



Council

CNL(20)08

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Secretary's Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report contains a number of procedural, administrative and financial matters and issues relating to public relations and relations with other international bodies.

2. Status of Ratifications of, and Accessions to, the Convention and Membership of the Regional Commissions

- 2.1 There have been no changes to the status of ratifications of, and accessions to, the Convention, nor have there been any modifications to the membership of the Commissions since the last notification. However, the United Kingdom (UK) left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020. The UK is currently in an 'Implementation Period' until 31 December 2020, during which time EU law, including under the NASCO Convention, will continue to apply to the UK. Further information can be found in document CNL(20)07, which will be considered under a separate agenda item.
- 2.2 In March 2019, the President of NASCO wrote to the Minister of Fisheries and Agriculture in Iceland, copied to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, urging Iceland to use the occasion of the International Year of the Salmon to rejoin the Organization. There has been no reply to this letter to-date.

3. Receipt of Contributions for 2020

- 3.1 In accordance with Financial Rule 5.5, the Secretary is required to report on the receipt of contributions and on any arrears. All contributions for 2020 have been received and there are no arrears.

4. Observers at NASCO's Meetings

- 4.1 There have been no new applications for Non-Governmental Observer (NGO) status to NASCO since the 2019 Annual Meeting.
- 4.2 The forty-four organizations listed in Annex 1 have observer status to NASCO. The 2012 External Performance Review Panel had commended NASCO for its approach towards inclusive participation in meetings and for its transparency in proceedings. However, exceptional circumstances since the 2019 Annual Meeting have meant that the accredited NGOs have noted concern over a lack of transparency on occasions. There are now plans in place to address these concerns and ensure inclusivity for the NGOs and full transparency of NASCO proceedings.

5. Fishing for Salmon in International Waters

- 5.1 Under the 'Resolution on Fishing for Salmon on the High Seas', CNL(92)54, the Secretary is requested to obtain and compile information on sightings of fishing activities on the high seas of the North Atlantic which may undermine the conservation measures adopted by NASCO.
- 5.2 We have contacted the Norwegian and Icelandic coastguards to obtain details of any surveillance operations in the area of international waters north of the Faroe Islands where fishing for salmon by non-NASCO Parties had been observed in the past. During the period 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020, the Icelandic coastguard did not conduct any

surveillance flights in the area; the Norwegian coastguard conducted three surveillance flights (4 July, 10 July and 8 November) and five sea patrols (9 – 13 July, 17 – 21 September, 31 October – 2 November, 15 – 16 November and 22 – 26 November). No vessels were observed fishing for salmon.

- 5.3 No new information has been obtained from ports or about landings and transshipments since last year's report to suggest that there has been any fishing for salmon by vessels from non-NASCO Parties.
- 5.4 The last known incidences of fishing for salmon in international waters by non-NASCO Parties were in the early 1990s. The External Performance Review Panel concluded that NASCO has demonstrated that it can respond quickly to address IUU fishing in areas beyond fisheries jurisdiction by vessels registered to non-NASCO Parties. However, the Panel felt that NASCO should consider enhancing its current surveillance efforts by requesting the co-operation of NEAFC and NAFO in reporting on any suspected IUU fishing activities for salmon that may be detected in their Monitoring, Control and Surveillance operations. We have continued to do so and have also contacted ICCAT and NAFO. A report is made separately in paper CNL(20)23.

6. Scientific Research Fishing

- 6.1 In accordance with the Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing, CNL(96)60, the Secretary is asked to advise the Council of any requests to conduct scientific research fishing since the last Annual Meeting. There has been one such request since the 2019 Annual Meeting. Further information is contained in document CNL(20)11, which will be considered under a separate agenda item.
- 6.2 Following the first phase of the SALSEA Programme which involved scientific research fishing in both the North American and North-East Atlantic Commission areas, the current focus of the work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board is tracking the migrations of individual salmon through remote sensing techniques including acoustic tagging.

7. Rivers Database

- 7.1 In 2016, the Council adopted a new stock classification system for use with the NASCO Rivers Database and requested that Parties / jurisdictions update the information held in the Rivers Database using this new classification system. While all Parties / jurisdictions provided some data on the status of their rivers, the information provided was not always consistent with the agreed stock classification system and many have still not provided all the requested data.
- 7.2 The river status information contained in the Rivers Database provided data used in the 'State of North Atlantic Salmon' report. This major NASCO output for the IYS was published in December 2019.

8. Public Relations

International Year of the Salmon

- 8.1 As 2019 was the focal year of the International Year of the Salmon, both the Parties and Secretariat of NASCO have been heavily involved in Public Relations activities. A full report will be made in document CNL(20)21.

SAMARCH International Salmonid Coastal and Marine Telemetry Workshop, Southampton, UK

- 8.2 SAMARCH (SAlmonid MAnagement Round the CHannel) is a five-year project (2017 – 2022) part-funded by the France England Interreg Channel programme. The programme hopes to provide new transferable scientific evidence to inform the management of salmon and sea trout in the estuaries and coastal waters of both the French and English sides of the Channel. On 5 and 6 November 2019, the Secretary and Assistant Secretary attended a Telemetry Workshop hosted by Salmon and Trout Conservation, the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Atlantic Salmon Trust on behalf of the SAMARCH project. The Conference was held as part of the IYS and focused on sharing knowledge of current tracking projects, new and emerging technologies and maximising the benefits and opportunities of multiple tracking projects.

Missing Salmon Alliance, London, UK

- 8.3 The Atlantic Salmon Trust, Salmon and Trout Conservation, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, the Angling Trust and Fish Legal joined together to form the Missing Salmon Alliance to address the current crisis in wild Atlantic salmon stocks. It is hoped that combining expertise, co-ordinating activities and advocating effective management solutions will help wild Atlantic salmon survive. On 26 November 2019, the Secretary attended the Missing Salmon Alliance Forum which launched the Alliance's Plan for Action and addressed the need for key NGOs to take a collaborative approach to conserving wild Atlantic salmon.

Owned by Everyone Conference, Cambridge, UK

- 8.4 On 11 and 12 December 2019, the Secretary attended the 'Owned by Everyone' Conference, organized by Pembroke College Cambridge, the Cambridge Conservation Initiative and Salmon and Trout Conservation as part of the IYS. The Conference was inspired by Ted Hughes, a British poet, environmentalist and salmon fisherman and brought together people with very different experiences of salmon, including fisheries scientists, environmentalists, first nations representatives, artists, literary critics and cultural historians from Norway, Iceland, Greenland, Canada, the United States and the UK. Through a series of invited talks, extended panel discussions and readings from Ted Hughes's work, the Conference explored the state of the art and science of salmon, addressing responses to the dangers it now faces.
- 8.5 At each of these IYS events, the Secretary gave presentations on the current state of North Atlantic salmon and the work of NASCO, using the opportunity to promote the upcoming publication of the 'State of North Atlantic Salmon' report.

NASCO and Board websites

- 8.6 The Council has previously agreed that the [NASCO](#) and [Board](#) websites would be the main public relations tools. The redesign of the NASCO website is substantially complete. Full testing and roll out is expected to take place in summer 2020.
- 8.7 In the period 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020, there were approximately 12,700 visits to the NASCO website, an increase of approximately 15.52% on the same period in 2018 / 2019. New visitors accounted for 97% of visits. The number of pages viewed averaged 3 per session. For the Board's website, the number of visits decreased to approximately 1,500, a decrease of approximately 8% on the same period in 2018 / 2019. New visitors accounted for 99% of visits. The number of pages viewed averaged 2 per session.

9. All London Based International Organizations (ALBINO) Meeting, London, UK

- 9.1 On 17 October 2019, the Assistant Secretary attended a meeting of the All London Based International Organizations (ALBINO) held at the International Maritime Organization's Headquarters in London. This provided an opportunity to meet with other International Organizations and learn from their working practices. In particular, a presentation from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office provided information on operational issues (such as VAT) and a list circulated about possible venues for meetings in London and around the UK may be beneficial to NASCO in the future.

10. Socio-economic Studies

- 10.1 To support the production of the 'State of North Atlantic Salmon' report, specifically the values section, a review of the literature for the period 2009 – 2019 and an assessment of changes in values was commissioned by NASCO. 'The Social, Economic and Cultural values of wild Atlantic salmon' report, produced by the Norwegian Institute of Nature Research (NINA), was published in December 2019 and can be found [here](#).
- 10.2 In 2014, on the recommendation of the Socio-economics Sub-Group, the Council asked that Parties / jurisdictions provide to the Secretariat details of any new studies relating to the socio-economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon.
- 10.3 At the time of writing this report, the Secretariat has not been advised of any such studies. Details of any studies reported to us subsequently will be contained in document CNL(20)23.
- 10.4 References to some previously published studies are available on the NASCO website under the section entitled 'Value of Salmon'.

11. Miscellaneous

Scottish Freshwater Group, Stirling, UK

- 11.1 On 24 October 2019, the Assistant Secretary attended the meeting of the Scottish Freshwater Group in Stirling, Scotland. This involved presentations about ongoing research and practice in relation to freshwater issues in Scotland, including on wild Atlantic salmon and salmon rivers. This allowed the Assistant Secretary to increase her knowledge of wild Atlantic salmon related topics and make contact with colleagues such as a Scottish Government officer working on their Implementation Plan and developing a similar tool to the Rivers Database.

Tweed Visit, The Tweed Foundation, Melrose, UK

- 11.2 The members of the Secretariat travelled to Melrose in the Scottish Borders to learn more about the work of the Tweed Foundation on the River Tweed and to discuss the work of NASCO. After lunch and presentations, we were able to visit a recently installed VAKI fish counter at a new fish pass next to a hydro power installation on the Ettrick water, a tributary of the River Tweed.

ICES MIRIA Meeting, Copenhagen, Denmark

- 11.3 The Assistant Secretary attended the ICES MIRIA meeting between ICES and the recipients of ICES advice on 14 and 15 January 2020. Current issues regarding the ICES advice and process were discussed at the meeting, as well as possible new areas for advice, research and data needs to support further advice. This also allowed the

Assistant Secretary to meet some of those responsible for providing advice to NASCO,
and learn about the process involved.

Secretary
Edinburgh
21 April 2020

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS WITH OBSERVER STATUS TO NASCO

Angling Council of Ireland	(based in Ireland)
Angling Trust	(based in UK)
Association Internationale de Défense du Saumon Atlantique	(based in France)
Association de Défense des Ressources Marines	(based in France)
Atlantic Salmon Conservation Schools Network	(based in UK)
Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation	(based in Canada)
Atlantic Salmon Federation	(based in Canada)
Atlantic Salmon Federation	(based in USA)
Atlantic Salmon Trust	(based in UK)
Coalition Clean Baltic	(based in Sweden)
College of the Atlantic	(based in USA)
Connecticut River Salmon Association	(based in USA)
Conservatoire National du Saumon Sauvage	(based in France)
Coomhola Salmon Trust Limited	(based in Ireland)
Der Atlantische Lachs	(based in Germany)
Downeast Salmon Federation	(based in USA)
European Anglers Alliance	(based in Netherlands)
Faroes Sportsfishing Association	(based in Faroe Islands)
Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers	(based in Ireland)
Fédération Québécoise pour le Saumon Atlantique	(based in Canada)
Fisheries Management Scotland	(based in UK)
Foyle Association of Salmon and Trout Anglers	(based in UK/Ireland)
Institute of Fisheries Management	(based in UK)
Irish Seal Sanctuary	(based in Ireland)
Marine and Environmental Law Institute	(based in Canada)
National Anglers Representative Association	(based in Ireland)
Norges Bondelag (Norwegian Farmers Union)	(based in Norway)
Norges Jeger og Fiskerforbund (Norwegian Association of Hunters and Anglers)	(based in Norway)
Norske Lakseelver (Norwegian Salmon Rivers)	(based in Norway)
North Atlantic Salmon Fund US	(based in USA)
Salmon and Sea Trout Recreational Anglers Ireland	(based in Ireland)
Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland	(based in UK)
Salmon & Trout Conservation UK	(based in UK)
Salmon & Trout Conservation Scotland	(based in UK)
Salmon Watch Ireland	(based in Ireland)
Sami Parliament	(based in Norway)
Sami Parlamenta	(based in Finland)
Scottish Anglers National Association	(based in UK)
Tanavassdragets fiskeforvaltning (TF)	(based in Norway)
Ulster Angling Federation Limited	(based in UK)
World Wide Fund for Nature (Norway)	(based in Norway)
WWF (France)	(based in France)
WWF-Russia	(based in Russia)
World Wildlife Fund (US)	(based in USA)