

North American Commission

NAC(05)7

Memorandum of Understanding between Canada and USA

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Preamble

The North American Commission (NAC) of NASCO recognizes the potential effects that introductions and transfers of aquatic species can have on fish health, genetics, and their ecology. In 2003, NASCO adopted the Williamsburg Resolution which referenced the NAC Protocols as contained in NAC(92)24 and ancillary document NAC(94)14. In Canada, the National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms was adopted in 2001. It is acknowledged that Canada and the United States utilize different methods within their countries for authorization of introductions and transfers. This Memorandum of Understanding is meant to reconcile the differences between the methods used but recognizes the common goal is the conservation and protection of wild Atlantic salmon.

Memorandum of Understanding

Canada and the United States have agreed to record the following in connection with the introductions and transfers of salmonids in the North American (NAC) area:

A. Authorizations of Introductions and Transfers

In Canada, the National Code on Introductions and Transfers of Aquatic Organisms is the mechanism for approval of introductions and transfers which is authorized by permits. In the United States, state and federal permits are the mechanisms for authorizing introductions and transfers.

B. Requirement to Report

The Parties agree to report to the NAC annually on any decision made under their respective jurisdiction that has an impact on the other jurisdiction. In particular, any decisions made that are not consistent with the NAC Protocols will be identified.

C. Requirement to Consult

The Parties agree to consult with each other if either jurisdiction receives a proposal for an introduction or transfer that may have an impact on the other, including any proposal that would be inconsistent with the NAC Protocols.

D. Need for Review

The Parties agree to convene the NAC Scientific Working Group, from time to time, to review the provisions of the Williamsburg Resolution with respect to developments that may have an application on introductions and transfers in the NAC area and provide recommendations to the Parties for their consideration and action, if required.