



Agenda item 5.1
For information

Council

CNL(18)06

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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 2018

- 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 2018 have been received and there are no arrears.

4. Observers at NASCO's Meetings

- 4.1 Since last year, there have been three new applications for Non-Governmental Observer status to NASCO, from the Downeast Salmon Federation (based in the USA), Salmon and Sea Trout Recreational Anglers Ireland (SSTRAI) (based in Ireland) and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund, US. The Downeast Salmon Federation's mission is to conserve wild Atlantic salmon, other sea-run fish and their habitats, restore a viable recreational salmon fishery, and protect other important river, scenic, recreational and ecological resources in eastern Maine. The aims and objectives of SSTRAI include: to promote the sport of recreational salmon and sea trout angling in Ireland; to advocate for the protection and conservation of wild Atlantic salmon and sea trout and ensure their long-term survival; and to represent and promote the interests of all affiliated clubs and their members and the interests of associate members. The mission of the NASF US is to return Atlantic salmon to a state of natural abundance and its objectives include: negotiating net buy outs with commercial net fisheries on an economic, fair and sustainable basis; assisting policy makers in responsible management of salmon fisheries; habitat protection and restoration; outreach to inform the public and policy makers about challenges to the survival of North Atlantic salmon, and options for their conservation; and encouraging cooperation between all NGOs with the same objectives as NASF US.
- 4.2 After consulting the President, it was decided that the objectives of all of the organizations are compatible with those of NASCO and, accordingly, they have been granted observer status. All three organizations been invited to attend the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of NASCO.
- 4.3 The forty-one organizations 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.
- 5.2 We have contacted the Norwegian and Icelandic coastguards to obtain details of any surveillance operations in the area of international waters north of the Faroe Islands where fishing for salmon by non-NASCO Parties had been observed in the past. During the period 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018, the Icelandic coastguard did not conduct any surveillance flights in the area; the Norwegian coastguard conducted three surveillance flights (22 June, 1 August and 11 September) and four marine surveillance vessel surveys (6 September, 7 - 9 September, 17 - 19 September and 18 - 22 November). No vessels were observed fishing for salmon.
- 5.3 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.
- 5.4 The last known incidences of fishing for salmon in international waters by non-NASCO Parties were in the early 1990s. 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 co-operation of NEAFC and NAFO in reporting on any suspected IUU fishing activities for salmon that may be detected in their Monitoring, Control and Surveillance operations. We have continued to do so and a report is made separately in paper CNL(18)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 2017 Annual Meeting. Following the first phase of the SALSEA Programme which involved scientific research fishing in both the North American and North-East Atlantic Commission areas, the current focus of the work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board is tracking the migrations of individual salmon through remote sensing techniques including acoustic tagging.

7. Rivers Database

- 7.1 The 2012 External Performance Review of NASCO's work had highlighted the value of the Rivers Database but noted some difficulties in reconciling the information it contained with other information on stock status. The Council had noted that the stock categories used in the Rivers Database were out-dated and had agreed on the importance of developing a consistent and uniform approach to presenting information on stock status. In 2016, the Council adopted a new stock classification system for use with the NASCO Rivers Database and requested that Parties / jurisdictions update the information

held in the Rivers Database, using this new classification system, by 31 December 2017 or earlier where possible. The Council's intention was that once the database had been updated, a 'State of the Salmon' report would be prepared. This report should be a valuable contribution to the International Year of the Salmon in 2019.

- 7.2 Updated contributions to the Rivers Database have been received gratefully from thirteen of the seventeen jurisdictions and the initial analysis of these data are underway. Updates have not yet been received from: Canada; Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) Faroe Islands; European Union – Spain and European Union – UK (Scotland). Canada have confirmed that their update will be provided in August 2018 and it is unlikely that European Union – UK (Scotland) will provide an update. To maximise the impact of the State of the Salmon report, a complete picture is required and therefore jurisdictions are urged to provide the requested data.

8. Public Relations

NASCO and IASRB websites

- 8.1 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, including the addition of a 'Google search' function on the NASCO and IASRB's websites, are on-going. We would welcome feedback on suggestions for further changes. In the period 1 April 2017 - 31 March 2018, there were approximately 15,000 visits to the NASCO website, a decrease of approximately 14% on the same period in 2016 / 2017. New visitors accounted for 84% of visits. The number of pages viewed averaged 3 per session. For the IASRB's website, the number of visits decreased slightly to approximately 1,800, a decrease of approximately 14% on the same period in 2016 / 2017. New visitors accounted for 86% of visits. The number of pages viewed averaged 2 per session.

Atlantic salmon - Lost at Sea

- 8.2 NASCO contributed £15,000 towards the production of this film (around 4% of its production cost), produced by the Emmy-nominated Director Deirdre Brennan. The Council had recognised the enormous potential of the 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. The film was completed in June 2017 and was announced through social media on World Oceans Day. The film has been rolled out through a series of screenings on both sides of the Atlantic and has been entered in, and screened at, film festivals. The film premiered in November 2017 at the Irish Repertory Theatre in New York City. The Atlantic Salmon Trust hosted the UK premiere of the film in December 2017 at the Curzon Theatre in London. The film was broadcast on RTE (Ireland's National Broadcaster) as a special on Easter Sunday, 2018, at Prime Time and kicked off their wildlife series of the season. The production team have been overwhelmed by the positive reaction, engagement of audiences, and eagerness to help to solve the problem of declining salmon populations. The film has been used both to educate and shed light on the issues facing wild salmon. A comment from a lay audience member after one of the screenings was, '*I had no idea this was an issue and that Atlantic salmon were in such drastic decline. I learned so much*

and understood everything. Thank you for not dumbing it down for a general audience.' Green Planet Films is the distributor for the educational market and Deidre Brennan is close to signing an agreement for a broadcast and commercial distributor. The film is now available to stream on Amazon Video Direct in the US and UK. Deidre Brennan has expressed her gratitude for NASCO's support in the making of 'Atlantic salmon - Lost at Sea' and for helping bring this film to completion and looks forward to working with NASCO and its partners to get the film to as wide an audience as possible, to educate people and hopefully influence policy to help save our wild Atlantic salmon. The film will be shown to delegates at the reception to be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, 12 June.

Arctic Circle Forum

- 8.3 The NASCO Secretary attended an Arctic Circle Forum event, entitled 'Scotland and the New North', in Edinburgh in November 2017. This event convened policy makers, academics, business leaders and others interested in the future of the North to participate in discussion focussed on areas of common interest between Scotland and the Arctic. Among the themes discussed at the meeting was 'Arctic Seas – Environment, Fisheries and Monitoring' and the Secretary gave a presentation on the work of NASCO entitled 'Climate change in the Arctic and Atlantic Salmon – Threats and Opportunities' during this session.

2018 NASF 'Salmon Summit'

- 8.4 In March 2018, the NASCO Secretary attended a two-day Salmon Summit organized by the North Atlantic Salmon Fund in Reykjavik, Iceland. During the two-day Summit, experts from across the North Atlantic Basin provided updates on the state of North Atlantic salmon populations. Over 30 NGOs were represented by 60 delegates who came together to discuss strategies for supporting the remaining stocks. The film 'Atlantic salmon - Lost at Sea' was screened in addition to the Norwegian documentary 'The Salmon Story'. Details of the summit, including the speakers' presentations, are available to view at the NASF US website (northatlanticsalmonfund.org/home/events). The Secretary was able to highlight the International Year of the Salmon at the event.

Grassy Creek Foundation

- 8.5 The Grassy Creek Foundation contacted NASCO in April 2018. The Grassy Creek Foundation was created in 2011 and is dedicated to environmental conservation, wildlife protection and education innovation. Its mission is to make high impact contributions to underfunded causes with metrics-based success as requirements for further funding. The Foundation works with leading non-profit organizations, carrying out environmental conservation, wildlife protection, education innovation and supporting local communities. The Foundation is in the process of setting up an image / video library with the intended purpose of provisioning organizations with footage or images that could support campaigns or activities related to Atlantic salmon conservation. The Secretariat has been seeking high-quality imagery to support the development of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) website and for additional IYS uses, including the State of the Salmon report. A tele-conference meeting was held in early May where it was agreed that both organizations would share updates regarding imagery, recognising it was of mutual benefit to do so.

9. Activities Relating to the United Nations (UN) Including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

9.1 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.

10. Socio-economic Studies

10.1 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.

10.2 The following studies have been noted by the European Union:

Inland Fisheries Ireland is currently running a programme in partnership with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) of Ireland, examining a variety of topics relating to angling in Ireland. Further information can be found in document CNL(18)19.

In 2016 the Environment Agency commissioned research to establish the current economic value of angling in England. The objectives of the project were: to estimate annual expenditure on freshwater angling and angling related products and services, and the impact of this expenditure on employment and business using the results of an 'Expenditure Survey'; and to evaluate the impact of marginal changes in key variables of fishery quality, such as access and the quantity and quality of fish present, on anglers' economic value for fishing. The scope of the project is limited to freshwater angling only and relates specifically to England, not to the UK as a whole. The project is in its closing stages and the full results will be published soon. Key outcomes relevant to the economics of salmon angling include:

- in 2015, there were about 134,000 angling days for salmon and sea trout, of which 109,000 were for salmon fishing. Salmon anglers spent, on average, 12 days fishing for salmon in 2015;
- salmon angling accounted for less than one per cent of all angling activity in England in 2015;
- most angling activity for salmon and sea trout took place in the North-East River Basin District, followed by North-West and South-West RBD's;
- salmon anglers are prepared to travel considerable distances to fish, over 50% of the trips are > 50 miles and a significant proportion of salmon angling in the key salmon fishing areas such as Northumbria is by anglers from outside the region;
- salmon anglers who fished in 2015 each spent an average of £400 on season permits, plus approximately £400 each on tackle;
- total trip-related expenditure (transport, day tickets, food, accommodation) by salmon anglers fishing in England was estimated at around £8 million in 2015;
- total economic impact of salmon angling in England in 2015 was estimated to be around £13 million and supports around 235 full time employees.

The Scottish Government / Marine Scotland published a new study in March 2017 entitled 'An analysis of the Value of Wild Fisheries in Scotland'. This is available at <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0051/00514801.pdf>.

10.3 References to some previously published studies are available on the NASCO website under the section entitled 'Value of Salmon'.

Secretary
Edinburgh
29 May 2018

NON-GOVERNMENTAL 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)
Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network	(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)
Downeast Salmon Federation	(based in USA)
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)
Fisheries Management Scotland	(based in UK)
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)
North Atlantic Salmon Fund, US	(based in USA)
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 and Sea Trout Recreational Anglers Ireland	(based in Ireland)
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)