



Agenda item 5.1
For information

Council

CNL(16)6

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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 2016

- 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 2016 have been received and there are no arrears.

4. Observers at NASCO's meetings

- 4.1 Since last year, there have been two applications for Non-Government Observer status to NASCO. Der Atlantische Lachs, based in Germany, has as its objective the reintroduction and protection of Atlantic salmon in central Europe. It is funded by donations and runs a breeding station (500,000 parr and 30,000 smolts annually) based on a genetically monitored broodstock and returning salmon, to support reintroduction initiatives in Germany and neighbouring countries. Further information (in German) is available at www.lachsverein.de/.
- 4.2 The Salmon and Trout Association, one of NASCO's first accredited NGOs, has changed its name to Salmon & Trout Conservation UK - see www.salmon-trout.org/. We have also had an application for observer status to NASCO from Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland. The objectives of Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland are to protect fisheries, fish stocks and the wider aquatic environment for the public benefit. Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland has responsibility for relevant matters in Scotland and has its own director, chairman and management board and its own budget. Additional information is available at www.salmon-troutscotland.org.
- 4.3 After consulting the President, it was decided that the objectives of Der Atlantische Lachs and Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland are compatible with those of NASCO and, accordingly, Der Atlantische Lachs and Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland have been granted observer status. Both organisations have accepted the conditions governing observer status to NASCO.
- 4.4 The thirty-seven organisations listed in Annex 1 have observer status to NASCO. The 2012 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. We have again contacted the Norwegian and Icelandic coastguards to obtain details of airborne surveillance flights over the area of international waters north of the Faroe Islands in the North-East Atlantic Commission during the period 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016. No information has been provided to date. No new information has been obtained from ports or about landings and transshipments since last year’s report to suggest that there has been any fishing for salmon by vessels from non-NASCO Parties. The last known incidences of fishing for salmon in international waters by non-NASCO Parties were in the early 1990s.
- 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-NASCO 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. We have continued to do so and a report is made separately in paper CNL(16)16.

6. Scientific Research Fishing

- 6.1 In accordance with the Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing, CNL(96)60, the Secretary is asked to advise the Council of any requests to conduct scientific research fishing since the last Annual Meeting. There have been no such requests since the 2015 Annual Meeting.

7. Public Relations

NASCO and IASRB websites

- 7.1 The Council has previously agreed that the NASCO (www.nasco.int) and IASRB (www.salmonatsea.com) websites would be the main public relations tools. Improvements and updating to both websites are ongoing and we would welcome feedback on suggestions for further changes. The rivers database now contains information for all Parties/jurisdictions (except EU - Portugal) and a total of 2,553 rivers. For all rivers, details of river name, location and stock category have been provided. However, details of catchment area, river length, mean annual flow, main impact factors, special stock characteristics and conservation requirements have only been provided for between 13 - 59% of rivers, depending on the information concerned. The Working Group on Stock Classification has developed recommendations for a new classification system for use with the rivers database (see CNL(16)11) with the objective of adopting a more consistent and uniform approach. The Council’s intention is that once a classification system has been agreed and the database updated, a ‘State of the Salmon’ report will be prepared. This report could also be a valuable contribution to the proposed International Year of the Salmon.

- 7.2 In the period 1 April 2015 - 31 March 2016, there were approximately 17,000 visits to the NASCO website, an increase of approximately 13% on the same period in 2014/2015. For the IASRB's website, the number of visits increased slightly to approximately 2,100. For both sites, the number of pages viewed averaged 3 per session. Details of other public relations activities are listed below.

Atlantic salmon - Lost at Sea

- 7.3 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'. The film is being produced by Deirdre Brennan (Castletown Productions), an Emmy nominated director for film and television. Last year the Council authorised the Secretary to make an additional contribution of up to £10,000 towards the costs of the film, subject to budgetary considerations and confirmation that the remaining funds to complete the film had been acquired. This confirmation was received and the NASCO contribution was made which together with a successful 'Kickstarter' campaign have allowed the work on the film to proceed. Filming has taken place in 6 countries and at sea and is now complete and the editing is in the final stages. It is expected that the film will be released in mid-July. The Producer has advised that NASCO's latest contribution was critical to the successful fund-raising effort and completion of the film. The Producer will work with NASCO in promoting the film and we will have access to the film for, *inter alia*, educational screenings.

- 7.4 The Council has recognised the enormous potential of this film to raise awareness of the challenges facing the Atlantic salmon, the wide range of conservation measures that have been taken to conserve and restore the species and the research being undertaken to improve understanding of the factors affecting them, including at sea. It will be a very valuable contribution to the proposed International Year of the Salmon (see CNL(16)7) if that initiative proceeds and has created considerable interest among our colleagues in the North Pacific.

EIFAAC Symposium

- 7.5 In 2015, NASCO supported the European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission's (EIFAAC) international symposium entitled 'Managing freshwater fisheries in an era of change' that was held in Lillehammer, Norway shortly after last year's Annual Meeting. Symposium sub-themes included: managing for diversity; restoration and protection of habitat; management and conservation of vulnerable diadromous species; methods for the management of recreational fisheries where insufficient data exist; and the value of protecting large fish from overharvest. The meeting was well attended with some high quality presentations. A brief report, including the recommendations arising from the symposium, is available at www.fao.org/3/a-mp182e.pdf.

Other activities

- 7.6 During the year, presentations on the work of NASCO and the IASRB were made at a 'Salmon Summit' on the future of salmon in the Rhine held in Huningue, France in October 2015, at the IYS Scoping Meeting held in Vancouver, Canada in March 2016 and at the Board meeting of the Atlantic Salmon Trust in May 2016. Various groups

visited NASCO during the year including the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network (www.facebook.com/atlanticsalmonconservationschoolsnetwork/) who we have assisted in broadening its network of schools around the North Atlantic. The reports of NASCO's two Theme-based Special Sessions held to date have been widely circulated. A new brochure relating to the SALSEA - Track telemetry programme has been developed and will be made available at the Annual Meeting.

8. Activities relating to the United Nations (UN) including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

- 8.1 NASCO has continued to respond to requests for information on relevant activities from the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (UNDOALOS) and in relation to the FAO Code for Conduct for Responsible Fisheries. The biennial meeting of the Regional Secretariats Network www.fao.org/fishery/rsn/en, hosted by the FAO, will be held in 2016 and a report will be made to the Council next year. NASCO became a partner in the Fishery Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) on 16 December 2013. 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 and is part of FAO's Fisheries Global Information System (FIGIS). The information about NASCO will be updated after the 2016 Annual Meeting to reflect the latest scientific advice from ICES.

9. Socio-economic studies

- 9.1 In 2014, on the recommendation of the Socio-economics Sub-Group, the Council asked that Parties/jurisdictions provide to the Secretariat details of any new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon. No such studies have been made available to the Secretariat since the 2015 Annual Meeting. However, references to some previous published studies are available on the NASCO website.

Secretary
Edinburgh
9 May 2016

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS 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)
Der Atlantische Lachs	(based in Germany)
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)
Foyle Association of Salmon and Trout Anglers	(based in UK/Ireland)
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 & Trout Conservation UK	(based in UK)
Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland	(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)