



Agenda item 2  
For information

**Council**

**CNL(03)2**

***Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda***

**Note:** A summary of all the decisions before the Council will be presented in document CNL(03)26.

*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(03)1) is submitted herewith. The Parties may propose supplementary items by informing the Secretary. A Draft Agenda (CNL(03)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(03)4) is submitted herewith.

**3. Administrative Issues**

**3.1 Secretary's Report**

The Secretary will report to the Council on a number of procedural, administrative, financial and other matters (CNL(03)5).

**3.2 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(03)6). The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2004 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2002;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2003 accounts;
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

**3.3 Reports 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 2002 (CNL(03)7). This report is not intended for publication.

A Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2002/2003 will be prepared for publication. The Council has previously decided that the Organization's biennial reports should be agreed by correspondence with Heads of Delegations following the

Annual Meeting. A draft report will be sent to Heads of Delegations within one month of the Twentieth Annual Meeting.

### **3.4 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.

## **4. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information**

### **4.1 Scientific Advice from ICES**

The Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) (CNL(03)8) will be circulated and will be briefly introduced at the meeting by a representative of ICES. The detailed advice will be considered by the Commissions separately at their meetings. ICES will be requested to make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available to NASCO delegates on the ICES web site.

### **4.2 Report on the SALMODEL Project**

This major EU-funded project has just been completed and the scientists involved are very keen that the results are clearly conveyed to managers. The main aim of the project is to develop methods for establishing conservation limits and pre-fishery abundance estimates for the North-East Atlantic Commission area. The findings are, however, also of relevance to management of the West Greenland fishery. A brief report on the project will be presented (CNL(03)9).

### **4.3 Catch Statistics and their Analysis**

The Secretary will present the catch statistics for 2002 as provided to the Organization by the Parties (CNL(03)10). These data will be used in the calculation of the Schedule of Contributions by the Parties for 2004. The updated historical catch record will be presented for information (CNL(03)11).

### **4.4 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(03)12). The Council will be asked to adopt a request for scientific advice from ICES.

## **5. Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Salmon Stocks**

### **5.1 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(03)13).

## 5.2 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) *Reports on Progress with Application of the Decision Structure for Management of North Atlantic Salmon Fisheries*

Last year the Council adopted a revised Decision Structure which had been developed by the SCPA in the light of the initial experiences of the Parties in applying an earlier Decision Structure which had been adopted on a provisional basis in 2000. It was agreed that the revised Decision Structure should be widely applied by managers in collaboration with stakeholders and that the Parties should report back to the Council on an annual basis on their progress and experiences in applying it and on the extent of its implementation. The Council asked that the Secretary develop a simple format for returns. An initial format has been developed and the President has asked that this be used on a trial basis for the return of information for 2002. A report on the returns made using this format (CNL(03)14) will be presented. The Council will be asked to adopt this format for future use or take such other action as it considers appropriate.

(b) *Reports on Progress with Development and Implementation of Habitat Protection and Restoration Plans*

At its Nineteenth Annual Meeting the Council held a Special Session to allow for reports by the Parties on the development and implementation of Habitat Protection and Restoration Plans as envisaged under the NASCO Plan of Action. A report on this Special Session will be distributed for information (CNL(03)15). Last year the Council asked that the Secretary develop a simple format for reporting on specific implementation on habitat protection and restoration. An initial format has been developed and the President has asked that this be used on a trial basis for the return of information for 2002. A report on the returns made using this format will be presented CNL(03)16. The Council will be asked to adopt this format for future use and take such other action as it considers appropriate.

(c) *Report of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach on Application of the Precautionary Approach to Introductions and Transfers, Aquaculture and Transgenics*

Last year the Council agreed Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA to consider the application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics. A report on this meeting, which will be held in Williamsburg, Virginia, in March, will be presented (CNL(03)17). The Council had asked that the report be circulated widely to relevant stakeholders and any feedback received, including that from the Liaison Group, will be presented.



- (d) *Report of the Technical Workshop on Development of a Framework for Assessing Social and Economic Values Related to Wild Atlantic Salmon*

The SCPA has previously recognised that the true social and economic values of wild Atlantic salmon are unknown, that there is a need to include social and economic factors in management decisions under a Precautionary Approach without negating its effectiveness, and that consideration of social and economic factors may be complementary to conservation and management objectives. Last year the Council agreed Terms of Reference for a meeting of the SCPA to consider the incorporation of social and economic aspects in the application of the Precautionary Approach. These Terms of Reference propose, as an initial step, the development of an internationally agreed framework or template for assessing social and economic values of the wild Atlantic salmon. The Council agreed that this work should be carried out by a Technical Workshop which would also prepare an inventory of the various social and economic values related to Atlantic salmon based on information compiled and summarised by the Contracting Parties. A report of the Workshop, to be held in Edinburgh during 21-24 January, will be presented (CNL(03)18).

- (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(03)19).

### **5.3 Unreported Catches**

The Secretary will introduce a report summarising the annual returns by the Parties in relation to unreported catches (CNL(03)20).

### **5.4 Report of the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board**

At its Eighteenth Annual Meeting 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 December 2001. The Council asked that the Board proceed to improve coordination of research and to seek to raise funds so as to finance gaps in research. The first meeting of the Board was held in New York during 3-5 December 2002. A report of this meeting will be presented (CNL(03)21) together with an indication of progress in the six months since the meeting.

### **5.5 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.

## **5.6 By-catch of Atlantic Salmon**

The Council is concerned about the potential level of by-catch of salmon post-smolts in pelagic fisheries for mackerel in the North-East Atlantic Commission area. The initial estimates developed by ICES and presented in the scientific advice last year were preliminary and the Council recognised the need to further improve these initial estimates. The advice from ICES in relation to by-catch will be presented. The Council had previously asked that the issue of by-catch be considered by the International Cooperative Salmon Research Board and a report from the Board will be presented under agenda item 5.4.

## **5.7 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(03)22).

### *(b) Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry*

A report on the Fourth Liaison Group Meeting of NASCO and the North Atlantic salmon farming industry will be presented (CNL(02)23). This report will include feedback from the industry in relation to the SCPA's recommendations concerning application of the Precautionary Approach to introductions and transfers, aquaculture and transgenics (see agenda item 5.2(a)).

## **5.8 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 an opportunity for the Parties to report to the Council on any such proposals.

## **5.9 Predator-related Mortality**

At the Nineteenth Annual Meeting the President asked the Parties to provide to the Secretariat an update, covering the period since the Special Session on this subject in 1996, on research and management in relation to predation on salmon. A report on the returns from the Parties will be presented (CNL(03)24).

## **5.10 St Pierre and Miquelon Salmon Fisheries**

In recent years the North American Commission and the Council have become increasingly concerned about catches at St Pierre and Miquelon which, although low, have been increasing at a time when there are serious worries about the abundance of North American stocks and when restrictions are being introduced all around the North-West Atlantic. Last year the Council adopted a Resolution Concerning Cooperation with St Pierre and Miquelon which urged the Contracting Parties to encourage France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to cooperate with NASCO

and its Contracting Parties in instituting a scientific sampling programme in 2003. There will be an opportunity for the Parties to report on any progress on this issue and for the Council to consider if further action is required. In accordance with the Resolution, France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) has been invited to attend the Twentieth Annual Meeting of NASCO.

**5.11 Report on Initiatives within FAO of Relevance to NASCO**

The Secretary will report on the work of the FAO's Sub-Committee on Aquaculture; on the Third Meeting of FAO and Regional Fishery Bodies; and other developments within FAO of relevance to the work of NASCO (CNL(03)25).

**5.12 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.

**6. Other Business**

Any other business may be raised.

**7. Date and Place of Next Meeting**

The Council has agreed to hold its Twenty-First Annual Meeting during 7-11 June 2004 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

The proposal will be made that the Twenty-Second Annual Meeting be held during 6-10 June 2005 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

**8. Report of the Meeting**

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

**9. Press Release**

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

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
17 January, 2003