



Agenda item 2
For information

Council

CNL(02)2

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

Note: A summary of all the decisions before the Council will be presented in document CNL(02)30.

CNL(02)2

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

1. Opening Session

The Opening Session is open to the Public. The President will make a statement on behalf of the Organization and wishes to encourage an Opening Statement by each Party. Subject to a time limit, the President will invite statements from any Inter-Government Organizations present and from the nominated representatives of Non-Government Organizations.

2. Adoption of Agenda

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure, and following consultation with the President, a Provisional Agenda (CNL(02)1) is submitted herewith. The Parties may propose supplementary items by informing the Secretary. A Draft Agenda (CNL(02)3), including any supplementary items, will be circulated before the meeting.

The Council will be asked to adopt an Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(02)4) is submitted herewith.

3. Election of Officers

In accordance with its Rules of Procedure, the Council will be asked to elect a President and Vice-President (CNL(02)5). The President (Mr Jacque Robichaud, Canada) and Vice-President (Mr Eidur Gudnason, Iceland) are both eligible for re-election.

4. Administrative Issues

4.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary will report to the Council on a number of procedural, administrative and financial matters (CNL(02)6) including a report in relation to fishing for salmon in international waters by non-Contracting Parties.

4.2 Report of the Finance and Administration Committee

The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee will present a report of the Committee's meeting to the Council (CNL(02)7). The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2003 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2001;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2002 accounts;

- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

4.3 NASCO Policy on Communications

In accordance with the Council's decision at its Eighteenth Annual Meeting, a review of the procedures of other inter-governmental organizations with regard to communication and participation at their meetings will be presented (CNL(02)8). The Council will then consider its own policy.

4.4 Report on the Activities of the Organization

The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6, of the Convention, a report on its activities in 2001 (CNL(02)9). This report is not intended for publication.

4.5 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. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

5.1 Scientific Advice from ICES

The Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) (CNL(02)10) will be circulated and will be briefly introduced at the meeting by the ACFM Chairman. The detailed advice will be considered by the Commissions separately at their meetings. The Report of the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon will be made available on the ICES web site.

5.2 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 (CNL(02)11). The Council will be asked to adopt a request for scientific advice from ICES.

5.3 Catch Statistics and their Analysis

The Secretary will present the catch statistics for 2001 as provided to the Organization by the Parties (CNL(02)12). These data will be used in the calculation of the Schedule of Contributions by the Parties for 2003. The updated historical catch record will be presented for information (CNL(02)13).

5.4 Review of International Salmon-Related Literature Published in 2001

The Secretary will present a review of salmon-related literature published during 2001 (CNL(02)14). This review is presented to the Council for information in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2, of the Convention.

6. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Salmon Stocks

6.1 Measures Taken in Accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

A summary of the returns made by the Parties under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention will be presented to the Council (CNL(02)15).

6.2 The Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management

At its Fifteenth Annual Meeting NASCO and its Contracting Parties agreed to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management, and exploitation of Atlantic salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives. Under the Action Plan for Application of the Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management adopted by the Council in 1999, a Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach (SCPA) was established.

(a) Special Session on Habitat Protection and Restoration – Reports by the Parties on the Development and Implementation of Habitat Protection and Restoration Plans

Last year, on the recommendation of the SCPA, the Council adopted a NASCO Plan of Action for the Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat. The Council agreed that at its Nineteenth Annual Meeting, the Contracting Parties would report back on the steps taken to develop and implement habitat protection and restoration plans as envisaged in the NASCO Plan of Action and that a Special Session would be held for this purpose. This Special Session will be held on the afternoon of Monday 3 June. A programme for the Special Session will be distributed (CNL(02)16).

(b) Evaluation and Development of the Decision Structure for Management of North Atlantic Salmon Fisheries

At its Seventeenth Annual Meeting the Council provisionally adopted a decision structure for use in the management of single and mixed stock fisheries pending a detailed evaluation over a period of two years. It was agreed that, following consideration of the decision structure by each Commission, the Contracting Parties should apply the decision structure on a selection of rivers with different stock status and management policies. The Contracting Parties made preliminary reports back to the Commissions at their Eighteenth Annual Meetings and the Council decided that a more detailed evaluation and development of the decision structure should be carried

out by the SCPA at a meeting in March 2002. The report of the SCPA meeting will be presented by the Chairman of the Committee (CNL(02)17).

(c) *Development of Terms of Reference for consideration of the implications of socio-economic issues for application of the Precautionary Approach*

The Council also asked that the SCPA develop Terms of Reference for a future meeting of the Committee on how socio-economic factors can be considered in applying the Precautionary Approach. The Committee's recommendations for these Terms of Reference will be presented (CNL(02)17).

(d) *Development of Terms of Reference for Application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics*

The Council will be asked to agree on Terms of Reference for a future meeting of the SCPA on the application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics (CNL(02)17). The Council had previously agreed that these Terms of Reference should be discussed with the industry at the Liaison Meeting in April 2002 and that the SCPA should hold a meeting on the subject so that a report could be made to the Council in 2003.

(e) *Future actions in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach*

The Council will be asked to consider possible future actions in relation to the Precautionary Approach. A brief paper summarising possible actions will be presented (CNL(02)18).

6.3 Unreported Catches

The Secretary will introduce a report summarising the annual returns by the Parties in relation to unreported catches (CNL(02)19).

6.4 International Cooperative Salmon Research

(a) *Report of the Inaugural Meeting of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board*

Last year the Council established an International Cooperative Salmon Research Board to direct and coordinate a research programme to identify and explain the causes of the increased marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and to examine the possibilities to counteract the mortality. The Board held its inaugural meeting in London during 5-7 December 2001. A report of the meeting will be presented (CNL(02)20). An inventory of research relevant to marine mortality of salmon, developed by the Board, will be tabled (CNL(02)21).

(b) *Future actions in relation to International Cooperative Salmon Research*

The Council will be asked to take action as it sees appropriate in the light of the recommendations made in the report from the Board.

6.5 Report on the Joint Meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC on Factors Influencing Marine Survival of Salmon

At its Eighteenth Annual Meeting the Council agreed to hold a joint meeting with the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission and International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission on factors affecting the marine survival of salmon in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea. The meeting will be held in Vancouver, Canada on 14-15 March 2002 and a brief report on the outcome of this meeting will be presented (CNL(02)22).

6.6 Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area

In 1996, the Council unanimously adopted a Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing. The Secretary will advise the Council of any requests to conduct research fishing since the last Annual Meeting. The President will invite any Party conducting research fishing in the last year to present a brief report on their activities.

6.7 By-catch of Atlantic Salmon

At its Fourteenth Annual Meeting the attention of the Council was drawn to the enormous growth in fishing for pelagic species of fish (herring and mackerel) in international waters in the Norwegian Sea. Concern had been expressed that, even if a small percentage of the catch in these fisheries was post-smolts, the losses of salmon could be significant. The Council agreed that the issue of by-catch should be considered by the Working Group on International Cooperative Salmon Research (see 6.4(a) above). The Council may wish to consider any management implications arising from the Board's recommendations or from information provided by ICES.

6.8 Impacts of Aquaculture on Wild Salmon Stocks

(a) Returns made in accordance with the Oslo Resolution

Details of the actions taken by the Parties in accordance with the Oslo Resolution will be presented (CNL(02)23).

(b) Liaison with the salmon farming industry

The Third Liaison Meeting of NASCO and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry will be held on 8-9 April 2002 in Westport, Ireland. A report of the meeting will be presented (CNL(02)24).

6.9 Transgenic Salmon

At its Fourteenth Annual Meeting the Council adopted Guidelines for Action on Transgenic Salmon. In accordance with these guidelines, there is an obligation to report to the Council on any proposal to permit the use of transgenic salmon. There will be a notification of any such reports (CNL(02)25).

6.10 St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

Last year the Council supported a proposal from the US that a sampling programme be conducted at St Pierre and Miquelon in order to determine the origin of salmon in the harvest. Following the Eighteenth Annual Meeting the President and Secretary visited St Pierre and Miquelon to discuss a possible sampling programme in June-July 2002. A report will be made on progress with this initiative (CNL(02)26).

6.11 Predator-related Mortality

At its Eighteenth Annual Meeting the Council asked that the Secretariat compile, on an annual basis, information on predator-related mortality of salmon for presentation to the Council. A report will be distributed (CNL(02)27).

6.12 Report on Initiatives within FAO of relevance to NASCO

The Secretary will report on the work of the FAO's Sub-Committee on Aquaculture and other developments within FAO of relevance to the work of NASCO (CNL(02)28).

6.13 Reports on Conservation Measures Taken by 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.

7. Other Business

Any other business may be raised.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The Council has agreed to hold its Twentieth Annual Meeting during 2-6 June 2003 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

The proposal will be made that the Twenty-first Annual Meeting be held during 7-11 June 2004 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party (CNL(02)29).

9. Draft Report of the Meeting

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

10. Draft Press Release

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

Secretary
Edinburgh
18 January, 2002