



Agenda item 2
For information

Council

CNL(18)03

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

Notes:

- **Under the conditions for attendance by observers, the President may recognise requests from the floor by the Co-Chairs of accredited NGOs and / or their 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(18)18**

CNL(18)03

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting

Following a welcoming address from our hosts, the President, Mr Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), will make a statement on behalf of the Organization. Each Party, Inter-Governmental Organization and the accredited Non-Governmental Organizations are encouraged to make Opening Statements. These statements will be annexed to the report of the meeting.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda (CNL(18)01) was issued on 26 January 2018. No supplementary items have been proposed by the Parties so a Draft Agenda (CNL(18)02) is issued herewith. The Council will be asked to adopt its Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(18)04) 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. Both the current President, Mr Jóannes Hansen (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), and Vice-President (Ms Sylvie Lapointe (Canada)) were elected in 2017 to serve the remainder of their predecessors' terms in office, which end at the close of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting. Ms Lapointe is no longer Head of Delegation for Canada and is not seeking re-election. Mr Hansen is eligible for re-election.

4. Financial and Administrative Issues

4.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chair of the Finance and Administration Committee, Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker (USA), will present the report of the Committee's 2018 meeting to the Council. The Council will be asked to:

- accept the Audited Accounts for 2017;
- confirm the auditors for the 2018 accounts;
- adopt a budget for 2019;
- decide on any actions required under its MoUs with ICES and the OSPAR Commission; and
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee, CNL(18)05.

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 in the Convention area, CNL(18)06.

5.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2017

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2017, CNL(18)07. 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 £1,500. The winners of the Commission prizes of £1,000 will be announced in each Commission.

5.4 Scientific Advice from ICES

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(18)08, will be circulated by ICES in early May. The advice relating to the North Atlantic area will be presented to the Council. The advice relating to the individual Commission areas will be considered by the Commissions separately at their meetings. ICES will again make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available on the ICES website after the scientific advice is released.

5.5 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

In 2015, the Board endorsed the need for an international acoustic tracking programme and adopted a resolution encouraging telemetry studies, building on the success and identity of the SALSEA Programme. The Board had recognised the role it could play in co-ordinating efforts and fund-raising initiatives in support of telemetry projects and agreed to support SALSEA - Track as a continuing commitment to understanding the factors affecting mortality of salmon at sea. The Chair of the Board, Mr Rory Saunders (USA), will present the report of the Board's meeting, CNL(18)09, including an update on progress with SALSEA - Track.

5.6 Review of the Procedures Relating to the Work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group

The Secretary has been asked to prepare a review of the procedures relating to the work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB) and its Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). This review, CNL(18)10, will be presented.

The Council will be asked if it wishes to make any changes to the working procedures of the IASRB or SAG.

5.7 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(18)11. The Council will be asked to adopt a request to ICES for scientific advice.

6. Report of the Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of Reports

The 2013 - 2018 Implementation Plan (IP) cycle will be completed this year. Therefore, at its 2017 Annual Meeting, the Council established a Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of Reports. This Group was tasked with reviewing the guidelines and templates for the preparation and evaluation of IPs and Annual Progress Reports (APRs) and advising on any changes required to streamline and improve future reporting. The Group was also asked to propose a schedule for the development and review of IPs and APRs, and consider options for including reporting under the Six Tenets for Effective Management of an Atlantic Salmon Fishery in the IP process.

The Working Group met in December 2017 and its report (CNL(18)12) will be presented. The Council will be asked to decide on a future reporting process.

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

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

The report of the Implementation Plan / Annual Progress Report Review Group, CNL(18)13, will be presented by its Chair, Mr Rory Saunders (USA), at a Special Session of the Council. The report will include the Group's evaluations of the fifth Annual Progress Reports (APRs) under the 2013 - 2018 Implementation Plans (IPs). The primary purpose of the APRs is to provide details of:

- any changes to the management regime for salmon and consequent changes to the IPs;
- actions that have been taken under the IPs 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 purpose of the evaluation of the APRs by the Review Group is to ensure that Parties / jurisdictions have provided a clear account of progress in implementing and evaluating the actions detailed in their IPs along with the information required under the Convention. This year, rather than developing questions for response by the Parties / jurisdictions, the Review Group has been asked to provide details of its evaluation of progress on each action in a table at the end of its review, highlighting shortcomings. The Parties / jurisdictions will be asked to address these shortcomings in their APRs the following year. There will be an opportunity for questions to be raised during the

Special Session. The APRs will be issued and made available on the NASCO website (www.nasco.int/implementation_plans_cycle2.html).

A summary of the sections of the APRs detailing changes to the IPs, stock status and catches and additional information required under the Convention will be presented, CNL(18)14.

7.2 **Special Session: Progress Reports on Planning for the International Year of the Salmon**

In 2016, the Council recognised that an International Year of the Salmon (IYS) could provide a very good opportunity to raise awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance, the environmental and anthropogenic challenges they face and the measures being taken to address these. An Outline Proposal for an IYS, entitled ‘Salmon and People in a Changing World’, which included a proposed rationale, vision, themes and timings for the IYS, together with details of its scope, a governance model and initial budgetary considerations, was broadly accepted by the Council subject to some provisional points of clarification. Last year, the Council held a Special Session on the IYS, which included updates on the work of the various IYS committees and planning for the IYS. The Council recognised the considerable potential of the IYS and noted that much of the activity in implementing the IYS will be a matter for the Parties and NGOs. There will be a need for enhanced co-ordination, particularly within the North Atlantic area. The Council also accepted a proposal from Norway to hold an IYS symposium in conjunction with the 2019 Annual Meeting. This symposium would be in addition to any event to launch the IYS.

An update on progress made by the various IYS Committees will be presented, CNL(18)15. This document will also include a summary of any planned IYS actions reported by the Parties / jurisdictions.

7.3 **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’, CNL(13)38**

A report, CNL(18)16, 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, which was adopted at NASCO’s Thirtieth (2013) Annual Meeting.

7.4 **Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry**

In 2013, 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 the International Salmon Farmers’ Association (ISFA) could be invited to participate in an exchange of information on issues concerning impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon. Last year, the representative of ISFA presented information on ‘Aquaculture Technological Developments Related to Sealice Management’. A representative of ISFA has been invited to attend the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting and has been encouraged to provide a paper highlighting

developments relating to addressing impacts of salmon farming on the wild salmon stocks, especially in relation to escapes of farmed salmon and updates on the control of sea lice.

7.5 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). ICES has been asked to report on any significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management and its advice will be presented in document CNL(18)08. There will be an opportunity for any relevant information to be presented by the Parties and observers.

7.6 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

The Council has previously requested that the Parties / jurisdictions advise the Secretariat of any new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon. Any such studies will be referred to in the Secretary's report, CNL(18)06.

7.7 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, occur 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 North American Commission area. Following the 2017 Annual Meeting, as requested by the Council, the President of NASCO wrote to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noting NASCO's concerns and encouraging France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to become a member of NASCO. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting and to present any new information in relation to the management and sampling of the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery, CNL(18)17.

7.8 Reports on the Conservation Work of the Three Regional Commissions

The President will ask the Chairs of each of the regional Commissions of NASCO to report to the Council on the work of their Commission.

8. Other Business

Any other business may be raised.

9. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The Council will be asked to confirm the date (5 - 7 June 2019) and venue of its Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting to be held in Norway.

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting may be held during 2 - 5 June 2020, either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

10. Report of the Meeting

A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for approval by the Council.

11. Press Release

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

12. Close of the Meeting

The President will close the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting.

Secretary
Edinburgh
11 April 2018