

## NAC(13)7

### *Draft Report of the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission*

*Westcourt Hotel, Drogheda, Ireland*

*4 - 7 June, 2013*

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

- 1.1 Chairman, Stephen Gephard (US) opened the meeting and welcome delegates to the thirtieth meeting of the North American Commission.
- 1.2 The NGO representative made an opening statement and expressed significant concern regarding the mixed stock fishery at West Greenland, in particular after the discussion in the West Greenland Commission. (Annex 1)

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

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda NAC(13)2 (Annex 2).

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

- 3.1 Doug Twining (Canada) was appointed Rapporteur.

#### **4. Review of the 2012 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

- 4.1 The representative of ICES, Ian Russell, presented the Report from ICES on the status of Salmon stocks in the Commission Area. The review of the framework of indications concluded that there were no significant changes and no requirement for new advice. The ICES advisory committee (ACOM) report is included ( ).

The Representative of the United States thanked the chair and the co chair for their work. The representative of Canada did the same.

The representative of France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon (SPM) questioned what the reference to seasonal coverage of sampling meant. The ICES representative indicated that the samples should be representative of the catch, spatially and temporally.

#### **5. Management Objectives for Salmon Stocks in the US and Scotia-Fundy Region of Canada.**

- 5.1 The chair reminded the committee that at the twenty-ninth meeting the US had tabled a paper NAC (12)4 (Annex 8), on management objectives for stocks in the United States and the Scotia-Fundy Region of Canada, and that the parties agreed to discuss

this issue at an intercessional meeting that resulted in development of US paper NAC (13)4(Annex 3). Tim Sheehan (US) provided an overview of the paper that suggests new management targets and qualified that the US retained the right to revisit these objectives in case of changes to the stocks in future.

The representative of Canada noted that recovery objectives have been defined for the three Designatable Units of Atlantic salmon (Outer Bay of Fundy, Southern Uplands of Nova Scotia, and eastern Cape Breton, Nova Scotia) that comprise the Scotia-Fundy region. Canada is not in a position at this time to revise objectives; however, we are open to participating in a process to review this issue.

## **6. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

6.1 The chair referenced CNL(13)15 (Annex 4) and invited the representative of France (in respect of SPM) to provided an overview of the paper and of the fishery in 2012.

She advised that the number of controls in 2012 was 310 up from 60 in 2011. France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) worked to improve management before the start of the 2013 season with information meetings being held in SPM both for the professional and recreational fishermen.

- The permanent scientist in SPM gave presentations on the biology and migrations of salmon and the work objectives of NASCO.
- Maritime affairs administration presented the new “carnet de peche” including reminders of the regulations to be used to mandatorily collect data on a daily basis: catch size, time of day and place of catching.

### Research and sampling

There is not enough scientific data to update the report: only two fish were sampled while the objective was for 20-25 fish around Miquelon. The objective remains to sample at least 20-25 in 2013 and identify the origin with the Northwest Atlantic baseline data.

A France/Canada workshop was held in 2012 (financed by the Territorial Council and Ministry overseas) held in SPM. Scientists from Quebec and France – Boulogne, met to carry analysis of salmon scales. The workshop outlined to importance of the inter-lab collaboration exercise, and ended with common annotation of some scale images to start a reference collection of Northwest Atlantic salmon (report available online) **WHAT IS THE LINK???**

6.2 The representative of Canada asked if France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) intends to join NASCO in the foreseeable future.

6.3 France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) indicated that a letter from NASCO on this issue had been received and that a response would be coming. However, it was noted that at this time France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) would likely elect to remain as an observer and provide catch and sampling data in a transparent manner.

- 6.4 The representative of the US echoed Canada's interest in France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) joining NASCO. The US has concern for every fish withdrawn given to low numbers returning to rivers in the US. The US believes that joining NASCO will assist with data collection and the management of the catch /fishery would be part of a larger plan.

The US appreciates the commitment of France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) to data collection and the meetings with the fishermen referred to earlier. The US offered to accept and process scale samples from the fishery.

- 6.5 Canada indicated that the response from France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) was expected and that Canada will continue to press this matter bi-laterally. Canada doesn't think the effort put into sampling is enough, and while it has offered to assist in the genetic analysis no progress has been made on this issue. Canada continues to extend the offer to assist the scientist in SPM with data collection and analysis.
- 6.6 France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) thanked both Canada and the US for the offer of assistance and that in the past sample had to be sent to a laboratory in France, however, they may be ready to have samples analysis completed in north America.
- 6.7 The NGO representative asked for clarification on the reason why the catch by the professional fishermen has decreased in 2012. France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) was unaware of any specific reason for this. The NGO representative also asked if the reduction in fish caught by the professional fishermen was related to aquaculture fish from neighboring Newfoundland entering the market. Canada is unaware that aquaculture fish is being shipped to SPM. The NGO also asked if there are management measures for the fisheries including quotas and/or tags. The representative of France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) indicated that there are reporting requirements; however, there is no quota and tags are not required.

## **7. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers**

- 7.1 The representative of the US presented its annual NAC report, NAC (13) 3 (Annex 4) and summarized the number of: (1) disease incidences, (2) number of breach of containment, and (3) summary of introductions of salmonids from outside the commission area. The US provided an overview of an existing application to the food and drug administration to sell genetically modified salmon raised in facilities outside of the United States (Panama). The proposal was for processed, table ready salmon to enter the United States. The FDA is considering the proposal but has found no significant impact.
- 7.2 The representative of Canada presented its annual NAC report, NAC (13) 5 (Annex 5) and summarized the number of: (1) disease incidences, (2) number of breach of containment, and (3) summary of introductions of salmonids from outside the commission area. Canada also informed the commission that while there had been three applications from companies on the east coast to import small numbers of Norwegian –origin Atlantic salmon from an Icelandic facility for the purpose of conducting performance trials in net cages at sea. All these requests were denied, due

in part to the uncertainty surrounding growth, survival, and reproduction of potential farm escapes.

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

8.1 Canada had earlier provided an update on this issue during the Council meeting. A summary is attached in Annex 6.

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

9.1 The Chair announced that the draw for the North American commission prize in the NASCO Tag Incentive Scheme was made by the auditor on May 9, 2013. The winning tag was of ????origin and had been applied to a ????salmon in the ????? on ?????. It was recaptured during ?????. the winner of the \$1,500 prize is ??????.

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

10.1 The commission considered the draft report of the Standing Scientific Committee (SSC(13)?) (Annex 7). The questions posed were similar to previous years.

## **11. Other Business**

11.1

## **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 Thirty first Annual Meeting of the council in 2014.

## **13. Report of the Meeting**

13.1 The commission agreed on a report of the meeting.

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 **XX**.