



Agenda item 4.1
For decision
(item 5 only)

Council

CNL(02)6

Secretary's Report

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Secretary's Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Most of the work of the Organization is detailed in the Council papers distributed, which cover a wide range of issues. This report contains only a number of procedural, administrative and financial matters and issues relating to relations with other international bodies.

2. Status of ratifications of and accessions to the Convention

- 2.1 There have been no changes to the status of ratifications of and accessions to the Convention since the last notification.

3. Membership of the regional Commissions

- 3.1 No new applications for membership of any of the Commissions have been received since the last notification.

4. Observers at NASCO's meetings

- 4.1 There have been no applications for observer status to NASCO since the last notification. The twenty-seven organizations listed in Annex 1 have observer status to NASCO and have been invited to attend the Nineteenth Annual Meeting.

5. Joint meeting of North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions

- 5.1 The Council had previously recognised that there might be benefits from a joint meeting of all the North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions (i.e. ICCAT, NPAFC, NAFO, IBSFC and NASCO) to examine issues of mutual interest such as the Precautionary Approach, control and enforcement schemes and data collection. At the invitation of NEAFC, a meeting of the Secretariats of the North Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Organizations was held at NEAFC Headquarters in London on 10 and 11 December 2001. Representatives from the Secretariats of IBSFC, NAMMCO, NASCO and NEAFC attended the meeting. NAFO and ICCAT were not represented.

- 5.2 A number of recommendations and conclusions arose from the meeting, including the following:

- to coordinate calendars at regular intervals;
- to exchange annual reports and other relevant material;
- the Precautionary Approach is essentially to be applied by managers rather than scientists and it is beneficial to have the two roles clearly defined;
- some concern was expressed by those members of the Group that use ICES about whether the scientific advice from ICES is really neutral, is sufficiently transparent,

fully incorporates statements on its uncertainty, is adequately peer reviewed, timely and clearly communicated. It was felt that a meeting of the Group with the EU, specifically to discuss renegotiating the MoUs with ICES, would be valuable. Concern was also expressed about the cost of future advice and whether the current ACFM system is effective and adds value. The question of whether advice should be given on a multi-annual basis should be raised with ICES since this might lead to cost savings;

- the Group recognised that, if properly managed, transparency should bring significant benefits to the work of each organization. The experience of admitting NGO observers to NASCO's and IBSFC's meetings had generally been of mutual benefit;
- to inform each other of relevant international meetings;
- concern was expressed that regional fisheries management organizations in the North Atlantic must be seen to be independent regional organizations and not necessarily linked to FAO's decision-making process, which is frequently focussed on global issues such as the needs of developing countries. However, the Group is willing to assist FAO bodies to develop their expertise and share experience;
- there is a need to draw a clear distinction between the roles of regional fisheries management organizations and regional seas Conventions;
- to communicate to CITES the role of the regional fisheries management organizations in the North Atlantic and their areas of competence.

- 5.3 The Group felt that the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual concern had been valuable and that such contacts between the Secretariats should continue on an approximately annual basis since they were a cost-effective way to make progress on certain issues. The general feeling in the Group was that, for the time being, such contact should be between Secretariats but that consideration could be given to a wider participation from the organizations at a future date. The Council is asked to consider if it would support such meetings of the North Atlantic Fisheries Commission Secretariats from time to time.

6. Fishing for salmon in international waters

- 6.1 At its Ninth Annual Meeting the Council unanimously adopted the "Resolution on Fishing for Salmon on the High Seas." This brief report details the actions taken in accordance with this Resolution. In the period 1 April 2001 - 31 March 2002 a total of 26 airborne surveillance flights over the area of international waters north of the Faroe Islands, where salmon fishing by non-Contracting Parties is known to have taken place in the past, were undertaken by Norwegian (23 flights) and Icelandic (3 flights) Coastguards.
- 6.2 There have been no sightings of vessels fishing for salmon in international waters since 1994. There was, however, only one flight over the area in the period from mid-September 2001 to mid-January 2002, i.e. a period of four months, when salmon fishing could have occurred. No new information from ports about vessels known to fish for salmon in international waters or about landings and transshipments has been obtained since last year's report. No further actions have been taken in relation to the Protocol Open for Signature by States not Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean.

- 6.3 After a number of incidents in the period 1989-1994 there does not now appear to be a problem. However, it has to be recognised that surveillance of the area is limited during the winter months and it is possible that we may not know if fishing is still being conducted. We will continue to liaise with NEAFC on the possibility of obtaining surveillance information concerning the activities of vessels of non-Contracting Parties in the area of concern to NASCO through their joint control and enforcement scheme. The major problem now may be linked to the large pelagic fisheries which have developed recently in the same area and the likelihood of salmon post-smolts being caught as a by-catch. This issue is considered separately under Council agenda item 6.7.
- 6.4 A brief report on the FAO Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas is presented in document CNL(02)28.

7. Tag Return Incentive Scheme

- 7.1 Under the Tag Return Incentive Scheme a total of four prizes is awarded annually (a Grand Prize of \$2,500 and one prize in each of the three Commissions of \$1,500). These awards are well publicised and this has led to benefits to the Organization in terms of awareness among fishermen of NASCO's work. There is also evidence that the prizes have increased the return of tags, which was the main objective of the Scheme.
- 7.2 The draw will be made by the auditors to NASCO in accordance with the Rules of the Scheme. The winner of the \$2,500 Grand Prize will be announced by the President at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting of the Council. The winners of the \$1,500 prizes will be announced by the Chairman of each of the Commissions.

8. Manual of Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines

- 8.1 The Council had previously agreed that the Organization's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines should be collated in an A5 ring-binder format, so as to facilitate updating as new documents are agreed, or existing documents amended. This document has now been prepared and issued to all delegates. It will be updated in the light of any agreements developed at the Nineteenth and subsequent Annual Meetings. Additional copies are available from the Secretariat.

9. Declaration of the Nordic Conference on the Protection of the Sea and the Sustainable Use of Living Marine Resources in the North Atlantic

- 9.1 The Nordic Conference on the Protection of the Sea and the Sustainable Use of Living Marine Resources in the North Atlantic was held in Tshavn on 21-22 June 2001. The Conference was attended by national and regional Ministers (or their representatives) responsible for environmental protection and marine resource management from around the North Atlantic, together with observers from a number of inter-governmental organizations but NASCO was not represented.
- 9.2 A Declaration was developed which underlines the desire of the Ministers and representatives responsible for environmental protection and the management of living

marine resources in the North Atlantic to strengthen the role of regional bodies for the management of living marine resources in the North Atlantic, and to enhance coordination between these bodies and other organizations addressing the protection of the marine environment in the region. The Ministers also confirmed their desire to enhance cooperative ties between the coastal nations and communities across the North Atlantic, in particular with respect to pursuing an integrated approach, within existing regional organizations, to the protection of the marine environment and the conservation and sustainable utilisation of living marine resources in the North Atlantic. A brief report on the initial initiatives to enhance cooperation between the North Atlantic regional fishery management organizations is given in Section 5 of this document. Copies of the full Declaration from the Nordic conference are available from the Secretariat.

10. The Organization's financial affairs

Audited accounts for 2001

- 10.1 In accordance with Financial Rule 11, the report of the Auditors for the Financial Year 1 January - 31 December 2001 was submitted to Heads of Delegations and members of the Finance and Administration Committee on 30 January 2001. There was a small surplus for the year. The Finance and Administration Committee will consider the audited accounts at its meeting and will submit its recommendations to the Council. The Council will then be asked to adopt the audited accounts for 2001 or take such other actions as it decides.

2003 Budget

- 10.2 In accordance with Article 16 of the Convention and Financial Rule 3.5, the 2003 Draft and 2004 Forecast Budgets will be submitted to the Parties. The Finance and Administration Committee will consider the draft budget in detail and will submit its recommendations to the Council. The Council will then be asked to adopt a budget for 2003.

Receipt of contributions for 2002

- 10.3 In accordance with Financial Rule 5.5, the Secretary will report on the receipt of contributions and on any arrears.

Secretary
Edinburgh
12 April, 2002

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS WITH OBSERVER STATUS TO NASCO

American Fisheries Society	(based in USA)
Association of Icelandic Angling Clubs	(based in Iceland)
Association Internationale de Défense du Saumon Atlantique	(based in France)
Association of Salmon Fishery Boards	(based in the UK)
Atlantic Salmon Federation	(based in Canada)
Atlantic Salmon Federation	(based in USA)
Atlantic Salmon Trust	(based in the UK)
Coomhola Salmon Trust Limited	(based in Ireland)
European Anglers Alliance	(based in the Netherlands)
Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers	(based in Ireland)
Fédération Québécoise pour le Saumon Atlantique	(based in Canada)
Finnish Sport Fishermen's Association	(based in Finland)
Greenpeace International	(based in the Netherlands)
Icelandic Federation of River Owners	(based in Iceland)
Institute of Fisheries Management	(based in the UK)
International Friends of Wild Salmon	(based in USA)
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)
Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland	(based in the UK)
Salmon and Trout Association	(based in the UK)
Sami Parlamenta	(based in Finland)
Scottish Anglers National Association	(based in the UK)
Ulster Angling Federation Limited	(based in the UK)
World Wide Fund for Nature (Norway)	(based in Norway)
World Wildlife Fund (US)	(based in USA)

