



Agenda item 3.1
For decision
(items 5, 6 and 7 only)

Council

CNL(01)5

Secretary's Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Status of ratifications of and accessions to the Convention**
3. **Membership of the regional Commissions**
4. **Observers at NASCO's meetings**
5. **Progress with arrangements for a joint meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC**
6. **Progress with arrangements for a possible joint meeting of all North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions**
7. **Report on the Twenty-Fourth Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries**
8. **NASCO website**
9. **Tag Return Incentive Scheme**
10. **The Organization's financial affairs**
11. **NASCO Manual of Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines**

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 which, as in previous years, have been amalgamated under a single Council agenda item.

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 annual meeting.

4. Observers at NASCO's meetings

- 4.1 There has been one new application for observer status since the last annual meeting, from Greenpeace International. This organization has stated that its objectives are to seek to: "protect biodiversity in all its forms; prevent pollution and abuse of the earth's ocean, land, air and fresh water; end all nuclear threats; promote peace, global disarmament and non-violence". The President and Secretary, according to the rules, have agreed that their objectives are compatible with those of NASCO and accordingly they have been given observer status. The twenty-seven organizations listed in Annex 1 have observer status to NASCO and have been invited to attend the Eighteenth Annual Meeting.
- 4.2 Last year the Council reviewed its relationship with its observer organizations, and agreed that the issue of all the conditions governing observer status should remain on the agenda for the Eighteenth Annual Meeting. This issue will be considered under Council agenda item 3.4 (see document CNL(01)8).

5. Progress with arrangements for a joint meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC

- 5.1 The Council has previously agreed that there would be benefits of a joint meeting of NASCO, the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) and last year agreed that this should focus on scientific issues. It was proposed that this meeting might be held in

conjunction with a planned NPAFC Meeting in March 2002. The Secretary was asked to liaise with the Secretary of NPAFC on the proposal.

- 5.2 Following consultations with the Secretary of NPAFC, Vladimir Fedorenko, the Chairman of its Scientific Committee, Dr Yukimasa Ishida, and the Secretary of IBSFC, Dr Walter Ranke, a framework for the meeting has been developed (Annex 2). It is proposed that the joint meeting will be held in Vancouver, Canada, on 14-15 March 2002, focusing on factors affecting marine survival of salmon in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and the Baltic Sea. The proposed framework includes sessions on status of salmon stocks and fisheries and on possible factors association with increased marine mortality (such as climate; fish farming, enhancement and ranching; predation and competition; and migration and ocean rearing areas). This framework is acceptable to NPAFC and if the NASCO Council can accept it we would seek nominations from the Contracting Parties for speakers for each of these sessions. The Council might wish the Secretary to continue to liaise with NPAFC and IBSFC on arrangements for the meeting and with the Contracting Parties on nominations for speakers. It may also be advantageous from budgetary viewpoints to schedule a meeting of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach for the period 11-13 March 2002 also in Vancouver (see document CNL(01)32).

Decision:
Do we go ahead at it so SSC to core up with list of speakers

6. Progress with arrangements for a possible joint meeting of all North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions

- 6.1 At its Sixteenth Annual Meeting the Council agreed that there might be benefits from a joint meeting of all the North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions (i.e. ICCAT, NPAFC, NAFO, IBSFC and NASCO) to examine issues of mutual interest such as the Precautionary Approach, control and enforcement schemes and data collection. The Secretary and Head of the EU delegation were asked to liaise with the organizations concerned with a view to setting up a preparatory meeting in 2001 so that a joint meeting might be held in 2002.

- 6.2 Because of other commitments and changes of personnel in NEAFC it has not been possible to hold a preparatory meeting to date but, if the Council agrees, the Secretary and Head of the EU Delegation will continue to liaise with the organizations in order to progress arrangements. In view of the other proposed meetings in 2002 (Liaison Group, Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach and joint meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC) the Council may wish to consider delaying this meeting until 2003. One option might be to hold the joint meeting in conjunction with the next FAO meeting of regional fishery bodies, scheduled for early 2003 in Rome. At the first such meeting, all of the North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions were represented.

Decision:
To proceed and 4 so where and when

7. Report on the Twenty-Fourth Session of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries

- 7.1 The Twenty-Fourth Session of the FAO's Committee on Fisheries (COFI) was held during 26 February - 2 March 2001 in Rome. There were two main issues on the agenda for this meeting which were of particular relevance to NASCO:

- the development of an International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing;
- the proposal to establish a Sub-Committee on Aquaculture.

7.2 A report on progress with the development of an International Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing will be considered by the Council under agenda item 5.3(b) (see document CNL(01)20).

7.3 The Committee on Fisheries had previously recognised that there could be benefits from the establishment of an inter-governmental mechanism for information exchange, discussion and consensus building on emerging issues in aquaculture, involving the various parties interested in this sector. At its Twenty-Fourth Session, the COFI agreed to establish a Sub-Committee on Aquaculture. The terms of reference for the Sub-Committee include to:

- identify and discuss major issues and trends in global aquaculture development;
- determine those issues and trends of international importance requiring action to increase the sustainable contribution of aquaculture to food security, economic development and poverty alleviation;
- recommend international action to address aquaculture development needs, to include advising on liaison with other relevant groups and organizations with a view to promoting harmonization and endorsing policies and actions;
- advise on the preparation of technical reviews and of issues and trends of international significance.

7.4 While the focus of the Sub-Committee will be on aquaculture development in relation to food security, economic development and poverty alleviation, and it is unlikely, therefore, to devote much of its work to Atlantic salmon, the establishment of a new inter-governmental forum on aquaculture is of interest to NASCO, particularly in relation to the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries which includes provisions on sustainable aquaculture. The Council might, therefore, wish to ask the Secretary to report on the Sub-Committee's progress.

Decision

8. NASCO website

8.1 At its Sixteenth Annual Meeting the Council agreed to establish a website to include a brief background to the Organization, the Convention, the Report on the Activities of the Organization, the Press Release, a list of available publications, the Organization's Resolutions and Guidelines and links to other inter-governmental organizations' websites. The website was established and the Parties notified on 12 July 1999. Since last year we have changed our web address. It is now www.nasco.int (our e-mail address is now hq@nasco.int).

8.2 Last year the Council asked that its documents on the Precautionary Approach (the Agreement on the Adoption of a Precautionary Approach, the Action Plan for Application of a Precautionary Approach, the Decision Structure for management of salmon fisheries and the definitions) be made available on the website. This work was completed during the year and the site will be updated to include any documents

agreed at the Eighteenth Annual Meeting in relation to habitat protection and restoration.

- 8.3 The Council had also agreed to make the Organization's databases available for public access through the website, subject to budgetary provision. There will be significant work and costs involved in making all the databases available on the website, and we intend to proceed first with the rivers database, since this is in the form of a simple listing and can be readily adapted for the web. However, it should be noted that the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach (SCPA) has recommended to the Council that as part of the proposed Salmon Habitat Protection and Restoration Plans envisaged under the NASCO Plan of Action, the Parties should establish detailed inventories of salmon rivers. The SCPA has asked the Council to decide if these inventories should be included in the rivers database and if they should be made publicly available (see agenda item 5.2(a)). The Council's decision in relation to these inventories may influence how we proceed in relation to making the rivers database accessible on the website. The other databases will be made available on the website following further verification work by the Secretariat in consultation with the Parties, and subject to budgetary considerations.

9. Tag Return Incentive Scheme

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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 Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Council. The winners of the \$1,500 prizes will be announced by the Chairman of each of the Commissions.

10. The Organization's financial affairs

Audited accounts for 2000

- 10.1 In accordance with Financial Rule 11, the report of the Auditors for the Financial Year 1 January - 31 December 2000 was submitted to Heads of Delegations and members of the Finance and Administration Committee on 30 January 2000. There was a small surplus for the year of £367. The Finance and Administration Committee will consider the audited accounts at its meeting and will submit its recommendations to the Council.

Budget commentary

- 10.2 In accordance with Article 16 of the Convention and Financial Rule 3.5, the 2002 Draft and 2003 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 be asked to adopt a budget for 2002.

- 10.3 The draft 2002 budget proposes a small reduction in real terms. However, if the allocation to the Stabilisation Fund (which does not represent current expenditure) is excluded, the budget represents a reduction of more than 5% in real terms. There are, however, two items on the Council's agenda (the SCPA's recommendations on the implications of socio-economic issues for application of the Precautionary Approach and the International Cooperative Research Working Group's recommendation to establish a research fund) which may have implications for the 2002 budget.
- 10.4 The Organization continues to be in a satisfactory financial situation and continues to benefit from reductions in real terms in the budget while building funds to ensure that it can meet its obligations without budgetary increases.

11. NASCO Manual of Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines

- 11.1 During 2000 the Organization's Handbook of Basic Texts (including the Convention, Headquarters Agreement, Rules of Procedure and Financial Rules) had been reprinted. The Council had also previously agreed that the Organization's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines should be collated in an A5 ring-binder format, so as to facilitate updating as new documents are agreed, or existing documents amended. This document has now been prepared and will be updated in the light of any agreements developed at the Eighteenth Annual Meeting. It will be issued to all delegates shortly after the Eighteenth Annual Meeting.

Secretary
Edinburgh
9 April, 2001

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)
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)
Greenpeace International	(based in the Netherlands)
Icelandic Federation of River Owners	(based in Iceland)
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)

REVISED PROPOSAL

Joint Meeting between NPAFC, NASCO, IBSFC and other International Organizations on the Causes of Marine Mortality of Salmon in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea

Date:

It is proposed that the meeting will be held on Thursday 14 and Friday 15 March 2002. (NPAFC will have RPCM and NASCO will also have their meeting before these days.)

Venue:

It is proposed that the meeting will be held in Vancouver, Canada.

Objective:

This two-day workshop is focused on the new information concerning the causes of changes in ocean mortality of salmon.

The objective of this joint meeting is to compare scientific and other information on the increased marine mortality of some salmon stocks observed in recent years in the North Pacific and North Atlantic Oceans and in the Baltic Sea.

It is hoped that comparison of this information will lead to a better understanding of the mechanisms which have resulted in increased marine mortality in recent years, identify research priorities and stimulate increased cooperation and exchange of information in the future.

Participation:

It is proposed that participation is open to all who are interested in the subject, and that each Party of the three principal organizations may advertise the meeting as it sees fit. The three principal organizations may post details on their websites. It is proposed that ICES and PICES be invited to participate.

Speakers:

For Agenda 2 below, NPAFC, NASCO and IBSFC may nominate one speaker, though there may be any number of co-authors. For Agenda 3(a) to 3(d), the organizing committee will select and nominate several speakers among the contributions. Discussions will be open to all participants.

Poster Session:

A maximum of 20 posters can be displayed; the organizing committee will select among the contributions if this number is exceeded.

Finances:

It is anticipated that the cost of the meeting will be limited to the meeting room costs, tea/coffee, audio-visual facilities, possible publication costs, etc., and that there will be some form of sharing of costs between the three principal organizations.

Administration:

The three principal organizations will consult on administrative arrangements for the meeting. Local arrangements will be coordinated by the NPAFC Secretariat.

Publication:

It is suggested that the Proceedings be published either jointly by the three principal organizations or by such other means as shall be agreed.

Agenda:

1. Introduction

Opening remarks by each of the three principal organizations.

2. Status of salmon stocks and fisheries

There will be an overview of the status of Atlantic and Pacific salmon production. (One speaker from each organization. In case of NPAFC, the member of Stock Assessment Working Group can contribute to this topic.)

3. Possible factors associated with increased marine mortality

(a) Climate

Recent information suggests an association between long-term climate changes and increased marine mortality of salmon. This information will be reviewed. (Several speakers from each organization.)

(b) Fish farming, enhancement, and ocean ranching

Information on the impacts of fish farming, enhancement, and ocean ranching on marine mortality will be presented. (Several speakers from each organization.)

(c) Predation and competition

The effects of predation on salmon stocks, including that by marine mammals, sea birds and sharks, will be discussed. The impacts of competition with other species will also be reviewed. (Several speakers from each organization.)

(d) Migration and ocean rearing areas

The migration patterns of each species will be reviewed and the question of environmental changes and their impact on migration patterns will be discussed. (Several speakers from each organization.)