acoustic tracking programme and adopted a resolution encouraging telemetry studies, building on the success and identity of the SALSEA Programme. The Board had recognised the role it could play in co-ordinating efforts and fund-raising initiatives in support of telemetry projects and agreed to support SALSEA - Track as a continuing commitment to understanding the factors affecting mortality of salmon at sea. The Chair of the Board, Mr Rory Saunders (USA), will present the report of the Board's meeting, CNL(19)09, including an update on progress with SALSEA - Track. The Board will also consider proposals for new Rules of Procedure and clarified Terms of Reference for the Board and its Scientific Advisory Group, but this will be covered separately under item 4.6 below.

4.6 Review of the Procedures Relating to the Work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group

In 2017, the Council asked the Secretary to prepare a review of the procedures relating to the work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB) and its Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). This review was considered by the Council and IASRB at their respective 2018 Annual Meetings. The IASRB had recommended that the Chair of the IASRB, in consultation with the Secretary, members of the IASRB and current and past Chairs of the SAG, propose new Rules of Procedure and clarify the Terms of Reference for the IASRB and SAG.

This work is being undertaken inter-sessionally and, as requested by the Council in 2018, the proposals (contained in document CNL(19)10) will be considered at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Council. The Council will be asked if it wishes to make any changes to the Rules of Procedure or Terms of Reference for the IASRB or SAG.

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, CNL(19)11. The Council will be asked to adopt a request to ICES for scientific advice.

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

5.1 Special Session: Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans

The report of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group for the Review of Annual Progress Reports, CNL(19)12, will be presented by its Chair, Mr Rory Saunders (United States), at a Special Session of the Council. The report will include the Group's evaluations of the final Annual Progress Reports (APRs) under the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans (IPs). The primary purpose of the APRs is to provide details of:

- any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the IPs;
- actions that have been taken under the IPs in the previous year;
- significant changes to the status of stocks and a report on catches; and
- actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The purpose of the evaluation of the APRs by the Review Group is to ensure that Parties / jurisdictions have provided a clear account of progress in implementing and evaluating the actions detailed in their IPs along with the information required under the Convention. Last year, as requested by the Council, the Review Group provided details of its evaluation of progress on each action in a table at the end of its review, highlighting shortcomings. The Parties / jurisdictions were asked to address these shortcomings in their 2019 APRs. There will be an opportunity for questions to be raised during the Special Session. The APRs will be issued and made available on the NASCO website (www.nasco.int/implementation_plans_cycle2.html).

Council will be asked if it has any questions on document CNL(19)13, which contains a summary of the sections of the APRs detailing changes to the IPs, stock status and catches and additional information required under the Convention.

5.2 Special Session: Evaluation of Implementation Plans under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019 – 2024)

The 2013 – 2018 IP cycle will be completed this year. The Council had previously established a Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of Reports. This Group was tasked with reviewing the guidelines and templates for the preparation and evaluation of Implementation Plans and Annual Progress Reports and advise on any necessary changes for the third round of reporting, including options for reporting under the Six Tenets for Effective Management of an Atlantic Salmon Fishery. The Working Group presented its report to the Council at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Following discussions at that meeting, it was agreed that: Parties and jurisdictions would provide clear and explicit feedback on any improvements they felt were necessary to the Guidelines proposed by the Working Group; the Secretary would condense this feedback to produce a clear statement of work which would be sent to the Parties for their confirmation; and a small group comprising the Chair of the Working Group, the Secretary and the NGO co-Chair would consider this statement and make further refinements to the output of the Working Group.

This work was undertaken inter-sessionally and the Council has now agreed Guidelines for the Preparation and Evaluation of NASCO Implementation Plans and for Reporting on Progress (CNL(18)49) and templates for the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans (CNL(18)50) and Annual Progress Reports (CNL(18)51). The Guidelines and IP templates were issued to Parties and jurisdictions in October 2018 with the request for

Implementation Plans to be submitted by 1 February 2019.

The Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group met in February 2019 to undertake its initial evaluations of the 2019 – 2024 Implementation Plans. However, the Group was unable to complete the review of all IPs received within the time allocated to the meeting. There has, therefore, been some delay to the review process. The Heads of Delegations agreed that the initial round of evaluations would be returned to Parties / jurisdictions on or before 30 April. Further decisions will be made by the Heads of Delegations prior to the Annual Meeting on the content of the IP Special Session at the Annual Meeting and a revised schedule for the IP review process.

5.3 Special Session: Report on Progress during the International Year of the Salmon

2019 is the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS). An update on the activities of the various IYS Committees will be presented, CNL(19)15. This document will also include a summary of IYS actions reported by the Parties / jurisdictions. The Council will be asked for agreements relating to the concluding IYS Symposium to be held in in 2022.

5.4 Report from the Tromsø Symposium on the Recommendations to Address Future Management Challenges

A report will be presented on the Tromsø Symposium ‘Managing the Atlantic salmon in a rapidly changing environment – management challenges and possible responses’, held in Tromsø on 3 – 4 June 2019.

5.5 Progress in Implementing the ‘Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, CNL(13)38

The Secretary will refer to document CNL(19)17 which provides an update on progress in implementing the measures contained in the ‘Action Plan for taking forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO, CNL(13)38’. Due to the shorter duration of the 2019 Annual Meeting, this report will be taken as read but the Council will be given the opportunity to ask questions on this document.

5.6 Consideration of the Process for Arranging a Second External Performance Review in 2021

In 2018, the Council agreed that the process to consider conducting a second external performance review of NASCO should commence in 2019, with a view to holding the review in 2021. The Secretary will present a document outlining options for the review process CNL(19)18. The Council will be asked to agree a process for conducting the review.

5.7 Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

In 2013, the Council agreed that the regular meetings of the ISFA / NASCO Liaison Group would not continue but that if a specific need arose, consideration would be given to convening a joint *ad hoc* group. The Council decided to retain an item on its Agenda during which a representative of the International Salmon Farmers’ Association (ISFA) could be invited to participate in an exchange of information on issues concerning impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon. A representative of ISFA will attend the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting; they have been encouraged to provide a paper highlighting any developments in addressing impacts of salmon farming on wild

salmon stocks, especially in relation to escapes of farmed salmon and updates on the control of sea lice.

5.8 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). ICES has been asked to report on any significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management and its advice will be presented in document CNL(19)08. There will be an opportunity for any relevant information to be presented by the Parties and observers.

5.9 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

The Council has previously requested that the Parties / jurisdictions advise the Secretariat of any new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon. Any such studies will be referred to in the Secretary's report, CNL(19)06.

5.10 Management and Sampling of the 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, occur at a time when there are serious concerns about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the North American Commission area. In 2017, as requested by the Council, the President of NASCO wrote to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noting NASCO's concerns and encouraging France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to become a member of NASCO. In response, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noted that it wished to retain its observer status at NASCO and committed to providing NASCO with information on the fishery and taking NASCO recommendations on catch taken by communities dependent on fishing into account. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting and will provide a paper presenting information in relation to the management and sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery, CNL(19)19.

5.11 Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions

The President will ask the Chairs of each of the regional Commissions of NASCO to report to the Council on the work of their Commission.

6. Other Business

Any other business may be raised.

7. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Council has previously accepted an invitation from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to hold its Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting in the Faroe Islands during 2 – 5 June 2020. The meeting venue will be confirmed.

8. Report of the Meeting

A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for approval by the Council.

9. Press Release

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

10. Close of the Meeting

The President will close the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting.

Secretary
Edinburgh
18 April 2019