

NAC(09)5

Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission Rica Seilet Hotel, Molde, Norway

2-5 June, 2009

Draft Report

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chairman, Mr. Guy Beaupré (Canada), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission.
- 1.2 An opening statement was made on behalf of the NGOs (Annex 1).
- 1.3 A list of participants at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Council and Commissions is included on page xx of this document.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda NAC(09)xx (Annex 2).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Ms. Kimberly Blankenbeker (USA) was appointed as Rapporteur.

4. Review of the 2008 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

- 4.1 The representative of ICES, Mr Jaakko Erkinaro, presented the report from ICES on the scientific advice on salmon stocks in the North American Commission (NAC) area, CNL(09)8. His presentation is available as NASCO document CNL(09)xx. The ACOM report, which contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page xx of this document.
- 4.2 The observer from the EU asked why Canada had not provided an estimate of unreported catch to ICES since 2006. The Representative of Canada noted that this could be due to the timing for providing data to ICES. She noted, however, that Canada had reported an estimate of unreported catch to NASCO in its annual report on its implementation plan, CNL(09)16. The United States noted that its unreported catch was also reported in its annual report to its implementation plan, CNL(09)24, and that the estimate is so low that it effectively represents zero catch for the purposes of ICES.

5. Review and Discussion of the 2009 Canadian and US Salmon Management Measures as they relate to the Mandate of the Commission and to the Findings of the ACOM Report from ICES

- 5.1 The United States presented a report on U.S. Atlantic Salmon Management and Research Activities in 2008, NAC(09)3. Canada summarized information on its 2009 fisheries management activities contained in NAC(09)4.

6. The St. Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery

- 6.1 The Representative of France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) presented information on the St. Pierre and Miquelon fishery (CNL(09)18 and CNL(09)32). The NAC welcomed this information and took note of the Council discussion on this matter. The NAC fully supported the recommendation of the Council to send a strong letter to France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) expressing disappointment that France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) does not intend to accede to the NASCO Convention and stressing the reasons why it is important for France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) to be at the NASCO table; highlighting concern about increased catch levels in 2008; welcoming biometric sampling by that country; underscoring the urgent need for additional sampling, including genetics work, particularly in light of the ongoing SALSEA research program; and requesting that information related to the fishery at St. Pierre and Miquelon be provided to ICES in time for incorporation into the ICES ACOM report. The Commission also welcomed any help NGO's could offer in encouraging France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) to improve cooperation with NASCO. The NGO Representative underscored their interest in assisting in this matter.
- 6.2 The NGO representative asked the representative from France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) if there was an estimate of unreported catch. The representative from France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) stated that unreported catch estimates were not available.

7. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

- 7.1 The Chairman recalled NAC(08)4, which identified the need to re-examine aspects of the NAC Protocols on Introductions and Transfers of Salmonids. Specifically, a review of the relevance of the Database on Introductions and Transfers and Scientific Working Group was needed given the significant improvements that have occurred within and between Canada and the United States on monitoring and management of introductions and transfers for enhancement and aquaculture purposes. To carry out this review, the United States and Canada established a working group which met in the spring 2009.
- 7.2 The Representative of Canada recognized the significant effort by the working group and noted the added complexity in finalizing this work in Canada since two levels of government are involved in managing introductions and transfers of salmonids for aquaculture purposes. Moreover, the responsibility for fish health issues in Canada is in the process of being transferred from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to another Department in Canada's government. In light of this, the Representative of Canada noted the need for additional domestic consultations before they could respond officially concerning this matter.

8. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery

- 8.1 The Representative of Canada provided an update on the sampling activity in the Labrador fishery in 2008. Information on this activity was reported to ICES and is included in the 2009 WGNAS report. Canada confirmed that it intends to continue to support this important sampling activity in 2009.

The NGO representative questioned if the sampling will include genetic sampling and analysis to determine river of origin. The representative of Canada stated genetic material is being collected but that such analysis is not planned due to both resource constraints as well as a lack of existing data to discriminate salmon to the river level. The data that exist only allow differentiation between U.S. and Canadian origin salmon.

9. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 9.1 The Chairman announced that the draw for the North American Commission prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was made by the Auditor on 5 May 2009. The winning tag was of Canadian origin. The tag was applied to a 56cm long wild salmon on 28 May 2007 at the DFO Index trapnet at Millerton on the Southwest Miramichi as part of a mark recapture assessment program. It was recaptured on 6 May 2008 as a kelt in the same river. The winner of the \$1,500 prize is Mr Trevor Hunter of Clark's Corner, New Brunswick.

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

- 10.1 [The Commission agreed to the request for scientific advice from ICES prepared by the Standing Scientific Committee in relation to the North American Commission area. The request to ICES, as agreed by the Council, is contained in document CNL(09)10 (Annex x).]

11. Other Business

- 11.1 The Representative of the United States suggested that agenda item 5 could be deleted from future agendas given that comprehensive information on research, stock status, and management activities for the United States and Canada is available in each country's implementation plans, annual reports on those plans, focus area reports and in the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) report. The NAC agreed to proceed in this manner in the future.
- 11.2 Canada reported on two catch and release studies for the information of the Commission. First, salmon returning to spawn in the upper North Shore of Quebec (Escoumins River) will be captured in a fish ladder and genetic samples will be taken before the salmon are released. Subsequent capture of adults in the fishery and juveniles, after their emergence, will be captured the next year and genetic samples taken from these fish will be compared to the parents to evaluate spawning success. This program will begin in 2009 and continue for a three year period. This is a joint project between DFO, Laval University, and MRNF. The second catch and release study will occur in the Conne River in Newfoundland and begin in 2009. Salmon will be obtained from anglers and radio tagged before being released. These tagged fish

will be tracked through the system and spawning success noted. This research will be undertaken cooperatively by the Micmac of the Conne River, DFO, and the Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation.

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 Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council in 2010.]

13. Report of the Meeting

13.1 [The Commission agreed a report of the meeting.]