

***Draft Report of the Eleventh Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon
Research Board***

***George Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK
Monday, 4 June 2012***

1. Opening of the meeting

- 1.1 The Chairman, Mr Raoul Bierach, opened the meeting and welcomed members of the Board, their scientific advisers and representatives of the accredited NGOs to Edinburgh.
- 1.2 A list of participants is contained in Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the agenda

- 2.1 The Board adopted its agenda, ICR(12)XX (Annex 2) but agreed to consider item 6 when it considers applications for funding under item 3.

3. Report of the Scientific Advisory Group

- 3.1 The Chairman of the Board's Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), Mr Tim Sheehan, presented a report on the Group's meeting, SAG(12)XX (Annex 3). The SAG had:
- reviewed the updated inventory of research;
 - reviewed applications for potential funding by the Board;
 - reviewed progress in implementing the SALSEA Programme;
 - developed recommendations concerning the establishment of a metadatabase of marine salmon survey data and sample collections;
 - considered approaches to improving access to, and the usability of, data from the West Greenland sampling programme.
- 3.2 In reviewing the inventory, the SAG had considered how better use could be made of the inventory following completion of the SALSEA Programme. The SAG recommends that the Board should reconvene the Sub-Group that reported in 2009. This Sub-Group should review recent scientific investigations and summarise the findings that have significant management implications; review the inventory and identify opportunities for collaboration; identify research gaps which may be important for advising on management actions; develop a 'road map' to complete other elements of the SALSEA Programme; and advise on a possible future role for the SAG. The proposed ToRs for the Sub-Group are contained in document SAG(09)3. The SAG believes that participation by managers in the work of the Sub-Group is needed to ensure that important management issues are addressed. The Board agreed to the ToRs.
- 3.3 The SAG had recommended that the Board endorse or, if funds permit, support the following two projects, described in ICR(12)5, both of which were considered to have scientific merit:

- A proposal for a pilot project to undertake genetic stock of origin identification of European salmon captured at West Greenland;
 - A proposal for genetic stock identification of salmon caught in the Faroes fishery.
- 3.4 The Board agreed to contribute the sum of £6,000 to each of these projects. The Board also recognized that there could be public relations benefits to NASCO from supporting the production of the film ‘Atlantic salmon – lost at sea!’ While the Board’s resources do not permit it to support the film it recommends that the Finance and Administration Committee consider if NASCO could contribute funds to enable the filming to proceed in Greenland in 2012.
- 3.5 The Board agreed to the format for the metadatabase contained in document ICR(12)4. This will now be sent to jurisdictions for completion.
- 3.6 The Board thanked the SAG for its work and congratulated Mr. Sheehan on his re-election as Chairman.

4. Report on the NASCO/ICES ‘Salmon Summit’

- 4.1 The Secretary reported that the ‘Salmon Summit’ had been held in L’Aquarium, La Rochelle, France and was funded by NASCO’s International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB) and ICES with sponsorship from the Total Foundation and additional support from The French National Agency for Water and Aquatic Environments (ONEMA). It provided a forum for presentation of the findings from the SALSEA Programme and other recent research on salmon at sea. One hundred and twenty-eight scientists and managers from around the North Atlantic, North Pacific and Baltic regions, attended the symposium. There had been very positive feedback on the Summit. There will be two reports arising from the Summit. An issue of the ICES Journal of Marine Science (ICES JMS), containing some of the scientific papers that were accepted following peer review, will be published in November. A second report by the Convenors and the ICES JMS Guest Editor has been produced and focuses on the management implications and copies were made available to members of the Board.
- 4.2 In summary, the Secretary indicated that over the last forty years, increased mortality at sea, linked to a warming climate, has resulted in a dramatic decline in the abundance of Atlantic salmon. Since management options in the ocean are limited the report had concluded that the goal should be to maximise the number of healthy wild salmon that go to sea by focusing actions on impact factors in fresh, estuarine and coastal waters. There will need to be more outreach to politicians and the public and to those industries that are impacting the salmon and its habitat. The large and diverse community of non-government organizations supporting the species can play a major role. A more detailed report would be presented to the Council.

5. Progress Report on the SALSEA Programme and Future Actions

- 5.1 Progress reports on the various projects under the SALSEA Programme were presented in the report of the SAG. It was noted that the final report to the European Commission on the SALSEA Merge project had been made available on the Board’s website together with the presentations and abstracts from the Salmon Summit. The Board recognized that it would assist in publicizing the research being undertaken if the report of the Salmon Summit was made available on both the NASCO and IASRB

websites. In this regard the Atlantic Salmon, in conjunction with NASCO, had held a one-day meeting entitled 'Ocean Silver' to highlight the findings from the research and consider the management implications.

- 5.2 It was noted that some samples collected under the SALSEA Programme remain to be analysed if funding becomes available. In this regard, the Board was advised of a new project in Ireland involving a PhD student. The aim is to maximize the use of the samples collected during the marine surveys.

6. Finance and administrative issues

- 6.1 The Secretary indicated that from initial 'seed corn' funding of only £30,000 very substantial funds had been raised that had enabled multi-million pound programme of research to be implemented. He reported that the year-end accounts indicate a balance of ~£42,000 but because the Board had agreed to a request from the Council for a loan of £25,000, the available funds amount to only £17,000. The Board adopted the 2011 accounts and agreed that the funds remaining (~£5,000) after funding the two projects referred to in paragraph 3.3 above should be held as a reserve.

7. Other business

- 7.1 The Board agreed that it would consider its future working methods at its 2013 meeting in the light of the findings of the Sub-Group and the External performance review panel.

8. Report of the meeting

- 8.1 [The Board agreed a report of its meeting.]

9. Date and place of next meeting

- 9.1 The Board agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of NASCO.
- 9.2 The Chairman thanked participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.