

## **NAC(10)4**

### ***Draft Report of the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the North American Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization***

***Le Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City, Canada  
May 31-June 5, 2010***

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

- 1.1 The Chairman, Mr. Guy Beaupré (Canada), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the Twenty-Seventh 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-Seventh 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(10)2 (Annex 2).

#### **3. Nomination of a Rapporteur**

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

#### **4. Election of Officers**

- 4.1 Mr. Stephen Gephard (USA) was elected Chairman. Mr. Guy Beaupre was elected Vice-Chairman.

#### **5. Review of the 2009 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

- 5.1 The representative of ICES, Mr. Gerald Chaput, presented the report from ICES on the scientific advice on salmon stocks in the North American Commission (NAC) area, CNL(10)8. His presentation is available as NASCO document CNL(10)XX. The ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM) report, which contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page xx of this document.
- 5.2 A delegate of Canada asked if the pre-fishery abundance estimates were available for North America for 2010. The ICES representative noted that there had been a slight improvement in this level but that it was still substantially below historical levels.
- 5.3 The representative of Canada noted that there was a timing problem with respect to providing estimates of Canada's unreported catch to ICES but that these estimates were being made and would be reported when available.

## **6. The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fishery**

- 6.1 The Chairman drew the attention of the Commission to the reports presenting information on the St Pierre and Miquelon fishery (CNL(10)18 and CNL(10)34).
- 6.2 The representative of France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) provided additional information to the Commission on its plans in 2010. She noted that a sampling program would be restarted in 2010, which would include biometric, genetic, and life history aspects. Regarding the genetics work, the representative indicated that 70 individuals would be sampled. She recognized that the fishery had increased between 2008 and 2009 but noted the increase was small.
- 6.3 The representative of the United States welcomed the re-initiation of the sampling program but expressed disappointment that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) had decided not to join NASCO given their continued interest in the species. She also noted with concern that the catch in the St Pierre and Miquelon had increased once again. She stressed that the fishery might be unsustainable give the status of the stocks contributing to it and that a fishery failure would be difficult on local communities in St Pierre and Miquelon.

## **7. Salmonid Introductions and Transfers**

- 7.1 The Commission considered and adopted the recommendations in document NAC(10)3, Review of the NAC Database on Introductions and Transfers and the Scientific Working Group. In particular, the parties agreed (1) that a detailed international database was no longer necessary; (2) to provide focused annual reports to the Commission on issues of mutual concern; (3) to identify experts who could work over the coming months to identify priority mechanisms and requirements for information exchange on fish health issues; and (4) to make minor revisions to the NAC Protocols on Introductions and Transfers of Salmonids to reflect the new information exchange mechanism.

## **8. Sampling in the Labrador Fishery**

- 8.1 The representative of Canada provided an update on the sampling activity in the Labrador fishery in 2009. In line with a recommendation from four years ago, she reported that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) Canada would sample the food fisheries in Labrador as is done in other Atlantic salmon fisheries.
- 8.2 The program, begun in 2006, partnered with Nunatsiavut and the NunatuKavut (formerly Labrador Metis Nation). Sampling is done by Aboriginal conservation officers and others and the DFO Science Branch provides sampling protocol and sample analysis. A quality assurance check ensures that sampling is done well.
- 8.3 A total of 503 sampled were collected in 2009 (252 in the North and 251 in the South), a large increase over the 95 samples collected in 2006. Analysis of the overall sea distribution in 2009 shows:
- Large salmon – 19% were 1SW fish; 63% were 2SW fish; and 17% were previous spawners;
  - Small salmon – 96% were 1SW fish; 2% were 2SW fish; and 2% were previous spawners;

This averaged a total of 76% 1SW fish; 18% 2SW fish; and 6% previous spawners.

8.4 With respect to the origin of the fish caught, DFO found that the location of the fishing has changed substantially since the days of the commercial fishery. Fishing for food, social, ceremonial purposes is done close to Aboriginal communities and fishing no longer occurs at the headlands. The commercial fishery used to see 70% Labrador fish in the catch. With respect to the current food fishery, scale analysis indicates that patterns on the scales are consistent with fish of Labrador origin.

8.5 The representative of Canada reported that the recommendations from the sampling program are to improve on the distribution in time and space and to increase the number and quality of samples.

8.6 The representative of Canada reported that there will be no retention of large salmon in the recreational fishery in 2011.

## **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 4 May 2010. The winning tag was of Canadian origin. The tag was applied to a 57cm long wild salmon in the Northwest Miramichi River, New Brunswick. The fish was tagged as part of an assessment and research program to monitor the Atlantic salmon run in the Miramichi River. It was angled as a kelt in the Northwest Miramichi on 2 May 2009. The winner of the \$1,500 prize is Mr. Burton Ward, Red Bank, 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(10)XX (Annex X).

## **11. Other Business**

11.1 There was no other business.

## **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 28th Annual Meeting of the Council in 2011.

## **13. Report of the Meeting**

13.1 The Commission agreed a report of the meeting.