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Summary of discussions during the Special Session reporting on progress on the International Year of the Salmon

Dwayne Shaw (Downeast Salmon Federation): commented that this is the International Year of the Wild Salmon.

Paul Knight (Salmon and Trout Conservation UK): noted a desire to build on the profile of the IYS, and that work should not end on 31 December 2019. He stated that planning into the future is very important and that Symposia would help with ongoing work. He said that from a NASCO point of view outreach to the general public was important. Politicians are more likely to take meaningful action if the public are on side to save salmon. He noted that the film with Sir David Attenborough has had a huge impact. It got over 100,000 views in two weeks on the Salmon and Trout Conservation website. Celebrities can help with public profile, and there must be many more within the Parties and jurisdictions.

He stated that NGOs feel that websites are very important and should include easily digestible information that is understandable to an intelligent 12-year-old. He noted that NASCO's website is due for an update and that it should include educational material, it should be linked to the IYS and the NPAFC. He said that the State of Salmon Report will be really useful, especially if it can be made accessible to the general public and put on websites.

Mr Knight believed the IYS Symposium was excellent and congratulated those involved in its organization. He wanted to be sure that the words of the Symposium made it out to the public and into action that protects wild Atlantic salmon. He concluded by saying that perhaps we have to think in terms of conserving salmon now, rather than managing them.

Liliana Teixeira (European Union – Portugal): reported that she has been teaching the life cycle of salmon to three-year-old children. She stated that working with schools and children is important, because we protect what we know. Some of the IYS activities she was involved in were in the Minho River on the border – a river with international management. She thanked colleagues from Galicia for help with those activities.

Don Sprangers (Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network): reported on hosting a high school group from the United States and Canada. He noted that there is a similar event this summer in Canada and the United States as part of the IYS. Next year high school groups will be going to Scotland to learn about salmon issues there. He invited all the countries with high schools that might want to get involved, to contact the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network via their website.

Lawrence Talks (European Union – UK (England and Wales)): noted that the State of Salmon report is an excellent initiative. It will do a lot to raise the profile of salmon stocks. In the future, he said there may be merit in co-ordinating with the UN, WWF or Greenpeace in terms of the state of the world's biodiversity. This would help inform the general public about salmon.

Oyvind Fjeldseth (Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers): noted that, in co-operation with the Norwegian Salmon Rivers, there were more than 250 activities around Norway this year. He expressed thanks to the Norwegian Environment Agency for their important contribution in funding the work and making it visible.

Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) / President of NASCO): thanked participants for their contributions. He said that the IYS has been a great initiative so far and expressed hope that it would continue to be so.