



International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

ICR(08)4

IASRB Budget - A Proposal from the Chair

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1. Since its establishment in 2001, the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB) has provided a very valuable forum for collaboration and cooperation on research into the causes of marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and the opportunities to counteract this mortality. In this period, an inventory of research has been established and updated annually in order to allow the IASRB to identify gaps in research and its priorities. The need for studies on the migration and distribution of salmon at sea was identified as the IASRB's initial research priority, and the SALSEA programme was developed. The Board then sought advice on approaches to a public-private partnership to raise the funds required to support the marine surveys envisaged under the SALSEA programme (Workpackage 3). In this regard, the IASRB has been very successful and approximately £4 million (€5.5 million) has been raised for the SALSEA-Merge project, which will involve dedicated research surveys in the North-East Atlantic in 2008 and 2009. These funds have come from the European Commission's Seventh Framework Research Programme (FP7), the Atlantic Salmon Trust, the TOTAL Foundation and the contracted consortium partners. In the Northwest Atlantic, Canada donated CAN\$100,000 (approximately £50,000) to the IASRB in 2007 and has committed CAN\$800,000 (approximately £400,000) for a twenty-three day research survey in 2008, in cooperation with the US. In 2007, the IASRB funded an extended sampling programme at West Greenland and supported an ICES Workshop on the use of historical tagging data from oceanic areas. Through additional funding from the TOTAL Foundation (£40,000) the IASRB also organised a genetics symposium and workshop in Paris in 2008 in support of the genetic stock identification work which will allow salmon caught at sea to be assigned to their region or river of origin.
2. All of this has been achieved on the basis of voluntary contributions from NASCO's Parties and small amounts included in the 2003 (£12,000) and 2004 (£18,000) NASCO budgets. The Board is now entering a new phase in which there will be additional duties associated with attendance at meetings, communications and public relations work. There may also be work involved in ensuring coordination of the marine surveys in the North-East and Northwest Atlantic and in seeking additional funding for the remaining elements of the SALSEA programme. The public relations aspects of the marine survey programme are likely to bring considerable benefits not only to the IASRB but also to NASCO in terms of media interest and raised profile of the organization, but at present the IASRB has no funds to cover any of these aspects and the funds it has are fully committed.
3. As Chairman of the IASRB, I would propose that the Board consider making budgetary provision of £20,000 in both 2009 and 2010 to cover these additional costs. This is a modest contribution relative to the funds the Board has raised. This could either be achieved through proposing to the Council that funds be included in NASCO's 2009 and 2010 budgets, in which case the costs would be shared according to the formula for calculating contributions (the EU and Norway would bear in the region of 60% of the cost), or the Board may wish to consider an alternative funding mechanism such as direct contributions to the IASRB. On the basis of equal shares,

the contributions would be about £3,000 per Party. If the Board agreed, it might also be appropriate to make an allowance in 2008 (£8,000 to £10,000), although the NASCO budget for this year is already adopted. The SALSEA marine surveys will be conducted in 2008 and 2009 and the work completed in spring 2011, so it is not envisaged at this stage that there will be a need for this additional funding beyond 2010.

4. The Board is asked to consider this proposal for budgetary contributions in 2008, 2009 and 2010 and if it supports the proposal, to consider an appropriate mechanism for providing the funds.

Dr Ken Whelan
IASRB Chairman
6 May 2008