



ICR(12)7

***Correspondence Sent to Heads of Delegations and Board Members
re Proposals to the Board***

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I have been contacted recently concerning two possible initiatives that might be supported financially by the Board. As you will be aware from the accounts of the International Salmon Research Fund that I sent you on 6 February, the Board has limited available funds at its disposal, currently around £20,000 and it may be prudent to maintain a small reserve.

Atlantic Salmon Lost At Sea

The first initiative relates to the production of a film *Atlantic Salmon Lost at Sea*. Following filming some of the SALSEA marine surveys and in rivers the producer, Deirdre Brennan of Castletown Productions (see www.atlanticsalmonlostatsea.net/index.htm), is keen to film in Greenland; the fishery, the people, the environment and the research. We understand that Tim Sheehan has been liaising with the producer on arrangements. Due to a funding shortfall the plans to film in 2011 have been postponed until 2012. I have had some discussions with the producer about the plans and the funding sought. I believe that this could be an opportunity for some good publicity for the Board (and for NASCO's wider work). Both Ken Whelan and Jens Christian Holst have been advising the producer about the SALSEA research. The film is being sponsored by the Atlantic Salmon Federation, the Marine Institute (Ireland), the Icelandic Angling Club, the Institute of Marine Research (Norway), the Mirimichi Salmon Association, the Ocean Foundation and the Cascapedia Society (Canada). The funding sought from IASRB to film in Greenland is £10,000. (We understand that Orri Vigfusson of NASF may also be involved and, if so, it will be important for NASCO/IASRB to have some editorial control). Even if no funds can be made available I would imagine that those involved in the NASCO Sampling might be interviewed. I will offer to meet with the Producer if the Board is interested in this project.

Genetic Analysis of West Greenland Samples

The second initiative is to conduct a pilot project to determine the region and/or river of origin of salmon using both historical and contemporary samples of scale and tissue collected in the fishery at West Greenland. I attach a brief outline of the proposal. This is clearly important work of relevance to the Board and to NASCO in view of their roles in relation to supporting the enhanced sampling programme, coordinating the baseline sampling and management of the fishery. Ken Whelan brought this initiative to my attention (the proposal was actually initially discussed during the margins of the Salmon Summit) and advises that a sum of £7,000 - £10,000 is being sought from the IASRB. The Atlantic Salmon Trust is involved in raising funds and a total of around £30,000 is required for the project.

Both initiatives are clearly of relevance to NASCO/IASRB but the Board has very limited resources. I would be grateful therefore if you could advise which of the following options you prefer:

- a) retain existing resources (~£20,000) as a reserve;
- b) support the filming at West Greenland up to a maximum of £10,000;
- c) support the genetic pilot project up to a maximum of £10,000;
- d) support both projects up to a maximum of £5,000 each.

I do think we should leave £5,000 to £10,000 as a reserve but await your views. I would appreciate your feedback on this no later than 20 April.