



Council

CNL(01)54

***Information Note from The Salmon Farming Industry and NASCO
Liaison Group***

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NASCO LIAISON GROUP**

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

Canadian Government Conference Centre, Ottawa, Canada

5-6 February, 2001

Recommendation regarding the formation of a Committee on Future Co-operation

Background

At its meeting in Ottawa in February 2001, the North Atlantic Salmon farming Industry and NASCO Liaison Group, discussed 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.

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 Ken Whelan (Ireland), Yves Bastien (Canada), James Ryan (Ireland) and Sebastian Belle (Canada) to the Committee and asked that it report back on progress prior to the Liaison Group's next meeting. Jack Taylor has recently replaced Yves Bastien on the group.

Name of Group

The Group recommends that its title be changed to the *Salmon Co-operation Group*.

Recommended Objectives:

1. To carry out a detailed review and inventory of all existing co-operative ventures between wild salmon and fish farming interests.
2. To identify future areas of co-operative work
3. To seek financial support or support in kind for such programmes
4. To put in place a fund to support such programmes
5. To seek contributions to this fund from a wide range of interest groups, both national and international (eg National Agencies, EU, fish farming industry, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Atlantic Salmon Trust, etc)

Possible Areas of Co-operation Include:

- **Wild salmon restoration programmes**
- **Wild salmon enhancement programmes**
- **Wild / farmed interactions**
- **Manual of modern rearing / husbandry techniques**
- **Educational programmes regarding the biology, management and rearing of wild and farmed stocks**
- **Provision of smolts for large scale marine research programmes**
- **Community based management initiatives**
- **Organise a special session of NASCO on restoration and enhancement**
- **Genetic studies**
- **Disease and parasite studies**

Provided funding is available, it has now been agreed to proceed this year with (1) *a detailed review and inventory of all existing co-operative ventures between wild salmon and fish farming interests.*

. We would be grateful for the full co-operation of all interested parties if contacted for information in the context of this review.