



Agenda item 2
For information

Council

CNL(14)2

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda (Revised 8 April 2014)

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, 3 and 4.**
- **A summary of all the decisions before the Council will be presented in document CNL(14)16.**
- **In view of the changes made to the structure of the Annual Meeting to allow for greater information exchange and involvement of all delegates, some Council agenda items may be taken as read.**

CNL(14)2

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda (Revised 8 April 2014)

1. Opening of the Meeting

The President, Ms Mary Colligan (USA), will make a statement on behalf of the Organization and wishes to encourage each Party, Inter-Governmental Organization and NASCO's accredited Non-Government Organizations to submit a written Opening Statement for distribution at the meeting and to be annexed to the report of the meeting. It would be of assistance to the Secretariat if these could be made available prior to the Annual Meeting.

2. Adoption of Agenda

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda (CNL(14)1) was issued on 28 January. The Parties may propose supplementary items by informing the Secretary. No items were proposed so a Draft Agenda (CNL(14)3) is issued herewith. The Council will be asked to adopt its Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(14)4) was also issued with the Provisional Agenda.

3. Election of Officers

In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the Council will be asked to elect a President and Vice-President. The President (Ms Mary Colligan, USA) and Vice-President (Mr Steinar Hermansen, Norway) have both served for four years and are not eligible for re-election.

4. Financial and Administrative Issues

4.1 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(14)5. The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2015 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2013;
- confirm the appointment of auditors for the 2014 accounts;
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

5.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary will report to the Council on a number of procedural, administrative, financial and other matters, including details of any new applications for NGO observer status to NASCO and any applications to conduct scientific research fishing, CNL(14)6.

5.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2013

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2013, CNL(14)7. This report is not intended for publication.

5.3 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 their Chairman.

5.4 Scientific Advice from ICES

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(14)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.

5.5 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(14)9.

5.6 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(14)10. The Council will be asked to adopt a request to ICES for scientific advice and to provide any feedback to ICES on the responses provided to any new questions addressed in the advice presented in 2014.

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

6.1 Special Session: Evaluation of Annual Progress Reports under the 2013 - 2018 Implementation Plans

The cycle of reporting under the first (2007 - 2012) Implementation Plans was completed last year. The Council had recognised that the new Implementation Plans

(2013 – 2018) would be the key documents in the second cycle of reporting and these were evaluated by a Review Group that reported to the Council last year (see CNL(13)12). Final Implementation Plans were due to be submitted to the Secretariat by 1 September 2013 and the Council had asked that all Parties and jurisdictions take the opportunity to clarify their plans even where these had been considered to be satisfactory by the Review Group. The report of the Review Group, CNL(14)11, will be presented including its evaluations of new and revised Implementation Plans submitted since last year's Annual Meeting.

The Council had agreed that Annual Progress Reports (APRs) should be evaluated and the agreed template for reporting, CNL(12)43, was issued to Parties and jurisdictions with a request that it be returned no later than 1 April. The primary purpose of the APRs is to provide details of:

- any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the Implementation Plans;
- actions that have been taken under the Implementation Plans in the previous year;
- significant changes to the status of stocks and a report on catches; and
- actions taken in accordance with the provisions of the Convention.

The APRs will be critically evaluated by the Review Group to ensure that Parties and jurisdictions have provided a clear account of progress in implementing and evaluating the actions detailed in their Implementation Plan along with the information required under the Convention. The Review Group's report, including its assessments, will be presented at a Special Session of the Council. Where shortcomings are identified, the Group will develop a list of questions to be sent to the Parties and jurisdictions who will be asked to respond to these questions at the Annual Meeting. There will be an opportunity for the Parties and jurisdictions to respond to the questions raised by the Review Group during the Special Session. The APRs will be issued and made available on the NASCO website (www.nasco.int/implementation_plans_cycle2.html). The Secretariat will prepare a summary of the sections of the APRs concerning changes to the Implementation Plans, stock status and catches and additional information required under the Convention, CNL(14)12.

6.2 Theme-Based Special Session: Management of single and mixed stock fisheries, with particular focus on stocks below their conservation limits

Last year the Council decided to hold the first of its Theme-based Special Sessions on 'Management of single and mixed stock fisheries, with particular focus on stocks below their conservation limits'. It was agreed that the presentations should include details on how socio-economic issues are included in management decisions and that the session should allow for consideration of the interests of indigenous peoples. Planning for the Special Session has been undertaken by a Steering Committee which worked with the Secretariat to develop the Programme, CNL(14)13.

6.3 Progress in implementing the ‘Action Plan for Taking Forward the Recommendations of the External Performance Review and the Review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’

A report, CNL(14)14, will be presented on progress in implementing the measures contained in 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, that was adopted at the Thirtieth Annual Meeting in Drogheda.

6.4 Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

Last year, the Council agreed that the regular meetings of the ISFA/NASCO Liaison Group would not continue but that if a specific need arose, consideration would be given to convening a joint *ad hoc* group. The Council decided to retain an item on its agenda during which a representative of ISFA could be invited to participate in an exchange of information on issues concerning impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon. Accordingly, a representative of ISFA has been invited to attend the Thirty-First Annual Meeting.

6.5 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.

6.6 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

Last year the Socio-Economic Sub-Group reported on its work in further developing web pages relating to the socio-economic aspects of the wild Atlantic salmon and in developing a programme for a Special Session. It was agreed that the 2014 Theme-Based Special Session (see 6.2 above) should include consideration of how socio-economic factors are incorporated into management decisions and the interests of indigenous peoples. An update will be presented on any further changes made to the NASCO website concerning socio-economic aspects of wild Atlantic salmon, including updating the tables of information on rod and net fisheries and any other new socio-economic information relating to salmon provided to the Secretariat.

6.7 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, have 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. In 2012, the Council had 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(14)15. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Thirty-First Annual Meeting.

6.7 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.

7. Other Business

7.1 Any other business may be raised.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

8.1 The Council will be asked to agree on a venue for its Thirty-Second Annual Meeting to be held during 2 - 5 June 2015.

8.2 The Thirty-Third Annual Meeting may be held during 7 - 10 June 2016 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

9. Report of the Meeting

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

10. Press Release

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

Secretary
Edinburgh
8 April 2014