



Agenda Item 4.4
For Information

Council

CNL(97)18

NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme

NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme

1. At its Tenth Annual Meeting the Council considered the future of its Tag Return Incentive Scheme following the trial period which had been funded by the United States of America and which ended with the 1994 awards. It was agreed that the Scheme should continue and would be funded from 1995 by budgetary provision with a total of four prizes being awarded (a Grand Prize of \$2500 and one prize in each of the Commissions of \$1500). The awards are novel and well publicised and this has led to some benefits to the Organization in terms of knowledge at the fisherman level 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.

2. In accordance with the Rules of the Scheme those Parties wishing to participate in the draw for 1997 were requested to provide by 1 May a list of names and addresses of persons returning eligible external tags during the period 1 January - 31 December 1996. Details of the country in which the tag was recaptured were also requested in order that each tag could be allocated to the appropriate Commission area. A total of 3211 eligible tags was returned and entered into the draw for the Grand Prize. 952, 23 and 2236 eligible tags were entered into the draws for the North American, West Greenland and North-East Atlantic Commissions respectively. The draw will be made by the auditors to NASCO in accordance with the Rules of the Scheme. The winner of the \$2500 prize will be announced by the President at the Fourteenth Annual Meeting of the Council. The winners of the \$1500 prize in each Commission will be announced by the Chairmen of the respective Commissions.

Secretary
Edinburgh
7 May 1997