



Agenda item 2  
For information

**Council**

**CNL(01)2**

***Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda***

***(Revised 9 April 2001)***

**Note:** A summary of all the decisions before the Council will be presented in document CNL(01)33.



## CNL(01)2

### *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(01)1) was circulated. A Draft Agenda (CNL(01)3), containing some changes, is submitted herewith. Norway has proposed three new supplementary items, 5.2(c), 5.4(b) and 5.9. The issues covered by these new items were included in the Explanatory Memorandum issued on 22 January, but are now treated as separate agenda items. The Council will be asked to adopt an Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(01)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 and financial matters (CNL(01)5). The Council will be asked to make decisions on:

- arrangements for a joint meeting of NASCO, NPAFC and IBSFC in March 2002;
- a possible joint meeting of all North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions;
- the newly established FAO Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

##### **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(01)6). The Council will be asked to:

- adopt the 2002 budget;
- accept the audited accounts for 2000;
- approve the appointment of auditors for the 2001 accounts;
- adopt the report of the Finance and Administration Committee;
- take such other actions as it may consider appropriate.

### 3.3 **Methods of Calculating the Contributions to NASCO**

Last year the representative of Iceland proposed that a revised system for calculating the contributions of the Contracting Parties be considered by the Council. The Council asked the Secretary to prepare a series of scenarios to illustrate the impact on the contributions of, *inter alia*, very low catches, a high proportion of catch and release, and changes to the fixed and catch-related proportions. The Council asked that these scenarios be circulated to the Parties before the end of 2000. In accordance with this request document CNL(01)7 was sent to Heads of Delegations on 4 December 2000. The Council will be asked to consider what action, if any, it wishes to take in the light of this information.

### 3.4 **Review of NASCO's Relationship with its Observer Organizations**

At its Seventeenth Annual Meeting the Council reviewed the relationship with its observer organizations and decided that, as there had been mutual benefits from this relationship, which had enhanced the transparency of international cooperation on salmon conservation and management, it would, for the time being, neither impose observer fees nor invite voluntary contributions from observer organizations. The Council agreed that observer status should apply to all plenary sessions of the Council and Commissions but not to the meetings of NASCO Working Groups or Committees. It also agreed that, in general, organizations devoted to aquaculture would be admitted under the rules for non-government observers. However, see paper CNL(01)27. A new rule was adopted concerning non-adherence to the conditions for NGOs. The Council also considered a proposal that the conditions governing NGO attendance should be amended so as to allow NGOs to make statements at any time at the discretion of the President or that of a Commission Chairman. There was no unanimity on this issue and the Council decided that the issue of all the conditions for observers should remain on the agenda of the Council for its Eighteenth Annual Meeting. A brief background paper (CNL(01)8) will be distributed.

### 3.5 **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 2000 (CNL(01)9). This report is not intended for publication.

A Report on the Activities of the Organization in 2000/2001 will be prepared for publication. However, at its Fourteenth Annual Meeting the Council agreed that, in order that a more timely publication could be produced, the biennial report should be agreed by correspondence with Heads of Delegations following the Annual Meeting. The report will be sent to Heads of Delegations within one month of the Eighteenth Annual Meeting.

(d) *Future actions in relation to the Precautionary Approach*

A brief paper summarising possible future actions in relation to the Precautionary Approach will be presented (CNL(01)32), including a possible schedule of meetings.

5.3 **Unreported Catches**

(a) *Returns by the Parties*

The Secretary will introduce a report summarising the annual returns by the Parties in relation to unreported catches (CNL(01)19).

(b) *FAO International Plan of Action on Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing*

A report (CNL(01)20) will be presented on developments in relation to the FAO's International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing.

5.4 **International Cooperative Research**

(a) *Report of the Working Group on International Cooperative Research*

Last year, the Council established a Working Group to develop ideas for a 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 Working Group was also asked to advise on possible sources of funding for the programme and how it might be organized, and to consider the issue of by-catch. The Working Group held its meeting in Oslo during 10-12 October under the Chairmanship of Dr Lars Petter Hansen (Norway). A report of the meeting will be presented (CNL(01)21).

(b) *Financial and administrative implications of the recommendations of the Working Group*

It is clear from the report of the Working Group on International Cooperative Research that the present period of low abundance is associated with increased marine mortality; that relatively little is known about this phase of the salmon's life-cycle although progress has been made in recent years; and that current expenditure on research at sea is only a fraction of what will be required for a clearer understanding of the factors affecting salmon at sea. The Working Group has recommended the establishment of an International Cooperative Salmon Research Programme and this would have considerable financial and administrative implications for NASCO. A brief report on the financial and administrative implications of the recommendations made by the Working Group on International Cooperative Research will be distributed (CNL(01)22).

(c) *Future actions in relation to international cooperative research*

The Council will be asked to take action as it sees appropriate in the light of the recommendations made in the report of the Working Group on International Cooperative Research (CNL(01)21) and the financial and administrative implications of these recommendations (CNL(01)22).

**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**

At its Fourteenth Annual Meeting the attention of the Council was drawn to the enormous growth in fishing for pelagic species of fish (herring and mackerel) in international waters in the Norwegian Sea. Concern had been expressed that, even if a small percentage of the catch in these fisheries was post-smolts, the losses of salmon could be significant. The Council agreed that the issue of by-catch should be considered by the Working Group on International Cooperative Research (see 5.4(a) above) and the Group's recommendations are included in document CNL(01)21.

Last year the representative of the US referred to reports of by-catch of Atlantic salmon in a troll fishery for albacore off the west coast of Ireland. The representative of the EU agreed to try to obtain information for the Eighteenth Annual Meeting.

**5.7 Fishing for Salmon in International Waters by Non-Contracting Parties**

Since 1990, the Council has monitored the problem of fishing for salmon in international waters by vessels registered to States which are not Parties to the NASCO Convention. The Secretary will present any new information (CNL(01)23).

**5.8 Impacts of Aquaculture on Wild Salmon Stocks**

(a) *Special Liaison Meeting to Review Measures to Minimise Impacts of Aquaculture on the Wild Stocks*

At its Fifteenth Annual Meeting the Council agreed that it would be desirable to consider, for each Contracting Party, how various aspects of the Oslo Resolution are implemented, and the priority issues. It was agreed that each year reports should be made by the Contracting Parties and that there should be an opportunity for comment on and discussion of the measures taken in a Special Liaison Meeting with the aquaculture industry. This year the Special Liaison Meeting, which will comprise presentations by the United States, Iceland and the Faroe Islands, will be held on the afternoon of Monday 4 June. A programme for the Special Liaison Meeting will be distributed (CNL(01)24). The Council may wish to consider whether it wishes to

continue to hold these Special Liaison Meetings. There may be support for similar meetings focusing on habitat issues.

(b) *Report of the 2000 Special Liaison Meeting*

At the second Special Liaison Meeting held during the Seventeenth Annual Meeting, presentations were made by the European Union and its Member States. A report of the meeting will be presented (CNL(01)25).

(c) *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(01)26).

(d) *Liaison with the salmon farming industry*

The Second Liaison Meeting of NASCO and the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry was held on 5-6 February 2001 in Ottawa, Canada. A report of the meeting will be presented (CNL(01)27).

(e) *Development of Guidelines on Containment of Farm Salmon*

Last year the Council considered draft guidelines on physical containment which had been prepared by a Working Group set up by the Liaison Group. While welcoming these guidelines, the Council saw a need for further work to ensure that they would result in a higher standard of containment. The Council considered that, as drafted, the guidelines represented only a minimum standard and there was a need to incorporate elements on monitoring, control and enforcement, and a requirement to adopt improved technology as this becomes available. The Council asked that these points be raised at the Liaison Group or Working Group meeting. At the Liaison Group meeting in Ottawa (see item 5.8(d)) revised draft guidelines were prepared (CNL(01)28). The Council will be asked to decide on appropriate action to take in relation to these draft guidelines.

## 5.9 **Transgenic Salmon**

Norway has proposed that this item be treated as a separate Agenda item, rather than under item 5.8 (as on the Provisional Agenda) as it could have implications for habitat as well as the various forms of aquaculture. 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 a notification of any such reports (CNL(01)29). The President and Secretary visited the research facility for transgenic salmon in Prince Edward Island, Canada, following last year's Annual Meeting, and will make a brief report.

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

Last year the Council adopted a Resolution Concerning St Pierre and Miquelon (CNL(00)59). In accordance with the Resolution, the President was requested to communicate through the appropriate diplomatic channels to convey NASCO's concerns over the level of salmon harvest in St Pierre and Miquelon in 1998 and 1999: to urge France in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon to immediately set harvest limits for the 2000 salmon fishery at the lowest possible level consistent with advice provided by ICES; and to request that information on the measures taken be made available to NASCO at its 2001 Annual Meeting. A report on the response to this diplomatic initiative will be presented (CNL(01)30). The Council also agreed that France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) should be invited to attend the Eighteenth Annual Meeting as an observer and to report on measures taken, and that at that meeting the issue of whether to invite France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon) to become a Contracting Party to NASCO should be considered. The Council will be asked to decide on appropriate action regarding this matter of future participation.

#### **5.11 Predator-related Mortality**

This issue was added to the agenda for the Seventeenth Annual Meeting at the request of Canada in order to update knowledge and identify potential research areas. The President will invite contributions from the Parties.

#### **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 Nineteenth Annual Meeting during 3-7 June 2002 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

The proposal will be made that the Twentieth Annual Meeting be held during 2-6 June 2003 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party (CNL(01)31).

### **8. Draft Report of the Meeting**

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



## **9. Draft Press Release**

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

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
9 April, 2001

