

## **NAC(06)3**

### ***Draft Report of the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the North American Commission Hotel Riekonlinna, Saariselkä, Finland 5-9 June, 2006***

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

- 1.1 Chairman George Lapointe (USA) opened the 2006 meeting of the North American Commission and welcomed the participants.
- 1.2 The Chairman invited opening remarks from Commission members. No Statements were made. The Chairman opened the floor for comments by NGOs present. Mr. Chris Poupard (NGO Chairman) nominated Ms. Sue Scott (ASF) to make a statement on behalf of the NGOs (Annex 1).

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

- 2.1 The agenda, NAC(06)5 (Annex 2), was adopted with the understanding that item 9 would be dealt with at the full Council.

#### **3. Nomination of a Rapporteur**

- 3.1 Mr. Murray Hill (Canada) served as rapporteur.

#### **4. Election of Officers**

- 4.1 The representative for Canada, Mr. Guy Beaupré, nominated current Chairman George Lapointe to again serve as Chair. Mr. Lapointe accepted the nomination.
- 4.2 The representative for the US, Ms. Mary Colligan, nominated Guy Beaupré to again serve as Vice Chair. Mr. Beaupré accepted the nomination.

#### **5. Review of the 2005 Fishery and ACFM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

- 5.1 The representative of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM), Mr.. Tim Sheehan, reviewed the 2005 fisheries in the North American Commission area and presented scientific advice relevant to the Commission.
- 5.2 The representative of the US requested elaboration on the coastal fishery of Labrador, expressing concern with the apparent increase in percentage catch in 2005 over 2004. Mr.. Sheehan deferred to a representative of the Canadian delegation who elaborated in detail regarding Canada's continuing efforts to manage this Aboriginal food, social and ceremonial fishery. He outlined the success Canada has had in reducing the catch of MSW salmon by 20% in 2005 through a combination of the timing, mesh size, and the use of log books. He also indicated current negotiations were aimed at further reducing the exploitation of MSW's in this fishery and gathering additional catch

data. He remains hopeful of further progress but acknowledged the complexity of these negotiations.

- 5.3 The US thanked the representative from Canada for the continuing efforts to reduce MSW exploitation and gather additional catch information, expressing an appreciation for the complexity and delicacy of the situation.

**6. Review and Discussion of the 2006 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**

- 6.1 A representative of the US presented a report on US Atlantic salmon management and research activities in 2005, NAC (06)4.

- 6.2 A representative of Canada reported on Canadian Atlantic salmon management and research activities in 2005, elaborating on the information presented by Mr.. Sheehan in his ACFM ICES report.

**7. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

- 7.1 A representative of France (in respect to St. Pierre and Miquelon) presented information with respect to its salmon fishing activities and its scientific monitoring program for salmon, CNL (06)23.

- 7.2 The representative for the US thanked France (in respect to St. Pierre and Miquelon) for its presentation and their efforts to address this fishery. However, she expressed concern that the 2005 catch reports were the highest in the time series. She also requested additional opportunities for discussion on the management measures and the actions being taken to control and reduce catches. The representative from France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) noted the concerns, re-affirmed France's commitment to reduce the licenses and catch levels for this fishery, and explained that there are negotiations currently occurring to discuss these issues.

- 7.3 The representative for Canada also thanked the representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) for its presentation and offered the assistance of Canadian scientists to assist in data analysis of the genetic component of the catch from this fishery. The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) thanked Canada for its generous offer and acknowledged the need for additional information on the genetics of the fishery.

- 7.4 The representative of the US expressed concern that the sampling I 2005 did not include genetic analysis and urged collection of genetic samples in future years.

- 7.5 The NGO representative asked for additional information on the recreational aspects of this fishery. The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) indicated there was no commercial sale of these fish and they were either consumed by the fisher or given away.

## **8. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers**

8.1 The representative for Canada noted the MOU signed between Canada and the US in 2004 and the agreement to share information between the Parties should decisions be made that potentially affect the other Party. He noted the recent meeting of the two Parties and the discussion on this and other topics.

8.2 The representative for the US also noted their continuing support for the 2004 MOU and made reference to the recent bi-lateral discussion on this and other topics. The US noted that aquaculture issues were also discussed, including mandatory reporting of losses, acknowledging the point raised by the NGOs in their opening statement.

## **9. Impacts of Acid Rain on Atlantic Salmon**

9.1 It was agreed by the Parties that this matter would be dealt with by the full Council.

## **10. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery**

10.1 It was agreed by the Parties that this matter had been dealt with in the extensive report given by the representative from Canada during the discussion on the ACFM ICES report.

## **11. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize**

11.1 The draw for the North American Commission prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was made by the Auditor on May 24. The winning tag was Canadian in origin. The tag was applied to a 78.5cm female salmon on 1 August 2005 at the tagging trap at Millerton. It was recaptured and then released 22 km upstream on 5 August 2005 at the Home Pool of the Mountain Channel Lodge near Blackville, New Brunswick, on the Main Southwest Miramichi River. The winner of the Commission prize of 1,500 US dollars was Mr. Harrison C. Noyes, Mystic, Connecticut, USA. The Commission offered its congratulations to the winner.

## **12. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice**

12.1 As these were still being drafted, the Parties agreed to circulate the documents informally and seek agreement on them in that manner.

## **13. Other Business**

13.1 There was no other business.

## **14. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

14.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at the same time and place as the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Council in 2006.

## **15. Report of the Meeting**

15.1 The Commission agreed a report of the meeting.

