

IYS(16)3

Decisions of the Council concerning the International Year of the Salmon (Section 5.2 of the Report of the Thirty-Third Annual Meeting of the Council)

5.2 Progress Report on the Proposed International Year of the Salmon

At its 2014 Annual Meeting, the Council was advised that the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) was considering organising an International Year of the Salmon (IYS). The Council had recognised that this may be a very good opportunity to raise awareness of the salmon globally, the issues facing them and the considerable efforts being made to conserve and restore the resource and had asked that the Secretary liaise with the NPAFC Secretariat and report back on any developments. A representative of NPAFC, Mr Mark Saunders, attended the 2015 Annual Meeting and made presentations to the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB), its Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) and the Council. The Council had asked that the Secretary and the Head of the US Delegation, Mr Dan Morris, continue to liaise with NPAFC on arrangements for an IYS and to consider NASCO's possible involvement in, and contribution to, such an initiative.

A report on liaison with NPAFC since the last Annual Meeting regarding the IYS was presented by Mr Morris, CNL(16)7 (Annex 9). Annex 3 of that report included an Outline Proposal for an International Year of the Salmon (entitled 'Salmon and People in a Changing World'). It included a proposed rationale, vision, themes and timings for the IYS, together with details of its scope and a governance model and initial budgetary considerations.

The Council recognised that an IYS could provide a very good opportunity to raise awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance and the environmental and anthropogenic challenges they face and the measures being taken to address these.

The Council expressed broad acceptance of Annex 3 of document CNL(16)7, with the following provisional points of clarification:

- in view of the need to coordinate at different jurisdictional levels, the desire to ensure that the IYS is well-planned and as successful as possible and the potentially substantial workload involved, the Council would designate 2019 as the focal year. However, it recognises that some events may commence before and others continue after 2019. In particular, the Council's preference would be that the IYS International Symposium would be held in the autumn of 2018 so that the collaboration on science and management will be well established at the start of the focal year;
- the IYS Coordinating Committee will conduct its work in accordance with recommendations from the RFMO Steering Committees;

- the Council agreed that it would make a sum of £60,000 available for an IYS Special Fund to be established in accordance with Financial Rule 6.1. This sum is included in the 2017 Budget and could be carried forward until the expenditure is needed. The Fund will be used in accordance with a spending plan proposed by the North Atlantic Steering Committee and to be agreed by the Parties. The Council further agreed that any surplus funds available at the end of the 2016 financial year (and subsequent financial years) which are not needed for the Contractual Obligation Fund should be credited to the IYS Special Fund.

The Council agreed that the Secretary should consult the Parties and NGOs shortly after the 2016 Annual Meeting requesting that they confirm by 15 July 2016 who their representative will be on the North Atlantic Steering Committee. Mr Dan Morris was asked to chair this Committee.

The North Atlantic Steering Committee would be asked to develop recommendations for a half-day session on the IYS at the 2017 Annual Meeting and on IYS activities for 2018.

The Council agreed that the NASCO representatives on the IYS International Symposium Steering Committee would be the Secretary, a scientific representative nominated by the European Union and a manager nominated by Canada.

The Council agreed that the NASCO representatives on the Coordinating Committee should initially be Mr Dan Morris and the Secretary, but that further participation could also be agreed at a later stage.

The Council noted that the success of the IYS will depend on the involvement of, and co-operation with, a wide range of partners and the approach to its implementation would, therefore, need to be flexible, inclusive and adaptable.

The Council expressed its appreciation to NPAFC for inviting NASCO to join it in this important initiative that could support salmon conservation and restoration efforts and stimulate new research.