



Agenda Item 3.1  
For information

## **Council**

CNL(97)5

### *Secretary's Report*

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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.

**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. APPLICATIONS FOR OBSERVER STATUS AT THE 1997 MEETING**

**Non-government Organizations**

- 4.1 There have been no applications for observer status since the Thirteenth Annual Meeting. The twenty three organizations listed in Annex 3 have observer status to NASCO and have been invited to attend the Fourteenth Annual Meeting.

arrangement of allowing NGOs to attend both Council and Commission meetings, with statements being permitted during Council sessions which are designated "Special Sessions" and also at the Opening Session of the Council. It was agreed that these arrangements would apply until further notice.

**Inter-government Organizations**

- 4.3 The Council has agreed that it is useful to coordinate its work with that of other inter-government organizations with related aims. Representatives of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) and the International Baltic Sea Fishery Commission (IBSFC) will attend the Fourteenth Annual Meeting.

**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.

## **5. POSSIBLE TOPICS FOR SPECIAL SESSIONS**

- 5.1 Last year the Council considered the threats posed to the wild stocks by transgenic salmon and considered a Resolution designed to control the risks and develop more information. The Council agreed to consider holding a Special Session on transgenic salmon as soon as practicable which would examine the risks and possible benefits in more detail. It has not been possible to include a Special Session in the agenda for the Fourteenth Annual Meeting but the Council may wish to consider holding a Special Session on transgenic salmon at its Fifteenth Annual Meeting in 1998. There is support for this proposal from the NGOs. Another area which our NGO's have asked be addressed within NASCO is the question of habitat management and this might be considered as a topic for a Special Session at the 1999 meeting.

## **6. AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR 1996**

- 6.1 In accordance with Financial Rule 11, the report of the Auditors for the Financial Year 1 January - 31 December 1996 is submitted to the Council (CNL(97)6). In accordance with Financial Rule 4.4 transfers between budget heads are shown.

## **7. RECEIPT OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 1997**

- 7.1 Under Financial Rule 5.5 the Secretary shall report to each Annual Meeting of the Council on the receipt of contributions and the position of arrears. This report is provided separately as document CNL(97)7.

## **8. PROJECT WORK**

### *Database of Salmon Rivers*

- 8.1 At its Sixth Annual Meeting the Council decided to establish a database of all salmon rivers flowing into the Convention area with an indication of their status. Returns have been received from all Parties and information for almost 1,900 rivers has been included in the database. Of these rivers 79.5% are categorised as being "not threatened with loss". However, a total of 7.5% of the rivers fall into the categories "lost" and "maintained" and 12.6% are considered to be "threatened with loss". The information contained in the database is freely available to the Parties and has been used as a basis for classifying rivers for the development of management measures in the North-East Atlantic Commission area in relation to introductions and transfers.

### *Laws, Regulations and Programmes Database*

- 8.2 Since last year the database has been updated by the inclusion of material submitted in the Article 15 returns for 1996. The material listed in Annex 4 has been included in the database since last year's report to the Council.

### *Long Term Trends in Salmon Abundance*

- 8.3 The Council has agreed that it would be useful to examine the availability of long-term catch statistics for salmon with a view to conducting an analysis so as to place the present low catches into some historical perspective. Last year the President urged the Parties to draw the attention of any long-term data sets to the attention of the

Secretariat. To date the following data sets have been obtained and analysis of the data has commenced.

<b>River</b>	<b>Period of Record</b>	<b>Type of Data</b>
River Tay	1898-1986	Number of salmon and grilse by month for commercial net fisheries
River Tweed	1858-1987	Number of salmon and grilse by month for commercial net fisheries
River Blackwater	1926-1995	Number, weight and average weight of fish caught by rod on the Careysville fishery. (Arranged through Mr Jim Maxwell, FISSTA.)
River Usk	1871-1995	Number (by month in most years), average weight and largest weight of fish caught by rod on the River Usk. Number of licences issued also available for some years (Data provided by Dr G Mawle, Environment Agency)
River Wye	1902-1995	Number (by month in most years), weight, average weight and largest weight of fish caught by rod on the River Wye (Data provided by Dr G Mawle, Environment Agency)

### *Other Projects*

- 8.4 Reports on the other projects on impacts of aquaculture, fishing for salmon in international waters, introductions and transfers, development of stocking guidelines, predators and prey and the precautionary approach to fisheries management are dealt with separately on the agenda.

## **10. REPORT ON THE HEADQUARTERS PROPERTY**

- 10.1 The Headquarters property at 11 Rutland Square was purchased on 3 April 1986 at a price of £380,000. During 1996 the loan used to purchase the property was paid off one year early, and the organization now owns this substantial capital asset which is estimated to be worth approximately £1 million.
- 10.2 The development of an International Conference and Financial Centre at the rear of the property is still proceeding. The Conference Centre and the offices of two very large financial investment companies are at a well advanced stage. We anticipate that these will tend to have a positive impact on the value of the Headquarters Property and make it more central in the prestigious West End of Edinburgh..

Secretary  
Edinburgh  
9 April 1997

**STATUS OF RATIFICATIONS OF AND  
ACCESSIONS TO THE CONVENTION**

1. Parties to the Convention as at 11 April 1997 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 in respect of Greenland	31 January 1983 (R) 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 11 April 1997 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 11 April 1997 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 11 April 1997 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 INVITED TO ATTEND  
THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING**

American Fisheries Society	(based in USA)
Association of Icelandic Angling Clubs	(based in Iceland)
Association Internationale de Defense 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)
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 Fishermens 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)



**Information included to the Laws, Regulations and Programmes Database in 1996**

*Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)*

Home Rule Government Order No. 21 of 1 August 1995 on Salmon Fishing

Home Rule Government Order No. 22 of 1 August 1995 concerning the buying and selling of salmon.

*European Union*

*England and Wales*

National Rivers Authority (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority North-East Coast (Limitation of Net Licences) Order 1994

National Rivers Authority (River Towy) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (River Taff) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority Close Season Byelaws 1994

National Rivers Authority (Northumbrian and Yorkshire Region) Byelaws

National Rivers Authority (River Nevern) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (River Dysynni) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (River Clwyd) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (River Conwy) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (River Dwyfau) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (River Dyfi) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (Rivers Glaslyn and Dwyryd) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (River Mawddach) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (North Menai Strait) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (South Menai Strait) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (North Anglesey) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (North Lleyn) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (South Lleyn) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (West Wales Coastal Waters) (Limitation of Net Fishing Licences) Order 1995

National Rivers Authority (Anglian Coast) (Limitation of Net Licences) Order 1994

National Rivers Authority (Regulation of Draft Net Fishing) Byelaw (River Severn)

*Northern Ireland*

Fisheries (Licence Duties) Byelaws (Northern Ireland) 1995

*River Foyle*

Foyle Area (Licensing of Fishing Engines) (Amendment) Regulations 1995

Foyle Area (Angling) Regulations 1995

*Scotland*

The Alness Salmon Fishery District Designation Order 1995

The Conon Salmon Fishery District Designation Order 1995

The Annual Close Time (River Eachaig Salmon Fishery District) Order 1995

