



Agenda item 5.1
For decision

Council

CNL(14)6

Secretary's Report

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CNL(14)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 2014

- 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 2014 have been received and there are no arrears.

4. Observers at NASCO's meetings

- 4.1 The thirty-four organizations listed in Annex 1 have observer status to NASCO. No new organizations have been granted Observer Status to NASCO since last year.
- 4.2 The External Performance Review Panel had 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 2013 - 31 March 2014, 8 airborne surveillance flights were undertaken by the Norwegian coastguard, but no 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 such fishing occurred previously. No information has been provided by the Icelandic coastguard, but in 2012/13 it did not undertake any flights over this area of international waters. 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 that may be detected in their MCS operations. An update on this issue is included in the Action Plan (see CNL(14)14).

6. Scientific Research Fishing

- 6.1 In accordance with the Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing, CNL(96)60, the Secretary should advise the Council of any requests to conduct scientific research fishing since the last Annual Meeting. There have been no such requests.

7. Public Relations

(a) *Atlantic salmon – Lost at Sea*

- 7.1 In 2012, the Council agreed to contribute £5,000 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. An update on progress with the film is contained in Annex 2.

- 7.2 The Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE), sometimes referred to as Scotland's National Academy, is an independent and non-party-political educational charity which works to provide public benefit throughout Scotland and through a growing international programme. It organises a range of events including lectures, debates and conferences. On 26 November 2013, a Discussion Meeting entitled ‘Lost at Sea? The Atlantic Salmon's Ocean Odyssey’ was held by the RSE with support from NASCO. The event was very well attended and there has been very positive feedback from participants. The NASCO Secretary presented an scene-setting overview and the other speakers on the evening were Professor Ken Whelan, Professor Chris Todd and Dr John Armstrong.. The report of the meeting is available at www.royalsoced.org.uk/506_PastEventsReports.html.

(b) *NASCO and IASRB websites*

- 7.3 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 and we would welcome feedback from the Parties on any changes that they would like to see made. The document archive has been extended and revisions made to accommodate the second cycle of Implementation Plans and the first Annual Progress Reports. The rivers database now contains information for all Parties/jurisdictions (except EU – Portugal) and a total of

2,552 rivers. New information for EU – Spain (Cantabria) and EU – Spain (Galicia) was included in the database in 2014. 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. Last year the Council recognised that revisions to the stock categories might be made to better reflect the status of stocks relative to attainment of conservation limits. ICES was therefore requested to provide a review of the stock status categories currently used by the jurisdictions of NASCO, including within their Implementation Plans, and advise on common approaches that may be applicable throughout the NASCO area. The advice from ICES is presented in document CNL(14)8.

- 7.4 In the period 1 April 2013 – 31 March 2014, there were approximately 14,000 visits to the NASCO website, an increase of ~8% on the same period in 2012/2013. The number of pages viewed averaged ~3 per session. Approximately 54% of the visitors to the site came from the UK, Canada and the US. For the IASRB's website the number of visits remained constant at ~3,000 with ~60% of the visitors coming from the UK, Canada and the US.

8. The FAO FIRMS Partnership

- 8.1 NASCO had previously 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. Last year, the Council decided to accept this invitation to become a partner in FIRMS. The FIRMS Partnership Agreement was signed by the President and NASCO became a partner on 16 December 2013. Information about NASCO has been included on the FIRMS website www.firms.fao.org/firms/en. We have been asked to provide additional information using an agreed FIRMS template and a draft document is included in Annex 3, based on the 2012 and 2013 ICES advice. It would be helpful to have feedback from the Parties following the Annual Meeting so that the information can be sent to the FIRMS Secretariat for inclusion on the website.

9. Handbook of Basic Texts

- 9.1 Following last year's Annual Meeting, the Parties agreed to re-print the A5 Handbook of Basic Texts that was last printed in 2000. This has now been completed and copies will be distributed at the Annual Meeting.

10. International Year of the Salmon

- 10.1 In 2002, NASCO, ICES, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC), the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) cooperated in holding a workshop entitled ‘Causes of Marine Mortality of Salmon in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea’ (see www.npafc.org/new/pub_technical4.html). The External Performance Review Panel had concluded that NASCO’s cooperation with other international organizations was highly satisfactory and noted that the Council agreed that this approach should continue *inter alia* to share information on common problems and raise the profile of NASCO. In this regard, we have been contacted by the NPAFC as that Organization is considering holding an International Year of the Salmon and further proposals for this initiative are to be discussed at the NPAFC Annual Meeting during 12 - 16 May. It seems likely that NPAFC will consider scientific (possibly joint research and symposia and workshops) and outreach activities and they are keen to include the Atlantic salmon through NASCO involvement as part of this initiative. NPAFC have indicated that further information will be provided to us as the initiative is developed and we will keep the Parties informed. This may be a very good opportunity to raise awareness of the salmon globally, the issues facing them and the considerable efforts being made to conserve and restore them.

Secretary
Edinburgh
16 May 2014

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.*



UPDATE April 2014

Dear Peter:

Thank you for your support of *Atlantic Salmon – Lost at Sea*. Since we began filming in 2009, we have filmed in 5 countries for a total of 80 days. In September of 2012, thanks to the support of NASCO and other sponsors, we traveled to Greenland where we filmed the top of the salmon's migration, it's rich feeding grounds, the native fishery, and the satellite tagging of an adult salmon by Tim Sheehan of NOAA to track the salmon on its return journey home. The footage shot in Greenland is spectacular!

Last summer **RTE**, Ireland's national broadcaster, agreed to broadcast the film in 2014. Most recently they agreed to contribute funding to the film. This important step in getting a first broadcaster paves the way for other broadcasters to come on board. It also opened opportunities for government funding which required an Irish broadcaster, namely the Irish Film Board.

Galway University Foundation has agreed to contribute a significant amount to help fund the film.

The **Irish Film Board** has approved my application. This was approved in February 2014 and we are now moving to the contract stage.

The **Peter Jay Sharp Foundation** in New York is now a sponsor.

The **Atlantic Salmon Trust** is a sponsor and will help to fund our shoot in Scotland.

The film is now fully funded, at a reduced budget, subject to contracts with RTE and the Irish Film Board. The internationally renowned Irish actor, **Gabriel Byrne**, has agreed narrate the film (subject to final contract with his agent).

Thank you for your support. We are very proud and pleased to have NASCO as a sponsor for this film.

Deirdre Brennan
Producer

Greenland September 2012



IN PROCESS FUNDING

Inland Fisheries Ireland – we have an application submitted for funding under the Salmon Conservation Fund and expect to hear within the next few weeks. If approved, this funding will supplement our remaining film shoots.

EDIT

Post-production - At this time, we are writing the scientific story of “Lost at Sea”. This will be given to the scriptwriter, John Heminway, to turn into a compelling story. John will write the script and work with the producer in the edit to create an exciting and dramatic film. We will start to edit as soon as contracts are in place and funding is made available. Editing will be in Ireland. We have 5 more shooting days (Scotland and Ireland)

DISTRIBUTION

Submarine Entertainment based in NYC was the distributor for *The Cove* and *Breaking Ice*. Both had very a successful theatrical release and broadcast distribution. Once the film is complete, or ideally when we are well into the edit, they will have a look at the film and determine the best strategy if they take it on.

Wildcard Distribution based in Dublin acquires and releases films in Irish and international cinemas, as well as Video on Demand and DVD. Wildcard has successfully distributed the film, *The Summit*, about the deadly climb on K2 in 2008. We are in discussions with Wildcard.

Film Festivals: we plan to enter the film in targeted festivals internationally – wildlife, environmental, conservation themed festivals as well as broader festivals such as Hot Docs in Toronto.

Special Screenings: we plan to work with our sponsors to arrange special screenings and talks for their members. This film is an educational tool and we would like to make sure it informs audiences and the concerned community.

Proposed FIRMS Template Information on Atlantic Salmon (APR35.318)

Atlantic Salmon Fisheries

Geographical Reference

North Atlantic

Reference Year

2012/2013

Reporting Year

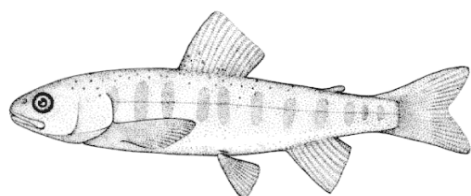
2014

Harvested_Resource

Salmon fisheries occur in coastal, estuarine and fresh waters. There is considerable variability in the distribution of the catch among individual countries. In most countries the majority of the catch is now taken in fresh water; the coastal catch has declined markedly. Salmon are harvested in a range of gears including set and drifting gill nets, various traps and rod and line.

Target Species

[Salmo salar L](#)



En - Atlantic salmon, Fr - Saumon de l'Atlantique, Sp - Salmón del Atlántico.

Fishing Gear

Set and drifting gill nets, seine (sweep) nets, various traps and rod and line

Example: [Gillnet and Entangling Nets](#)

History

The North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) was established in 1984. Under the NASCO Convention, fishing for salmon is prohibited beyond areas of fisheries jurisdiction, and in most areas of the North Atlantic beyond twelve nautical miles of the baselines, thereby creating an enormous zone free of directed salmon fisheries. Since 1984, in response to declining abundance of salmon, there have been major reductions in fishing effort in salmon fisheries all around the North Atlantic and increasing use of catch and release in recreational fisheries. Marine survival of salmon currently remains low and the

International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) advises that factors other than marine fisheries acting both in freshwater and in the ocean (water quality, barriers to fish migration and marine mortality) are contributing to low abundance of wild Atlantic salmon. The provisional nominal catch for the North Atlantic area in 2012 was 1,409 tonnes. The estimated unreported catch in 2012 was 404 tonnes. Although catches are low, the economic value and economic impact of salmon fisheries can be high.

Ecosystem assessment

ICES has advised that the current salmon fisheries probably have no, or only minor, influence on the marine ecosystem. However, the exploitation rate on salmon may affect the riverine ecosystem through changes in species composition, although there is limited knowledge of the magnitude of these effects. The catch advice from ICES relating to salmon fisheries is detailed under the ‘Assessment summary’ below.

NASCO has established a database of salmon rivers that contains information on the status of the salmon stocks in each river. Currently, information including an indication of stock status is available for ~2,500 rivers www.nasco.int/RiversDatabase.aspx.

Management

Jurisdictional framework

Management Body/Authority(ies): North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization ([NASCO](http://www.nasco.int))

Mandate: Conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management taking into account the best available scientific evidence.

Area of Competence: NASCO area of competence

Maritime Area: Atlantic Ocean north of 36°N throughout the salmon’s migratory range

Management Regime

Management Strategy

Under NASCO’s Convention regulatory measures can be agreed for fisheries by one Party that harvest salmon originating in the rivers of another Party. Regulatory measures or decisions have been adopted by NASCO in most years since its establishment for the distant-water fisheries at West Greenland and the Faroe Islands. The most recent multi-annual measures adopted in 2012 apply to the years 2012 – 2014 for the West Greenland salmon fishery and 2013 – 2015 for the Faroese salmon fishery.

The Management Units (stock complexes) considered under this management regime are as follows:

- West Greenland Salmon Fishery
 - o North American non-maturing 1SW salmon
 - o Southern European non-maturing 1SW salmon
- Faroe Islands Salmon Fishery
 - o Northern European maturing 1SW salmon
 - o Northern European non-maturing 1SW salmon
 - o Southern European maturing 1SW salmon
 - o Southern European non-maturing 1SW salmon

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. ‘Guidelines for the Management of Salmon Fisheries’ were adopted in 2009 to assist Parties and jurisdictions in making further progress in implementing NASCO's agreements. These Guidelines state that Conservation Limits should be established for all river stocks of salmon, or where these have not been established, alternative measures should be used that are effective and appropriate in defining adequate stock levels. Fishing on stocks that are below Conservation Limits 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. Rational management of mixed-stock fisheries requires knowledge of the stocks that contribute to the fishery and their status, and management actions should aim to protect the weakest of the contributing stocks.

Each NASCO Party/jurisdiction has developed Implementation Plans detailing the measures to be taken over a five year period (2007 - 2012 and 2013 - 2018) to implement NASCO's agreements. These relate not only to the management of salmon fisheries but also to habitat protection and restoration and aquaculture and related activities.

Negotiation Process

International through NASCO. Article 9 of the Convention details the factors to be taken into account in establishing regulatory measures as follows:

- (a) the best available information, including advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and other appropriate scientific organizations;
- (b) measures taken and other factors, both inside and outside the Commission area, that affect the salmon stocks concerned;
- (c) the efforts of States of origin to implement and enforce measures for the conservation, restoration, enhancement and rational management of salmon stocks in their rivers and areas of fisheries jurisdiction, including measures referred to in article 15, paragraph 5 (b);
- (d) the extent to which the salmon stocks concerned feed in the areas of fisheries jurisdiction of the respective Parties;
- (e) the relative effects of harvesting salmon at different stages of their migration routes;
- (f) the contribution of Parties other than States of origin to the conservation of salmon stocks which migrate into their areas of fisheries jurisdiction by limiting their catches of such stocks or by other measures; and
- (g) the interests of communities which are particularly dependent on salmon fisheries.

Management Status

Details of the NASCO regulatory measures/decisions are available at www.nasco.int/fisheries.html. The current regulatory measure for the West Greenland

salmon fishery covers the years 2012 - 2014 and restricts the fishery to that amount used for internal consumption in Greenland (estimated in the past to be 20 tonnes) and there is no commercial export of salmon. The decision for the Faroese salmon fishery covers the years 2013 – 2015 but does not set a quota on the basis that management decisions will be made with due consideration to the ICES advice concerning the status of the stocks contributing to the fishery. There has been no commercial fishery at Faroes since 1993. Frameworks of Indicators are used in conjunction with these measures to confirm whether or not reassessment of the multi-annual advice used in establishing the measures is required.

Assessment Summary

On the basis of the MSY approach, ICES has advised that fishing should only take place on salmon from rivers where stocks have been shown to be at full reproductive capacity. Furthermore, because of the different status of individual stocks within stock complexes, mixed-stock fisheries present particular threats. The management of a fishery should ideally be based upon the individual status of all stocks exploited in the fishery.

North-East Atlantic Commission area (2013 advice):

There are no catch options for the Faroes fishery that would allow all stock complexes to achieve their conservation limits with a greater than 95% probability in any of the seasons 2013/14 to 2015/16. In the absence of specific management objectives, ICES advises that there are no mixed-stock fishery options on the NEAC complexes at Faroes in 2013 to 2016. The results from the exploratory assessment conducted by ICES in 2013 based on smaller management units (countries) are in line with this advice.

While stocks remain in a depleted state and in the absence of a fishery at Faroes, particular care should be taken to ensure that fisheries in homewaters are managed to protect stocks that are below their conservation limits.

North American Commission area (2012 advice):

Management advice in the form of catch options is only provided for the non-maturing 1SW and maturing 2SW components, as the maturing 1SW component is not fished outside of home waters.

As there is less than 75% probability that the numbers of 2SW salmon returning to the six regions of North America will be above the management objectives (conservation limits for the four northern areas, rebuilding objectives for the two southern areas) simultaneously, there are no mixed-stock fisheries catch options on 1SW non-maturing and 2SW salmon in North America in 2012 to 2015.

West Greenland Commission area (2012 advice):

There are no mixed-stock fisheries catch options at West Greenland in 2012, 2013, and 2014. In the absence of fishing mortality there is only a 6% to 8% chance of simultaneously meeting or exceeding the management objectives of the seven management units in 2012 to 2014.

Management Measures

Information on management measures implemented by both States of origin and the distant-water fisheries are available in Implementation Plans, Focus Area Reports and Annual Progress Reports at www.nasco.int/implementation_plans.html.

Details of the NASCO regulatory measures/decisions are available at www.nasco.int/fisheries.html.

Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Salmon at West Greenland for 2012, 2013, and 2014. NASCO Document WGC(12)12.

Decision regarding the salmon fishery in Faroese waters in 2013, 2014 and 2015. NASCO Document NEA(12)7.

Source of Information

Bibliographic Entry

Creator/Corporate

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

Title

Decision Structure to Aid the Council and Commissions of NASCO and the Relevant Authorities in Implementing the Precautionary Approach to Management of North Atlantic Salmon Fisheries (2002). NASCO document CNL31.332.

NASCO Guidelines for the Management of Salmon Fisheries (2009). NASCO document CNL(09)43. 12pp

Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (2012). NASCO document CNL(12)8.

Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (2013). NASCO document CNL(13)8.

Reports of the Twenty-Ninth Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO (2012).

URL

<http://www.nasco.int/documents.html>