

Council

CNL(12)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(12)15.**

CNL(12)3

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

1. Opening Session

The Opening Session is open to the public. The President, Ms Mary Colligan (USA), will make a statement on behalf of the Organization and wishes to encourage an 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(12)1) was issued to the Parties on 27 January 2012. The Parties may propose supplementary items by informing the Secretary. None have been received. A Draft Agenda (CNL(12)2) is being issued herewith. The Council will be asked to adopt an Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(12)4) has been issued.

3. Election of Officers

In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the Council will be asked to elect a President and Vice-President. The President (Ms. Mary Colligan, USA) and Vice-President (Mr Steinar Hermansen, Norway) are both eligible for re-election.

4. Financial and Administrative Issues

4.1 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee will present the report of the Committee's meeting to the Council, CNL(12)5. The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2013 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2011;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2012 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(12)6.

5.2 Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2011

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2011, CNL(12)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(12)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 has been 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 accordance with the 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 5.7 below).

5.6 Report on the NASCO/ICES 'Salmon Summit'

A report will be made on the NASCO/ICES 'Salmon Summit', an international symposium entitled 'Salmon at Sea: Scientific Advances and their Implications for Management' held in La Rochelle, France during 11 – 13 October 2011.

5.7 Report of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

The Chairman of the Board, Mr Raoul Bierach (Norway), will present the report of the Board's meeting, CNL(12)9.

5.8 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(12)10. The Council will be asked to adopt a request for scientific advice from ICES.

6. Report of the External Performance Review Panel

- 6.1 Last year the Council adopted Terms of Reference for an external performance review of its work (CNL(11)44). Mr Michael Shewchuk (nominated by UNDOALOS), Ms Judith Swan (nominated by FAO) and Mr Kjartan Hoydal (former Secretary of NEAFC) were appointed to serve on the panel. The panel's remit included to examine the past, present and future of NASCO and the fitness of the Organization given the current challenges facing the salmon and provide a report which critically evaluates the performance of NASCO and makes recommendations for change and improvement. The report of the Performance Review Panel (CNL(12)11) will be presented.

7. Progress with the Next Steps Strategy

7.1 Report of the Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of these Reports

In 2011, following the review of the 'Next Steps' strategy, the Council agreed to establish a Working Group on Future Reporting under Implementation Plans and Evaluation of these Reports. The Group was asked to complete its work prior to the external performance review. The Group's Terms of Reference included: the development of new guidelines for the preparation of Implementation Plans; the development of a process for the review of Implementation Plans and Annual Reports; and the development of a schedule for the development and review of Implementation Plans, submission and review of the Annual Reports, and planning for and conduct of theme-based FAR Special Sessions. The Working Group's report will be presented CNL(12)12.

7.2 Progress in Implementing a Public Relations Strategy

A report on progress in further developing the NASCO and IASRB websites and on incorporating the rivers database on the website will be presented.

Note: Agenda items 6 and 7 are designated as a Special Session where all delegates are encouraged to participate.

8. Decisions by the Council in the light of the External Performance review and the Review of the 'Next Steps' Process

The Council will be asked to consider what action it wishes to take in the light of the reports from the External Performance Review Panel and on progress with the 'Next Steps' strategy.

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

9.1 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(12)13.

9.2 Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

The Council agreed to decide on future arrangements for liaison with the Salmon Farming industry in the light of the External Performance review and the Review of the 'Next Steps' process.

9.3 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 and NGOs. ICES has also been asked to report on any significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management.

9.4 Incorporating Social and Economic Factors in Salmon Management

The Council had intended to hold a Special Session on incorporating Social and Economic factors in salmon management during its Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting. However, in view of other commitments during the 2012 Annual Meeting the Council has decided to delay the Special Session until 2013. There will be an opportunity to discuss arrangements for the Special Session and for jurisdictions to highlight any new information relevant to this topic.

9.5 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 concerns about the abundance of North American stocks and when strict harvest restrictions have been introduced throughout the Northwest Atlantic. Any new information in relation to the St Pierre and Miquelon salmon fishery will be presented, CNL(12)14. France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting.

9.6 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.

10. 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.

11. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The Council will be asked to agree on a venue for its Thirtieth Annual Meeting to be held during 4 - 7 June 2013.

The Thirty-First Annual Meeting may be held during 3 - 6 June 2014 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

12. Report of the Meeting

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

13. Press Release

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

Secretary
Edinburgh
4 April 2012