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***Report on the Activities of
the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
in 2001***

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Note: This Report is not intended for publication but is submitted to the Council under Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention which requires the submission of an annual report to the Parties. The report is a summary of the activities of the Organization in 2001. Full details of the work of the Organization are contained in the reports of the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Council and regional Commissions and in the report of the Finance and Administration Committee.

***Report on the Activities of
the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization
in 2001***

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the invitation of the Autonomous Government of Galicia, NASCO held its Eighteenth Annual Meeting in Mondariz, Spain. Further progress was made on a number of issues, as summarised below.

2. Council

- 2.1 The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Council was held during the period 4 - 8 June 2001 under the Presidency of Mr Jacque Robichaud (Canada) and Vice-Presidency of Mr Eidur Gudnason (Iceland). Representatives of all the Contracting Parties, four inter-governmental organizations, 17 non-governmental organizations and media representatives attended the meetings.

The Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management

Habitat protection and restoration

- 2.2 The Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach (SCPA) held its second meeting in February 2001 on the topic of application of a Precautionary Approach to habitat protection and restoration. The Committee had recognised the need to develop a tool for application of the Precautionary Approach in a more complex policy environment than for management of the fisheries. A proposed NASCO Plan of Action for Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Protection and Restoration of Atlantic Salmon Habitat had been developed with the objective of maintaining and where possible increasing the current productive capacity of Atlantic salmon habitat. The Council adopted this Plan of Action and recognised that there would be a need to review the plan from time to time in the light of experience gained and of improved scientific information. During a Special Session to be held at the Nineteenth Annual Meeting, the Contracting Parties will report back on the steps taken to develop and implement habitat protection and restoration plans as envisaged in the NASCO Plan of Action.

Implications of socio-economic issues for application of the Precautionary Approach

- 2.3 The Council decided to ask the SCPA to take this issue forward by:
- asking each Party to provide to the Secretariat information on socio-economic issues relating to salmon conservation;

- requesting four Parties (Canada, the European Union, Norway and the USA) to provide to the Secretariat possible frameworks that would assist the Council in considering socio-economic factors in applying the Precautionary Approach. Contributions by other Parties would also be welcome;
- asking the Secretariat to attempt to summarise this information in order to assist the SCPA to develop, at its next meeting in March 2002, Terms of Reference for a future meeting of the SCPA on how socio-economic factors can be considered in applying the Precautionary Approach.

Review of progress in applying the Decision Structure for Management of Salmon Fisheries

- 2.4 The Parties reported to the Council on progress in implementing the decision structure for management of salmon fisheries, adopted on a provisional basis at the Council's Seventeenth Annual Meeting. The Council decided that a more detailed evaluation and development of the decision structure should be carried out by the SCPA at its next meeting in March 2002.

Future Actions in relation to application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon management

- 2.5 The SCPA was asked to develop draft Terms of Reference for a future meeting on the application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics. These Terms of Reference would be discussed with the salmon farming industry at the next meeting of the Liaison Group in April 2002 and brought forward to the 2002 Council Meeting. It is the Council's intention to hold the SCPA meeting on this subject so that a report can be made to the Council in 2003.

Unreported Catches

- 2.6 A report was made on information provided by the Parties in relation to unreported catches. These returns indicated that, despite best efforts by all Parties to obtain detailed and accurate catch statistics in 2000, unreported catches were estimated to be 1,065-1,445 tonnes compared to a total reported catch of 2,814 tonnes. The Council welcomed the information on unreported catches, which was presented in a transparent manner. The proportion of the total catch which was unreported had decreased slightly in 2000 and the Council welcomed this progress and emphasised the need to take further measures to minimise the level of unreported catches.
- 2.7 The Council considered an International Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, approved by consensus at the Twenty-fourth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries. NASCO is already taking action consistent with the International Plan of Action and it was agreed that FAO should be made aware of these actions.

Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area

- 2.8 Notifications of proposals to conduct scientific research fishing in 2001 and 2002 were tabled by Canada and the USA, and approved by the Council.

International Cooperative Research

- 2.9 At its Seventeenth Annual Meeting the Council had established a Working Group to develop ideas for a research programme to identify and explain the causes of increased marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and to examine the possibilities to counteract the mortality. The Working Group had also been asked to advise on possible sources of funding for the research programme and how to organise it, and to consider the issue of by-catch in pelagic fisheries. The Working Group had met in Oslo, Norway in October 2000 and the Group's report was presented. A summary of some of the financial and administrative implications of the Working Group's recommendations was also tabled. The Council agreed to establish an International Cooperative Salmon Research Board to direct and coordinate a programme of research on marine mortality of salmon.
- 2.10 The Board held its inaugural meeting in London during 5-7 December 2001. The development of an inventory of current and scheduled funded research is an essential precursor to defining areas of research requiring new cooperative initiatives or additional funding. The Board agreed a structure for an Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea and agreed that the initial information provided by the Parties for the inventory should be up-dated for presentation to the Council at its Nineteenth Annual Meeting. The International Cooperative Research Programme consists of two components - cooperative salmon research and a Fund. There are three phases to the Programme:
- development and maintenance of an inventory of relevant research;
 - setting of research priorities and analysis of the inventory against these needs;
 - better coordinated international research and funding of new research to fill the gaps identified by the Board.
- 2.11 The Board agreed Rules of Procedure to guide its work, Guidelines on Acceptance of Voluntary Contributions, and Financial Rules governing the management of the Fund. The Board asked the Secretariat to develop an initial strategy for fund-raising in consultation with the members of the Board. A report on the Board's inaugural meeting will be presented to the Council at its Nineteenth Annual Meeting.

By-catch of Atlantic Salmon

- 2.12 The concern had previously been raised that, even if a very small percentage of the catch in pelagic fisheries in the North-East Atlantic Commission area is salmon post-smolts, the losses could be significant. New information provided by ICES, based on special fishing experiments for post-smolts conducted in the Norwegian Sea, indicated that catches were high and were a concern with respect to the impact of the mackerel fishery in this area. The Council agreed that the question of whether the mackerel

fishery poses a threat should be referred to the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) stressed that there was a need to obtain an estimate, based on available scientific information, of the scale of by-catch in the trawl fishery for mackerel.

- 2.13 The representative of the European Union presented information on surface tuna fisheries operating in European waters and international waters. On the basis of various sources of information it was concluded that surface fisheries for albacore tuna probably do not pose a threat to salmon stocks.

Fishing for Salmon in International Waters

- 2.14 Details of actions taken in relation to the Resolution on Fishing for Salmon on the High Seas were presented. There have been no sightings since February 1994 but there have been few surveillance flights over the winter and spring period. The Secretary will continue to liaise with the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) and the North-East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) with a view to obtaining relevant information on sightings.

Impacts of Aquaculture on Wild Salmon Stocks

Special Liaison Meeting to Review Measures to Minimise Impacts of Aquaculture on the Wild Stocks

- 2.15 The Council held a Special Liaison Meeting at which there were presentations by the Faroe Islands, Iceland and the USA on the measures taken to minimise the impacts of salmon aquaculture on the wild stocks. The Council asked that the reports from the three Special Liaison Meetings be collated together in a single report. The Council decided not to hold further Special Liaison Meetings for the time being but the measures being taken would continue to be reviewed by NASCO and by the NASCO/North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry Liaison Group.

Returns Made in Accordance with the Oslo Resolution

- 2.16 A report was presented on the returns made in accordance with Article 5 of the Oslo Resolution. The Council welcomed the considerably shortened format of the report. Full information on the returns made since 1998 is available in a database which has been established by the Secretariat.

Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry

- 2.17 The report of the second meeting of the NASCO/North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry Liaison Group, held in February 2001, was presented. The Council welcomed this closer, more open and broader cooperation with the salmon farming industry and the commitment to work together on issues of mutual concern. A Constitution to guide the Group's work had been agreed at the first meeting and was acceptable to NASCO and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry. The Council agreed:

- that the Guiding Principles for Cooperation between NASCO and its Contracting Parties and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry were acceptable to NASCO;
- that the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Liaison Group be invited to attend future NASCO meetings so as to contribute to the relevant agenda item where a report is made on the work of the Liaison Group;
- to the proposal to establish a Salmon Cooperation Group, to further explore the options for enhanced cooperation between wild and farmed salmon interests. The proposals developed by the Liaison Group for the initial work of this Group were acceptable to the Council;
- to hold a third meeting of the Liaison Group in Galway, Ireland on 8-9 April 2002.

Development of Guidelines on Physical Containment of Farm Salmon

- 2.18 At its Seventeenth Annual Meeting the Council had welcomed the development by the Liaison Group of Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon but it had recognised the need to include elements on monitoring, control and enforcement, and a requirement to adopt improved technology as this becomes available. At its second meeting the Liaison Group had developed revised Guidelines under which each jurisdiction should draw up a national action plan or regional plans at the earliest opportunity, based on the guidelines. The Council agreed these Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon, and stressed that these would need to be renewed and updated on a regular basis to take account of new technology and better understanding of the impacts on wild stocks. The Council asked that the Liaison Group monitor the development of the action plans and their implementation and advise the Council of progress on an annual basis.

Transgenic Salmon

- 2.19 Under NASCO's Guidelines for Action on Transgenic Salmon, the Parties agree to advise the Council of any proposal to permit the rearing of transgenic salmonids, providing details of the proposed method of containment and other measures to safeguard the wild stocks. A company located in Eastern Canada is currently producing transgenic Atlantic salmon and rainbow trout broodstock in a secure land-based facility and preliminary discussions have taken place between a company and the US Food and Drug Administration.
- 2.20 Following the Seventeenth Annual Meeting the Secretary and President had visited the Aqua Bounty facility on Prince Edward Island. The company believed that much of the commercial production of transgenic salmon would be conducted in sea cages after the fish had been rendered sterile. The Council noted that such an approach would not be consistent with its guidelines. The US committed to alert the President and Secretary when there was a possibility to make NASCO's views on this matter known to the relevant US authorities. The Parties all reported that they supported the present NASCO guidelines. It was noted that these do not necessarily have legal force but there was nevertheless a commitment to them. The application of the

Precautionary Approach to transgenic salmon will be considered by the SCPA (see paragraph 2.5) and the Council agreed that there might be benefits from a Special Session on transgenic salmon at a future meeting.

St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

- 2.21 A report on the progress since the Resolution concerning St Pierre and Miquelon had been transmitted by the President to the Ambassador for France in London was presented. Canada and the USA had also raised concerns with France about the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon. A response to the points raised in the Resolution had been received prior to the Eighteenth Annual Meeting. The representative of the US proposed that there should be a US-funded sampling programme at St Pierre and Miquelon, perhaps with Canadian collaboration, to determine the origin of the wild salmon in the catch. The Council supported this proposal as a useful first step in dealing with this matter. The Council also agreed that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) should continue to be invited to attend NASCO's Annual Meetings in an observer capacity.

Review of NASCO's Relationship with its Observer Organizations

- 2.22 The Council agreed that one joint 5-minute NGO statement could be made at the Opening Session of each Commission meeting in addition to the statements made at the Opening Session of the Council. The Council would, however, only re-open this question of NGO statements on a consensual basis after more experience of the new arrangements. With regard to admission of aquaculture organizations as NGOs, the Council agreed that the participation in the Liaison Group was better for that industry and should remain the way forward.

Methods of Calculating the Contributions to NASCO

- 2.23 The Council agreed that, for the time being, there should be no change to the method used to calculate the contributions to NASCO. However, the subject would remain open for review in the light of changes such as the further development of catch and release salmon fishing.

Predator-Related Mortality

- 2.24 The President reported that he viewed predator-related mortality as a matter of some concern for salmon conservation. Reports were given by the Parties on the management of seal populations. There was also a contribution from one of NASCO's NGOs which the President commended to the Council as containing some valuable information and ideas. The Council agreed to consider holding a Special Session on predator-related mortality of salmon at a future meeting and asked the Secretariat to compile information on predator-related mortality of salmon for presentation on an annual basis.

Scientific Advice

- 2.25 The report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) was presented. The Council adopted a request for scientific advice from ICES to be presented in 2002.
- 2.26 It was suggested by one Party that the adoption of the Precautionary Approach requires, *inter alia*, that stocks be maintained above conservation limits, and NASCO has suggested that this might be achieved by means of management targets. They believed that NASCO should be taking greater account of uncertainties in the scientific advice in determining management actions and that ICES required feedback from NASCO before they can take the next step in developing their advice, e.g. on appropriate levels of risk.

Catch Statistics and their Analysis

- 2.27 The official catch returns by the Parties for 2000, and historical data for the period 1960-2000, were presented.

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

- 2.28 A report was presented on the returns made under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention. The representative of the USA described the implications of the decision to list the distinct population segment of Atlantic salmon in Maine under the Endangered Species Act.

Review of International Salmon-Related Literature Published in 2000

- 2.29 The Council took note of a review of the literature concerning Atlantic salmon published during 2000.

Other Issues

- 2.30 The Council received a report from each of the three regional Commissions on its activities (see sections 3, 4 and 5 below).
- 2.31 The Council adopted the report of the Finance and Administration Committee (see section 6 below).
- 2.32 The Council agreed to proceed with a joint meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC on factors affecting 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. The Secretary was asked to liaise with NPAFC and IBSFC on arrangements for the meeting.
- 2.33 The Council had previously recognised that there could be benefits from a joint meeting of all the North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions (i.e. NASCO, ICCAT, NEAFC and NAFO) to discuss issues of mutual interest such as the Precautionary

Approach, control and enforcement schemes and data collection. A meeting of the Secretariats of the North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions was held in London on 10-11 December 2001 and a report of the meeting will be presented to the Council at its Nineteenth Annual Meeting.

- 2.34 The Council noted with interest the decision of FAO's Committee on Fisheries to establish a Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. The Secretary was asked to report to the Council on a regular basis on the Sub-Committee's progress and on any other issues of relevance to NASCO being addressed within FAO. It was further agreed that the Sub-Committee should be informed of NASCO's work in relation to salmon aquaculture.
- 2.35 The winner of the \$2,500 Grand Prize in the Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Mr Magnar Ernes, Eresfjord, Norway.
- 2.36 The Council adopted a report to the Parties on the activities of the Organization in 2000.
- 2.37 The Secretary was asked to review the procedures of other inter-governmental organizations with regard to communication and participation in their meetings.
- 2.38 The Council agreed to hold its Nineteenth Annual Meeting from 3-7 June 2002 in Torshavn, Faroe Islands. The Council agreed to hold its Twentieth Annual Meeting from 2-6 June 2003, either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party, although these dates would be confirmed at or before the Nineteenth Annual Meeting.

3. North American Commission

- 3.1 The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the North American Commission was held in Mondariz, Spain, during the period 4-8 June 2001 under the Chairmanship of Mr Pierre Tremblay (Canada).

Review of the 2000 Fishery and Scientific Advice from ICES

- 3.2 The Commission reviewed the 2000 fishery and considered the scientific advice from ICES.

Review of the 2001 Salmon Management Measures

- 3.3 A report on U.S. Atlantic salmon management and research activities was presented. The recent listing of the Gulf of Maine distinct population segment as endangered under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) was highlighted. It is now illegal in the United States to "take" a listed Atlantic salmon. "Take" is broadly defined and includes harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect, or attempt to engage in such conduct.
- 3.4 A review of Canada's Atlantic salmon management measures was presented.

Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Work of the Commission

- 3.5 Canada had applied the provisional Precautionary Approach decision structure to a selection of five rivers with different stock strategies and management policies. The United States has no recreational or commercial fisheries for sea-run Atlantic salmon but the decision structure was applied to the Gulf of Maine distinct population segment and confirmed that listing this segment under the ESA was appropriate.

The St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

- 3.6 The Commission noted that the harvest at St Pierre and Miquelon in 2000 was 2.267 t, a very slight decrease from 1998 and 1999 levels, but still significantly higher than catch levels reported in the mid-1990s and above the fourteen-year mean catch level of approximately 2 t. The Commission noted the need to continue efforts to improve cooperation with France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) on Atlantic salmon issues and agreed to inform the Council of its interest in establishing a programme to sample the fishery at St. Pierre and Miquelon in 2002, and to seek Council support for this effort.

Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

- 3.7 A report on the activities of the Scientific Working Group on Salmonid Introductions and Transfers was presented.
- 3.8 Canada is considering approaches for introductions and transfers that are based on risk management and the Precautionary Approach. This work will take some time to complete and, following such work, there would be a need to re-visit the draft revisions to the NAC protocols. Furthermore, under a risk-based approach, and given current levels of knowledge, technology and industry policies, Canada would not permit the placement of transgenic fish into marine and freshwater cages. This risk-based approach to transgenics is the reason for the apparent inconsistency in the current draft NAC protocols on introductions and transfers and NASCO's guidelines on transgenic salmon. The United States recognised the potential conflict between the protocols and the guidelines but stressed that the NAC protocols are still in a formative draft stage and that they would not be finalised prior to next year's Annual Meeting. It would, therefore, be premature to attempt to align the protocols and the guidelines at the present time.

Acid Rain

- 3.9 Canada agreed to investigate the possibility of contacting the Committee on Environmental Cooperation (CEC) of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) regarding the potential for acid rain to impact salmon.

Sampling

- 3.10 Canada reported that two types of monitoring have been conducted in Labrador in the past: in-river sampling and sampling of the coastal fishery. In 2001, only the English

River is being monitored but the river guardian programme was increased in 2001, which will improve surveillance in many rivers of southern Labrador. Funding had been identified to support additional monitoring and sampling work in two Labrador rivers starting in 2002. The United States noted the critical importance of adequate sampling in Labrador to the functioning of the scientific model that predicts pre-fishery abundance for the West Greenland fishery, and commended Canada on its commitment to improve monitoring and data collection in this important area.

Other Issues

- 3.11 The winner of the Commission's \$1,500 prize in the Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Mr Curtis Scott, Vanceboro, Maine.

4. North-East Atlantic Commission

- 4.1 The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the North-East Atlantic Commission was held in Mondariz, Spain, during the period 4-8 June 2001 under the Chairmanship of Mr Vladimir Moskalenko (Russian Federation).

Review of the 2000 Fishery and Scientific Advice from ICES

- 4.2 The Commission reviewed the 2000 fishery and considered the scientific advice from ICES. A catch of 8 t was taken in the Faroese salmon fishery in 2000.

Salmonid Introductions and Transfers

- 4.3 The Commission reviewed the returns under its Resolution to Protect Wild Salmon Stocks from Introductions and Transfers. The Commission agreed to further consider a definition of "non-indigenous" at its next annual meeting but to aid the Parties in completing their returns for 2002 the Commission agreed to use the definition adopted by the North American Commission for the interim, i.e. "Not originating or occurring naturally in a particular environment, introduced outside its native or natural range".
- 4.4 Concern was expressed about the movement of non-indigenous fish and of salmon eggs from outside the Commission area into the area, which did not appear to be consistent with the Resolution.

Application of the Precautionary Approach to the Work of the Commission

- 4.5 Reports were presented by the European Union, Norway and the Russian Federation, which provided initial comments based on experiences in applying the decision structure for fisheries management. There are clearly some improvements that could be made to the decision structure and the Commission agreed that these might be usefully considered at the SCPA meeting in 2002.

Regulatory Measures

- 4.6 Reports on new measures taken in 2001 in the UK and Ireland to protect salmon stocks, and providing background information on European Union measures taken to protect salmon, were presented. Iceland referred to the measures outlined during the Special Liaison Meeting and agreed to make available to the Commission a translation of the Freshwater Fisheries Act next year. Norway referred to reductions in fishing seasons and to the establishment of two new Working Groups to examine the scientific basis for regulating fisheries and quota-based management.
- 4.7 The Commission decided not to set a quota for the Faroe Islands salmon fishery in 2002 on the basis that salmon fishing will be limited in scope and in light of the intention of the Faroe Islands to manage the salmon fishery in a precautionary manner with a view to sustainability and to make management decisions with due consideration to the ICES advice concerning the biological status of the stocks contributing to the fishery.

Other Issues

- 4.8 The Chairman announced that the winner of the Commission's \$1,500 prize in the Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Mrs Army Kleiveland, Kleppe, Norway.

5. West Greenland Commission

- 5.1 The Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission was held in Mondariz, Spain, during the period 4-8 June 2001 under the Chairmanship of Mr Andrew Thomson (European Union).

Review of the 2000 Fishery and Scientific Advice from ICES

- 5.2 The Commission reviewed the 2000 fishery at West Greenland and considered the scientific advice from ICES. Reported catches for sale totalled 19.9 tonnes and reported catches for private consumption totalled 0.6 tonnes. Unreported catches were estimated to be approximately 10 tonnes. The fishery in 2000 had been extremely rapid with mean daily landings per fisherman considerably higher than in 1999.

Regulatory Measures

- 5.3 The Commission adopted by consensus an "*Ad Hoc* Management Programme for the 2001 Fishery at West Greenland." This programme sets out a system of corroborating evidence of abundance using catch per unit effort (CPUE), which appears to be a reliable index of the abundance of the stocks. There will be three fishery openings, with the last two dependent on abundance indicated by information gathered during the previous opening. This strategy may allow higher harvest levels, if appropriate, based on observed abundance without dramatically increasing the risk to stocks. New data gathered will also be useful in assessing stocks in future years.

Application of the Precautionary Approach Decision Structure to the West Greenland Commission

- 5.4 Reports on initial experience in applying the decision structure for management of salmon fisheries were tabled by the European Union, Canada, USA and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland).

Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery

- 5.5 The Commission developed an agreement detailing the commitments by the various Parties to the West Greenland fishery sampling programme for 2001.

Other Issues

- 5.6 The Chairman announced that the winner of the Commission's \$1,500 prize in the Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Mr Sigurd Motzfeldt, Qassimiut, South Greenland.

6. Finance and Administration Matters

- 6.1 The Finance and Administration Committee met prior to the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Council under the Acting Chairmanship of Mr Steinar Hermansen (Norway).

Review of the Annual Payment to ICES

- 6.2 A report was presented on the continuing discussions with ICES. The Committee asked the Secretary to liaise with ICES and the other fishery Commissions in the development of a new MoU to apply from 23 June 2002. The Committee reaffirmed the need for:

- stability in NASCO payments to ICES through continuation of a fixed rate payment adjusted only to take account of inflation in Denmark;
- improved consultation with the NASCO Secretariat before additional costs are incurred by ICES and attributed to NASCO;
- the new arrangements for providing the advice on a timely basis to be continued and to be made more cost-effective.

Donations to NASCO

- 6.3 The Committee recognised that it would be for the Council to decide if it wished to accept voluntary contributions but agreed that there should be guidelines to ensure that if the Council did decide to accept donations this did not compromise the Organization's independence. The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council a set of guidelines to apply to voluntary contributions by non-members.

Consideration of the 2002 Draft Budget

- 6.4 The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council the adoption of the Draft 2002 Budget and Schedule of Contributions.

NASCO Staff Fund

- 6.5 The Committee agreed to recommend to the Council the adoption of a decision on the establishment of a NASCO Staff Fund.

Protection of NASCO's Name and Logo

- 6.6 The Secretary was asked to register the Organization's logo (which includes the acronym 'NASCO') under the Paris Convention. An additional sum of £1,500 was included in Section 10 of the draft 2002 budget for this purpose.

Election of Officers

- 6.7 The Committee elected Mr Steinar Hermansen (Norway) to serve as Chairman and Mr Andrew Thomson (European Union) to serve as Vice-Chairman.

Audited Accounts

- 6.8 The Committee recommended to the Council the adoption of the audited accounts for 2000. The Committee recommended to the Council the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers of Queen Street, Edinburgh as auditors for the 2001 accounts or such other company as may be agreed by the Secretary in consultation with the Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee.

Secretary
Edinburgh
12 April, 2002

