

**Council**

**CNL(09)3**

*Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda*

**Notes:**

- **Under the conditions for attendance by observers, the President may recognise requests from the floor by the accredited NGO Chairperson and/or designee on all agenda items other than items 2 and 3.**
- **A summary of all the decisions before the Council will be presented in document CNL(09)19.**

## **CNL(09)3**

### ***Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda***

#### **1. Opening Session**

The Opening Session is open to the public. The President will make a statement on behalf of the Organization and wishes to encourage a brief Opening Statement by each Party. The President will also invite statements from any Inter-Government Organizations present and from the nominated representatives of accredited Non-Government Organizations.

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

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda (CNL(09)1) was issued to the Parties on 28 January 2009. The Parties may propose supplementary items by informing the Secretary. None have been received although Heads of Delegation agreed by correspondence to delete agenda item 6.6 'Impacts of Acid Rain on Atlantic salmon' from the Provisional Agenda. A Draft Agenda (CNL(09)2) is therefore being issued herewith. The Council will be asked to adopt an Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(09)4) has been issued.

#### **3. Financial and Administrative Issues**

##### **3.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee**

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Dr Boris Prischepa (Russian Federation), will present a report of the Committee's meeting to the Council (CNL(09)5). The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2010 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2008;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2009 accounts;
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

#### **4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information**

##### **4.1 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary will report to the Council on a number of procedural, administrative, financial and other matters, including details of applications for NGO observer status to NASCO, CNL(09)6.

#### **4.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2008**

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2008 (CNL(09)7). This report is not intended for publication.

#### **4.3 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize**

The President will announce the winner of the Grand Prize of \$2,500. The winners of the Commission prizes of \$1,500 will be announced in each of the Commissions by the Chairman.

#### **4.4 Scientific Advice from ICES**

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), (CNL(09)8), will be circulated by ICES and will be briefly introduced at the meeting by a representative of ICES. The detailed advice will be considered by the Commissions separately at their meetings. ICES will be requested to make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available to NASCO delegates on the ICES website.

#### **4.5 Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area**

In 1996, the Council unanimously adopted a Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing, CNL(96)60. The Secretary will advise the Council of any requests to conduct research fishing since the last Annual Meeting. The President will invite brief reports on research fishing conducted in the last year.

#### **4.6 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

The Chairman of the Board, Dr Ken Whelan (EU) will present the report of the Board's meeting (CNL(09)9).

#### **4.7 Report of the Standing Scientific Committee**

The recommendations of the Standing Scientific Committee concerning the request to ICES for scientific advice will be presented by the Chairman of the Committee (CNL(09)10). The Council will be asked to adopt a request for scientific advice from ICES.

## 5. 'Next Steps' for NASCO

### 5.1 Special Session: Progress with the Next Steps Strategy

#### (a) *Final Report of the Fisheries Management Focus Area Review Group*

In 2007 the Council agreed that the first focus area under the Parties Implementation Plans would be the management of salmon fisheries. An *Ad Hoc* Review Group was established to review this focus area and in accordance with its Terms of Reference it reviewed the focus area reports and developed questions to the Parties. Its report was presented at the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting (CNL(08)13). The Council agreed that in addition to its remaining task of identifying the additional actions required to achieve NASCO's objectives, the Group should be asked to identify common challenges in managing salmon fisheries and approaches to addressing them and to compile information on best practice. This final report of the Fisheries Management Focus Area Review Group will be presented (CNL(09)11).

#### (b) *Draft Report of the Habitat Protection and Restoration Focus Area Review Group*

Last year the Council agreed that the second focus area reports should be on habitat protection, restoration and enhancement. Terms of Reference for the Group were agreed (CNL(08)33). The Review Group met in February 2009 and its draft report will be presented CNL(09)12. In accordance with its Terms of Reference the Review Group will develop its final report following the Annual Meeting in the light of the discussions during the Special Session. A compilation of the fisheries management and habitat Focus Area Reports will be issued on CD, CNL(09)13.

#### (c) *Progress in implementing a Public Relations Strategy*

In 2007, the Council decided that as a first step in implementing its Public Relations Strategy it would upgrade and improve the NASCO and IASRB websites and ask the Secretary to produce a model 'State of the Salmon' document using information from the Parties and from ICES. The Parties were also asked to provide the Secretariat with details of educational programmes concerning wild Atlantic salmon so that these could be included in a database of such programmes. Last year the Council received a report from a Public Relations Group which met during the Annual Meeting under the Chairmanship of Mr Chris Poupard, the Chairman of the NGOs. A report on progress in implementing a Public Relations Strategy will be presented CNL(09)14. The report will include an update on progress with the development of the rivers database.

### 5.2 Decisions by the Council in the light of the 'Next Steps for NASCO' Special Session

The Council will be asked to consider what further action it wishes to take with regard to the 'Next Steps' for NASCO. Last year the Council developed draft Terms of Reference for the third focus area report on aquaculture and related impacts, CNL(08)37. It was agreed that these Terms of Reference should be issued to the Parties so they could have an opportunity to comment on these by April 2009. A

report on any feedback received on the draft Terms of reference will be presented CNL(09)15. As indicated in paragraph 6.2 below, the Council also agreed to establish a Task Force to develop best practice with regard to minimising impacts of aquaculture on the wild stocks. This Task Force has met and presented an interim report to the Liaison Group and its findings need to be considered in finalising the TORs for the Review Group. The Council will be asked to agree Terms of Reference and appoint the members of the Review Group.

## **6. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach**

### **6.1 Annual Reports on Implementation Plans**

A compilation of the annual reports on the Implementation Plans will be presented CNL(09)16.

### **6.2 Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry**

The Council has previously noted the findings of the Bergen Symposium, the continued high level of escapes as presented to the Liaison Group, and the suggestion by ISFA of support for dissemination of information on best practice and collaborative problem-solving. Last year to advance this initiative the Council had agreed to propose to ISFA that a Task Force be set up comprising representatives of the Parties and an NGO representative and ISFA experts would be invited to participate. Terms of Reference for this Task Force were agreed. Following a meeting of the NASCO and ISFA Secretariats, on 10 November 2008, the industry had agreed to participate in the Task Force on the understanding that a Liaison Group meeting be held in conjunction with the Boston Seafood Show in March 2009 to allow for a progress report from the Task Force. The TORs for the Task Force are to identify a series of best practice guidance and standards to address the impacts of aquaculture on wild salmon stocks designed to achieve impact targets. A report on liaison with the salmon farming industry, including the progress of the Task Force, will be presented, CNL(09)16.

### **6.3 New or Emerging Opportunities for, or Threats to, Salmon Conservation and Management**

This agenda item was included for the first time in 2006 in accordance with the Strategic Approach for NASCO's 'Next Steps' (CNL(05)49). There will be an opportunity for any relevant information to be presented by the Parties. ICES has also been asked to report on any significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management.

### **6.4 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management**

In 2003 and 2004 reports on Technical Workshops on socio-economics were presented to the Council. These Workshops had:

- listed the elements making up the salmon's economic value and impacts;
- developed broad guidelines on the type of economic analysis that would be needed to produce estimates of value and the data required;
- developed guidelines for incorporating social and economic factors in decisions under the Precautionary Approach.

Under the 'Strategic Approach for NASCO's 'Next Steps'', CNL(05)49, it is noted that the key issues in relation to the social and economic aspects of the Atlantic Salmon include: ensuring that appropriate emphasis is given to the social and economic aspects; that these aspects are integrated into the decision making process in an open and transparent manner; and that information on these aspects is disseminated in order to ensure they are given due weight compared to other important commercial and public interests. In 2007 the Council established a Working Group on Socio-economics. An interim report on the first meeting of the Working Group was presented at the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting (CNL(08)17). Last year the Council agreed that the Group should continue with its work and that a Special Session on socio-economic issues should be held during the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting. However, as the Working Group has not met since the last Annual Meeting the proposal is that the special session be postponed until 2010. An update on the work of a sub-group established by the Working Group to develop information for the 'State of the Salmon' report and to conduct other work inter-sessionally will be presented.

#### **6.5 St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

In recent years the North American Commission and the Council have been concerned about catches of salmon at St Pierre and Miquelon which, although low, have been increasing at a time when there are serious worries about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the North-West Atlantic. In 2007 the Council asked the President of NASCO to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to accede to the Convention. Last year, the representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) indicated that having participated in the NASCO meeting France was open to increased cooperation with NASCO Parties. Information in relation to the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery and on any developments with regard to France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) acceding to the Convention will be presented, CNL(09)18. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting.

#### **6.6 Reports on the Work of the Three Regional Commissions**

The President will ask the Chairman of each of the regional Commissions of NASCO to report to the Council on the work of their Commission.

### **7. Other Business**

Any other business may be raised. In 2008 the representative of the EU provided information on the status and management of Baltic salmon. The Council agreed to

seek close cooperation on matters concerning Baltic salmon through the European Union and Russia. Any further information will be presented.

## **8. Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The Council has agreed to hold its Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting during 1 – 4 June 2010 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

The Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting may be held during 31 May – 3 June 2011 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

## **9. Report of the Meeting**

A draft report of the meeting will be circulated for the approval of the Council.

## **10. Press Release**

A draft Press Release will be prepared for consideration by the Council.

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
7 April 2009