

CNL(17)60

Statement by Dr Emma Hatfield

Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am delighted to accept the position of Secretary to NASCO and I would like to thank the recruitment panel for their consideration and their final decision. I hope to prove to them, and to you, over the next several years, that they have made the right decision in hiring me!

I know that you have had a very stable Secretariat for a long time and that you are now heading into a period of change. I also know that Peter will be a hard act to follow. Everything I have heard about him has been very positive.

I am sorry that I am not here in person but I have work commitments which mean I am unable to return to Varberg. I thought that it might be helpful to tell you a little bit about myself given that I am not able to tell you in person.

I have thirty years' experience in the fisheries management arena as a fisheries scientist, as a fisheries advisor on widely distributed pelagic stocks and latterly in EU policy development. I have lived and worked in the northeast, the northwest and the southwest Atlantic, in the Southern Ocean and in the eastern Pacific.

I have been working with widely distributed and migratory fish stocks across the northeast Atlantic for the last 17 years and have deep roots in that network, in scientific, advisory and fisheries management contexts, some of which is highly relevant to NASCO. Since 2014, I have been working in the European Commission, in DG MARE, on policy development and analysis to support the definition of EU fisheries policy. During this time, I have also been a member of the EU Delegation to Coastal States consultations for the sustainable exploitation of the widely-distributed stocks in the northeast Atlantic and in EU / Norway bilateral negotiations for the sustainable exploitation of the shared stocks in the North Sea.

I enjoy working with people, and understand the diversity of views and opinions and the issues encountered in natural resource management. I believe passionately in the effectiveness of collaboration. I have worked collaboratively for most of my adult life through the establishment of networks in a number of areas, in science, advice, management and policy, to facilitate collaborative working and engagement in areas of common interest to enable more productive outcomes.

NASCO is unique as a single species RFMO in a multi-species, multi-fishery world. NASCO needs to exist to conserve and manage this highly migratory and complex species. NASCO certainly has a strong *raison d'être* and its unique single-species focus means that wild Atlantic salmon can continue to be given the attention it needs.

This is a challenging time for the Atlantic salmon. NASCO needs to support and promote conservation initiatives in both the freshwater and the marine environments to protect this iconic and fascinating species. I believe NASCO has the ability to address these challenges. It has evolved into an organisation that has found a way to address all of the issues that affect salmon, due to its anadromous life cycle, and to address them through a strategic approach that is both considered and adaptive. It has developed into a leader in marine resource management.

I discovered in the course of preparing for my interview that “salar”, the specific name of Atlantic salmon, comes from Latin and means “the leaper”. I am, to an extent, leaping into the unknown. I will be joining a new community. I believe that you are all passionate about salmon. That excites me and I am very much looking forward to embarking on a new adventure in my role as Secretary of NASCO and working with you in the future.

Thank you very much.