



Agenda Item 6.2
For Information

Council

CNL(14)13

Programme for the Theme-based Special Session

'Management of single and mixed stock fisheries, with particular focus on fisheries on stocks below their conservation limit'

CNL(14)13

Management of single and mixed stock fisheries, with particular focus on fisheries on stocks below their conservation limits

A Theme-based Special Session of the Council of NASCO
Wednesday 4 June 2014

Background:

Over the last thirty years, there have been major reductions in fishing effort, increasing use of catch and release and other measures to reduce exploitation and yet the ICES advice for 2013 continues to highlight the continuing low abundance of wild Atlantic salmon.

Under the Strategic Approach for NASCO's 'Next Steps', CNL(05)49, NASCO's goal in relation to the management of salmon fisheries is to promote the diversity and abundance of salmon stocks and maintain all stocks above their conservation limits. The key issues identified by NASCO include:

- further improving the 'fairness' and 'balance' in the management of distant-water fisheries;
- exchanging information and transferring expertise and knowledge between Parties and between NGOs and the authorities; and
- further developing the knowledge basis for fisheries regulations.

Under NASCO's 1998 Agreement on Adoption of a Precautionary Approach it is stated that application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon fishery management requires that Conservation Limits (CLs) and Management Targets (MTs) be set for each river and that Stock Rebuilding Programmes are developed for stocks that are below their CLs. In 2002, NASCO adopted a 'Decision Structure for the Management of Salmon Fisheries' to provide a basis for more consistent approaches to the management of exploitation and 'Guidelines for the Management of Salmon Fisheries' were adopted in 2009 to assist jurisdictions in making further progress in implementing NASCO's agreements. These Guidelines state that CLs should be established for all river stocks of salmon, or where CLs have not been established, alternative measures should be used that are effective and appropriate in defining adequate stock levels. In accordance with the Guidelines, fishing on stocks that are below CLs should not be permitted but if such fishing is allowed, on the basis of overriding socio-economic factors, it should be limited to a level that will still permit stock recovery within a stated timeframe. It is noted that fisheries on mixed-stocks pose particular difficulties for management, since rational management of these fisheries requires knowledge of the stocks that contribute to the fishery and their status, and that management actions should aim to protect the weakest of the contributing stocks.

In 2013, the Council adopted 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, (referred to hereinafter as the 'Action Plan') This 'Action Plan' identified management of

fisheries as a priority area to strengthen the work of NASCO. Under the 'Action Plan', the Parties committed to critically review the 2013 - 2018 Implementation Plans including information on: the reference points used to assess the status of stocks; the decision-making process for fisheries management; the management approach for fisheries that are allowed on stocks that are below their reference points that still permits stock rebuilding; and the approach to managing mixed-stock salmon fisheries to ensure that all the contributing stocks are meeting their conservation objectives.

Objectives of the Theme-based Special Session:

Under the 'Action Plan' it is stated that the focus of the first Theme-based Special Session should be on mixed-stock fisheries. The Council also wished to allow for an exchange of information on fisheries exploiting stocks that are below their CLs and on the interplay between socio-economic considerations, including the interests of indigenous people, and conservation needs. The objectives of the Theme-based Special Session are to allow for a more detailed exchange of information on the management of salmon fisheries including:

- Progress in establishing conservation limits, or alternative reference points, and the approaches being used to manage fisheries in their absence;
- How management measures are used to ensure the protection of the weakest contributing stocks in mixed-stock fisheries;
- How socio-economic considerations, including the interests of indigenous people, are weighed against conservation needs and, where fishing is permitted on stocks below their CLs, the approaches being used to ensure that exploitation is limited to a level that permits stock rebuilding within a stated timeframe.

Programme:

A full day (0900 – 1730 on Wednesday 4 June) has been allocated to the Theme-based Special Session. The Steering Committee (Jóannes Hansen, Paul Knight, Guy Mawle, Niall Ó Maoiléidigh) has worked with the Secretary in planning the Special Session and has developed a Draft Programme (attached). Written papers of the presentations will be distributed by the Secretariat prior to the Annual Meeting. These papers will not be subject to evaluation but, following the Annual Meeting, the Steering Committee has been requested to prepare a report of the Special Session, synthesising the management implications.

Presentations:

Each presentation has been allocated 20 minutes to include 5 minutes for discussion. There will be periods for general discussion at the end of the morning and afternoon sessions.

In order to address the objectives of the Theme-based Special Session, the Steering Committee has requested that general background information be kept to a minimum in the presentations and that Parties/jurisdictions ensure that specific information is provided on management of the fisheries to address the following questions:

- Have CLs, or alternative reference points, been established for each river, how have these been used on an ongoing basis to monitor stock status and what is the decision-making process for regulating exploitation?

- How is the composition of stocks contributing to mixed-stock fisheries assessed and how are the fisheries managed in order to protect the weakest of these stocks?
- With reference to a specific example from a single-stock or substantial mixed-stock fishery, where fishing continues to be permitted on stocks below their CLs or other reference points:
 - what were the specific socio-economic factors used to permit such fishing,
 - how were they quantified or otherwise documented,
 - what was the process for consulting those stakeholders who may have been affected by the decision prior to authorising such fishing, and
 - what steps were taken to ensure that exploitation was limited to a level that will permit stock rebuilding within a stated timeframe?

In developing the Programme for the Theme-based Special Session, the Steering Committee has taken into consideration the Council's priority in its Action Plan to focus on mixed-stock fisheries and the Council's wish to consider fisheries on stocks below their CLs, the interplay between socio-economic considerations and stock rebuilding, the consistency with the NASCO Guidelines and the use made of the Decision Structure. While it is not feasible to have presentations from all Parties/jurisdictions in a one day session, the Steering Committee requests that all Parties/jurisdictions are prepared to respond to the questions above during the Theme-based Special Session.



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Programme

	Title	Possible Contributor
0900 - 0910	Introduction	Chairman
Scene-setting overviews		
0910 - 0930	Keynote Presentation Practical application of genetics in conserving the biological integrity of populations of Atlantic salmon	Dr Phillip McGinnity
0930 - 0950	Overview of the 2013 – 2018 Implementation Plans in relation to the management of salmon fisheries	Steering Committee
Managing the interplay between conservation and Socio-Economic considerations		
0950 - 1010	The management approach to salmon fisheries in Ireland	Dr Ciaran Byrne
1010 - 1030	The management approach to salmon fisheries in Canada	Mr Richard Nadeau
1030 - 1050	Tea/coffee break	
1050 - 1110	The management approach to salmon fisheries in Norway	Mr Arne Eggereide
1110 - 1130	The management approach to salmon fisheries in Scotland	Mr Willie Cowan
1130 - 1150	The management approach to salmon fisheries in England and Wales	Mr Marc Owen
1150 - 1210	The management approach to salmon fisheries in the Russian Federation	Dr Sergey Prusov
1210 - 1230	General Discussion	
1230 - 1400	Lunch	
1400 - 1420	The management approach to North Atlantic salmon fisheries in Finland	Mr Tapio Hakaste
1420 - 1440	The management approach to the West Greenland salmon fishery – fairness and balance in the management of distant-water fisheries	Mr Emanuel Rosing
New information on stock composition of salmon fisheries to support management		
1440 - 1500	Recent investigations into the stock composition of the Norwegian and Russian coastal salmon fisheries (the Kolarctic salmon project)	Dr Sergey Prusov
1500 - 1520	Recent investigations into the stock composition of the Labrador coastal salmon fishery	Dr Gerald Chaput
1520 - 1540	Recent investigations into the stock composition of coastal salmon fisheries in the UK	Mr Julian MacLean
1540 - 1600	Tea/Coffee Break	
1600 - 1700	General Discussion	
1700 - 1715	Concluding remarks & Close of Special Session	Ms Mary Colligan, President of NASCO