

NAC(07)4

*Draft Report of the Twenty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the North American
Commission
Harborside Hotel & Marina, Bar Harbor, Maine, USA
4-8 June, 2007*

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chairman, Mr George Lapointe (USA), opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to Bar Harbor.
- 1.2 The representative of the NGOs, Ms Sue Scott, made an opening statement on behalf of the NGOs (Annex 1).
- 1.3 A list of participants is given in Annex 2.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its agenda, NAC(06)xx (Annex 3).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 The Commission appointed Mr Maurice Mallet (Canada) as rapporteur.

4. Review of the 2006 Fishery and ACFM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

- 4.1 The representative of ICES, Mr Tim Sheehan, presented the scientific advice relevant to the North American Commission, CNL(07)7. The ACFM report, which contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page xx of this document.

5. Review and Discussion of the 2007 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 The representative of the US tabled a report on its Atlantic salmon management and research activities in 2006, NAC(07)3 (Annex 4). This report provided information on adult returns, stock enhancement programs, tagging and marking programs, the fisheries, commercial aquaculture production, habitat conservation, enhancement and restoration; the Endangered Gulf of Maine Population Segment and additional items of interest.
- 5.2 The representative of Canada tabled a review of its Atlantic salmon management measures for 2007, NAC(07)5 (Annex 5). The report described three major initiatives introduced in 2007 that will positively affect Atlantic salmon conservation. These are: modernization of the Fisheries Act to put emphasis on the Precautionary Approach to

conserve fish and other resources; the introduction to stakeholders of a draft Wild Atlantic Salmon Conservation Policy, the first overhaul of these policies since 1986; and the establishment of an Atlantic Salmon Endowment Fund to which the Federal Government has contributed Can\$30 million. The report also described the regional plans for the management of the aboriginal and recreational fisheries in 2007. There is no commercial salmon fishery in Canada.

6. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

- 6.1 The Secretary introduced a report provided by France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon), CNL(07)20, containing updated information from the French authorities on the regulatory framework for managing the fishery, providing catch statistics and information on the number and type of licences issued, and describing the sampling programme conducted in 2006. The Commission believed that it would be beneficial if France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) became a Party to the NASCO Convention. The Commission decided to ask the Council to pursue this matter with the French authorities.

7. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

- 7.1 The Parties agreed to meet inter-sessionally to improve communication on aquaculture and other related issues. The intention would be to hold this meeting prior to the Fall. Terms of Reference for the meeting were developed, NAC(07)xx (Annex 6).

8. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery

- 8.1 The Commission agreed that details of sampling in the Labrador salmon fishery in 2006 had been covered in the presentation by ICES. The representative of Canada confirmed that a similar sampling programme would be in place for the 2007 fishery.

9. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 9.1 The draw for the North American Commission prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was made by the Auditor on 9 May. The winning tag was of Canadian origin. The tag was applied to a 57.8cm male grilse on in August 2006 at a trap-net on the Northwest Miramichi River. It was recaptured on the Little Southwest Miramichi River at Conner's Bogan. The winner of the Commission prize of US\$1,500 was Mr Frank H Somers, Whitney, New Brunswick, Canada. 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 decided to agree its request to ICES when the full request is presented to the Council.

11. Other Business

- 11.1 The Commission agreed that discussions with regard to the development of a research plan for the North-West Atlantic component of the SALSEA Programme would continue during the summer with a view to resolving the issue at the inter-sessional meeting on introductions and transfers.

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-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Council in 2008.

13. Report of the Meeting

- [13.1 The Commission agreed a report of the meeting.]