

Council

CNL(10)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, 3 and 4.**
- **A summary of all the decisions before the Council will be presented in document CNL(10)19.**

CNL(10)3

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

1. Opening Session

The Opening Session is open to the public. The Acting President, Ms Mary Colligan (USA), will make a statement on behalf of the Organization and wishes to encourage a brief Opening Statement by each Party. The Acting 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(10)1) was issued to the Parties on 21 January 2010. The Parties may propose supplementary items by informing the Secretary. None have been received. A Draft Agenda (CNL(10)2) is being issued herewith. The Council will be asked to adopt an Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(10)4) has been issued.

3. Election of Officers

Following the withdrawal of Iceland from NASCO, the Heads of Delegations agreed that in accordance with the Council's Rules of Procedure the current Vice-President would act as President until the next meeting of the Council, on which occasion a new President will be elected to serve for the remainder of the predecessor's term of office. Accordingly, from 1 January 2010 the Vice-President, Ms Mary Colligan (USA) has assumed the powers and responsibilities of President in place of Mr Arni Isaksson (Iceland). The Council will be asked to elect a new President.

4. Financial and Administrative Issues

4.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee, Dr Boris Prischepa (Russian Federation), will present the report of the Committee's meeting to the Council, CNL(10)5. The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2011 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2009;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2010 accounts;
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

5.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary will report to the Council on a number of procedural, administrative, financial and other matters, including details of any applications for NGO observer status to NASCO, CNL(10)6.

5.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2009

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2009, CNL(10)7. This report is not intended for publication.

5.3 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.

5.4 Scientific Advice from ICES

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(10)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.

5.5 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. Reports on research fishing conducted in the last year will be covered in the report of the IASRB (see paragraph 5.6 below).

5.6 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

The Chairman of the Board, Professor Ken Whelan (EU), will present the report of the Board's meeting, CNL(10)9.

5.7 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, Dr Peter Hutchinson, CNL(10)10. The Council will be asked to adopt a request for scientific advice from ICES.

6. 'Next Steps' for NASCO

6.1 Special Session: Progress with the Next Steps Strategy

(a) *Final Report of the Habitat Protection, Restoration and Enhancement Focus Area Review Group*

In 2008 the Council agreed that the second focus area reports should be on habitat protection, restoration and enhancement. The Review Group met in February 2009 and its draft report CNL(09)12 was presented last year. The Review Group's final report will be presented, CNL(10)11. In accordance with its Terms of Reference, the Group has developed an overview of common management and scientific approaches to challenges as reported in the FARs and has compiled guidance on habitat protection, restoration and enhancement. As requested by the Council, it also reviewed new FARs received by the Secretariat by 1 September 2009.

(b) *Draft Report of the Aquaculture and Related Activities Focus Area Review Group*

In 2009 the Council agreed that the third focus area reports should be on Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics. As agreed by the Council last year, its TORs, CNL(09)15, were amended to incorporate the elements included in the Guidance on Best Management Practices to Address Impacts of Sea Lice and Escaped Farmed Salmon on Wild Salmon Stocks, SLG(09)5, developed by the Liaison Group's Task Force. The Review Group's draft report will be presented, CNL(10)12. A compilation of the Aquaculture, Introductions and Transfers and Transgenics FARs will be issued on CD, CNL(10)13. All Implementation Plans and FARs are also available on the NASCO website.

(c) *Progress in Implementing a Public Relations Strategy*

Last year the Council received a report from the Chairman of its PR Sub-Group, Mr Chris Poupard, on progress with re-designing the NASCO and IASRB websites and other aspects of a PR Strategy for NASCO. The Council had welcomed the excellent progress made and agreed that the priority for the coming year was the inclusion of the information from the rivers database. The PR Group was also asked to continue its work in developing a network of media contacts in the Parties and in identifying PR opportunities. A report on progress will be presented.

6.2 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 in the light of the Special Session. It is assumed that until the 'Next Steps' Review Group (see paragraph 6.3) has reported the next cycle of reporting on Focus Areas will not begin.

6.3 Arrangements for a Review of the ‘Next Steps’ Process

At its 2008 Annual Meeting the Council decided that at its 2010 Annual Meeting it would set up a Review Group to assess the whole of the ‘Next Steps’ process and any other NASCO related topics that it deems relevant in accordance with the spirit of UNGA Resolution 61/05. It agreed that this Group would be asked to report on what the process had delivered, where it had worked well, where it needed to be adjusted or changed and how the next cycle should operate. This Group would advise the Council on the need for, and format of, a further performance review. The Council will be asked to consider TORs for this Review Group, CNL(10)14.

7. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Atlantic Salmon under the Precautionary Approach

7.1 Annual Reports on Implementation Plans

Annual reports on Implementation Plans by each jurisdiction will be issued. A compilation of these annual reports will be presented, CNL(10)15.

7.2 Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

In 2008, the Council had established a Task Force comprising representatives of the Parties, the NGOs and the aquaculture industry to identify a series of best practice guidance to address the continuing impacts of aquaculture on the wild salmon stocks. Subsequently, Terms of Reference were agreed by the International Salmon Farmer’s Association (ISFA) and NASCO. This Task Force reported to the Liaison Group in March 2009 and to the Council at its Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting. The Council adopted ‘Guidance on Best Management Practices to Address Impacts of Sea Lice and Escaped Farmed Salmon on Wild Salmon Stocks’, SLG(09)5. This Guidance, which had previously been agreed by ISFA, was incorporated into the TORs for the Focus Area Review Group on Aquaculture and Related Activities to assist the jurisdictions in identifying in their FARs the extent to which their management programmes incorporate these best management practices, in presenting data to indicate progress towards the international goals and in identifying ongoing or planned research.

The Task Force had proposed that it might be helpful to jurisdictions if it continued its work so as to develop an explanation of terminology used in the BMP Guidance and a decision tree to assist the jurisdictions in applying the guidance and to understand its relationship to national Codes and to the Williamsburg Resolution. The Task Force, therefore, held a second meeting on 19 and 20 November 2009 and its report will be considered at a Liaison Group meeting to be held on 29 and 30 April 2010. The Liaison Group will also consider the draft report of the Aquaculture and Related Activities FARs Review Group. The report of the Liaison Group meeting (which will include the report of the second Task Force meeting) will be presented, CNL(10)16.

7.3 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.

7.4 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

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 of the first meeting of the Working Group was presented at the Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting (CNL(08)17). The Working Group had established a Sub-Group to develop information for the 'State of the Salmon' report and to conduct other work inter-sessionally. A report on the work of the Sub-Group was presented at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting and the Council agreed a work programme for the Sub-Group for the period 2010-2012. A report on the progress of the Sub-Group will be presented, CNL(10)17.

There will be a presentation entitled 'Aboriginal and Treaty Rights in Canada's Atlantic Salmon Fisheries'.

7.5 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 Northwest 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 Council was advised that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) wished to have its representation at NASCO as an observer confirmed. The Council had authorised the President to respond to indicate NASCO's disappointment at this decision, to seek support for expanding the sampling programme at St Pierre and Miquelon to include genetic analysis and to ask that information on the fishery and the sampling programme be made available earlier in the year. Any new 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(10)18. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting.

7.6 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.

8. Other Business

Any other business may be raised. In 2008 the Council agreed to seek close cooperation on matters concerning Baltic salmon through the European Union and Russia. There will be an opportunity for any new information to be presented.

9. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The Council will be asked to accept an invitation to hold its Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting during 7-10 June 2011.

The Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting may be held during 5-8 June 2012 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
9 April 2010