



Agenda item 5.11
For information

Council

CNL(03)25

Report on Initiatives within FAO of Relevance to NASCO

Report on Initiatives within FAO of Relevance to NASCO

At its 2001 Annual Meeting the Council asked to be informed of initiatives within FAO of relevance to NASCO. A brief summary follows, but in future it is proposed that this report be incorporated in the Secretary's Report unless there are major initiatives of relevance to salmon conservation and management.

1. Twenty-Fifth Session of the Committee on Fisheries (COFI)

- The Twenty-Fifth Session of COFI was held at FAO Headquarters, Rome during 24-28 February 2003. The NASCO Secretariat was not represented.
- Documents for the meeting are available at the FAO website (www.fao.org).

2. Sub-Committee on Aquaculture

- A brief report of the first session of this Sub-Committee was presented to the Council last year. The next meeting of the Sub-Committee will be held in Norway in August 2003.

3. International Plan of Action (IPOA) on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

- A report on the actions being taken by NASCO consistent with the IPOA was sent to FAO on 2 July 2001. An update on NASCO's actions was presented at the third meeting of the FAO and non-FAO Regional Fishery Bodies (see section 5).

4. Agreement to Promote Compliance with International Conservation and Management Measures by Fishing Vessels on the High Seas ("the Compliance Agreement")

- The Agreement will enter into force following the receipt of 25 instruments of acceptance. To date, 23 Parties have deposited instruments of acceptance, including Canada, the European Union, Norway, Sweden and the United States of America.
- When adopted, the Compliance Agreement may be a useful initiative complementing any actions taken by NASCO to address future problems of fishing for salmon in international waters by non-Contracting Parties should these arise.

5. Third Meeting of FAO and Non-FAO Regional Fishery Bodies (RFBs) or Arrangements

- The Third Meeting of FAO and non-FAO RFBs was held in Rome on 3 and 4 March 2003.

- The meeting recognised that the ecosystem approach is not clearly understood or defined and that, as fisheries management by RFBs may be limited to one or more species or geographic area, some difficulty in adopting an ecosystem approach might be expected. FAO has developed guidelines concerning implementation of an ecosystem approach to fisheries management.
- A report was made on the implications for RFBs of the recommendations from the World Summit on Sustainable Development. The Summit had set goals in relation to implementing the IPOA on IUU fishing (by 2004), application of the ecosystem approach to fisheries management (by 2010) and for maintaining or restoring stocks to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield (by 2015). However, with regard to the latter it was recognised that external factors can have more significant effects on the resource than fishery management actions.
- FAO has agreed to make information available to the Regional Sea Programmes and CITES on the role of the RFBs.
- Progress was reported on practical steps to address IUU fishing, including exchange of enforcement-related information between RFBs, development of white or black lists of vessels, vessel monitoring systems and monthly reporting systems.
- The RFBs have been approached with regard to becoming partners in FAO's Fisheries Resources Monitoring System (FIRMS) with a view to sharing information on status and trends of fishery resources. The RFBs have requested further information in order to assess the cost-effectiveness of this approach.
- In summary, much of the work of FAO is directed towards developing countries, often in tropical or sub-tropical zones. Therefore, FAO's output is often not relevant to NASCO's work. Nevertheless, some international initiatives, such as the IPOA on IUU fishing and the Compliance Agreement, have a bearing on our work and FAO appears to be keen that some of the influence of the non-FAO bodies rubs off on its own RFBs which, we were told, are often poorly funded and ineffective because of lack of agreement among the Parties.

Secretary
Edinburgh
7 April, 2003