



Agenda item 4.1
For information

Council

CNL(19)06

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Secretary's Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report contains a number of procedural, administrative and financial matters and issues relating to public relations and relations with other international bodies.

2. Status of Ratifications of, and Accessions to, the Convention and Membership of the Regional Commissions

- 2.1 There have been no changes to the status of ratifications of, and accessions to, the Convention, nor have there been any modifications to the membership of the Commissions since the last notification. However, the United Kingdom has applied to accede to the Convention once it has withdrawn from the European Union. The NASCO President has been contacting Heads of Delegation regarding this application and once the uncertainties surrounding the UK's withdrawal from the EU have been resolved, decisions can be taken with regard to the UK's application to accede to the Convention.
- 2.2 In 2018, Council agreed that the President would write to the relevant authorities in Iceland to express the desire of the NASCO family to respectfully consider them to re-join the Organization. The Council stated its desire to see them re-join during 2019, the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon. A letter was subsequently sent to the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture and copied to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

3. Receipt of Contributions for 2019

- 3.1 In accordance with Financial Rule 5.5, the Secretary is required to report on the receipt of contributions and on any arrears. All contributions for 2019 have been received and there are no arrears.

4. Observers at NASCO's Meetings

- 4.1 Since last year, there have been three new applications for Non-Governmental Observer status to NASCO, from the Association de Défense des Ressources Marines (ADRM), (based in France), from Tanavassdragets fiskeforvaltning (TF) (based in Norway) and from WWF-Russia. The purpose of the ADRM is to act for the defence, protection and conservation of the entire natural aquatic environment in general, especially marine and all species dependent on this environment such as, for example fish, and all organisms known or to be discovered without exception, including marine mammals, reptiles, birds, but also the habitats concerned. The overall objective of TF (Tanavassdragets fiskeforvaltning translates as Tana River Fish Management in English) is to preserve the salmon resources as a natural resource base for settlement and River-Sámi culture in the river valley area. They state that the salmon stocks shall be managed in a sustainable way from a knowledge base built upon traditional and scientific knowledge. WWF-Russia is the largest environmental NGO in Russia. The main objectives of WWF-Russia's Conservation Strategy are in line with the global objectives of WWF for the period until 2050. Atlantic salmon is a regional priority species in the Barents ecoregion where WWF-Russia provides several activities in the field of its conservation, including: establishing the Tersky Bereg National Park at the White Sea coast of Murmansk region, including the most important Atlantic salmon spawning rivers (Varzuga and Ponoï) and supporting anti-poacher civil activities.

- 4.2 After consulting the President, it was decided that the objectives of these organizations are compatible with the objectives of NASCO and, accordingly, they have been granted observer status. All three organizations have been invited to attend the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of NASCO.
- 4.3 The forty-four organizations listed in Annex 1 have observer status to NASCO. The 2012 External Performance Review Panel had commended NASCO for its approach towards inclusive participation in meetings and for its transparency in proceedings.

5. Fishing for Salmon in International Waters

- 5.1 Under the ‘Resolution on Fishing for Salmon on the High Seas’, CNL(92)54, the Secretary is requested to obtain and compile information on sightings of fishing activities on the high seas of the North Atlantic which may undermine the conservation measures adopted by NASCO.
- 5.2 We have contacted the Norwegian and Icelandic coastguards to obtain details of any surveillance operations in the area of international waters north of the Faroe Islands where fishing for salmon by non-NASCO Parties had been observed in the past. During the period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019, the Icelandic coastguard did not conduct any surveillance flights in the area; the Norwegian coastguard conducted two surveillance flights (20 June and 28 August) and one marine coastguard vessel survey (29 September – 2 October). No vessels were observed fishing for salmon.
- 5.3 No new information has been obtained from ports or about landings and transshipments since last year’s report to suggest that there has been any fishing for salmon by vessels from non-NASCO Parties.
- 5.4 The last known incidences of fishing for salmon in international waters by non-NASCO Parties were in the early 1990s. The External Performance Review Panel concluded that NASCO has demonstrated that it can respond quickly to address IUU fishing in areas beyond fisheries jurisdiction by vessels registered to non-NASCO Parties. However, the Panel felt that NASCO should consider enhancing its current surveillance efforts by requesting the co-operation of NEAFC and NAFO in reporting on any suspected IUU fishing activities for salmon that may be detected in their Monitoring, Control and Surveillance operations. We have continued to do so and this year have also contacted ICCAT. A report is made separately in paper CNL(19)17.

6. Scientific Research Fishing

- 6.1 In accordance with the Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing, CNL(96)60, the Secretary is asked to advise the Council of any requests to conduct scientific research fishing since the last Annual Meeting. While there have been no such requests since the 2018 Annual Meeting, the Secretary has been advised that scientific research fishing for salmon did take place in the waters of Svalbard in October 2018. The Norwegian Environment Agency received an application from the University of Tromsø, the Norwegian Institute of Nature Research and the Institute of Marine Research for the capture, electronic tagging and release of 50 – 200 adult salmon in the waters of Bjørnøya (Bear Island) from 12 – 22 October 2018, as part of a research programme funded by the Norwegian Research Council. The area is outside the Norwegian Economic Zone but in the ‘protected fisheries zone’ around Svalbard. The Norwegian Environment Agency granted permission for the work to go ahead prior to informing NASCO on 12 October 2018 of the work. There was some uncertainty in Norway regarding the legal status of the ‘protected fisheries zone’ around Svalbard in relation

to the NASCO Convention and whether the NASCO Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing was therefore applicable. The Norwegian authorities have agreed to clarify further the legal status of the 'protected fisheries zone' around Svalbard in relation to the Convention. The Secretariat has been advised that only one fish was caught during the fishing.

Following the first phase of the SALSEA Programme which involved scientific research fishing in both the North American and North-East Atlantic Commission areas, the current focus of the work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board is tracking the migrations of individual salmon through remote sensing techniques including acoustic tagging.

7. Rivers Database

- 7.1 In 2016, the Council adopted a new stock classification system for use with the NASCO Rivers Database and requested that Parties / jurisdictions update the information held in the Rivers Database, using this new classification system, by 31 December 2017 or earlier where possible. The Council's intention was that once the database had been updated, the 'State of Salmon' report would be prepared, based on the updated information. The 'State of Salmon' report has been identified as a major NASCO output in the IYS.
- 7.2 While some information has now been received from all Parties / jurisdictions, many have not provided all the requested data and the timeliness of contributions has been of concern: several Parties / jurisdictions had not returned information within six months of the deadline and two provided the information over a year after the requested submission date. This has meant that the 'State of Salmon' report could not be wholly based on the Rivers Database, as was originally envisaged.

8. Public Relations

International Year of the Salmon launches

- 8.1 The NASCO Assistant Secretary attended the Ministerial launch of the IYS in the Russian Federation on 15 September 2018, in St Petersburg, to support the NASCO President. The launch ceremony was also attended by the Deputy Minister for Agriculture of Russia, the President of NPAFC and the Executive Secretary of NPAFC. It formed part of the second Global Fishery Forum and Seafood Expo, which included roundtables, conferences, a plenary session and a session on the IYS. The event was attended by business people, public officials and experts from many countries.
- 8.2 The Head of Delegation to NASCO for the United States, the NASCO Secretary and Assistant Secretary attended the Canadian Pacific Launch of the IYS in Vancouver on 11 October 2018. This event was hosted by NPAFC and the Pacific Salmon Foundation and was attended by the media and over 100 people from government, indigenous groups, NGOs, academia and industry from around the Pacific Rim.
- 8.3 On 25 October 2018, the NASCO President, Secretary and Assistant Secretary, along with the NPAFC President and Pacific IYS Director attended the Scottish launch of the IYS. Roseanna Cunningham, the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, launched the IYS in Scotland and met with the Presidents of NASCO and NPAFC. The NASCO and NPAFC Presidents and Pacific IYS Director undertook a two-day trip to various locations of salmon interest around Scotland with the NASCO Secretary and Assistant Secretary.

Video narrated by Sir David Attenborough

- 8.4 NASCO funded the production of a video on the IYS, narrated by Sir David Attenborough. The video is available for viewing on the NASCO website.

NASCO and IASRB websites

- 8.5 The Council has previously agreed that the NASCO (www.nasco.int) and IASRB (www.salmonatsea.com) websites would be the main public relations tools. Last year, Council agreed to support a redesign of the NASCO website. Three quotes were sought for its design and development. A company based in Scotland, Red Paint, provided the successful bid and the Secretariat is in consultation with them to produce the new website. As part of the IYS, NASCO has launched a Twitter feed (@IYS_Atlantic).
- 8.6 In the period 1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019, there were approximately 11,000 visits to the NASCO website, an increase of approximately 22% on the same period in 2017 / 2018. New visitors accounted for 98% of visits. The number of pages viewed averaged 3 per session. For the IASRB's website, the number of visits increased to approximately 1,600, an increase of approximately 22% on the same period in 2017 / 2018. New visitors accounted for 98% of visits. The number of pages viewed averaged 2 per session.

Fiskeforum, Stockholm, Sweden

- 8.7 The NASCO Assistant Secretary participated in a Fisheries Forum in Sweden in April 2019. The forum was arranged by the Swedish Sport Fishing industry and government stakeholders and was also attended by the King of Sweden. At the invitation of the conference organizers, the Assistant Secretary gave a presentation on IYS activities in the North Atlantic and updated participants on progress towards the production of the State of Salmon report.

Fisheries Management Scotland Conference, Edinburgh, Scotland

- 8.8 On 29 March 2019, the NASCO Secretary gave a presentation on the IYS at the Fisheries Management Scotland (FMS) Conference entitled Salmon and People in a Changing World. Combining the Annual FMS conference with the IYS, the conference focussed on how key pressures on wild salmon are being addressed and prioritised, drawing on international best practice. Discussions were based around a number of workshops examining issues such as salmon farming, high seas pressures, renewable energy and predation. The NASCO Assistant Secretary also attended the conference.

9. Activities Relating to the United Nations (UN) Including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- 9.1 The biennial meeting of the Regional Secretariats Network was hosted by the FAO in Rome on 7 and 13 July 2018. The NASCO Secretary attended on both days. The RSN was established to facilitate ongoing information exchange among RFB Secretariats and 43 Secretariats participated in the meeting. They represented regional fisheries bodies with diverse mandates and from all geographic regions, including FAO and non-FAO regional fisheries bodies, marine and inland fishery advisory and management bodies, the UNDOALOS and other invited organizations. The discussions covered major subjects of regional concern, comprising the activities and outcomes from UNGA and UNDOALOS, the discussion process on Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction, the implementation of activities in delivering the 2030 Agenda, the experience of RFBs initiatives, the co-operation of regional bodies and Fisheries and Resources Monitoring

Systems, the 33rd Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI 33) related matters and global processes and subjects relevant to RFBs and RFMOs, and the state of progress to strengthen the RSN, including current needs and challenges. The meeting had a high level of participation that underlined the role of the network as a unique forum to foster co-operation, facilitate discussion and exchange of experiences. It noted the increased interest in the international agenda on the role of RFBs as key players in translating international and global policies into practice at the regional and local levels. The NASCO Secretary and the NPAFC Executive Director, Dr Vladimir Radchenko, gave a joint presentation on the International Year of the Salmon at the meeting.

- 9.2 Following the first day of the RSN Meeting, the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) held its 33rd Session in Rome from 9 – 13 July 2018, which the NASCO Secretary also attended. COFI is a subsidiary body of the FAO Council and presently constitutes the only global inter-governmental forum where major international fisheries and aquaculture problems and issues are examined and recommendations are addressed to governments, RFBs, NGOs, fishworkers, FAO and the international community periodically on a world-wide basis.
- 9.3 The Secretary also attended a meeting at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA, during 2 – 3 May, which focussed on the topic of performance reviews of Regional Fisheries Management Organizations and arrangements. Further details on this meeting will be provided in document CNL(19)18.

10. Socio-economic Studies

- 10.1 In 2014, on the recommendation of the Socio-economics Sub-Group, the Council asked that Parties / jurisdictions provide to the Secretariat details of any new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon.
- 10.2 The following study has been noted by the European Union – UK (England and Wales):
A review of the economic value of angling in Welsh rivers, commissioned by Natural Resources Wales, was published in July 2018. Further information can be found in NASCO document CNL(19)42.
- 10.3 References to some previously published studies are available on the NASCO website under the section entitled 'Value of Salmon'.
- 10.4 To support the production of the State of Salmon Report, specifically the values section, a review of the literature for the period 2009 – 2019 and an assessment of changes in values was commissioned by NASCO. 'The Social, Economic and Cultural values of wild Atlantic salmon' is a report produced by the Norwegian Institute of Nature Research (NINA) which will be published at the same time as the State of Salmon report.

Secretary
Edinburgh
27 May 2019

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH OBSERVER STATUS TO NASCO

| | |
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| Angling Council of Ireland | (based in Ireland) |
| Angling Trust | (based in UK) |
| Association Internationale de Défense du Saumon Atlantique | (based in France) |
| Association de Défense des Ressources Marines | (based in France) |
| Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network | (based in UK) |
| Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation | (based in Canada) |
| Atlantic Salmon Federation | (based in Canada) |
| Atlantic Salmon Federation | (based in USA) |
| Atlantic Salmon Trust | (based in UK) |
| Coalition Clean Baltic | (based in Sweden) |
| College of the Atlantic | (based in USA) |
| Connecticut River Salmon Association | (based in USA) |
| Conservatoire National du Saumon Sauvage | (based in France) |
| Coomhola Salmon Trust Limited | (based in Ireland) |
| Der Atlantische Lachs | (based in Germany) |
| Downeast Salmon Federation | (based in USA) |
| European Anglers Alliance | (based in Netherlands) |
| Faroes Sportsfishing Association | (based in Faroe Islands) |
| Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers | (based in Ireland) |
| Fédération Québécoise pour le Saumon Atlantique | (based in Canada) |
| Fisheries Management Scotland | (based in UK) |
| Foyle Association of Salmon and Trout Anglers | (based in UK/Ireland) |
| Institute of Fisheries Management | (based in UK) |
| Irish Seal Sanctuary | (based in Ireland) |
| Marine and Environmental Law Institute | (based in Canada) |
| National Anglers Representative Association | (based in Ireland) |
| Norges Bondelag (Norwegian Farmers Union) | (based in Norway) |
| Norges Jeger og Fiskerforbund (Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers) | (based in Norway) |
| Norske Lakseelver (Norwegian Salmon Rivers) | (based in Norway) |
| North Atlantic Salmon Fund US | (based in USA) |
| Salmon and Sea Trout Recreational Anglers Ireland | (based in Ireland) |
| Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland | (based in UK) |
| Salmon & Trout Conservation UK | (based in UK) |
| Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland | (based in UK) |
| Salmon Watch Ireland | (based in Ireland) |
| Sami Parliament | (based in Norway) |
| Sami Parlamenta | (based in Finland) |
| Scottish Anglers National Association | (based in UK) |
| Tanavassdragets fiskeforvaltning (TF) | (based in Norway) |
| Ulster Angling Federation Limited | (based in UK) |
| World Wide Fund for Nature (Norway) | (based in Norway) |
| WWF (France) | (based in France) |
| WWF-Russia | (based in Russia) |
| World Wildlife Fund (US) | (based in USA) |