



Agenda item 2
For information

Council

CNL(00)2

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda

(Revised 17 April 2000)

CNL(00)2

Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda (Revised 17 April 2000)

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(00)1) was circulated. A proposal for a supplementary item was received from Canada (see paragraph 6.9). A Draft Agenda (CNL(00)3), including this supplementary item, is submitted herewith. The Council will be asked to adopt an Agenda. A Draft Schedule of Meetings (CNL(00)4) has been distributed.

3. Election of Officers

In accordance with its Rules of Procedure the Council will be asked to elect a President and Vice-President (CNL(00)5).

4. Administrative Issues

4.1 Secretary's Report

The Secretary will report to the Council on a number of procedural, administrative and financial matters (CNL(00)6). The Council will be asked to make decisions on:

- a joint meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC;
- a possible joint meeting of all North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions;
- its policy on accessibility of the NASCO databases and their possible future inclusion in the NASCO website;
- its policy on donations to NASCO in the light of the recommendations of the Finance and Administration Committee.

4.2 Review of NASCO's Relationship with its Observer Organizations

Last year the Council decided that it wished to review the relationship with its observer organizations, including the question of an observer fee to reflect actual costs. A discussion paper on this issue will be presented (CNL(00)7).

4.3 Methods of Calculating the Contributions to NASCO

For a number of years the Icelandic delegation has raised concerns about the methods used to calculate the contributions to NASCO. Last year the Council asked the Secretary to produce a discussion paper on how the issues raised by Iceland might be resolved without amending the Convention. A brief discussion paper will be presented (CNL(00)8).

4.4 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(00)9). The Draft 2001 and Forecast 2002 Budgets, as agreed by the Finance and Administration Committee, will be submitted for adoption by the Council. The Council will be asked to accept the audited accounts for 1999 or to take such other action as it may consider appropriate and to approve the appointment of auditors for the 2000 accounts.

4.5 Report 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 1999 (CNL(00)10). This report is not intended for publication.

4.6 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Grand Prize

The President will announce the winner of the Grand Prize of \$2,500. The winners of the Commission prizes of \$1,500 will be announced in each of the Commissions by the Chairman.

5. Scientific, Technical, Legal and Other Information

5.1 Scientific Advice from ICES

The Report of the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon will be circulated (CNL(00)11). The Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) will also be circulated and will be briefly introduced at the meeting by the ACFM Chairman (CNL(00)12). The detailed advice will be considered by the Commissions separately at their meetings.

5.2 Report of the Standing Scientific Committee

The recommendations of the Standing Scientific Committee concerning the request to ICES for scientific advice will be presented by the Chairman of the Committee (CNL(00)13). The Council will be asked to adopt a request for scientific advice from ICES.

5.3 Catch Statistics and their Analysis

The Secretary will present the catch statistics for 1999 as provided to the Organization by the Parties (CNL(00)14). These data will be used in the calculation of the Schedule of Contributions by the Parties for 2001. The updated historical catch record will be presented for information (CNL(00)15).

5.4 Review of International Salmon-Related Literature Published in 1999

The Secretary will present a review of salmon-related literature published during 1999 (CNL(00)16). This review is presented to the Council for information in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2 of the Convention.

6. **Conservation, Restoration, Enhancement and Rational Management of Salmon Stocks**

6.1 Measures Taken in Accordance with Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention

A summary of the returns made by the Parties under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention will be presented to the Council (CNL(00)17).

6.2 The Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management

At its Fifteenth Annual Meeting NASCO and its Contracting Parties agreed to adopt and apply a Precautionary Approach to the conservation, management, and exploitation of Atlantic salmon in order to protect the resource and preserve the environments in which it lives.

(a) Report of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach on Application of a Precautionary Approach to Management of Salmon Fisheries

Under the Action Plan for Application of the Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management (CNL(99)48) adopted by the Council in 1999, a Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach (SCPA) was established. The SCPA held a meeting on Application of a Precautionary Approach to Management of Salmon Fisheries in Miami, Florida, during 21-23 March. A report of the meeting will be presented (CNL(00)18).

(b) Further Actions in Relation to Application of the Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management

The Council will be asked to consider what further actions it wishes to take in relation to implementation of the Action Plan for the Application of the Precautionary Approach to Salmon Management (CNL(00)30).

6.3 Unreported Catches

The Council has agreed that the Secretary should be asked to request, on an annual basis, from each Contracting Party: an estimate of unreported catch for each country, broken down to show the different categories of unreported catch and indicating whether they result from legal or illegal activities; a description of its management control and reporting systems by country; an explanation of how it arrives at the figure for unreported catch; the extent of catch and release fishing; and the measures taken to further minimise the level of unreported catches. A timetable for provision of the information was agreed. In accordance with this timetable, a revised format was sent out in a letter of 13 January to Heads of Delegations. The Secretary will introduce a report summarising the responses by the Parties (CNL(00)19). The information in this paper will have been agreed by correspondence with the Heads of Delegations.

6.4 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 Contracting Parties were requested to provide any available information, but little new data was provided. Last year the Council asked that the Secretary again contact the Contracting Parties to request any available information on by-catch. A report on the information provided by the Parties will be presented (CNL(00)20).

6.5 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(00)21).

6.6 Scientific Research Fishing in the Convention Area

In 1996, the Council unanimously adopted a Resolution on Scientific Research Fishing. A report will be made on any requests to conduct research fishing since the last Annual Meeting (CNL(00)22). The President will invite any Party conducting research fishing in the last year to present a brief report on their activities. Following last year's Annual Meeting, we received a letter from two of NASCO's Norwegian NGOs (on behalf of the NGOs attending the Westport meeting) highlighting the need for further studies of salmon at sea through international cooperation, including tagging studies and assessment of by-catch of salmon. The Council will be asked to consider the need for further research at sea.

6.7 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 will comprise presentations by the European Union and will be held on Monday 5 June from 14.00 - 17.30hrs. A programme for the Special Liaison Meeting will be distributed (CNL(00)23). The Council may wish to consider possible presentations for a Special Liaison Meeting in 2001.

(b) *Report of the 1999 Special Liaison Meeting*

At the first Special Liaison Meeting held during the Sixteenth Annual Meeting, presentations were made by Canada and Norway. A report of the meeting, including the presentations and discussion, will be presented (CNL(00)24).

(c) *Returns Made in Accordance with the Oslo Resolution*

Last year the Council asked the Secretary to review the format for return of information under the Oslo Resolution so as to identify any ambiguity and to make necessary improvements. The request for returns was made in a letter of 13 January to Heads of Delegations. Details of the actions taken by the Parties in accordance with the Oslo Resolution will be presented (CNL(00)25).

(d) *Liaison with the Salmon Farming Industry*

Last year the Council agreed that it wished to review the process of liaison with the aquaculture industry so as to develop closer, more open and broader cooperation so that the industry throughout the North Atlantic can participate. It was agreed that NASCO would meet with the North Atlantic-based salmon farming industry with the view to organising a new liaison meeting in the year 2000, which should focus on the development of Guidelines of Physical Containment and Husbandry Practices. A report of this meeting, which was held in London on 10 and 11 February 2000, will be presented (CNL(00)26).

(e) *Development of Guidelines on Physical Containment and Husbandry Practices for Salmon Farming*

The Liaison Group agreed to establish a Working Group to develop guidelines on containment which would have as their objective the prevention of escapes of farm salmon in the marine and freshwater environments. This Working Group met in Brussels on 6 and 7 April 2000 and a progress report will be presented (CNL(00)27).

(f) *Transgenic Salmon*

At its 1997 meeting the Council adopted Guidelines for Action on Transgenic Salmon. In accordance with these guidelines, there is an obligation on all Parties to report to the Council on any proposal to permit the use of transgenic salmon. There will be a notification of any such reports.

6.8 Atlantic Salmon Habitat Issues

(a) *Report of the Special Session held in 1999*

A report of the Special Session on Habitat Issues held during the Sixteenth Annual Meeting will be presented (CNL(00)28).

(b) *Future Role of NASCO in Relation to Habitat Issues*

The Council will be asked to consider what role the Organization might play in the future in relation to habitat issues on the basis of issues identified during the Special Session.

6.9 Predator-related Mortality

Canada has proposed that this issue needs to be further investigated and that there might be a discussion in Council to update our knowledge and identify potential research areas.

6.10 St Pierre et Miquelon Salmon Fisheries

Last year the Council asked that the Secretary write to the French authorities expressing NASCO's concern about the increased catches of salmon at St Pierre et Miquelon in 1998. A brief report will be presented (CNL(00)29).

6.11 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.

7. Other Business

Any other business may be raised.

8. Date and Place of Next Meeting

The Council has agreed to hold its Eighteenth Annual Meeting during 4-8 June 2001 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party.

The proposal will be made that the Nineteenth Annual Meeting be held during 3-7 June 2002 either in Edinburgh or elsewhere at the invitation of a Party (CNL(00)31).

9. 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.

10. Draft Press Release

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

Secretary
Edinburgh
17 April 2000