

## **NEA(09)08**

### ***Draft Report of the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission Rica Seilet Hotel, Molde, Norway***

**2-5 June, 2009**

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

- 1.1 The Chairman, Mr Richard Cowan (European Union) opened the meeting, welcomed the delegates to Molde and thanked the Norwegian Government for hosting the meeting and the excellent arrangements.
- 1.2 An opening statement was made on behalf of the Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) attending the Annual Meeting (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, NEA (09)2 (Annex 2).

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

- 3.1 Ms Heidi Hansen (Norway) was appointed as Rapporteur for the meeting.

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

- 4.1 The Chairman noted that no regulatory measure for the Faroe Islands fishery had been adopted last year and requested that the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) report if any fishery had taken place in 2008. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) confirmed that no salmon fishery had taken place in Faroese waters in 2008.
- 4.2 The representative of ICES, Mr Jaakko Erkinaro, presented the scientific advice on salmon stocks relevant to the North-East Atlantic Commission, CNL(09)8. The ACOM report from ICES, which contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page xx of this document. The presentation by ICES is included in document CNL(09)xx.
- 4.3 The Chairman thanked Mr Erkinaro for his very clear and concise presentation and opened the meeting for questions on the scientific advice from ICES.
- 4.4 The representative of the European Union noted that information derived from

Norwegian tagging studies appeared to end in the 1970s and asked for clarification that this was the case. The representative of Norway confirmed that this was the case and that new projects were about to commence using genetic markers to identify the origin of harvested fish.

- 4.5 The Chairman noted that the presentation from ICES had indicated that ICES had been unable to make progress in developing quantitative catch advice because there are no explicit management objectives for provision of advice for the Faroese fishery and no pre-agreed sharing arrangement among NASCO Parties. He suggested that there is a need to address this issue before there is a harvestable surplus. [The Commission agreed that there should be further discussions on this issue among Heads of Delegations following the Annual Meeting with a view to developing arrangements to commence work in developing management objectives in advance the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting.]

## **5. Regulatory Measures**

- 5.1 The Chairman noted that last year a Decision was adopted regarding the salmon fishery in Faroese waters in 2009, NEA(08)6. Under this Decision the Commission decided not to set a quota but that the Faroe Islands would manage any fishery on the basis of the ICES advice and in a precautionary manner. He asked if Denmark (in respect of the Faroes Islands and Greenland) was in a position to continue with the present arrangement. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) indicated that they could accept a continuation of the present agreement. The representative of the European Union indicated that while his delegation would have preferred a more rigid measure rather than the present wording which indicates that the Commission ‘decided not to set a quota’ he recognized the commitments made by the Faroe Islands in refraining from fishing for salmon. He asked the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to confirm that if a similar decision was adopted for 2010 there would be a similar commitment to adhere to the ICES advice. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) confirmed that management decisions will be made with due consideration to the ICES advice.
- 5.2 The Chairman circulated a Draft Decision regarding the salmon fishery in Faroese waters in 2010, (NEA(09)6). The Commission adopted this decision, NEA(09)7 (Annex 3).
- 5.3 [The representative of Norway referred to documents NEA(09)3 and NEA(09)4 concerning interceptory salmon fishing on the Norwegian coast. In these documents, Norway has stated that it recognizes the legitimate interests of the Russian Federation and possibly other countries in respect to interceptory salmon fishing on the Norwegian coast. Norway believes that it is important to maintain open and positive dialogue with the Russian Federation and potentially affected EU countries with regard to its fishing regulations for 2010 and beyond. He indicated that the Russian Federation and Norway had engaged in fruitful and constructive talks on this issue during the Annual Meeting and have agreed on a further process of cooperation. The main elements of this process are as follows:

- In early September, the Russian Federation will be given the opportunity to comment on a proposal for general guidelines for the upcoming regulations.
- A proposal for new regulations will be subject to a public hearing in November, and the proposal will also be sent to the authorities in the Russian federation for information
- The final proposal from the Directorate for Nature Management to the Ministry of Environment will be sent to the Russian Federation before the final regulations are finalised, and feedback from the Russian Federation will be carefully considered in the decision process.
- A similar approach will, of course, be taken towards the European Commission and potentially affected EU countries if they so wish.]

5.4 [The representatives of the Russian Federation and the European Union thanked the representative of Norway for this statement.]

## **6. Risk of Transmission of *Gyrodactylus salaris* in the Commission Area**

6.1 At its last Annual Meeting, the Commission had considered a report from its Working Group on *G.salaris* in the North-East Atlantic Commission area, NEA(08)3. The Commission had agreed to retain an agenda item on this issue so as to monitor developments.

6.2 The European Union tabled document, NEA(09)5 (Annex 4), detailing measures concerning the contingency planning for the parasite *G.salaris* in Finland. Existing measures are in place concerning restrictions on movements of live fish and eggs and baitfish and in Autumn 2009 a project will commence to develop the information required to support contingency planning.

6.3 In response to the question in the NGO Opening Statement concerning the continuation of Additional Guarantees the representative of the European Union referred to Declarations from the Commissions and made the following statement: “The Commission intends to contribute to the future protection of susceptible stocks of Atlantic salmon in freshwater, as laid down in the Habitat Directive 92/43/EEC, against the threat of *Gyrodactylus salaris*. This is possible pursuant to Article 43 of the proposed Directive, which can be used as a legal base to carry over the current measures laid down in Commission Decision 2004/453/EC under the new Directive. The Commission intend to present to the Standing Committee of the Food Chain and Animal Health, a proposal to maintain the current *G.salaris* guarantees laid down in Decision 2004/453/EC, in line with Article 63(3).” The representative of the NGOs thanked the representative of the European Union for this clarification but noted that the statement had referred only to the intention to continue Additional Guarantees concerning *G.salaris* and he hoped that this would be carried out.

6.4 The representative of the NGOs referred to a concern expressed by the Norwegian NGOs that there needed to be improved monitoring and communication regarding the *G.salaris* situation in Swedish west coast rivers. He asked if the representative of the

European Union could provide any information on this issue. The representative of the European Union tabled document, NEA(09)9 (Annex 5), which provided information on the monitoring programmes in Sweden and on cooperation with Norway and Finland in relation to this parasite.

**7. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize**

- 7.1 The draw for the North-East Atlantic Commission prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was made by the Auditor on 5 May 2009. The winning tag was of Norwegian origin. The tagged fish was released from a bag net fishery at the outlet of the Trondheimfjord on 22 May 2007 and was recaptured in the river Orkla on 17 June 2007 and the tag was returned to the authorities in March 2008. The winner of the Commission's prize was Mr Oddvar Egelandstal, Hundvåg, Norway. The Commission offered its congratulations to the winner.

**8. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice**

- 8.1 The Commission agreed the request for scientific advice from ICES prepared by the Standing Scientific Committee in relation to the North-East Atlantic Commission area. The request to ICES, as agreed by the Council, is contained in document CNL(09)10 (Annex 6).

**9. Other Business**

- 9.1 [There was no other business.]

**10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

- 10.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council.

**11. Report of the Meeting**

- 11.1 [The Commission agreed a report of its meeting.]