



Agenda item 4.1
For decision

Council

CNL(13)6

Secretary's Report

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Status of ratifications of, and accessions to, the Convention and Membership of the regional Commissions**
- 3. Receipt of contributions for 2013**
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CNL(13)6

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 since the last notification. No new applications for membership of any of the Commissions have been received since the last notification

3. Receipt of contributions for 2013

- 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 2013 have been received and there are no arrears.

4. Observers at NASCO's meetings

- 4.1 Since the last Annual Meeting there has been one new application for observer status to NASCO. It was from the Sami Parliament (Norway). The Sami Parliament (Finland) is already a long-standing accredited NGO to NASCO. The Sami Parliament (Norway) works to promote the rights of the Sami and other indigenous peoples, including in international fora such as the United Nations. It is not instructed by the Norwegian authorities, but is a consultative body and is entitled to meetings with the government, including on salmon management issues. In its application, it noted that salmon are a very important resource for the Sami and Sami culture and that NASCO is an important arena for the Sami Parliament when it comes to negotiating how to take advantage of the salmon resources in Norway.
- 4.2 Following consultation with the President it was considered that the objectives of the Sami Parliament (Norway) are compatible with those of NASCO and it was, therefore, granted accredited NGO status. Sami Parliament (Norway) has accepted the conditions governing NGO participation.
- 4.3 We have been advised that one NGO, the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) (US), is no longer able to participate in NASCO and their accreditation has ceased.
- 4.4 The thirty-four organizations listed in Annex 1 have observer status to NASCO. The External Performance Review Panel considered that NASCO's initiatives to strengthen transparency and promote an inclusive approach with stakeholders in relation to its mandate and activities have been highly satisfactory, as reflected in the levels of participation and cooperation with other stakeholders. It 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. This brief report details information provided by the Norwegian and Icelandic coastguards based on surveillance flights over the area of international waters north of the Faroe Islands in the North-East Atlantic Commission area. In the period 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013, 15 airborne surveillance flights were undertaken by the Norwegian coastguard, but no new sightings of vessels registered to non-NASCO Parties fishing for salmon in international waters were made, as has been the case since 1994. However, between October 2012 and April 2013, there were no flights over the area where the problem occurred previously. There were no flights over this area of international waters by the Icelandic coastguard during the period 1 April 2012 - 31 March 2013. No new information has been obtained from ports or about landings and transshipments since last year’s report.
- 5.2 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-Parties. However, the Panel felt that NASCO should consider enhancing its current surveillance efforts by requesting the cooperation of NEAFC and NAFO in reporting on any suspected IUU fishing activities for salmon in the area of the Convention that may be detected in their MCS operations. This matter was considered at the inter-sessional meeting of the Parties and recommendations for future actions are included in the Action Plan in the report of that meeting (see CNL(13)11).

6. Public Relations

(a) *Atlantic salmon – Lost at Sea*

- 6.1 Last year, the Council agreed to contribute £15,000 in 2013 towards the cost of filming at West Greenland for the film ‘Atlantic Salmon – Lost at Sea’. In addition, Marine Scotland generously donated a sum of £2,500 to the film through NASCO. The film takes the viewer on an epic journey through the oceanic kingdom of the Atlantic salmon in an attempt to unravel the mystery of their life at sea. It is being produced by Deirdre Brennan, an Emmy nominated director for film and television. Deirdre formed Castletown Productions in 2003 and her credits include a film, *Bermuda's Treasure Island*, about the rediscovery of Bermuda's endemic seabird, the Cahow, once thought to be extinct. Information on the filming at West Greenland is contained in Annex 2.
- 6.2 The Royal Society of Edinburgh, sometimes referred to as Scotland’s National Academy, is an educational charity, independent and non-party political, working to provide public benefit throughout Scotland and through a growing international programme. It organises a range of events including lectures, debates and

conferences. We were approached to serve on the Steering Committee to arrange an evening Discussion Meeting on salmon, partly because 2013 is the Year of Natural Scotland. The meeting will be held on 26 November 2013 and will be entitled 'Lost at Sea? The Atlantic Salmon's Ocean Odyssey'. Further details are available at <http://www.rse.org.uk/events/event.php?id=334>. The speakers on the evening are Professor Ken Whelan, Professor Chris Todd and Dr John Armstrong and the NASCO Secretariat will present an introductory overview. This will be a good opportunity to present the findings of recent research on salmon at sea to the public and it is anticipated that there will be some media interest in the event. We have also been given the opportunity to contribute an article to Natural Scotland magazine.

(b) NASCO and IASRB websites

- 6.3 When it reported to the Council in 2008, the Public Relations Group identified two main products that should be used for enhancing NASCO's profile and awareness of its work. These were the development of an annual 'State of the Salmon' report and a major enhancement of the Organization's websites. The work in enhancing both the NASCO (www.nasco.int) and the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (www.salmonatsea.com) websites was largely completed in 2010 but improvements are ongoing. During the year, the rivers database was updated so that it now contains information for all Parties/jurisdictions (except EU – Portugal) on a total of 2,524 rivers. Complete information has been included for river name, location and stock category, but only partial information (13 - 34% of rivers) for catchment area, river length, mean annual flow, main impact factors, special stock characteristics and conservation requirements. The inclusion of the rivers database on the NASCO website was seen as a valuable public relations tool and a step towards development of a 'State of the Salmon' report. Following requests, the information in the rivers database was made available to scientists working in the SALSEA–Merge project and recently to the ICES Working Group on Effectiveness of Recovery Actions for Atlantic Salmon (WGERAAS). Additionally, since last year the web pages dealing with socio-economic aspects of the wild Atlantic salmon have been updated. These cover 'The Value of Salmon', 'Who Values the Salmon and Why?', and 'Changes in Value'. A new page entitled 'Measuring Value' has been included (see CNL(13)14). The document archive has also been extended and revisions made to accommodate the second cycle of Implementation Plans.
- 6.4 At the inter-sessional meeting of the Parties (see CNL(13)11), it was agreed that a Working Group should be convened, to work by correspondence or at the Annual Meeting, to develop recommendations for revisions to the stock categories that are used in the database that better reflect the status of stocks relative to attainment of conservation limits. The Parties would then be requested to update the stock category information held in the database and provide information on threats to those stocks. With the available information, the NASCO Secretariat should be requested to prepare an overview of the status of stocks around the North Atlantic and the threats to them using the information contained in the rivers database.
- 6.5 In the period 1 April 2012 – 31 March 2013, there were approximately 14,800 visits to the NASCO website, an increase of ~14% on the same period in 2011/2012 (~13,000 visits). The number of pages viewed increased in this period by about 11%

from ~33,800 to ~37,500. Approximately 50% of the visitors to the site came from the UK, Canada and the US. Conversely, for the IASRB's website the number of visits fell by approximately 52% (~ 3,000 in 2012/2013 compared to 6,300 the year before). However, the 'Salmon Summit' was held in October 2011 and this led to a large increase in visits that year because of online registration and inclusion of the speakers' presentations, session summaries etc. on the website. Similarly, the number of pages visited declined by approximately 55% (~7,000 in 2012/2013 compared to ~15,500 in 2011/2012). Approximately 60% of the visitors to the site came from the UK, Ireland, Canada and the US.

(c) Other Public relations work

- 6.6 The awards in the Tag Return Incentive Scheme were well publicised with media coverage of the presentations in Canada, Greenland and the UK.

7. The FAO FIRMS Partnership

- 7.1 NASCO has been invited to participate in the Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) partnership. The primary aim of FIRMS is to provide access to a wide range of high-quality information on the global monitoring and management of fishery marine resources. It is part of the Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS). Information provided by the partners is organised in a database and published in the form of fact sheets and allows for the dissemination of high quality and updated information. The current partners include the FAO, ICES, DG MARE and other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations such as ICCAT, NAFO, NEAFC, CCAMLR, CCSBT, IATTC, IOTC and SEAFO. As reporting by the partner is a voluntary (albeit committed) contribution, the decision-making on what is contributed lies with the partner. Therefore, if NASCO were to participate in FIRMS, the Organization could choose what information to provide. The Council is asked to consider if it wishes to accept this invitation to become a partner in FIRMS.

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS WITH OBSERVER STATUS TO NASCO

Angling Council of Ireland	(based in Ireland)
Angling Trust	(based in UK)
Association Internationale de Défense du Saumon Atlantique	(based in France)
Association of Salmon Fishery Boards	(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)
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)
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)
Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland	(based in UK)
Salmon and Trout Association	(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)
Ulster Angling Federation Limited	(based in UK)
World Wide Fund for Nature (Norway)	(based in Norway)
WWF (France)	(based in France)
World Wildlife Fund (US)	(based in USA)

***Note:** The NGO accreditation of Greenpeace International has been suspended by the Council because that organization has not accepted the revised conditions governing observer status that were agreed in 2002, specifically the condition governing communication by NGOs with the media during NASCO's Annual Meetings.*



ATLANTIC SALMON – LOST AT SEA!

REPORT FOR NASCO

GREENLAND SHOOT SEPTEMBER 2012

Lost at Sea tells a great mystery story about an iconic and ancient ocean creature – the “King of Fishes.” It takes viewers on a true-life quest to solve an urgent scientific puzzle: What is causing populations of the legendary salmon of the North Atlantic to plummet in numbers, perhaps even to face extinction?

It’s a story of cutting edge science, including the first ever use of genetic “fingerprinting” to trace the history of individual Atlantic salmon all the way back to the very stream in Europe or North America where they hatched, something never before possible. Through the revelations of DNA and pioneering research from vessels in the open ocean, **Lost at Sea** is able to tell the most complete story ever of the life of Atlantic salmon.

With the generous support of NASCO, our crew travelled to Greenland in September of 2012 for 10 days to capture the top of the salmon's migration. Cameraman, Kai Benson captured stunning images of the glacial scenery and underwater scenes of this rich feeding ground – where salmon from both sides of the Atlantic meet. Kai filmed melting icebergs, both above and below the water; a glacial river filled with Arctic Char, the ancient ancestor of salmon; a native fisherman fishing for salmon and capturing huge healthy salmon in his net. Kai also filmed this from the salmon’s point of view hitting the almost invisible net. We will tell the story of the Greenland fishery and how the Greenlanders currently only fish for subsistence. We filmed the fishmarket. Underwater scenes of crystal clear water and rich sea plant life show the rich habitat for salmon and other species. We were delighted to be able to film scientists Tim Sheehan of NOAA and Rasmus Nygard of the Greenland Nature Institute catch a large healthy salmon by rod, weigh and measure it and put a satellite tag on it before releasing it. We will intercut this sequence to show the salmon migrating back home from Greenland – or new information the tag reveals. The glacial scenery that we captured will be used to tell the story of the ice age, retreating glaciers and the refugia story of salmon and how they populated rivers when the ice retreated.

Greenland footage we were able to capture:

- SALSEA Greenland sampling

- Pop Up Satellite tagging of adult salmon
- Other wildlife that share the marine habitat with salmon
- What salmon are feeding on in the surrounding waters
- Native fishery / interviews with native fishermen
- Dramatic scenery
- Icebergs (above and below the water) and glacial scenery

In post-production we plan to create animation and graphics to merge with these shots to show the migration routes of salmon and how this is changing as salmon must move further north, as in Greenland, to find food.

Lost at Sea will dramatize the groundbreaking research methods that are providing scientists with unique insights into the life of salmon at sea through projects like SALSEA. We hope to create an awareness that will contribute to long-term solutions.

Thank you for the generous support from NASCO to help us tell this story.

Deirdre Brennan
Producer
Atlantic Salmon - Lost at Sea!