



Agenda Item 2
For information

Council

CNL(97)3

Explanatory Memorandum On The Draft Agenda

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- Item 1 The Opening Session is open to the Public. The Minister of Fisheries will make a speech of welcome. 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 the nominated representatives of Non-Government Organizations and any Inter-Government Organizations present.
- Item 2 Under the Rules of Procedure the Draft Agenda (CNL(97)2) is submitted herewith following the earlier submission of the Provisional Agenda (CNL(97)1). The Council will be asked to adopt an Agenda and to agree a Schedule of Meetings (CNL(97)4).
- Item 3
- 3.1 The Secretary will report to the Council on the status of ratifications of and accessions to the Convention, membership of the regional Commissions, applications for observer status to NASCO, possible topics for Special Sessions, the Organization's project work, the Headquarters Property (CNL(97)5) and on the audited accounts for 1996 (CNL(97)6) and the receipt of contributions for 1997 (CNL(97)7).
 - 3.2 A commentary on the 1998 Draft Budget (CNL(97)8) has been circulated to the Council. The Chairman of the Finance and Administration Committee will present a report (CNL(97)9) of the Committee's meeting to the Council. The Draft 1998 and Forecast 1999 Budgets, as agreed by the Finance and Administration Committee, will be submitted for adoption by the Council. The Council will be asked to adopt to the appointment of auditors for the 1997 accounts, and to accept the audited accounts for 1996 or to take such other action as it may consider appropriate.
 - 3.3 The Council will be asked to adopt, under Article 5, paragraph 6 of the Convention, a report on its activities in 1996 (CNL(97)10). This report is not intended for publication. In addition, a Report on the Activities of the Organization in 1995/96 (for publication) will be presented to the Council for its approval (CNL(97)11).
- Item 4
- 4.1 The Report of the ICES North Atlantic Salmon Working Group (CNL(97)12) will be circulated. The Report of the Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM) (CNL(97)13) will also be circulated and at the meeting will be briefly introduced by its Chairman. The detailed advice will be considered by the Commissions separately at their meetings.
 - 4.2 At its Eleventh Annual Meeting the Council decided that the Standing Scientific Committee established in 1992 should continue its work. The

recommendations of the Committee on the request to ICES for scientific advice will be presented by the Chairman of the Committee (CNL(97)14).

- 4.3 The Secretary will present the Catch Statistics for 1996 as provided to the Organization by the Parties (CNL(97)15). These data will be used in the calculation of the Schedule of Contributions by the Parties for 1998. The updated Historical Catch Record (CNL(97)16) will be presented for information.
- 4.4 A summary of microtag, finclip and external tag releases in the North Atlantic in 1996 will be presented to the Council (CNL(97)17). The operation of the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme during 1996/97 will be described (CNL(97)18). The President will announce the name of the winner of the \$2500 prize. The winner of each \$1500 prize will be announced by the Chairman of each Commission.
- 4.5 The Secretary will present a review (CNL(97)19) of salmon-related literature published during 1996. This review is presented to the Council for information in accordance with Article 12, paragraph 2 of the Convention.

Item 5

- 5.1 A summary of the returns made by the Parties under Articles 14 and 15 of the Convention will be presented to the Council (CNL(97)20).
- 5.2 At its Thirteenth Annual Meeting, the Council asked the Secretary to prepare a paper on the development of the Precautionary Approach, taking into account the thinking of other international bodies, and which included specific ideas as to how to adopt the Precautionary Approach to all of the work of NASCO. This review will be presented (CNL(97)21).
- 5.3 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.
 - (a) At its Ninth Annual Meeting the Council adopted a Protocol Open for Signature by States Not Parties to the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean. The Secretary will present a report describing any developments in relation to this Protocol and report on actions taken in accordance with the Resolution on Fishing for Salmon on the High Seas, including updated information on sightings of vessels (CNL(97)22).
 - (b) A report on the second meeting of NASCO and coastguard/fishery protection authorities to examine options to improve the surveillance of the area of international waters north of the Faroe Islands together with a proposal to conduct a

pilot project to assess the feasibility of satellite surveillance of the area will be presented (CNL(97)23).

- 5.4 At its Twelfth Annual Meeting the Council considered the issue of whether there should be exceptions to Article 2 of the Convention so as to permit research fishing. Last year, the Council considered a draft Resolution on research fishing and asked the Secretary to consult with the Parties with a view to adopting the Resolution by correspondence. A report on these consultations will be presented (CNL(97)24). As an interim measure the Council had agreed to permit scientific research fishing by Canada, Norway and the EU (Scotland). These Parties will be invited to present the results of their scientific research fishing to the Council.
- 5.5 In 1994, in response to growing concern about the possible impacts of salmon aquaculture on the wild stocks, the Council adopted the Oslo Resolution which makes recommendations on measures to minimise impacts on the wild stocks. It was agreed that the subject of impacts of aquaculture should be reviewed annually and that the situation with regard to implementation of the recommendations would be re-examined in 1998 with a view to considering whether additional measures are necessary. Details of the actions taken by the Parties in accordance with the Resolution will be presented (CNL(97)25).

At its Twelfth Annual Meeting the Council agreed that it wished to retain and strengthen the good relationship which had been established with the salmon farming industry and agreed terms of reference for a Liaison Group. Last year the Council agreed on an agenda for the first meeting of the Group and a Constitution and asked the Secretary to liaise with the industry with a view to arranging the Group's first meeting. A report on progress with consulting the aquaculture industry will be presented (CNL(97)26).

A report (CNL(97)27) will be presented by the Secretary on the ICES/NASCO Symposium on the "Interactions between Salmon Culture and Wild Stocks of Atlantic Salmon: The Scientific and Management Issues". This will focus on any implications for action by NASCO Parties that might emerge from the Symposium.

Last year the Council considered a draft Resolution designed to control the risks to the wild salmon stocks from transgenic salmon. The Council asked the Secretary to consult with the Parties with a view to adopting the Resolution by correspondence. Unfortunately it was not possible to adopt the Resolution by correspondence but the Council had agreed to develop a further more detailed Resolution at its Fourteenth Annual Meeting. A report on the consultations together with a new draft Resolution will be presented for consideration by the Council (CNL(97)28).

- 5.6 Last year, at the request of our Non-Government Organizations, the Council held a Special Session entitled "Atlantic Salmon as Predator and Prey". Papers were presented on the predators of Atlantic salmon and their impact on salmon stocks, the public perception of predator control programmes, the prey of the Atlantic salmon and the impact of industrial fisheries on the prey of the salmon. The Secretary will present a report (CNL(97)29) on any management and other implications arising from the meeting.
- 5.7 In recent years there has been growing interest in the practice of catch and release fishing as a conservation measure in recreational fisheries. Last year the Council considered draft guidelines on techniques for handling and releasing fish, and it was agreed that the Parties should provide comments to the Secretary with a view to adoption of these guidelines by post. The Guidelines as agreed by the Parties will be presented for adoption by the Council (CNL(97)30).
- 5.8 The Council has previously agreed that the concept of internationally endorsed guidelines could be usefully extended to cover the practical and technical aspects of stocking rivers. Because of other commitments during the year, and so as to allow information from the Bath Symposium to be taken into consideration, these guidelines will not be ready for consideration by the Council in Ilulissat but will be presented at the Fifteenth Annual Meeting.
- 5.9 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.

Item 6 Any other business may be raised.

Item 7 The Council has agreed to hold the Fifteenth Annual Meeting during the period 8-12 June 1998 in Edinburgh. The proposal will be made that the Sixteenth Annual Meeting be held during 7-11 June 1999 in Edinburgh or such other place as the Council shall decide.

Item 8 A draft report of the meeting will be circulated for the approval of the Council prior to the close of the meeting.

Item 9 A Press Release will be prepared for the consideration of the Council.

Secretary
Edinburgh
9 April 1997