



Agenda item 5.8(d)
For decision

Council

CNL(01)27

***Report of the Second Liaison Meeting
with the Salmon Farming Industry***

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1. The first meeting of the NASCO/North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry Liaison Group was held in London in February 2000 and a report of the meeting was presented to the Council at its Seventeenth Annual Meeting. The Council had welcomed the closer, more open and broader cooperation with the salmon farming industry and the commitment to work together on issues of mutual concern. The second meeting of the Liaison Group was held in Ottawa on 5 and 6 February 2001 and was well attended both by representatives of the salmon farming industry in the North Atlantic and NASCO's Contracting Parties. The report of the meeting is attached. Progress was made in agreeing Guiding Principles for Cooperation between NASCO and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry (contained in Annex 5 of the report), in developing Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon (contained in Annex 6 of the report) and in establishing a mechanism to explore areas for future cooperation (see paragraph 6.2 of the report).
2. The Council is asked to consider the report of the Liaison Group and decide if it can accept the report and, in particular, if it can accept:
 - (i) that the Chairman and Rapporteur of the Liaison Group should be invited to attend future NASCO meetings so that they may report to the Council on the Group's work (the Council had previously agreed that the Chairman of the Group, if from industry, should be invited to attend);
 - (ii) the revised Guiding Principles for Cooperation between NASCO and its Contracting Parties and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry;
 - (iii) the proposal to establish a Committee on Future Cooperation to further explore options for enhanced cooperation between wild and farm salmon interests;
 - (iv) the proposal that the North American Commission be asked to review the implications of the draft Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon for the existing NAC Protocols on the Introduction and Transfer of Salmonids;
 - (v) the proposal to hold the third meeting of the Liaison Group in late February or March 2002 at a venue in Europe to be decided and that the Secretariat be asked to liaise on arrangements for the meeting.
3. The draft Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon developed by the Liaison Group will be considered separately under Agenda item 5.8(e) (see document CNL(01)28).

Secretary
Edinburgh
9 April, 2001

***Report of the Meeting of the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry and
NASCO Liaison Group***

Canadian Government Conference Centre, Ottawa, Canada

5-6 February, 2001

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Chairman, Mr Andrew Thomson, opened the meeting and welcomed delegates to Ottawa. He thanked the Canadian Government and Canadian Aquaculture Industry Alliance (CAIA) representatives for the arrangements made and wished all participants a fruitful meeting and an enjoyable stay in Ottawa.
- 1.2 An opening statement was made by Mr James Ryan on behalf of the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry. This statement is contained in Annex 1. Ms Anne McMullin (CAIA) welcomed delegates to Ottawa. She referred to the progress made by the Liaison Group at its meeting in London and indicated that the Canadian industry representatives looked forward to continuing this process.
- 1.3 An opening statement was made by Dr Malcolm Windsor on behalf of NASCO. This statement is contained in Annex 2.
- 1.4 Ms Anne McMullin was appointed as Rapporteur for the meeting.
- 1.5 A list of participants is contained in Annex 3.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Liaison Group adopted its agenda, SLG(01)10 (Annex 4).

3. Matters Arising since the First Meeting of the Liaison Group

- 3.1 At its first meeting the Liaison Group had developed a Constitution to guide its work. This Constitution had been considered at NASCO's Seventeenth Annual Meeting and was acceptable to NASCO. Representatives of the salmon farming industry confirmed that they could also accept the Constitution.
- 3.2 At its Seventeenth Annual Meeting the Council of NASCO had agreed that the Chairman of the Liaison Group (if from the aquaculture industry) should be invited to attend future NASCO meetings. The industry representatives indicated that this would mean that they could only be represented at NASCO's meetings in two years out of four. The Liaison Group therefore agreed to recommend to the Council that

both the Chairman and Rapporteur be invited to attend future NASCO meetings. As these duties are shared between NASCO and industry representatives it would mean that the industry could attend every NASCO meeting. The industry representatives also asked for clarification on the conditions of attendance. NASCO representatives indicated that attendance was not solely on the basis of observer status but that the Liaison Group representatives should be able to contribute to the relevant Council agenda item where a report is made on the work of the Liaison Group. They agreed to seek clarification on this matter from the Council of NASCO.

- 3.3 The Council of NASCO had decided that aquaculture organizations may be granted observer status to NASCO under the same conditions as applied to its NGOs. The industry representatives indicated that they believed that the appropriate forum for cooperation with NASCO on issues of mutual interest was the Liaison Group. The Secretary of NASCO referred to correspondence he had received from the Chairman of NASCO's NGOs requesting that they be granted observer status at the Liaison Group meetings. The Group noted that NGOs have the opportunity to have an input into the recommendations developed by the Liaison Group when these are presented to NASCO Council. The Liaison Group agreed that it was important that it could demonstrate significant progress before considering changes to its constitution so as to allow wider participation in its meetings. The Group asked that the NASCO Secretary respond to the NGOs, according to an agreed text, detailing its decision and stressing that the Group looks forward to being in a position to return to this issue at a future meeting.
- 3.4 The report of NASCO's first Special Liaison Meeting on Measures to Minimise Impacts of Aquaculture on the Wild Stocks held in 1999, which included presentations by Norway and Canada, was made available to the Group. The report of the second Special Liaison Meeting held in June 2000, involving presentations by the EU and its Member States, will be made available to the Group when it has been finalised. The report of the third meeting, to be held in June 2001, involving presentations by Iceland, the Faroe Islands and the USA, will be made available to the Group when it has been prepared.
- 3.5 At the first Liaison Group Meeting a "Declaration on cooperation between NASCO and the North Atlantic salmon farming industry" had been developed. This "Declaration" had been considered by the Council of NASCO at its Seventeenth Annual Meeting. The Council had felt that the "Declaration" should be seen as "Guiding Principles" or a "Statement of Objectives" and that there was a lack of balance since, while there is reference to the benefits of salmon farming, there is no reference to the possible negative effects on the wild stocks. The risk of such negative effects was the reason why NASCO and a number of national salmon farming industries took the initiative to establish the Liaison Group. Furthermore, while the "Declaration" refers to "NASFI" the Council was unaware of the existence of such an organization. NASCO wished to see this issue addressed. A document, SLG(01)5, including NASCO's proposed changes was tabled. The industry representatives also raised a number of proposals for changes that they wished to see addressed in any revision to the document and indicated that the acronym "NASFI" did relate to a sub-committee of the International Salmon Farmers Association (ISFA) which included

representation from all countries in the North Atlantic region with salmon farming interests except the USA. Mr Sebastian Belle, of the Maine Aquaculture Association, indicated that, while no decision had yet been taken by his Board, it was likely that the industry in Maine would become a member of the ISFA in the future. The Liaison Group considered a revised document, entitled “Guiding Principles for Cooperation between NASCO and its Contracting Parties and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry”, which incorporated amendments proposed by the Council of NASCO and by the industry. This document, SLG(01)11 (Annex 5), was agreed by the Liaison Group. It would be referred by NASCO to its Council and by the industry to its constituent bodies.

4. Development of Internationally Agreed Guidelines on Containment

- 4.1 At its first Meeting the Liaison Group had established a Working Group to develop guidelines on containment. This Working Group had met in Brussels on 6 and 7 April 2000 under the Chairmanship of Dr John Webster. The report of the meeting, which included draft guidelines on containment developed by the Group, had been circulated to all members of the Liaison Group. The Chairman of the Working Group briefly summarised the report of the meeting, SLG(00)18.
- 4.2 The report of the Working Group had been considered by the Council of NASCO at its Seventeenth Annual Meeting. NASCO had welcomed the development of draft guidelines on containment but saw the need for further work to ensure that they would result in a higher standard of containment than is presently being achieved. As drafted the guidelines could only be considered a minimum standard and NASCO had wished to see inclusion of elements on monitoring, control and enforcement and a requirement to adopt improved technology as it becomes available. The Liaison Group recognised the need to address these points, to clarify in the guidelines the meaning of the term “Action Plan” and to include details of the elements that an Action Plan should include. Revised Guidelines on Containment, SLG(01)12 (Annex 6), incorporating these clarifications and changes, were adopted by the Group. The Group recognised that the development of these plans was already ongoing in many countries but that some plans would take longer to develop and implement than others. **Nonetheless there should be reports made on progress to the Liaison Group on an annual basis since the plans will continually evolve as a result of monitoring and experience gained.**
- 4.3 The Liaison Group discussed definitions of the term “wild salmon” as developed by ICES and as contained in the Oslo Resolution, SLG(01)3 (Annex 7).

5. Application of the Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management

- 5.1 A brief presentation, SLG(01)4, was made summarising NASCO’s work in applying the Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management and exploitation of salmon. Under the Guiding Principles for Cooperation, NASCO and its Contracting Parties and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry agree to work cooperatively when consideration is given to the application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon aquaculture.

- 5.2 The industry representatives raised a number of concerns in relation to the application of the Precautionary Approach including the conflict between the Precautionary Approach and socio-economic aspects and the difficulty of applying the Precautionary Approach objectively. While it was recognised that the Precautionary Approach is an important development, the view was expressed by the industry that its application may be open to misuse by those opposed to a particular issue and that once the Precautionary Approach has been introduced to the regulatory process it may be difficult to convince the relevant authorities that it can be moderated having had the desired effect and in the light of advancing knowledge.
- 5.3 The NASCO representatives indicated that some of the initiatives within the Liaison Group might be considered to be consistent with a Precautionary Approach. The Liaison Group agreed that the Precautionary Approach should remain on its agenda for future meetings.

6. Other Areas for Discussion and Cooperation

- 6.1 At the first Liaison Group meeting possible areas for future discussion and cooperation had been considered. There was support for reviewing how the salmon farming industry might assist with restoration and enhancement of wild salmon stocks since it had been recognised that the industry has considerable experience in hatchery techniques, in reducing costs of rearing salmon and in genetic aspects, and some experience in rearing triploid salmon. The Canadian Commissioner for Aquaculture Development had indicated his willingness to consider funding a Special Session of NASCO on restoration and enhancement of wild salmon. Fish health interactions, over-exploitation of pelagic fish on which Atlantic salmon prey and possible funding mechanisms in order to support research of interest to the Liaison Group, which might not otherwise be funded, had also been identified as possible topics for future discussion and cooperation. These proposed topics for future discussion and cooperation had been agreed by NASCO at its Seventeenth Annual Meeting.
- 6.2 The Liaison Group considered a proposal from the salmon farming industry representatives to establish a Committee on Future Cooperation to further explore the options for enhanced cooperation between wild and farmed salmon interests. The Group noted that there are already several cooperative initiatives under way involving the industry and those concerned with restoration and enhancement of wild stocks. The Committee was asked to work initially by correspondence so as to catalogue ongoing cooperative programmes on restoration. The Committee might also look into the possibility of holding a seminar or Special Session of NASCO on salmon restoration and also examine funding mechanisms for research of interest to the Liaison Group including research on wild and farmed salmon interactions. The Liaison Group appointed Dr Ken Whelan, Mr Yves Bastien, Mr James Ryan and Mr Sebastian Belle to the Committee and asked that it report back on progress prior to the Liaison Group's next meeting.

7. Any Other Business

- 7.1 The representatives of the salmon farming industries in North America referred to the need to re-examine NASCO's North American Commission's Protocols on Introductions and Transfers in the light of the considerable progress that had been made by the Liaison Group in developing Guidelines on Containment. They indicated that they wished to see a thorough discussion within NASCO of the implications of these Guidelines for the existing Protocols. The Liaison Group agreed that this proposal should be referred to the North American Commission.
- 7.2 The representative of the Norwegian Fish Farmers Association referred to a new scientific research programme on Atlantic salmon to be funded by the Norwegian Research Council. A total of about 25-30 million Canadian dollars (approximately £12-15 million) has been allocated to the programme over a ten-year period commencing in 2001. The programme will examine causes of variations in production, threats to salmon in Norwegian waters and management and utilisation aspects of wild salmon. The programme is being funded from public and private (including the salmon farming industry) sources. He agreed to keep the Liaison Group updated on the programme's progress.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

- 8.1 The Liaison Group agreed to hold its next meeting in late February or March 2002 at a venue in Europe to be decided. The NASCO Secretariat was asked to make the arrangements for the meeting in consultation with the Parties.

9. Report of the Liaison Group Meeting

- 9.1 The Liaison Group decided to agree a report of the meeting by correspondence no later than mid-April.

***Opening Remarks on behalf of the
International Salmon Farmers Association
by James Ryan, Chairman, Irish Salmon Growers Association***

Ladies and Gentlemen, Good Morning. I must say I am delighted to be here in this beautiful city even though I have never in all my life experienced such cold.

I would like at the outset to thank Malcolm and Peter of NASCO for organising this meeting and the other meetings which have brought us to this promising stage. I would also like to thank the Canadian Government and the Canadian Aquaculture Alliance for hosting us here.

I have been involved in all the meetings so far, both of the Liaison Group and of the Working Group and even the initial meeting in Glasgow, which seems a very long time ago. The process has been far more successful than I expected – coming as I do from a situation in Ireland where there can be a measure of polarisation between farmed and wild interests. I think we have learned we have far more in common than divides us.

It is important that both sides keep in mind that salmon farming developed some 35 years ago from techniques used to enhance or ranch wild salmon. In this context I was interested to read the NASCO/ICES definition which says that salmon aquaculture includes ranching, enhancement and farming. Both the wild and farmed salmon industries are still pushing out the frontiers of knowledge of the biology of this fish which is so important to us all. We must continue of course to share this knowledge.

As I said, we have made significant progress in the last year. We now have a document, ‘The Guidelines on Containment of Farmed Salmon’, which is close to finalisation and which goes a long way towards addressing the concerns of all parties. Of course the process does not end with this document. The guidelines need to be applied and this is already happening in many of the countries which are party to this document. The other countries will follow suit in the near future. We should remember that it is not too difficult to persuade farmers to accept a reasonable code of practice as regards preventing farm losses. Farmers can’t afford to lose fish and adopting the guidelines will save them money.

The process also does not end with this document because there are many other areas where dialogue can be opened up, particularly as regards research and cooperation between both sides as regards ways of halting or reversing declines in wild salmon numbers. We look forward with interest to hearing more on the proposal to hold a conference on restoration techniques.

We are also curious as to why NASCO has placed the Precautionary Principle on the agenda. The salmon farming industry is wary of the way in which the Precautionary Principle is used as a catch-all reason for saying “no” to salmon farms. However, we await with open minds what NASCO has to say on this topic.

We look forward to frank, open and sympathetic debate.

Thank you.

***Opening Statement by Dr Malcolm Windsor, Secretary of the
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO)***

First, on behalf of the NASCO delegates to this Liaison Group Meeting, I would like to thank our Canadian colleagues in the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the salmon farming industry for the arrangements made for this meeting. The facilities you have provided are greatly appreciated. It is a pleasure for us to be here in Ottawa and we look forward to a productive meeting.

At our first meeting last year in London, we indicated that NASCO is emphatically not anti-salmon-farming. I cannot overstress this; it is in fact self-evident since NASCO is made up of governments, most of which support salmon farming. NASCO is not focusing exclusively on salmon farming and we are well aware that there are many factors that are adversely influencing wild salmon populations. As those of you from the industry who attended our meeting in Miramichi last June will be aware, NASCO is addressing a wide range of issues concerning conservation of the wild stocks. However, we do have real concerns about impacts of aquaculture on the wild stocks. Indeed, the risk of negative effects on the wild stocks was the reason for NASCO and a number of the national industries taking the initiative to establish the Liaison Group. We hope that by establishing a closer, more open and broader cooperation with the salmon farming industry and a commitment to work together on issues of mutual concern, we will be able to achieve a win-win situation in which the wild stocks are maintained in their genetically diverse form and the salmon farming industry is sustainable and seen as environmentally responsible.

In London last year we made good progress in establishing the mechanisms for cooperation and in building trust. We have developed a Constitution for the Liaison Group which has been accepted by the Council of NASCO. We also developed some guiding principles for our work which, subject to some amendments, are acceptable to NASCO.

Our challenge for this meeting is to build on this foundation. We would very much like to see real progress here on the issue of containment. Our Working Group which met in April last year made a start on developing internationally-acceptable guidelines on containment but from NASCO's perspective these can only be considered as a minimum standard which will need further work to ensure that they result in a higher standard of containment than is presently being achieved. The fact that these guidelines can be internationally agreed should help us all. If we can succeed in this endeavour there are many other areas where we might seek international cooperation. We have already identified a number of these areas and if time permits we may begin to explore these issues over the next two days.

I can assure you of NASCO's goodwill and commitment to cooperation with the salmon farming industry but there is now a greater sense of urgency to make real progress. We look forward to working with you here in Ottawa.

**North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry and NASCO
Liaison Group
Canadian Government Conference Centre, Ottawa
5-6 February, 2001**

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**North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry and NASCO
Liaison Group
Canadian Government Conference Centre, Ottawa
5 and 6 February 2001**

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Guiding Principles for Cooperation between NASCO and its Contracting Parties and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry

1. Statement of principle and objective

The North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO), (hereinafter referred to as “the Parties”), recognising the importance of conserving and enhancing wild salmon stocks and of supporting a sustainable salmon farming industry, have agreed to the establishment of guiding principles for cooperation. The objective is to establish mutually beneficial working arrangements in order to make recommendations on wild salmon conservation and sustainable salmon farming practices, to maximize potential benefits and to minimise potential risks to both.

2. Principles for cooperation between NASCO and its Contracting Parties and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry

- 2.1 The Parties are committed to responsible management of wild salmon stocks and responsible salmon farming and to working in cooperation and to establishing a better mutual understanding;
- 2.2 The Parties recognize the importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship;
- 2.3 Salmon farming and wild stock management both require a risk management approach;
- 2.4 Decisions respecting salmon management and salmon farming should be based on the best available science and the Parties recognise the need to improve information for decision-making in relation to wild salmon stocks and salmon aquaculture;
- 2.5 The Parties agree to work cooperatively when consideration is given to the application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon aquaculture;
- 2.6 Social, economic and environmental costs and benefits should be integral to decision-making whenever possible;
- 2.7 The Parties are committed to the sustainability of wild salmon stocks, recognizing that a wide and complex range of factors and activities has adverse effects on wild salmon abundance.

Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon

Section 1: Introduction

- 1.1 The North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) have established a Liaison Group. This Liaison Group recognised the importance of conserving and enhancing wild salmon stocks and of supporting a sustainable salmon farming industry and is seeking to establish mutually beneficial working arrangements in order to make recommendations on wild salmon conservation and sustainable farming practices. To this end the Liaison Group has developed guidelines on containment to apply throughout the NASCO Convention area.
- 1.2 Both Parties recognise that a number of guidelines and measures, outlined below, should apply to all salmon aquaculture activities. The Liaison Group should be updated annually on progress on the development of parallel measures in relation to these activities.

Section 2: Objectives

- 2.1 these guidelines are intended to result in the prevention of escapes of farmed salmon in the freshwater and marine environments.

Section 3: Site Selection

- 3.1 sites shall be selected having regard to the capability of the equipment to withstand the weather and other environmental conditions likely to be experienced at that site;
- 3.2 in the interest of avoiding collision damage, equipment shall comply with the relevant national and international regulations regarding navigation and marking;
- 3.3 careful consideration shall be given to the siting of land-based facilities, so as to minimise the risk of escapes from these facilities.

Section 4: Equipment and Structures

- 4.1 nets, cages and moorings systems shall be designed, constructed and deployed to prevent escapes, having proper regard to the prevailing conditions at the site. Moorings systems should have a significant in-built safety margin;
- 4.2 nets and cages should be marked with an identification number; adequate records of each net and cage in use should be maintained in order to assess its fitness for purpose;

- 4.3 nets shall be: compatible with the cages with which they will be used; secured to the cage collar so that the collar alone bears the strain; and adequately UV-protected. Net weights shall be installed in such a way as to prevent damage to the nets;
- 4.4 tank systems shall be designed to contain fish effectively and to minimise the chances of fish escaping. Where the outflow from tanks passes into a settling pond, the outflow from the settling pond should incorporate a screen of suitable size and construction to minimise the chances of fish escaping;
- 4.5 effective predator deterrence methods shall be implemented as appropriate; these should be up-graded as improved, site-appropriate and cost-effective systems of proven efficacy become available; records of predator attacks that may have caused escapes should be maintained for audit;
- 4.6 salmon farming systems should be upgraded as improved, site-appropriate and cost effective systems of proven efficacy become available.

Section 5: Management System Operations

- 5.1 farm management procedures shall ensure supervision by appropriately trained, qualified or experienced personnel. There is a need for constant vigilance during operations that could result in escapes;
- 5.2 procedures shall be adopted to ensure that escapes are prevented during movement and handling of stocks (e.g. during stocking, counting, grading, transport, transfers, treatment and harvesting of fish), and during net changes and cleaning;
- 5.3 regular preventative maintenance, inspection and repair procedures shall be adopted in order to prevent escapes;
- 5.4 stress testing of all nets in use shall be conducted on a regular basis and testing protocols, minimum breaking strengths and thresholds for net replacement should be specified in action plans. Records of the results of the tests shall be retained throughout the period the net is in use;
- 5.5 when it is necessary to tow cages, great care shall be taken to avoid damage to the nets;
- 5.6 storm preparation procedures shall be developed to minimise the risk of damage from storms detailing the actions to be taken to ensure that the site is made ready; after each storm all nets, cages and mooring systems shall be inspected for damage;
- 5.7 vessels shall be operated so as to minimise the risk of accidental damage to the equipment;
- 5.8 where practicable, security systems should be installed so as to deter acts of vandalism and malicious damage.

Section 6: Verification

- 6.1 management systems should include as a minimum all details of introductions, grading, transfers, treatments, handling or any other incident or occurrence that may have led to an escape. These details shall be recorded and retained for audit. Detailed records should allow estimates of escapes to be made. It is recognised that not all discrepancies will be the result of escapes;
- 6.2 when an event occurs which leads to an escape defined as significant under the action plan, the operator shall advise the appropriate authorities immediately;
- 6.3 a site-specific contingency plan shall be developed for use when an event occurs which may have led to an escape defined as significant under the action plan. The contingency plan shall include details of the method of recapture to be used and the area and timeframe over which a recapture programme would apply. Efforts shall be made to recapture farmed salmon immediately provided that this is practicable and does not adversely affect wild Atlantic salmon populations;
- 6.4 action plans should require appropriate authorities to take all reasonable efforts to issue permits for facilitating the contingency plans developed for each farm.

Section 7: Development of Action Plans

- 7.1 each jurisdiction should draw up a national action plan, or regional plans, at the earliest opportunity, based on these guidelines. The action plan is the process through which internationally agreed guidelines on containment would be implemented at national or regional level through existing or new voluntary codes of practice, regulations, or a combination of both;
- 7.2 each action plan should:
 - 7.2.1 create a systematic basis for minimising escapes so as to achieve a level of escapes that is as close to zero as is practicable ;
 - 7.2.2 include a mechanism for reporting information on the level and causes of escapes;
 - 7.2.3 include a mechanism for reporting and monitoring in order to assess compliance and to verify the plan's efficacy;
 - 7.2.4 identify areas for research and development.
- 7.3 the action plan should be based on co-operation between industry and the relevant authorities and should include the allocation of responsibilities under the plan(s) and a timetable for implementation.

Section 8: Reporting to the Liaison Group

- 8.1 each jurisdiction should advise the Liaison Group annually on progress in implementing its action plan(s).

Section 9: Revision

- 9.1 these guidelines shall be subject to revision, with the agreement of the Liaison Group, to take account of new scientific, technical and other relevant information.

Definition of the term “Wild Salmon”

1. At the meeting of the Working Group to Develop Guidelines on Containment, which had been established by the Liaison Group at its first meeting, the question arose as to an appropriate definition of the term “wild salmon”. The attention of the Group was drawn to definitions developed in 1997 by NASCO’s scientific advisors, the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), and it was agreed that these definitions should be made available to the Liaison Group at a future meeting.

2. The ICES definitions are as follows:

Native salmon are wild salmon which are members of a population with no known effects from intentional or accidental releases;

Wild salmon are fish that have spent their entire life-cycle in the wild and originate from parents which were also spawned and continuously lived in the wild;

Naturalized salmon are fish that have spent their entire life-cycle in the wild and originate from parents, one or both of which were not wild or native salmon;

Stocked salmon are fish that have had artificial spawning and/or rearing techniques applied at some point in their life-cycle and/or originate from intentional releases to the wild;

Escaped salmon are fish that have spent part or all of their life-cycle undergoing artificial propagation and originate from accidental or unplanned releases into the wild.

3. These definitions have not been adopted by NASCO but for the purposes of applying the Oslo Resolution adopted by the Council of NASCO in 1994 the following definitions were developed:

Salmon aquaculture is the culture or husbandry of Atlantic salmon and includes salmon farming, salmon ranching and salmon enhancement activities.

Salmon farming is a production system which involves the rearing of Atlantic salmon in captivity for the duration of their life-cycle until harvested.

Salmon ranching is the release of reared juvenile Atlantic salmon with the intention of harvesting all of them on their return.

Salmon enhancement is the augmentation of wild stocks in individual river systems by the release of Atlantic salmon at different stages in their life-cycle.

Wild salmon are salmon which originate naturally and have not been subjected to aquaculture.

4. The Liaison Group might wish to consider these definitions in relation to its work.

***North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry and NASCO
Liaison Group***

Constitution

The North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry and NASCO Liaison Group (the "Liaison Group") is an advisory group established to provide an international forum for liaison between the salmon farming industry in the North Atlantic and the relevant authorities responsible for the wild Atlantic salmon stocks and aquaculture on issues of mutual interest, and to make recommendations for action. The Group will work by consensus.

The Liaison Group shall comprise industry members from each North Atlantic country and representatives from each member Party of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO).

The Liaison Group will meet on an annual basis, or at more or less frequent intervals if it so decides.

The Liaison Group shall appoint from among its members a Chairman and a Rapporteur who shall serve for a period of two years.

The office of Chairman and of Rapporteur shall be held alternately by representatives of NASCO and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry.

The Secretariat of NASCO and designated representatives of the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry shall, following consultation, make the arrangements for the meetings of the Group and shall share the administrative responsibilities.

