

NAC(05)3
***Draft Report of the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of
the North American Commission of
the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
6-10 June 2005, Vichy, France***

1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 In the absence of the Chairman, Mr George Lapointe (USA), the Vice Chairman, Mr Guy Beaupré (Canada) assumed the duties of Chairman for the 2005 meeting of the North American Commission. Mr Beaupré opened the meeting and welcomed the participants.

1.2 The Chairman invited opening comments from the Commission members. No statements were made. The Chairman opened the floor for comments by the NGO observers. Mr Chris Poupard (NGO Chairman) made a short statement on behalf of the NGOs, NAC(05)X (Annex XX).

1.3 A list of participants at the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting of the Council and Commissions of NASCO is included on page XXX of this document.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The agenda, NAC(05)2 (Annex 1), was adopted with the understanding that item 8 (Impacts of Acid Rain on Atlantic Salmon) would be deferred for discussion in the Council.

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

3.1 Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker (USA) served as rapporteur.

4. Review of the 2004 Fishery and ACFM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

4.1 The representative of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM), Dr Walter Crozier, reviewed the 2004 fisheries in the NAC area and presented scientific advice relevant to the Commission, CNL(05)8. The ACFM report, which contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page XXX of this document. The presentation overheads are contained in document CNL(05)XX.

4.2 The NAC members had no questions on the scientific advice. The Commission took note that it was Dr Crozier's last meeting presenting advice as Chair of the North Atlantic Salmon Working Group. The Parties expressed their sincere appreciation for his excellent work.

5. Review and Discussion of the 2005 Canadian and US Salmon Management Measures as they relate to the Mandate of the Commission and to the Findings of the ACFM Report from ICES

5.1 A representative of the United States presented a report on US Atlantic salmon management and research activities in 2004, NAC(05)5 (Annex X).

5.2 A representative of Canada reviewed Canadian Atlantic salmon management measures for 2005, NAC(05)6 (Annex X)

6. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

6.1 A representative of France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) presented information with respect to its salmon fishing activities and its scientific monitoring program for salmon, CNL(05)28.

6.2 The representative of the United States thanked France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) for its presentation. She noted strong support for the work France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) has undertaken, underscoring the vital nature of the scientific monitoring aspects. She expressed the hope that this work would continue and expand.

6.3 The NAC encouraged the continued cooperation of France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) with NASCO, including participation as an observer in NASCO's annual meetings.

7. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

7.1 A representative of the United States presented a report on the 2004-05 activities of the NAC Scientific Working Group on Salmonid Introductions and Transfers, NAC(05)4 (Annex X).

7.2 To address outstanding issues concerning the NAC Protocols on Introductions and Transfers, the representative of Canada introduced a memorandum of understanding on this matter, which had been agreed with the United States, NAC(05)7 (Annex X). In particular, the MOU is meant to reconcile the differences between the methods used by the United States and Canada for authorization of introductions and transfers.

7.3 Given the relevance of this MOU to the Williamsburg Resolution, the NAC agreed to recommend to the Council that the MOU be appended to that document.

7.4 The NAC members noted that the MOU addressed the need to revise the NAC Protocols and noted their pleasure that this issue had finally been successfully resolved.

8. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery

8.1 The representative of Canada drew the Commission's attention to document NAC(05)6 (Annex XX) for information on sampling in Labrador.

9. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

9.1 The draw for the NAC prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was made by the Auditor on 27 May 2005. The winning tag was of Canadian origin. The tag was applied to a late run wild salmon on 13 September 2004 at the DFO trapnet on the Southwest Miramichi River at Millerton, New Brunswick, and was recaptured later that year in the Miramichi watershed. The winner of the Commission's prize of \$1500 was Mr Benjamin O. Azenedo, Jr., of Niantic, Connecticut, USA. The Commission offered its congratulations to the winner.

10. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice

10.1 The Commission members reviewed the relevant section of document SSC(05)02. The main change from the advice request of previous years was the move to seek multi-annual catch advice (2006-08). This change was initiated in response to the recommendation from the Next Steps Working Group to consider the feasibility of adopting multi-annual regulatory measures. It was recognized that if there was interest in adopting such measures, the overall nature and scope of the request for scientific advice could be affected as well as the ICES/NASCO MOU.

10.2 The NAC agreed to recommend the relevant section of document SSC(05)02 to the Council as part of the annual request to ICES for scientific advice. The request to ICES, as agreed by the Council, is contained in document CNL(05)XX (Annex XX).

11. Other Business

11.1 The Chairman expressed his gratitude to the members of the Commission for their help in ensuring an efficient and productive meeting. He also thanked the NASCO Secretariat and the Rapporteur for their hard work.

11.2 The Parties thanked Mr Beaupré for his excellent job at chairing the Commission meeting, particularly in light of the late notice that the NAC Chairman would be unable to attend the meeting.

11.3 There was no other business.

12. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

12.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at the same time and place as the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the Council, 5-9 June 2006.

13. Report of the Meeting

13.1 The Commission agreed a report of the meeting, NAC(05)3.

Note: The annexes mentioned above begin on page XX, following the French translation of the report of the meeting. A list of North American Commission papers is included in Annex X on page XX of this document.