



Agenda item 4.1
For decision (items 6.4, 7.1, 9.3
and 11.1 only)

Council

CNL(00)6

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Secretary's Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report contains a number of procedural, administrative and financial matters which, as in previous years, have been amalgamated under a single Council agenda item. All substantial issues are dealt with in separate papers.

2. Status of ratifications of and accessions to the Convention

- 2.1 The status of ratifications of and accessions to the Convention is given in Annex 1. There have been no changes 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. The membership is as listed in Annex 2.

4. Observers at NASCO's meetings

Non-government organizations

- 4.1 There have been no applications for observer status since the last Annual Meeting. The twenty-five organizations listed in Annex 3 have observer status to NASCO and have been invited to attend the Seventeenth Annual Meeting. To date, 10 organizations have indicated that they will be represented.
- 4.2 Last year, the Global Aquaculture Alliance, based in Florida, USA, applied for NGO status to NASCO. This was the first time a fish farming organization had applied for NGO status. At the North Atlantic Salmon Farming Industry (NASFI) and NASCO Liaison Group meeting held in February this year, the issue of salmon farming industry participation in NASCO meetings as Non-Government Observers was raised. It was agreed that the Liaison Group meetings provided a better forum for cooperation than observer status but the Group recommends that one or two representatives from the Liaison Group should be invited to attend the NASCO meeting. The Council will be asked to consider this proposal under agenda item 6.7(d). Given the views of the Liaison Group, I have responded to the Global Aquaculture Alliance indicating that this is the approach that is likely to be taken with regard to cooperation with the salmon farming industry and that, as it is US-based, it might wish to consult with the US industry representatives with a view to possible participation as part of that country's industry delegation to the Liaison Group.

Inter-government organizations

- 4.3 The Council has agreed that it is useful to co-ordinate its work with that of other inter-government organizations with related aims. Representatives of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC), and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) have been invited to attend the Seventeenth Annual Meeting. To date, ICES and NPAFC have indicated that they will be represented.

Media representation

- 4.4 At its Twelfth Annual Meeting the Council agreed that accredited media would be allowed to attend the Organization's annual meetings subject to criteria governing attendance agreed by the Council.

NASCO's relationship with its observer organizations

- 4.5 Last year the Council agreed that it should review its relationship with its observer organizations. This review, document CNL(00)7, will be considered under agenda item 4.2.

5. Tag Return Incentive Scheme

- 5.1 Under the Tag Return Incentive Scheme a total of four prizes are 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.
- 5.2 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 Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Council. The winners of the \$1,500 prizes will be announced by the Chairman of each of the Commissions.

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

- 6.1 At its Fifteenth Annual Meeting the Council considered an informal proposal from representatives of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) to hold a joint meeting to review factors influencing salmon in the marine environment, since some scientists in NPAFC believe that similar mechanisms may drive the abundance of salmon in both oceans. The Council had agreed that there would be benefits from a joint meeting with NPAFC and that the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) should also be invited to participate. It was agreed that sessions should include not only the scientific aspects but also the application of the Precautionary Approach to salmon management. The FAO has recently encouraged Regional Fisheries Bodies to cooperate more closely.

- 6.2 NASCO and IBSFC were willing to hold the first tripartite meeting in March 2000 to coincide with a symposium being organised by PICES at which NPAFC delegates would be present and in conjunction with the meeting of our Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach. However, following further consultations with NPAFC in October 1999, they felt that, while it is important to strengthen cooperation on salmon conservation, they could not handle the necessary preparations by March 2000, and have proposed that the meeting be held in association with their Annual Meeting (28 October - 2 November 2001) in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada.
- 6.3 The problem with this proposal is that, although a joint meeting may be very useful, it may be difficult to justify travel to Victoria for that purpose alone. If the Council wishes to proceed with the idea then it would be more cost-effective to hold a meeting of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach at the same venue either immediately before or after the joint meeting. We could alternatively indicate to NPAFC that we would prefer to meet at one of NASCO's Annual Meetings, or at a different time or place.
- 6.4 The main areas of benefit for increased cooperation with NPAFC would appear to be in science, enforcement and management - each organization probably having its own strengths and weaknesses. The detailed planning would have to be done by all three Organizations but we have already developed a draft framework for the meeting (Annex 4). In the light of this information the Council is asked to decide:
- (a) if it still wishes to proceed with the idea of a joint meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC;
 - (b) if it wishes to accept the proposal to hold a joint meeting in October 2001 in conjunction with NPAFC's Annual Meeting;
 - (c) if it wishes to propose a different time and place for a joint meeting.

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

- 7.1 Last year the Council agreed that there might be benefits from a joint meeting of all the North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions (i.e. ICCAT, NPAFC, NAFO, NASCO and IBSFC) and asked that the Secretary and Vice-President examine the possibilities for such a meeting. Because of the proposed joint meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC and other commitments, including the meetings of the Liaison Group and the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach, it has not been possible to develop this proposal further. If the joint meeting with NPAFC and IBSFC is to take place in 2001 it might be appropriate to consider a meeting of the North Atlantic Fisheries Commissions in 2002. It will probably be difficult to find a date and place acceptable to all of these international bodies. However, the Council might wish to ask the Secretary and Vice-President to liaise with the other organizations so as to develop the arrangements and report back to the Parties.

8. Follow-up to the Eleventh ICES Dialogue Meeting

- 8.1 Last year, a brief report was presented on the Eleventh ICES Dialogue Meeting, on the theme of the Relationship between Scientific Advice and Fisheries Management. The meeting addressed three main themes: the Precautionary Approach; the Form and Nature of the Advice and Confidence Building.
- 8.2 In February this year ICES held a follow-up meeting to review the actions taken and planned since the 11th Dialogue Meeting. The following points of interest to NASCO emerged from the meeting. In response to our long-standing representations, ICES has addressed the issues of flexibility and timeliness of the advice. Through a change to the working arrangements of ACFM, ICES has agreed to make NASCO's advice available by 8 May, i.e. between 2-3 weeks earlier than in recent years. ICES also accepted the need for value for money in providing advice and the need for quality control procedures, since difficult management decisions can be taken more readily if managers have confidence in the advice. ICES suggested that there was a need for continued and enhanced dialogue and for development of appropriate fora to facilitate this dialogue on issues such as the Precautionary Approach.
- 8.3 ICES has developed a Strategic Plan which lays out a vision for ICES in the 21st century, its Mission, Strategic Goals and Objectives for Achieving the Goals, and an implementation programme for the plan. We expressed some concern that, in its present form, the Strategic Plan focuses exclusively on marine ecosystems to the exclusion of the freshwater environment, consideration of which is, of course, vital in providing advice on Atlantic salmon. The point was also made that, following the reorganisation of the ICES Science Committees into more general fora, there is a need to consider how Atlantic salmon issues can be brought more to the fore within ICES. ICES intends that a revised Plan will be adopted in 2002. Copies of the Strategic Plan are available from the ICES Secretariat.

9. Establishment of a NASCO website

- 9.1 Last year the Council agreed to the establishment of a NASCO 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 the ACFM Report through a link to the ICES website. This website was established and the Parties notified on 12 July 1999. It is at www.nasco.org.uk.
- 9.2 The Council asked the Secretary to look into the costs involved in making the NASCO databases suitable for and available on the website. NASCO presently has the following databases:
- laws, regulations and programmes;
 - salmon rivers flowing into the North Atlantic;
 - returns under the Oslo Resolution;
 - returns under the NEAC Resolution on Introductions and Transfers;
 - the NAC inventory of introductions and transfers (maintained by the NAC Scientific Working Group on Introductions and Transfers, not the Secretariat).

- 9.3 To date, the Organization's databases have only been used by the Organization and certain researchers. Some of the information is not in a suitable form for access by the public and there would inevitably be significant work for the Secretariat and for the Parties, and subsequent costs, in making it so. On balance, we believe that, at the moment, we should not take steps to put the databases onto the website and we doubt that the cost and effort would be justified. However, it would be valuable to continue to make the information available to those who have a legitimate interest in it, and the Council is asked to consider its policy on public access to the databases.

10. The Organization's financial affairs

Audited accounts for 1999

- 10.1 In accordance with Financial Rule 11, the report of the Auditors for the Financial Year 1 January - 31 December 1999 was submitted to Heads of Delegations and members of the Finance and Administration Committee on 4 February 2000. During 2000 a total surplus of £1,967 (plus a reallocation of £896 from the Capital Fund to the Reserve Fund) was generated which will be used to reduce the contributions by the Contracting Parties to the 2001 budget. 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 2001 Draft and 2002 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 There has been no increase in NASCO's Budget in real terms for the last decade. In fact, thanks to the property income and economies in a number of budget sections, the cumulative reduction in real terms in this period has been about 25%. At the same time progress has been made in building a Stabilisation Fund so that there is confidence that the Organization can meet its future obligations without any sudden changes in budgeting. The draft 2001 budget proposes an increase of just under 4% in real terms, but if the allocation to the Stabilisation Fund (which does not represent current expenditure) and the increased costs of the ICES advice are excluded, then the budget represents a reduction of 3.3% in real terms.
- 10.4 The Organization continues to be in a satisfactory financial situation and in future budgets should be able to continue to benefit from reductions in real terms while building funds to ensure that it can meet its obligations without budgetary increases.

11. Donations to NASCO

- 11.1 We have recently been contacted by the proprietor of a salmon fishery and by an angling association wishing to make donations to NASCO. Under the Financial Rules

such voluntary contributions by both non-members and members of NASCO may be accepted provided that the purposes for which they are made are consistent with the policies, aims and activities of the Organization. The Finance and Administration Committee will consider the principle of donations and will make its recommendations to the Council. The Council has previously recognised as important education of young people in salmon conservation work. It has not been possible to address this to date, but it would be possible to establish a Special Fund, open for voluntary contributions by Contracting Parties and donations from non-members, to be used for this purpose. The Council might, therefore, wish to give this further consideration in the light of the recommendations from the Finance and Administration Committee under agenda item 4.4.

12. The new NASCO Handbook

- 12.1 Last year the Council agreed that the NASCO Handbook should be reprinted. This has now been done and copies will be available at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting. We are also preparing a document incorporating the Organization's Resolutions, Agreements and Guidelines in A5 ring binder format. Subject to budgetary considerations, we hope that this document will be available later this year.

13. Headquarters Property

- 13.1 The Headquarters Property at 11 Rutland Square was purchased in 1986 at a price of £380,000. Today, the Organization owns a substantial capital asset which is estimated to be worth approximately £1 million.
- 13.2 The development of an International Conference and Financial Centre at the rear of the property is now almost complete. We anticipate that these will tend to have a positive impact on the value of the Headquarters.

14. Scottish Parliament

- 14.1 A referendum held in September 1997 produced clear majorities for the creation of a Scottish Parliament and for it to have certain tax-varying powers. The first full session of the new Parliament took place in May 1999. The areas of policy and legislation dealt with by the Scottish Parliament and its Executive include housing, education, transport, sport, law and order, farming, fishing and forestry, the countryside and health. NASCO is the only international treaty organization with its Headquarters in Scotland, and our Headquarters Agreement is with the United Kingdom Government. We would only be affected if the Scottish National Party, which is pledged to seek independence for Scotland, became the majority Party and succeeded in this aim. At present the Scottish National Party has the second highest number of members in the new Parliament.

Secretary
Edinburgh
17 April 2000

STATUS OF RATIFICATIONS OF AND ACCESSIONS TO THE CONVENTION

1. Parties to the Convention as of 17 April 2000 are as follows:

Party	Date of Accession (A) or Ratification or Approval (R)
CANADA	30 September 1983 (R)
DENMARK	
in respect of the Faroe Islands	31 January 1983 (R)
in respect of Greenland	17 April 1985 (A)
EUROPEAN UNION	14 December 1982 (R)
ICELAND	21 June 1982 (R)
NORWAY	20 May 1983 (R)
RUSSIAN FEDERATION	11 September 1986 (A)
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	16 November 1982 (R)

2. The Convention entered into force on 1 October 1983, following the deposit of instruments of ratification or approval by the Parties satisfying Article 17, paragraph 5 of the Convention.
3. The predecessor to the Russian Federation, the former Soviet Union, originally acceded to the Convention.
4. Finland, which acceded to the Convention on 18 May 1984, and Sweden, which ratified the Convention on 17 May 1984, became members of the European Union on 1 January 1995. With effect from 31 December 1995 their representation has been through the European Union.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE REGIONAL COMMISSIONS OF NASCO

1. North American Commission

As of 17 April 2000 the membership of the North American Commission is as follows:

Canada
United States of America

The European Union, under Article 11 of the Convention, has the right to submit and vote on proposals for regulatory measures concerning salmon stocks originating in the territories referred to in Article 18.

2. North-East Atlantic Commission

As of 17 April 2000 the membership of the North-East Atlantic Commission is as follows:

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
European Union
Iceland
Norway
Russian Federation

Canada and the United States, under Article 11 of the Convention, each have the right to submit and vote on proposals for regulatory measures concerning salmon stocks originating in the rivers of Canada or the United States of America respectively and occurring off East Greenland.

3. West Greenland Commission

As of 17 April 2000 the membership of the West Greenland Commission is as follows:

Canada
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
European Union
United States of America

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 Scottish District 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 Holland)
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)
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)

***PACIFIC, ATLANTIC AND BALTIC SALMON:
PROGRESS AND FUTURE CHALLENGES***

A 1½ - 2 day seminar to take place in [], during the period [] under the auspices of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission, the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission

DRAFT FRAMEWORK

Day 1 Introduction: Opening Remarks by all three Organizations

Session 1 - Scientific Progress and Future Challenges

Science in the work of NPAFC

e.g. the factors controlling marine survival in the Pacific, stock assessment, assessing the role of hatcheries

Science in the work of NASCO

e.g. the factors controlling marine survival in the Atlantic, stock assessment, assessment of the impacts of aquaculture

Science in the work of IBSFC

e.g. the factors controlling marine survival in the Baltic, stock assessment, assessing the role of hatcheries

Discussion

Day 2 Session 2 - Progress in International Cooperation and Future Challenges

Cooperation through NPAFC on Pacific salmon

e.g. enforcement, coordination of research

Speakers: President or Secretary of NPAFC and other contributors

Cooperation through NASCO on Atlantic salmon

e.g. regulatory measures, precautionary approach, impacts of aquaculture

Speakers: President or Secretary of NASCO and other contributors

Cooperation through IBSFC on Baltic salmon

e.g. regulatory measures, Salmon Action Plan, by-catch

Speakers: President or Secretary of IBSFC and other contributors

Session 3 - General discussion

Closing Remarks by all three Organizations

