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22 January 2014

Ms Gabriele Goettsche-Wanli
Director
Division for Ocean Affairs and
the Law of the Sea Office of Legal Affairs
United Nations Headquarters
New York NY10017
USA



Dear Ms Goettsche-Wanli

Thank you for your letter dated 13 December 2013 requesting information for the report of the Secretary-General that will focus on the role of seafood in global food security. Please note that Dr Windsor retired as Secretary of NASCO in 2012 and I would be grateful if all future correspondence could be addressed to me.

The report for NASCO on this topic is brief and is as follows:

Catches of wild salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean continue to be low reflecting continuing low abundance of the species linked to increased mortality at sea. This increased marine mortality has been attributed to factors other than marine fisheries. As a consequence of reduced abundance and restrictive management measures (including those adopted internationally through NASCO), the annual average total reported catch in the North Atlantic in the five-year period to 2012 was only 1,565 tonnes and an increasing proportion of this catch is taken in recreational fisheries in rivers. The wild Atlantic salmon is a small but highly valuable resource but its contribution to global food security is limited, although it remains an important foodstuff to some dependent communities. NASCO measures for the West Greenland fishery reflect this by continuing to allocate harvests for an internal-use fishery. In contrast, production of farmed Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic amounted of 1,450,000 tonnes in 2012. NASCO has no role in aquaculture production but it is concerned about aquaculture impacts, particularly from sea lice and escaped farmed salmon, on the wild stocks and has developed agreements intended to minimise these impacts. The genetic diversity present in the wild stocks is of potential benefit to the salmon farming industry.

I hope this brief report will be of assistance; additional information is available on the NASCO website, www.nasco.int.

Best regards

Yours sincerely



Peter Hutchinson
Secretary

NASCO is an inter-government organization established by an international Convention