NORTH ATLANTIC SALMON CONSERVATION ORGANIZATION

ORGANISATION POUR LA CONSERVATION DU SAUMON DE L'ATLANTIQUE NORD

Agenda item 5.2

Council

CNL(01)56

Initial Comments on the NASCO Decision Structure for Fisheries Management

(Tabled by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))

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Mixed stock fishery

1. **Identify river stocks that are available to the fishery.**

   The fishery exploits salmon from both the North American and the European continents (in 2000 65 % and 35 %, respectively). In Europe, mainly the southern countries are the contributors.

2. **Identify stock components that are exploited by the fishery.**

   Salmon caught in the West Greenland fishery are nonmaturing 1SW salmon or older, nearly all of which would return to homewaters in Europe or North America as MSW fish if they survived.

   In most years non-maturing 1SW salmon make up more than 90% of the catch there are also 2SW salmon and repeat spawners. The most abundant European stocks in West Greenland are thought to originate from the UK and Ireland although low numbers may originate from northern European rivers. For North American MSW salmon, the most abundant stocks in West Greenland are thought to originate in the southern area of the range.

3. **Assess abundance and diversity of individual stocks contributing to the fishery.**

   Run-reconstruction estimates of pre-fishery abundance of non-maturing 1SW salmon from southern European areas have been volatile over the period 1971–1999, but in steady decline over the past 14 years.

   The North American run-reconstruction estimate of pre-fishery abundance of non-maturing 1SW salmon for 1999 was 94 118 fish, 2 % higher than that of 1998, this estimate being the second lowest in the 30-year time series The 1SW non-maturing component continues to be depressed with river returns and total production amongst the lowest recorded.

4. **Is abundance and diversity satisfactory?**

   N/A (see ACFM report, CNL(01)11)

5. **Is combined conservation limits for all stocks subject to the fishery being exceeded?**

   Models based on thermal habitat in the northwest Atlantic and spawning stock indices are used to forecast pre-fishery abundance and provide catch advice for the West Greenland fishery, taking into account risk levels for exceeding conservation limits for the stocks involved in the fishery.

6. **Monitor the effects of the measures.**

   Numbers of salmon potentially returning to home waters in the absence of a fishery is estimated, based on biological characteristics from sampling Greenland landings and natural mortality. The mean number of potential returns per ton caught at Greenland is 208 and 106 North American and European salmon, respectively.