



**International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

**ICR(24)04A**

*Annotated Agenda*

***Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board***

***Knockranny House Hotel & Spa, Westport, Ireland***

***2 & 4 June 2024***

***Annotated Agenda***

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](#).

This Annotated Agenda references papers that the Secretariat is aware of at the time of writing. If additional papers are issued, they will be posted on the website and delegates will be informed by email.

As agreed in 2022, Parties / NGOs were invited to submit questions on Agenda items, in advance to the relevant Party. The Secretariat requested that it be copied into any questions asked, to allow the questions to be included in the Annotated Agenda. No questions were received.

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

**Time of the Meeting (Westport local time)**

The Board will meet at the following times:

- Sunday 2 June: 09:30 – 12:30 hrs
- Tuesday 4 June: 08:30 – 09:30 hrs

**Order of Business**

Agenda items will be taken in the following order:

1.	Opening of the Meeting
2.	Adoption of the Agenda
3.a)	The Inter-Sessional Process to Consider the Overall Vision, Scope and Purpose of the Board: Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board
4.	Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group to Outline a Marine Growth Study Proposal
3.b)	The Inter-Sessional Process to Consider the Overall Vision, Scope and Purpose of the Board: Decisions taken in the light of the Review of the Overall Vision, Scope and Purpose of the Board
5.	Review of the 2023 Inventory of Research
7.	Finance and Administrative Issues

6.	Projects of Interest to the Board and its Work
8.	Other Business
10.	Date and Place of the Next Meeting
9.	Report of the Meeting
11.	Close of the Meeting

## 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Martha Robertson (Canada) will open the meeting.

- *no decision is required.*

## 2. Adoption of the Agenda

A Draft Agenda, [ICR\(24\)04](#), was made available on 5 April 2024. No supplementary items have been proposed by the members of the Board.

- *the Board may wish to adopt its Agenda.*

The following paper is available:

- Draft Agenda, [ICR\(24\)04](#)

## 3. The Inter-Sessional Process to Consider the Overall Vision, Scope and Purpose of the Board

As part of the review of its overall vision, scope and purpose, the Board agreed during its 2023 Inter-Sessional Meeting, [ICR\(23\)02](#), that, prior to seeking funding opportunities, the Board should identify its research priorities to help focus its efforts. To facilitate this work, the Board agreed to ask its Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to identify a prioritised list of research needs. At the Board's 2023 Annual Meeting, [CNL\(23\)10](#), the Board agreed 'Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's Scientific Advisory Group to Identify Potential Research Priorities', [ICR\(23\)14](#). The SAG met in October and November 2023 to address these Terms of Reference.

### a) Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

The Board met in February 2024 to consider the [report of the SAG's meeting](#). During the meeting, the Board agreed its future research priorities and issued a 'Statement of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board on Future Research Priorities', [ICR\(24\)01](#).

The Chair of the Board will present the Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Board under this Agenda item.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, [ICR\(24\)03](#);

### b) Decisions taken in the light of the Review of the Overall Vision, Scope and Purpose of the Board

A number of matters arising from the review of the vision, scope and purpose of the

Board remain unresolved.

At its 2023 Inter-sessional Meeting, the Board considered four ‘high-level discussion points’ issues namely: the proactive or reactive nature of the Board over the next five years; the chicken and the egg of funding; sources of funding; and big or small (projects). Full details of the discussions held on these issues can be found in section 3 of [ICR\(23\)02](#).

With regards to the first issue, the Board agreed that it should be proactive over the next five years in: identifying research needs; developing research ideas and requesting proposals; and seeking funds.

The Board has now identified its future research priorities ([ICR\(24\)01](#)) and will be considering a draft project outline developed by the SAG at its 2024 Annual Meeting under Agenda Item 4 below. However, the Board still needs to consider how it will proceed in respect of requesting proposals, seeking funds, where to seek funds from and whether the projects it will undertake should be ‘big’ or ‘small’. Additionally, it is not possible to know, at this stage, how advanced the SAG’s draft project outline will be by the time the Board meets to consider these questions, and the results of the SAG’s work are likely to inform the Board’s decisions on these matters.

- ***the Board may wish to consider the next steps in respect of future research projects.***

The following paper is available:

- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, [ICR\(23\)02](#).

#### ***A Potential Successor to SALSEA-Track***

At the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Board, it was agreed that the SALSEA-Track Programme should be closed, [CNL\(20\)12](#). It was further agreed at that meeting that the any successor to the SALSEA-Track Programme 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 Board noted at its [2023 Annual Meeting](#) that the results of the SAG’s work to identify priority research areas may impact any successor for SALSEA-Track and agreed to postpone seeking proposals for a successor project until the results of the SAG’s work were available.

As the Board has now agreed its [future research priorities](#), it may now wish to re-consider the attributes for a potential successor to the SALSEA-Track Programme. In doing so, the Board may wish to take into account the SAG’s work under Agenda Item 4 below.

- ***the Board may wish to agree whether to continue seeking a successor to the SALSEA-Track programme and, if so, what the desired attributes might be.***

The following paper is available:

- Statement of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board on Future Research Priorities’, [ICR\(24\)01](#)

The presentation by the SAG Chair under Agenda Item 4 below may also be of relevance.

***Review of ‘Guidelines on Submitting Proposals for Research, Workshops, Symposia and Other Activities for Support by the IASRB’, ICR(09)10***

During its 2023 Inter-Sessional Meeting, the Board agreed that the following document would be reviewed and revised: ‘Guidelines on Submitting Proposals for Research, Workshops, Symposia and Other Activities for Support by the IASRB’, [ICR\(09\)10](#) (see paragraphs 4.15 – 4.17 of [ICR\(23\)02](#)).

The Acting Board member for the UK worked with the Chair and Secretariat on developing revised guidelines in 2023. However, it became apparent that this could not be finalised until such time as the Board had considered the results of the SAG’s work to develop a prioritised list of research needs. Therefore, during its [2023 Annual Meeting](#), the Board agreed to postpone consideration of this matter.

As the SAG has now completed this work, the Board is now in a position to consider these guidelines. Paper [ICR\(24\)05](#) contains ‘Draft Guidelines on Submitting Proposals for Support by the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board’.

- ***the Board may wish to adopt Guidelines on Submitting Proposals for Support by the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board.***

The following papers are available:

- Draft Guidelines on Submitting Proposals for Support by the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, [ICR\(24\)05](#); and
- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board, [ICR\(23\)02](#).

#### **4. Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group to Outline a Marine Growth Study Proposal**

During its [2024 Inter-Sessional Meeting](#), the Board discussed whether new research was a possibility for the Board. The Board discussed whether it was best to develop a project and seek funding for it once a detailed proposal was in place, or whether to seek funds and then begin developing a new project proposal. The Board agreed to task the SAG with drafting an outline that describes the requirements of a basin-wide marine growth project based on adult scales and adopted [Terms of Reference](#) for this work. The Board agreed that a draft project outline would be made available to the Board prior to the first session of its 2024 Annual Meeting on 2 June. It was noted that the SAG may then need to work further, prior to the Board’s second meeting on 4 June, to present a further developed draft outline to the Board at that meeting.

The SAG Chair will provide an overview presentation of the SAG’s work at the first session of the Annual Meeting.

- ***the Board may wish to consider the presentation by the SAG Chair.***

There are no papers for this item.

## 5. Review of the 2023 Inventory of Research

As agreed in 2020, changes to the process of collecting Inventory data and to the presentation of the Inventory on the website have been implemented [CNL\(20\)12](#). It was also agreed that webpage hit statistics and related metrics for the Inventory would be presented to the Board annually to understand the extent to which the Inventory is used.

Following the Board's agreement of its future research priorities as contained in [ICR\(24\)01](#), the Board may wish to consider including information on whether the projects listed in the inventory relate to the priority areas and, if so, which area.

There will be no presentation. However, the Chair may allow questions and comments, time permitting.

*The Board may wish to:*

- *agree whether to include information related to the priority research areas in the inventory;*
- *ask members to check and update the information held in the Inventory relevant to their Party / jurisdiction;*
- *ask the Secretariat to update the Inventory in 2024 / 25.*

The following paper is available:

- Review of the 2023 Inventory of Research, [ICR\(24\)06](#).

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

### *Updates on Projects of Interest to the Board and its Work*

In 2020, 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 other projects that would be of interest to the Board and its work.

The updates provided on projects of interest to the Board and its work are contained in the document 'Projects of Interest to the Board and its Work', [ICR\(24\)10](#). There will be no presentation on this document. However, the Chair may allow questions and comments, time permitting.

### *Applications for Funding from the Board*

At its 2024 Inter-Sessional Meeting, the Board agreed a 'Statement of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board on Future Research Priorities', [ICR\(24\)01](#). In summary, the Board agreed the need to prioritise research into the future prospects for Atlantic salmon populations towards 2050, on both a basin-wide and regional scale, so as to support an adaptive management approach to their protection and conservation into the future. The Statement included the Board's top five research priorities and noted that the Board had agreed to pursue new research activities into addressing the top ranked area at this time, namely 'Basin-wide patterns of marine growth and survival of Atlantic salmon'.

Two applications for funding from the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund have been received for consideration by the Board at its 2024 Annual Meeting.

The Board has already agreed to provide up to €3,000 to support a hybrid workshop in relation to the ‘Proposal for an Updated Comprehensive trans-European Genetic Reference Baseline to Assign Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) to Rivers and Region of Origin across the Eastern North Atlantic’ and agreed to consider providing further funding once the results of that workshop were known. One of the scientists behind the proposal (Phil McGinnity) will attend the Board Meeting to answer any questions from on this proposal.

The ‘Funding Proposal to Convert to an Opensource Application a Semi-Automated Approach to Analyse Atlantic Salmon Digitised Scale Images’ is an entirely new application for funding. Any questions on this proposal can be sent through the Secretariat, for response in advance of the second meeting of the Board on 4 June.

The Board currently has approximately £24,900 available in non-ring-fenced funds. The Board has previously indicated that it would like to retain a reserve of £4,000 - £5,000.

*The Board may wish to:*

- *agree whether to fund the ‘Proposal for an Updated Comprehensive trans-European Genetic Reference Baseline to Assign Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) to Rivers and Region of Origin across the Eastern North Atlantic’, [ICR\(24\)07](#);*
- *agree whether to fund the ‘Funding Proposal to Convert to an Opensource Application a Semi-Automated Approach to Analyse Atlantic Salmon Digitised Scale Images, [ICR\(24\)08](#).*

The following papers are available:

- Projects of Interest to the Board and its Work, [ICR\(24\)10](#);
- Proposal for an Updated Comprehensive trans-European Genetic Reference Baseline to Assign Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) to Rivers and Region of Origin across the Eastern North Atlantic’, [ICR\(24\)07](#);
- Funding Proposal to Convert to an Opensource Application a Semi-Automated Approach to Analyse Atlantic Salmon Digitised Scale Images, [ICR\(24\)08](#)

## **7. Finance and Administrative Issues**

At its 2006 Annual Meeting, [CNL\(06\)11](#), 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 2023 the Board decided not to have its 2023 accounts audited and the Secretary was asked to provide income and expenditure statements.

The total value of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund as at 31 December 2023 was £655,035.86 (exchange rate at close of business on 31 December 2023).

Of the Funds available at the end of 2023, €602,353.14 is ring-fenced grant funding in the Euro account. A further €69,507.20 in voluntary contributions from the EU has been transferred from the Board’s Euro account to the appropriate NASCO current account



in January 2024.

In the sterling accounts, the following amounts are ring-fenced:

- £4,000 for a second ROAM workshop if required;
- £40,150, provided as a voluntary contribution by the United States in 2019, with the purpose of funding projects under the SALSEA-Track or ROAM initiatives.
- €3,000 to fund the scoping workshop in relation to the ‘Updated Comprehensive trans-European Genetic Reference Baseline to Assign Atlantic Salmon (*Salmo salar*) to Rivers and Region of Origin across the Eastern North Atlantic’.

Thus, approximately £47,150 of the £72,041.37 in the Sterling accounts is unavailable to spend on other projects, leaving approximately £24,900 available.

*The Board may wish to:*

- *accept the 2023 accounts; and*
- *decide whether to have the 2024 accounts audited.*

The following paper is available:

- 2023 Accounts for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund, [ICR\(24\)09](#).

## **8. Other Business**

No other business is anticipated.

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

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

- *the Board may wish to adopt the Report of the Meeting.*

## **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, and in the same location. The date and location of the 2025 Council Annual Meeting will be considered during its 2024 Annual Meeting.

*The Board may wish to:*

- *agree to hold its next Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Forty-Second Annual Meeting of the Council.*

## **10. Close of the Meeting**

The Chair will close the Twenty-Third Annual Meeting of the Board.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
24 May 2024

*Summary of International Atlantic Salmon Research Board Decisions*

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Paper No.</b>
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda.	<a href="#">ICR(24)04</a>
3.b. Decisions taken in the light of the Review of the Overall Vision, Scope and Purpose of the Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agree the next steps in respect of future research projects;</li> <li>• agree whether to continue seeking a successor to the SALSEA-Track programme and, if so, what the desired attributes might be; and</li> <li>• adopt Guidelines on Submitting Proposals for Support by the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">ICR(23)02</a> <a href="#">ICR(24)01</a> <a href="#">ICR(24)05</a>
6. Projects of Interest to the Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• agree whether to fund the ‘Proposal for an Updated Comprehensive trans-European Genetic Reference Baseline to Assign Atlantic Salmon (<i>Salmo salar</i>) to Rivers and Region of Origin across the Eastern North Atlantic’; and</li> <li>• agree whether to fund the ‘Funding Proposal to Convert to an Opensource Application a Semi-Automated Approach to Analyse Atlantic Salmon Digitised Scale Images</li> </ul>	<a href="#">ICR(24)07</a> <a href="#">ICR(24)08</a>
7. Finance and Administrative Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• accept the accounts for 2023; and</li> <li>• whether to have the 2024 accounts audited.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">ICR(24)09</a>
9. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting
10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Agree to hold the next Annual Meeting of the Board in conjunction with the next Annual Meeting of the Council	