

**North-East Atlantic Commission**

**NEA(01)3**

*Definition of “Non-Indigenous”*

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1. At its Fourteenth Annual Meeting the Commission adopted the Resolution to Protect Wild Salmon Stocks from Introductions and Transfers, NEA(97)12. The first returns under this Resolution were presented to the Commission last year, and the returns for the calendar year 2000 will be presented at the Eighteenth Annual Meeting (see document NEA(01)4). Last year, the representative of Iceland noted that the term “non-indigenous” is not defined in the Resolution, and the Commission asked that a definition of “non-indigenous” be developed.
2. The Collins English Dictionary defines “indigenous” as “originating or occurring naturally in a country, region, etc., i.e. native”. It follows that a non-indigenous species is one that is not native to a particular country or region. ICES and the North American Commission of NASCO have both developed definitions of “non-indigenous” as follows:
  - ICES Code of Practice on the Introduction and Transfer of Marine Organisms, 1994  
*“Any species intentionally or accidentally transported and released by humans into an environment outside its present range.”*
  - NAC Protocols for the Introduction and Transfer of Salmonids, (1994)  
*“Not originating or occurring naturally in a particular environment, introduced outside its native or natural range.”*
3. Although similar, these definitions differ in that the ICES definition refers to transport and release outside the “present range”, while the NAC definition refers to introductions outside the “native or natural range”. This is an important distinction. For example, rainbow trout have been widely introduced in some North Atlantic countries and have established spawning populations in some areas. Under the ICES definition, further transport to and release in these areas of rainbow trout might not be considered movements of a “non-indigenous” species, whereas under the NAC definition they probably would, because the native or natural range of rainbow trout is the Pacific coast of North America.
4. The Commission is asked to consider these definitions and decide if it can accept either of these, or if it wishes to develop its own definition. In the interest of a consistent approach within NASCO, it may be desirable to adopt the definition already used by the North American Commission.

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
9 April, 2001