



## Atlantic Salmon Federation

MEMORANDUM

TO: ASF (US) DIRECTORS

ASF (CANADA) DIRECTORS

ASF (US) NATIONAL COUNCIL

ASF STAFF

FROM: BILL TAYLOR

DATE: June 14, 2011

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At meetings of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) in Ilulissat, Greenland, June 3 to 6, the West Greenland Commission agreed to retain the commercial salmon fishery at zero for 2011, the final year of a 3-year NASCO regulatory agreement.

ASF and the other non government organizations (NGOs) accredited to NASCO called on the organization to set a zero commercial quota, and better control the internal use fishery, which had increased from 26 tonnes last year to 43 tonnes (12,600 salmon, 10,000 of which were of North American origin) in 2010. The advice by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) was that stock abundance could withstand no harvest of salmon destined to be 2 SW salmon neither at Greenland nor in North American home waters, except on rivers where the conservation limits were being exceeded.

In his address to the Opening Session of Council, the representative of Greenland fishermen (KNAPK) insisted that there were more salmon on the feeding grounds last year and that they now want to get back to salmon fishing commercially. They also demonstrated and spoke to NASCO representatives outside the hotel where NASCO was meeting. The fishermen indicated that other countries are harvesting salmon and they want their fair share. Head of Delegation for Greenland, Emanuel Rosing, continually made these same points throughout the meetings. It may be difficult for NASCO to negotiate another multi-year-agreement for a zero quota on the commercial salmon fishery next year.

While the Conservation Agreement between ASF/NASF and KNAPK remains in place, no funds have been allocated to KNAPK other than a small amount by NASF for administration purposes. No further funds will be allocated until we are satisfied that KNAPK is fulfilling the terms of the agreement. KNAPK recently held an Executive meeting and Orri and I are hopeful that KNAPK will soon present us with their action plan for reducing this year's internal use harvest. Salmon fishing at Greenland usually begins in mid August and runs through November, depending on the weather.

I have linked a Canadian Press article that includes comments by Sue Scott, Peter Hutchinson of NASCO, and Alfred Jakobsen of KNAPK.

<http://www.asf.ca/news.php?id=687>

Also at NASCO, the final report of the review committee that assessed how well countries were implementing the agreement on aquaculture into domestic policy was presented. No country with salmon aquaculture is living up to the international goals for containment and sea lice.

Sue Scott reported to a Special Session at NASCO on the NGO perspective as to how well the "Next Steps" process is doing in achieving NASCO's goals. ASF and WWF prompted the "Next Steps" process in 2004, when we published a paper that included recommendations towards reinvigorating NASCO, called "NASCO's Future: A Vision Statement". It was authored by four experts on the workings of NASCO, including Wilfred Carter and former head of the US delegation, Andy Rosenberg.

On behalf of the NGOs, Sue welcomed the transparency and inclusion of the "Next Steps" process that had begun in 2005, but indicated that it is very apparent that countries are not implementing their NASCO agreements at home, especially with regard to protecting wild salmon from farmed salmon and phasing out mixed-stock fisheries. The NGOs again called for Convention change to allow binding agreements on Parties to implement fisheries management, habitat and aquaculture measures and the precautionary approach. It is obvious that Parties do not feel obligated now.

NASCO has implemented a large salmon research program called SALSEA to address the high rates of mortality that occur while salmon are at sea. Salmon collected from fisheries across the North Atlantic are being DNA fingerprinted to identify their region of origin, including, where possible, to individual rivers. Information on migration routes and health is also being collected. ASF's tracking program is an important part of this research and David Meerburg presented a summary of this work to NASCO's International Atlantic Salmon Research Board. More details on this tracking program will be presented in an international salmon summit, to take place in La Rochelle, France, from October 11 - 13, 2011, where both Fred Whoriskey and ASF's Jonathon Carr will deliver presentations on our research. For details on the salmon summit see [www.salmonatsea.com](http://www.salmonatsea.com).

An external review of NASCO's performance will be carried out this year by three international experts. The NGOs were successful in getting the point about the need for binding agreements into consideration by the external reviewers.

Bill Taylor