



## International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

ICR(21)10A

### *Annotated Agenda*

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The purpose of this paper is to provide the background, decisions and links to papers for each item on the Agenda for the Annual Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board).

Papers for the meeting are available on the Board's [website](#).

A summary of the decisions before the Board is contained in Annex 1.

### **Timings of the Video Conference (all timings are British Summer Time)**

The Board will meet by video conference on:

- Wednesday 26 May: 13:00 – 15:00 hrs
- Friday 28 May: 13:00 – 13:30 hrs

### **Participants**

We expect the following participants at the meeting:

<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Ciaran Byrne
<b>Canada</b>	Tony Blanchard (Member) Martha Robertson (Adviser)
<b>Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)</b>	Maria Strandgård Rasmussen (Member)
<b>European Union</b>	Cathal Gallagher (Member) Jaakko Erkinaro (Adviser) Arnaud Peyronnet (Adviser)
<b>Norway</b>	Raoul Bierach (Member) Helge Dyrendal (Adviser) Peder Fiske (Adviser)
<b>Russian Federation</b>	Alexander Khatuntsov (Member) Sergey Prusov (Adviser)
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Nora Hanson (Member)
<b>United States</b>	Tim Sheehan (Member) Dan Kircheis (Adviser)
<b>NGOs</b>	Ken Whelan
<b>NPAFC</b>	Mark Saunders
<b>Secretariat</b>	Emma Hatfield Wendy Kenyon Louise Forero

Other delegates may attend the meeting as observers.

## Order of Business

Agenda items will be taken in the following order:

1.	Opening of the Meeting
2.	Election of Officers
3.	The Review of the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections
4.	Review of the 2020 Updated Inventory of Research
5.	A Potential Successor to SALSEA-Track
6.	Projects of Interest to the Board and its Work
7.	Finance and Administrative Issues
8.	Other Business
10.	Date and Place of the Next Meeting
<i>Adjourn to Consider Report Text</i>	
9.	Report of the Meeting
11.	Close of the Meeting

## Adoption of the Agenda

A Draft Agenda, [ICR\(21\)02](#) was made available on 11 February 2021. The Board Agenda, [ICR\(21\)10](#), was adopted by correspondence on 30 April, prior to the inter-sessional correspondence period that ran from 3 – 14 May.

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Ciaran Byrne (European Union) will open the meeting. He will invite the Secretary to set out the procedures for the meeting.

- *no decision is required.*

### 2. Election of Officers

In accordance with the Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group, [ICR\(20\)03](#), the Board will be asked to elect a Chair. The current Chair, Ciaran Byrne, is eligible for re-election.

*The Board may wish to:*

- *(re)elect the Chair, for a period of two years from the close of the 2021 Annual Meeting.*

### 3. The Review of the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections

The Board decided previously that it could play an important role with regard to marine salmon survey data and sample co-ordination by establishing a metadatabase of existing datasets and sample collections of relevance to mortality of salmon at sea. A metadatabase was established in 2014. In 2015, the Board agreed that information on archival scale collections should be included in the Board's metadatabase. The Board's Scientific Advisory Group had noted that these collections may be lost when individual

scientists retire unless appropriate arrangements are in place to archive them and ensure their safe storage so that they may be available for analysis. Even if the scales themselves are not lost, the information accompanying them could be or they could be damaged while in storage. In 2017, it was recognised that the Board could play a role in identifying such scale collections, raising their profile with a view to safeguarding them for future use. The Board agreed that information on these scale collections should, as a first step, be included in the Board's metadatabase. Accordingly, Parties / jurisdictions were requested to provide details to the Secretariat of any archival scale collections. The Board also agreed that information on the West Greenland Sampling Programme Biological Characteristics database should be included in the metadatabase.

In 2020, the Working Group to Review the SALSEA-Track Programme and the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea noted that many of the issues it had identified relating to the Inventory, such as relevance and utility, may equally relate to the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections (the metadatabase), [ICR\(20\)07](#).

At its 2020 Annual Meeting, the Board agreed (see [CNL\(20\)12](#)) to the recommendations of the Working Group, one of which was that:

*'the metadatabase be reviewed and consideration be given as to whether other areas of the Board's work require review, and that this review be conducted by the Board.'*

The Board also agreed that:

*'the timing of the review of should be agreed by the Chair and the Secretary, as and when NASCO business allows. The review will be conducted by correspondence, preferably before the next Annual Meeting of the Board.'*

In light of ongoing restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic and the high NASCO workload, the Chair and the Secretary agreed that the review should take place after the 2021 Annual Meeting, with the Terms of Reference for the review being agreed at the Board's Annual Meeting in 2021.

Requests to update the metadatabase, with accompanying data, have been received in 2021 from EU – Germany, UK – England and Wales, and France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon). These updates will be added to the metadatabase in due course.

***The Board may wish to:***

- ***agree Terms of Reference for the review of the metadatabase;***
- ***decide who will conduct the review;***
- ***agree that the Chair and Secretary make appropriate arrangements for conducting the review, including the option for a holding a virtual meeting; and***
- ***encourage Parties and jurisdictions to contribute information on scale collections for inclusion in the metadatabase.***

The following paper is available:

- Draft Terms of Reference for the Metadatabase Review, [ICR\(21\)06](#).

*No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.*

#### 4. Review of the 2020 Updated Inventory of Research

In 2020, the Board adopted the recommendations in the Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research, [ICR\(20\)07](#). As agreed, changes to the process of collecting Inventory data and to the presentation of the Inventory on the website have been implemented in 2021. It was also agreed that:

*‘the Secretariat considers how the utility of the updated website can best be evaluated with the use of hit statistics and related metrics, and that these statistics should be presented to the Board annually to understand the extent to which the Inventory is used.’*

***The Board may wish to:***

- ***ask members to update and check the information held in the Inventory relevant to their Party / jurisdiction, that will be sent to the Parties in early November 2021, and return their updates to the Secretariat by the end of December 2021.***

The following paper is available:

- Update on the Board’s Website, [ICR\(21\)09](#).

*No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.*

#### 5. A Potential Successor to SALSEA-Track

As agreed at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Board (see [CNL\(20\)12](#)), the SALSEA-Track Programme has been closed. A paper entitled SALSEA-Track Final Report, [ICR\(21\)04](#), has been made available on the Board’s website.

The Board also agreed at that meeting that:

*‘any successor to SALSEA-Track should have the following attributes: be problem focused with a clearly defined internationally relevant question, which is not solely developed based on the newest technology available; have clear SMART objectives; have clear timelines; have a clear budget; be at the basin-scale; and have an identified owner / co-ordinator. Additionally, it should address issues such as: data gaps / climate change / commonalities across the jurisdictions / mechanisms for supporting new technologies.’*

The Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research, [ICR\(20\)07](#), proposed that Board members could canvass colleagues on a potential successor to SALSEA-Track if the ROAM programme was not deemed a feasible candidate successor. The Chair said the Board could revisit progress under this Agenda item at its meeting in 2021.

***The Board may wish to:***

- ***consider a potential successor to SALSEA-Track; and***
- ***reach a decision in relation to the ISMMI proposal, regarding the request for endorsement and matching support funding of £96K.***

The following paper is available:

- Potential Successor to SALSEA-Track, [ICR\(21\)07](#).

*No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.*

## 6. Projects of Interest to the Board and its Work

At the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Board, it was agreed to retain an Agenda item focused on projects where NASCO has some ownership (such as EU-funded projects, the SALSEA-Track successor and the Likely Suspects Framework) and that if SAG and Board members knew of other relevant projects, those researchers could be invited to contribute information, [CNL\(20\)12](#). The Board asked the Secretary to provide updates on the first category of projects (i.e. where NASCO has some ownership), and, through the Board and SAG members, to seek information on new and emerging projects that would be of interest to the Board and its work.

Board members were asked to provide information on any new and emerging projects that they were aware of, that would be of interest to the Board and its work. No details of projects that fall within the scope of the Board's activities, or that are not already listed in the Board's Research Inventory, were provided.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Projects of Interest to the Board and its Work, [ICR\(21\)08](#).

*No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.*

## 7. Finance and Administrative Issues

At its 2006 Annual Meeting, the Board recognised that it was not necessary to have its accounts audited annually and agreed that, in future, the Board's accounts should be audited as required in relation to the funds held. For years in which an audit is not conducted, details of the Board's income and expenditure statements would be circulated to the members of the Board and discussed at its Annual Meeting. In 2020 the Board agreed that it should have its 2020 accounts audited by NASCO's auditors, Saffery Champness (Edinburgh).

The total value of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund on 31 December 2020 was £541,373. Of the Funds available at the end of 2020, £449,827 is grant funding from the European Union in the Euro account and £91,546 is the pounds sterling account balance. Of the £91,546, £41,910 is a voluntary contribution from Canada in 2020. This ring-fenced funding is directed to:

1. The research programme to tag Atlantic salmon at Greenland with popup satellite tags for the purpose of increasing knowledge of the distribution, migration, and predation events of salmon in their second fall and winter at sea; and
2. Supporting DFO scientists and collaborators engaged in the field efforts to tag Atlantic salmon at Greenland.

Additionally, £40,150 was a voluntary contribution from the United States in 2019. That funding is directed to:

- support high priority projects in line with the long-standing 'International Atlantic Salmon Research Programme,' namely Salmon at Sea Track (SALSEA-Track) and RAFOS Ocean Acoustic Monitoring (ROAM).

Thus £82,060 of the £91,546 in the pounds sterling account is ring-fenced funding.

*The Board may wish to:*

- *accept the audited accounts; and*
- *decide whether to have the 2021 accounts audited.*

The following paper is available:

- 2020 Audited Accounts for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund, [ICR\(21\)03](#)

*No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.*

## **8. Other Business**

No other business is anticipated.

## **9. Report of the Meeting**

A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review.

- *a decision to adopt a Report of the Meeting is desired.*

## **10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

The Board will be asked to confirm the date and venue for its next Annual Meeting. It is usual practice for the Board to meet immediately prior to the Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO. The Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council will be held in Edinburgh from 7 – 10 June 2022.

*The Board may wish to:*

- *agree to hold its next Annual Meeting immediately prior to the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council, at the same location.*

## **11. Close of the Meeting**

The Chair will close the Meeting.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
21 May 2021

***Summary of International Atlantic Salmon Research Board Decisions***

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Paper No.</b>
2. Election of Officers	To (re)elect the Chair of the Board	
3. The Review of the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to agree on the Terms of Reference for the review of the metadatabase;</li> <li>• to agree who will conduct the review;</li> <li>• the Board may wish to agree that the Chair and Secretary make appropriate arrangements for conducting the review, including the option for a holding a virtual meeting; and</li> <li>• whilst no decision is required, the Board may wish to encourage Parties and jurisdictions to contribute information on scale collections for inclusion in the metadatabase.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">ICR(21)06</a>
5. A Potential Successor to SALSEA-Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to choose a potential successor to SALSEA-Track; and</li> <li>• to endorse or provide funding to the ISMMI proposal.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">ICR(21)07</a>
7. Finance and Administrative Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to accept the audited accounts for 2020; and</li> <li>• whether to have the 2021 accounts audited.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">ICR(21)03</a>
9. Report of the Meeting	To adopt the Report	Issued at meeting
10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	To hold the next Annual Meeting of the Board immediately prior to the next Annual Meeting of the Council	