



**International Atlantic Salmon Research Board**

**ICR(20)08**

*Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda*



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### *Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda*

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meeting planned for Edinburgh in June 2020 has been cancelled. Parties agreed that the business of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) would be conducted through inter-sessional correspondence and video conference.

The agenda will be adopted on 8 May, by correspondence. This will allow Parties to address all other items. The approach to be used to address each item is set out below.

The video conference for the Board will be held on Wednesday 27 May.

All [papers for the Board](#) will be posted on the Board's website.

A summary of the decisions to be made is in Annex 1.

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

A meeting is required under Paragraph 5 of the Board's Terms of Reference which states '*The Board will meet on an annual basis or at more frequent intervals if it, or the Council of NASCO, so decides*'. There is no stipulation on how the meeting should take place.

The Chair, Ciaran Byrne, will open the meeting during the video conference (VC) on 27 May 2020. He will set out the procedures for the meeting.

- no decision is required.

*No correspondence is expected.*

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

The Draft Agenda, revised in light of the Covid-19 pandemic is available, [ICR\(20\)01](#).

- a decision to adopt the Agenda is required.

*The Agenda will be adopted via correspondence by 8 May. This provides the basis for discussions to be held by inter-sessional correspondence prior to the VC on 27 May.*

#### **3. Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research**

This is required so that the revised practices, related to SALSEA-Track and the Inventory, proposed by the Working Group can come into effect without delay.

At the Annual Meeting of the Board in 2019, [CNL\(19\)09](#), it was agreed that a Working Group would be established to review both the Inventory and the SALSEA-Track programme and to consider how the Inventory could be best updated and managed going forward. The Working Group to Review the SALSEA-Track Programme and the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea met in London from 18-20 February 2020.

The report of the Working Group is available, [ICR\(20\)07](#). It makes 10 recommendations to the Board.

- a decision to accept the recommendations is required.

*Correspondence is unlikely to be needed and will take place only if indicated by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. The recommendations will be adopted, if agreed, during the VC.*

#### **4. Final Report on Projects / Workshops during the International Year of the Salmon**

During the Scientific Advisory Group meeting in 2019, updates on projects and workshops being held during the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) were reported.

A report on other Projects / Workshops that took place during the International Year of the Salmon will be available in advance, if Parties submit the information.

- no decision is required.

*Parties have agreed this is not a priority item for 2020. Correspondence is, therefore, unlikely to be needed and will take place only if indicated by a Party or NGO Co-Chair.*

#### **5. Review of the 2020 Updated Inventory of Research and the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections**

The Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea is updated annually. It is a tool that may be used in the development of research priorities for potential funding and in better co-ordinating existing research efforts.

The updated Inventory is available, [ICR\(20\)06](#).

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. 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.

Four reports have been received on the metadatabase in 2020, with three updates requested.

However, recommendation 10 of the Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research, [ICR\(20\)07](#), is 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'*.

- whilst no decision is required, the Board may wish to ask Parties to check their information in the Inventory and to provide any comments, including omissions and corrections to the Secretariat, by 1 July 2020.

*Consideration of this item will be conducted by inter-sessional correspondence prior to the VC. Any decisions arising will be adopted at the VC.*

#### **6. Developments in Relation to SALSEA-Track**

In 2014, the Board endorsed the need for an international telemetry programme and adopted a Resolution, [ICR\(14\)10](#), encouraging Parties to continue the development of local collaborative telemetry projects, encouraging the development of large international collaborative projects building on local efforts and encouraging Parties to make efforts to identify funding sources. The Board noted that the telemetry programme

should build on the success and identity of the SALSEA Programme and recognised that there may be a role for the Board in co-ordinating efforts and supporting fund raising initiatives.

A Telemetry Workshop organized by the Board developed 12 outline project proposals utilising telemetry. In 2016, the Board confirmed that it endorsed the 12 projects but noted that, if they changed substantially, they should be referred to the SAG. It was recognised that there might be scope to combine some of these projects into larger projects within the North American and North-East Atlantic Commission areas.

Paper [ICR\(20\)05](#) contains an update on the outline project proposals developed in 2014 and additional European Union funded projects.

- no decision is required.

*Parties have agreed this is not a priority item for 2020. Correspondence is, therefore, unlikely to be needed and will take place only if indicated by a Party or NGO Co-Chair.*

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

This is required under Rule 10 of the Board's Financial Rules. Additionally, in 2019, the Secretary was asked to provide income and expenditure statements at the 2020 Board meeting.

At its 2006 Annual Meeting, the Board recognised that it was not necessary to have the 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 accordance with this decision, the Board decided not to have its 2019 accounts audited.

The 2019 accounts are available, [ICR\(20\)02](#), on the Board's website.

- a decision to accept the accounts is required.

*Correspondence is unlikely to be needed and will take place only if indicated by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. The formal decision to accept the accounts will be taken during the VC.*

## **8. Other Business**

Any other business may be raised via inter-sessional correspondence or at the start of the VC. Any decisions required with respect to these matters may be approved formally by VC or postponed until 2021.

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

A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review. A summary of business conducted inter-sessionally via correspondence will be annexed to the Report.

- a decision to adopt a Report of the meeting is required.

*Any proposed changes to the Draft Report will be discussed, agreed revisions incorporated, and a final Report of the meeting adopted during the VC.*

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

The Board will be asked to confirm the date for its next Annual Meeting to be held in advance of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council from 1 – 4 June 2021.

- a decision to hold its next meeting in advance of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council is required.

*Any discussion can be conducted by inter-sessional correspondence; the formal decision will be taken during the VC.*

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

The Chair will close the meeting at the end of the VC.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
30 April 2020

*Summary of Board Decisions*

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Paper No.</b>
2. Adoption of the Agenda	The Agenda will be adopted via correspondence by 8 May	ICR(20)01
3. Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research	Accept the recommendations of the Working Group	ICR(20)07
7. Finance and Administrative Issues	Accept the accounts	ICR(20)02
9. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Draft Report	Issued at meeting
10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Hold the next meeting in advance of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council	