



Agenda item 3.1
For decision
(items 5 and 6 only)

Council

CNL(03)5

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 has been one new application for observer status to NASCO. It is from an organisation based in France called Fondation Saumon. Its objectives are to restore salmon rivers and to protect their environment. These objectives are compatible with those of NASCO and Fondation Saumon has, therefore, been granted NGO status. The twenty-nine organizations listed in Annex 1 have observer status to NASCO.

The Council has stated that it greatly values the contribution of all of its NGOs to its work, but there is a need to establish a balance between increasing transparency and the need to create an environment in which effective negotiations can take place. Last year, the Council therefore adopted new conditions governing NGO attendance at its meetings with regard to media contact during these meetings. These conditions were acceptable to and supported by all NGOs present except ASF, WWF (Norway and USA). Following the Annual Meeting, these three organisations were contacted and advised that they would be expected to accept the conditions before being invited to the next Annual Meeting. They have not, to date, accepted the conditions and they have not, therefore, been invited to attend as accredited observers. Canada has advised that one of these NGOs, the ASF, will participate within that delegation. In this case, they will not be able to make statements at the meeting and their participation will be subject to NASCO rules.

- 4.3 Prior to the last Annual Meeting, the Council agreed to a request from the Government of Ukraine to become an observer to NASCO.

5. Joint meeting of North Atlantic Fisheries Management Organizations

5.1 The Council had previously recognised that there might be benefits from a joint meeting of all the North Atlantic Regional Fisheries Management Organizations (NARFMOs) to examine issues of mutual interest such as the Precautionary Approach, control and enforcement schemes and data collection. The second meeting of the Secretariats of the NARFMOs was held in Rome on 4 and 5 March 2003 following the meeting of FAO and non-FAO Regional Fishery Bodies. (A brief report on the meeting of Regional Fishery Bodies is contained in document CNL(03)25). Representatives from the Secretariats of IBSFC, ICCAT, NAFO, NASCO and NEAFC attended the NARFMO meeting. NAMMCO was not represented.

5.2 A number of points arose from the meeting and the Secretariats agreed to suggest to their Councils that:

- information be shared on developments in marine governance;
- relevant information be exchanged in relation to IUU fishing;
- recent studies be reviewed on the different approaches to obtaining scientific advice, so as to facilitate a detailed discussion at the Group's next meeting of the pros and cons of each approach to obtaining high-quality, objective, politically neutral, peer-reviewed advice on a timely basis;
- contact at a Secretariat level between NARFMOs and Regional Seas Organizations (RSOs) might be valuable in better communicating the respective roles of the different organizations;
- the meetings of the FAO and non-FAO Regional Fishery Bodies could be made more effective through a more thematic approach to the agenda;
- information might be shared on the rules governing accredited NGOs;
- they might continue to meet approximately annually, at least for the time being, since such meetings are a cost-effective method of communicating between the Secretariats on issues such as IUU fishing, relationships with RSOs and major new initiatives in fisheries management such as the Precautionary Approach and the Ecosystem Approach to Fisheries Management.

6. Joint meeting on factors influencing marine survival of salmon

6.1 Last year a two-day joint meeting was organised with NPAFC, IBSFC, PICES and ICES as co-sponsors, which focused on the factors affecting the marine survival of salmon in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea. The report of the meeting was published as an NPAFC Technical Bulletin and issued to all NASCO delegates. The meeting provided a very valuable exchange of information and there was support for continuing the dialogue and for enhanced coordination of the work being undertaken in the three areas in relation to improving understanding of factors influencing survival of salmon at sea. It was suggested that an expanded international

symposium might be held in the future to facilitate improved coordination, cooperation and exchange of ideas and to communicate findings of research effectively to the public in order to gain support for research on salmon at sea.

- 6.2 There has been much positive feedback from participants at the meeting and support for a major international symposium, possibly in 2005 or 2006. Informal contacts with the Secretariats of IBSFC, PICES, ICES and NPAFC indicate that there is interest in those organizations in exploring this possibility. The first step will be to confirm that these organizations are willing to proceed, in principle, with a symposium, probably to be held in Europe and then to appoint a Steering Group to plan the programme, develop budgets and examine opportunities for sponsorship. The Council is asked to consider if it is willing to support this idea. A more detailed proposal, together with details of any budgetary implications, could be presented at the Twenty-First Annual Meeting.

7. Fishing for salmon in international waters

- 7.1 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 2002 - 31 March 2003 a total of 16 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 (14 flights) and Icelandic (2 flights) Coastguards.
- 7.2 There have been no sightings of vessels fishing for salmon in international waters since 1994. There were, however, no flights over the area in the period from mid-September 2002 to 31 March 2003, i.e. a period of six 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.
- 7.3 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 and other NARFMOs on this issue through the meetings of the Secretariats. A major problem may be linked to the by-catch of salmon post-smolts in the pelagic fisheries in the same area. This issue is considered separately under Council agenda item 5.6.
- 7.4 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(03)25.

8. Tag Return Incentive Scheme

- 8.1 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.

- 8.2 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.

9. Review of international salmon-related literature published in 2002

- 9.1 For a number of years, the Secretariat has collated salmon-related press cuttings and scientific articles through a search of relevant computer-based databases. These articles, when compiled, edited and formatted, resulted in a Council paper of more than 50 pages in length. In order to save on costs, we have not produced this as a Council document this year but the unedited material, as downloaded, is available on CD from the Secretariat.

10. The Organization's financial affairs

Audited accounts for 2002

- 10.1 In accordance with Financial Rule 11, the report of the Auditors for the Financial Year 1 January - 31 December 2002 was submitted to Heads of Delegations and members of the Finance and Administration Committee on 30 January 2003. 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 2002 or take such other actions as it decides.

2004 Budget

- 10.2 In accordance with Article 16 of the Convention and Financial Rule 3.5, the 2004 Draft and 2005 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 2004.

Receipt of contributions for 2003

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

11. Headquarters Property

- 11.1 NASCO's Headquarters is a listed Georgian building constructed in about 1820. We purchased it in 1986 and it has proved to be a high-class investment. First, there is no rent payment for the space occupied by the Secretariat. Second, the rest of the accommodation is rented out at a significant profit. Third, the value of the asset

purchased for £380,000 is now estimated to be in excess of £1,250,000. As with all Georgian buildings, maintenance costs tend to be higher than for modern buildings. We are currently completing a large refurbishment of the roof and stonework. This has been quite a costly effort but, fortunately, our tenants have a long-term full-repairing lease so they pay half the costs. We have also obtained a grant from the Edinburgh World Heritage Trust. This work is proceeding on schedule and at estimated cost.

Secretary
Edinburgh
7 April, 2003

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)
Faroes Sportsfishing Association	(based in the Faroe Islands)
Federation of Icelandic River Owners	(based in Iceland)
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)
Fondation Saumon	(based in France)
Greenpeace International	(based in the Netherlands)
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)