



Agenda item 2
For information

Council

CNL(13)3

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

Notes:

- **Under the conditions for attendance by observers, the President may recognise requests from the floor by the accredited NGO Chairperson and/or 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(13)17.**

CNL(13)3

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

1. Opening Session

The Opening Session is open to the public. The President, Ms Mary Colligan (USA), will make a statement on behalf of the Organization and wishes to encourage an Opening Statement by each Party. The President will also invite statements from any Inter-Governmental Organizations present and from the nominated representatives of NASCO's accredited Non-Government Organizations.

2. Adoption of Agenda

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda (CNL(13)1) was issued to the Parties on 25 January 2013. The Parties may propose supplementary items by informing the Secretary. None were received. A Draft Agenda (CNL(13)2) is being issued herewith. The Council will be asked to adopt its Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(13)4) has been issued.

3. Financial and Administrative Issues

3.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Mr Raoul Bierach (Norway), will present the report of the Committee's meeting to the Council, CNL(13)5. The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2014 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2012;
- confirm the appointment of auditors for the 2013 accounts;
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

4.1 Secretary's Report

The Interim Secretary will report to the Council on a number of procedural, administrative, financial and other matters, including details of any applications for NGO observer status to NASCO, CNL(13)6.

4.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2012

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2012, CNL(13)7. This report 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 \$2,500. The winners of the Commission prizes of \$1,500 will be announced in each of the Commissions by the Chairman.

4.4 Scientific Advice from ICES

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(13)8, will be circulated by ICES and will be briefly introduced at the meeting by a representative of ICES. The detailed advice will be considered by the Commissions separately at their meetings. ICES has been requested to make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available to NASCO delegates on the ICES website.

4.5 Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area

In accordance with the Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing, CNL(96)60, the Interim Secretary will advise the Council of any requests to conduct research fishing since the last Annual Meeting. Reports on any research fishing conducted in the last year will be covered in the report of the IASRB (see paragraph 4.6 below).

4.6 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

The Chairman of the Board, Mr Raoul Bierach (Norway), will present the report of the Board's meeting, CNL(13)9.

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(13)10. The Council will be asked to adopt a request to ICES for scientific advice.

5. Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the Parties – A Vision for the Future of NASCO

- 5.1 At its Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting the Council had recognised that completion of the first cycle of reporting and review under the 'Next Step' process and receipt of the External Performance Review Report provided the Council with an opportunity to revisit its vision for the future of NASCO. In February 2013, an inter-sessional meeting of the Parties was held in order to: discuss priority objectives and action areas for NASCO; review and evaluate the recommendations of the External Performance Review Panel; consider the recommendations from the Next Steps' process, other information concerning improvements of the functioning and operation of NASCO, and input from stakeholders; and develop an Action Plan for consideration by the Council on potential actions. The report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the Parties on a Future Vision for NASCO, that includes an Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External performance Review and review of the 'Next Steps' process, will be presented by the President, CNL(13)11. At the inter-sessional meeting, it was agreed that the Parties should be invited to submit to the Secretariat proposals for changes to the structure, frequency and location of NASCO meetings.

The Secretariat would then prepare a paper, based on these submissions, for consideration by the Council at its 2013 Annual Meeting. The intention is to explore options for changes to the structure, frequency and location of NASCO meetings with a view to ensuring the most effective use of the time available and expertise present. This paper will be presented, CNL(13)16.

This agenda item is designated as a Special Session where all delegates are encouraged to participate.

6. Decisions by the Council in the light of the Recommendations of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the Parties

- 6.1 The Council will be asked to consider what action it wishes to take in the light of the report from the inter-sessional meeting of the Parties, the review of its meeting structure, frequency and location and any other information arising from the Special Session.

7. Report of the Implementation Plan Review Group

- 7.1 The cycle of reporting under the first Implementation Plans (2007 - 2012) has now been completed. During this period, reports on the actions taken under the Implementation Plans were made through detailed Focus Area Reports, which were critically reviewed, and Annual Reports. Following a comprehensive review of the strengths and weaknesses of the first reporting cycle, the Council agreed that Implementation Plans would be the key documents in the second reporting cycle but that greater emphasis should be placed on: the actions to be taken over a five year period; clearly identifiable measurable outcomes and timescales; and appropriate monitoring to evaluate the effectiveness of the measures taken. A template for preparation of Implementation Plans was developed, CNL(12)42, and Parties/jurisdictions were asked to submit their plans to the Secretariat by 1 February. A Review Group was established to evaluate these plans to ensure that they provide a fair and equitable basis for assessing progress in implementing NASCO's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines. The report of the Review Group will be presented, CNL(13)12.

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

8.1 Annual Reports on Progress in Implementing NASCO's Agreements

Annual Progress Reports on Implementation Plans by each jurisdiction will be issued. These will be the last reports under the first Implementation Plans. Last year, the Council agreed that the Parties should provide information on the number of salmon reported to have escaped from salmon farms and, if available, an estimate of the number of escaped farmed salmon that is unreported. A compilation of these annual reports will be presented, CNL(13)13.

8.2 Liaison with the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry

There has been no meeting of the Liaison Group since 2011. The Council had previously agreed to decide on future arrangements for liaison with the salmon farming industry in the light of the External Performance Review and the Review of the 'Next Steps' process. Accordingly, this issue was considered by the inter-sessional meeting of the Parties on a Future Vision for NASCO (see item 5 above) which has made recommendations on a possible approach for future liaison with the salmon farming industry.

8.3 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). There will be an opportunity for any relevant information to be presented by the Parties and NGOs. ICES has also been asked to report on any significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management.

8.4 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

The Council had previously agreed to hold a Special Session on incorporating social and economic factors in salmon management but because of other commitments this has been re-scheduled for 2014. The objective of the Special Session is to: provide an opportunity for a more detailed exchange of information on how jurisdictions are incorporating socio-economic factors in management decisions; allow for feedback on the usefulness of NASCO's Guidelines for Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Decisions under the Precautionary Approach, CNL(04)57; and consider NASCO's future role in relation to the socio-economic aspects of salmon management. Last year the Council had asked that its socio-economic Sub-Group continue its work in further developing web pages relating to the socio-economic aspects of the wild Atlantic salmon and a programme for the 2014 Special Session. The Sub-Group's report, CNL(13)14, will be presented.

8.5 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, increased 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 Northwest Atlantic. Last year, the Council agreed that the President should write to the French authorities inviting them to become a member of NASCO and this letter was sent on 26 February 2013. Any new information in relation to the management and sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery will be presented, CNL(13)15. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Thirtieth Annual Meeting.

8.6 Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions

The President will ask the Chairman of each of the regional Commissions of NASCO

to report to the Council on the work of their Commission.

9. Appointment of a New Secretary

- 9.1 The President will announce the appointment of a new Secretary with effect from 1 January 2014.

10. Other Business

- 10.1 Any other business may be raised.

11. Date and Place of Next Meeting

- 11.1 The Council will be asked to agree on a venue for its Thirty-First Annual Meeting to be held during 3 - 6 June 2014.
- 11.2 The Thirty-Second Annual Meeting may be held during 2 - 5 June 2015 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

12. Report of the Meeting

- 12.1 A draft report of the meeting will be circulated for the approval of the Council.

13. Press Release

- 13.1 A draft Press Release will be prepared for consideration by the Council.

Interim Secretary
Edinburgh
5 April 2013

