

Agenda item 4.1
For information

CNL(09)6

Council

Applications for NGO Observer Status to NASCO

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1. At NASCO's Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting the Council considered an application for observer status from the Irish Seal Sanctuary (ISS). Details of this application and of the objectives of the ISS were contained in CNL(08)21. The Council decided that it needed more information in order to make an assessment of whether the ISS had objectives compatible with those of NASCO and how the ISS might be able to contribute to the work of NASCO. This clarification was sought and received from the ISS and after consultation among Heads of Delegations it was agreed that the Irish Seal Sanctuary should be granted observer status to NASCO.
2. Since the last Annual Meeting, there has been one new application for observer status to NASCO from the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (Annex 1). The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) advocates community based fisheries management on behalf of commercial fishermen and their communities around the Gulf of Maine and in other areas of the northeastern US, and also consults with community-based fisheries organizations in Atlantic coast provinces of Canada, in order to work towards its objectives. The organization's letter of application states that their focus on the importance of salmon habitat and the impacts of aquaculture are consistent with the objectives of NASCO, and that their work aims to enhance the recovery of salmon in US waters. Cleancatch, a former NASCO accredited NGO, is incorporated in the Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance. Following consultation with the President, NAMA was granted observer status to NASCO.
3. Both NAMA and the ISS have been advised of, and have accepted, the conditions governing NGO status to NASCO. In total, NASCO now has 35 accredited NGOs as listed in Annex 2.

Secretary
Edinburgh
11 May 2009

4 September 2008

**Extract from Application for Observer Status from Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance
(NAMA)**

The Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance (NAMA) wishes to apply for Observer status with the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). NAMA has existed since 1998 as a non-profit organization [501(c)(3) in US tax code], which advocates community based fisheries management on behalf of commercial fishermen and their communities around the Gulf of Maine and in other areas of the northeastern US. We also consult with community-based fisheries organizations in Atlantic coast provinces of Canada, where we find models useful in developing our management strategy.

We are also concerned about habitat factors that may be inhibiting the recovery of fish populations and fisheries – factors such as warming waters, toxic pollution and excessive nutrient inflow. Since these may be key in areas where depleted fisheries have not adequately recovered despite reductions in fishing effort, we are working to make them part of the fishery management framework. And we work for the conservation of forage species that are essential to the recovery of depleted and endangered fish populations, including salmon.

Part of our work includes the effects of fishery management and habitat quality on protected species, which in the US includes Atlantic Salmon. We have raised questions about the industrial-scale forage fishery in the Gulf of Maine, where the only remaining US populations of Atlantic Salmon reside. We are concerned that bycatch in these fisheries could include Atlantic Salmon.

Finally, we are concerned about the impact of large scale aquaculture and especially salmon aquaculture on wild fish populations in the northwest Atlantic. This includes intense aquaculture development in Canada and potential increases in salmon aquaculture in the Gulf of Maine and along the northeast coast of the US.

While NAMA's work does not focus exclusively on Atlantic Salmon, our work should enhance the recovery of that species in US waters. Our focus on the importance of habitat and impacts of salmon aquaculture, as well as our efforts to implement ecosystem based fisheries management, are consistent with NASCO's objectives. Because of the strong role NASCO plays in the conservation of Atlantic salmon and the organization's work on habitat and aquaculture impacts, the proceedings directly affect our work in the US Gulf of Maine where Atlantic Salmon live as protected endangered species.

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS WITH OBSERVER STATUS TO NASCO

Association of Icelandic Angling Clubs	(based in Iceland)
Association Internationale de Défense du Saumon Atlantique	(based in France)
Association of Salmon Fishery Boards	(based in the UK)
Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation	(based in Canada)
Atlantic Salmon Federation	(based in Canada)
Atlantic Salmon Federation	(based in USA)
Atlantic Salmon Trust	(based in the UK)
Coalition Clean Baltic	(based in Sweden)
College of the Atlantic	(based in USA)
Connecticut River Salmon Association	(based in USA)
Conservatoire National du Saumon Sauvage	(based in France)
Coomhola Salmon Trust Limited	(based in Ireland)
European Anglers Alliance	(based in the Netherlands)
Faroes Sportsfishing Association	(based in the Faroe Islands)
Federation of Icelandic River Owners	(based in Iceland)
Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers	(based in Ireland)
Fédération Québécoise pour le Saumon Atlantique	(based in Canada)
Greenpeace International	(based in the Netherlands)*
Institute of Fisheries Management	(based in the UK)
Irish Seal Sanctuary	(based in Ireland)
Marine and Environmental Law Institute	(based in Canada)
National Anglers Representative Association	(based in Ireland)
Norges Bondelag (Norwegian Farmers Union)	(based in Norway)
Norges Jeger og Fiskerforbund (Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers)	(based in Norway)
Norske Lakseelver (Norwegian Salmon Rivers)	(based in Norway)
Northwest Atlantic Marine Alliance	(based in USA)
Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland	(based in the UK)
Salmon and Trout Association	(based in the UK)
Salmon Watch Ireland	(based in Ireland)
Sami Parlamenta	(based in Finland)
Scottish Anglers National Association	(based in the UK)
Ulster Angling Federation Limited	(based in the UK)
World Wide Fund for Nature (Norway)	(based in Norway)
WWF (France)	(based in France)
World Wildlife Fund (US)	(based in USA)

Note: The NGO accreditation of Greenpeace International has been suspended by the Council.