



Agenda item 6.2  
For decision

**Council**

**CNL(17)19**

***Proposal for a symposium on Atlantic salmon in conjunction with the 2019  
(Thirty-Sixth) Annual Meeting of NASCO***

***Managing the Atlantic salmon in a rapidly changing environment –  
management challenges and possible responses***

***(Tabled by Norway)***



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### *Proposal for a symposium on Atlantic salmon in conjunction with the 2019 (Thirty-Sixth) Annual Meeting of NASCO*

#### *Managing the Atlantic salmon in a rapidly changing environment - management challenges and possible responses*

*(tabled by Norway)*

#### **Introduction**

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) aims to engage the public, political representatives and the science community with a view to highlighting challenges facing salmon around the salmosphere, generating understanding of the social and economic benefits that salmon provide and inspiring action to protect salmon populations. Under the Outline Proposal for an International Year of the Salmon, IYS(16)2, which was broadly accepted by the Council in 2016, an international symposium will be held and a Symposium Steering Committee, comprising representatives of both NASCO and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) has been established to organise. However, the Outline Proposal also states that Outreach activities could include exhibits at museums and aquaria; themes and sessions related to the IYS at the annual meetings of international fisheries organizations and regional science societies; symposia and workshops. The intention of these more regional activities is that they would provide the opportunity for much greater focus on the challenges and opportunities facing salmon in a particular basin. The IYS North Atlantic Steering Committee discussed the possibility of holding a two-day symposium in conjunction with the 2019 Annual Meeting and there was support for such an initiative.

Norway would, therefore, like to propose that a symposium be held in conjunction with the 2019 (Thirty-Sixth) Annual Meeting of NASCO. Norway has offered to host this meeting.

#### **Initial proposal**

Since NASCO's Thirty-First (2014) Annual Meeting, Theme-based Special Sessions have been held to allow a more detailed focus on aspects of NASCO's agreements. Thus, sessions have been held on the management of fisheries, particularly those on stocks below their conservation limits (2014), the impacts of hydropower (2015) and the impacts of sea lice and escapes from aquaculture (2016). These sessions have been very productive and informative and allowed for identification of best management practices.

To mark the International Year of the Salmon, Norway would like to propose that a one and a half-day or two-day symposium be held to allow for identification of challenges specific to the North Atlantic salmon, to assist in clarifying the role NASCO can play in addressing them in the future and to provide a basis for a major outreach initiative to increase public and political awareness of these challenges. While the Theme-based Special Sessions have provided for valuable exchanges on specific topics, Norway notes that one of the recommendations from

the External Performance Review was that the 'Next Steps' process should consider cross-cutting issues such as climate change.

Norway wishes to propose that the theme of the symposium would be 'Managing the Atlantic salmon in a rapidly changing environment - management challenges and possible responses'. The symposium could coincide with the launch of the NASCO 'State of the Salmon' report and it might allow for a review of information on how climate change is likely to influence salmon both in marine and fresh waters and with sub-themes which might include fisheries, habitat and aquaculture.

The findings from the symposium should be discussed by the Council with a view to clarifying NASCO's future role in addressing the challenges facing the salmon and its management. A report of the symposium would be prepared and the intention would be that it would be widely circulated.

### **Logistical issues**

It is proposed that the time allocated to a Theme-based Special Session (one day in 2014 and 2016 and 2017 (including the IYS Special Session) and half a day in 2015) be allocated to the symposium and that additional time (perhaps half a day) be allocated, if necessary by holding the meetings normally scheduled for the Monday, prior to the Opening Session of the Council, on Sunday. This is likely to be necessary because the new Implementation Plans will be considered at the 2019 Annual Meeting and that will probably require a half-day session later in the week, as is the case for presentation of the APR evaluations at present. However, there should not be negotiations for regulatory measures/decisions in 2019 as the current measures will end in 2018 and it is anticipated that new multi-annual measures would be developed at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

Norway would like to propose that a Steering Committee of not more than one representative from each Party, one representative from NASCO's accredited NGOs and one representative from the Secretariat be appointed to plan for the symposium and to report back to the Parties no later than at the 2018 Annual Meeting with a proposed programme and arrangements.

### **Next Steps**

Norway would ask that the Council considers this proposal and, if it decides to proceed, that it agrees to establish a Steering Committee with a mandate of planning for a symposium of not more than two-days duration to be held in conjunction with the 2019 Annual Meeting on the theme of 'Managing the Atlantic salmon in a rapidly changing environment - management challenges and possible responses'. The planning for the symposium will need to be closely integrated with the planning for the 2019 Annual Meeting, so the Steering Committee will need to work closely with the Norwegian hosts and the Secretariat and commence its work in the autumn of 2017. Norway believes that this symposium is consistent with the recommendation from the External Performance Review and the Outline Proposal for an International Year of the Salmon and that it will allow for appropriate focus on the challenges facing the Atlantic salmon and possible responses and serve to raise public awareness and what needs to be done to conserve this precious resource in a rapidly changing environment.