



International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

ICR(20)10A

***Nineteenth Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board
Annotated Agenda***

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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.

Parties agreed that the majority of discussion would take place via inter-sessional correspondence, which ran from 8 May until 22 May. The video conferences would therefore be short and focused, with an emphasis on the formal decisions to be taken.

In this paper for each Agenda item we set out some background, its priority, links to relevant papers, a summary of the inter-sessional discussion, and the decisions required.

[Papers for the Board](#) meeting are on the Board's website.

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

Timings of the Video Conference (all timings are British Summer Time)

The Board will meet by video conference on:

- Wednesday 27 May, 14:00 – 16:00 hrs
- Wednesday 27 May, 17:00 – 17:30 hrs.

Participants

Video-link Participants

<i>Chair</i>	<i>Canada</i>	<i>Denmark (in respect of FI and G)</i>	<i>European Union</i>	<i>Norway</i>	<i>Russian Federation</i>	<i>United States</i>	<i>NGOs</i>
Ciaran Byrne	Tony Blanchard	Sissel Fredsgaard	Cathal Gallagher	Heidi Hansen	Alexander Khatuntsov	Tim Sheehan	Ken Whelan
	Martha Robertson	Svein Magnason		Raoul Bierach	Sergey Prusov	Dan Kircheis	

Other Participants

Other delegates will be able to dial-in to listen to the discussion as instructed in the 'Procedures for NASCO 2020 Webex meetings' document sent to all delegates on 25 May 2020.

Order of Business

Agenda items will be taken in the following order:

Wednesday 27 May, 14:00 – 16:00 hrs
1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda

3.	Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research
7.	Finance and Administrative Issues
4.	Final Report on Projects / Workshops during the International Year of the Salmon
5.	Review of the 2020 Updated Inventory of Research and the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections
6.	Developments in Relation to SALSEA-Track
8.	Other Business
10.	Date and Place of the Next Meeting
	Adjourn to finalise and circulate the report of the Meeting
	Wednesday 27 May, 17:00 – 17:30 hrs.
9.	Report of the Meeting
11.	Close of the Meeting

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Ciaran Byrne, will open the meeting and welcome participants. He will invite the Secretary to set out the procedures for the meeting.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- no decision is required.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

The decision to adopt the Agenda was taken by correspondence on 8 May, [ICR\(20\)10](#).

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

This item 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, 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, [CNL\(19\)09](#).

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. Their report makes 10 recommendations to the Board, [ICR\(20\)07](#).

In addition to the 10 recommendations, the Working Group agreed that if the ROAM (RAFOS Ocean Acoustic Monitoring) approach project is not deemed a feasible candidate successor to SALSEA-Track, and if there is a desire by the Board to consider other projects as a potential successor, that all Board members should canvass

colleagues from their Party / jurisdiction for feedback as to what a candidate project could be.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- required decision: to accept each of the Working Group's recommendations below:
 1. The SALSEA-Track Programme, in its current form, should be closed. A final report should be written and circulated to Parties / jurisdictions and the co-ordinators of projects linked to the SALSEA-Track programme;
 2. That any successor to SALSEA-Track should have the following attributes: be problem focused with a clearly defined internationally relevant question, which was 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;
 3. The Board confirms that survival at sea is still a principle focus for the Board's work;
 4. The Inventory is no longer presented on the website in a series of static PDF documents, but that a single spreadsheet is posted so that users can more easily interrogate the Inventory;
 5. In order to update the Inventory, the relevant portion of the spreadsheet be sent to the Parties in early November with a request that they update it. Parties should be asked to return the update by the end of December. The Secretariat should post an updated Inventory spreadsheet on the website at the end of January. That this process begins in November 2020;
 6. Only the following categories are included in the Inventory: Country; Title; Status (completed / ongoing / new); Summary of Objectives (which the Parties will provide); Start Date; Topic Area; Geographic Area (of the research); Collaborating Countries; Contact Point (the relevant Member of the Board); Project Hyperlinks (where available);
 7. Should the new process of updating the Inventory be implemented, Parties be asked that particular care is taken when a new project is added. Additionally, that the current Board member of the submitting Party verifies that the project meets the criterion of relating broadly to marine mortality prior to its submission to the Secretariat;
 8. The Secretariat engages with the web designer and works to improve the prominence, searchability and utility of the new Board website and the presentation of the Inventory on that site;
 9. The Secretariat considers how the utility of the updated website can best be evaluated with the use of hit statistics and related metrics, and that these statistics should be presented to the Board annually to understand the extent to which the Inventory is used; and
 10. 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.
- possible decision required: whether Board Members should canvass colleagues on a potential successor to SALSEA-Track if the ROAM is not deemed a feasible candidate successor.

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

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020. It was agreed that any reports submitted to the Secretariat would be circulated but that correspondence was unlikely to be needed.

The following reports on Projects / Workshops that took place during the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) have been submitted in 2020:

- Report on Pacific Projects and Workshops during the International Year of the Salmon, [ICR\(20\)09](#);
- Progress Report on the Likely Suspects Framework Project, [ICR\(20\)11](#);
- Summary of the ICES / NASCO Workshop for North Atlantic Salmon at Sea Mortality (WKSalm), [ICR\(20\)12](#);
- Report on Inland Fisheries Ireland's National Salmon Scale Project during the International Year of the Salmon, [ICR\(20\)13](#); and
- Report on the SAMARCH Project International Salmonid Coastal and Marine Telemetry Workshop, 5-6 November, 2019, [ICR\(20\)14](#);

The Council of NASCO had agreed in 2018 that the Likely Suspects Framework Project could be considered as a signature project of the IYS. It noted in 2019 that it would be an IYS activity that would continue beyond the end of the 2019 focal year. The Board had asked the Secretary in 2018 to investigate joint ICES / NASCO workshops to inform the work of the Likely Suspects Framework Project.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- no decision is required.

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

Research Inventory

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020. It was agreed that the report would be circulated but that correspondence was unlikely to be needed.

The Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea is a tool that may be used in the development of research priorities for potential funding and in better coordinating existing research efforts. It is updated annually, [ICR\(20\)06](#).

The Inventory was fully reviewed in 2020 by the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research (see item 3 above). As there previously had been insufficient time available to review the Inventory thoroughly at the Annual Meeting of the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon, to whom the Inventory used to be made available, the Board had previously agreed that the review of the Inventory should continue to be conducted by a Sub-Group of the Board's Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) every three or four years. The Board may wish to consider when the next Inventory review should be conducted, and whether this would be carried out by the SAG or a separate Working Group, as was done this year. Recommendations 8 and 9 of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research are pertinent here, should those recommendations be accepted.

Should recommendation 5 of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track

and the Inventory of Research be accepted, the Board will need to ask Members to update and check the information held in the Inventory relevant to their Party / jurisdiction that will be sent to the Parties in early November 2020. Board members will be asked to return their updates to the Secretariat by the end of December 2020. The Secretariat will post an updated Inventory spreadsheet on the website at the end of January 2021.

Metadatabase

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. The Board's SAG had noted that these collections may be lost when individual scientists retire unless appropriate arrangements are in place to archive them and ensure their safe storage so that they may be available for analysis. Even if the scales themselves are not lost, the information accompanying them could be or they could be damaged while in storage. In 2017, it was recognised that the Board could play a role in identifying such scale collections, raising their profile with a view to safeguarding them for future use. The Board agreed that information on these scale collections should, as a first step, 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 jurisdictions responded to the Secretariat's request for updates to the metadatabase in 2020. Requests to update the metadatabase, with accompanying data on scale collections, have been received from EU – Sweden, EU – UK (England and Wales) and EU – UK (Northern Ireland). These updates will be added to the metadatabase in due course.

Please note that recommendation 10 of the Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research 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' [ICR\(20\)07](#). Discussion of the metadatabase may therefore have taken place under agenda item 3.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- whilst no decision is required, the Board may wish to ask members to update and check the information held in the Inventory relevant to their Party / jurisdiction that will be sent to the Parties in early November 2020 and return their updates to the Secretariat by the end of December 2020.
- whilst no decision is required, the Board may wish to encourage Parties and jurisdictions to contribute information on scale collections for inclusion in the metadatabase.

6. Developments in Relation to SALSEA-Track

During the Covid-19 contingency planning, Parties agreed this was not a priority item for 2020. It was agreed that the report would be circulated but that correspondence was unlikely to be needed.

In 2014, the Board endorsed the need for an international telemetry programme and

adopted a Resolution 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, [ICR\(14\)10](#). 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. It also contains updates on the four projects funded under the European Union's 'Grants for an Action' which include the three SMOLTrack projects: SMOLTrack I: Understanding and comparing early mortality of European salmon populations at sea; SMOLTrack II: Comparing mortality of European salmon populations at sea using multiple-method telemetry studies; and SMOLTrack III: Quantifying smolt survival from source to sea: informing management strategies to optimise returns, and the LICETrack project 'Sea lice model for the sustainable development of Atlantic salmon fisheries and aquaculture.

Please note that recommendation 1 of the Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research is that 'The SALSEA-Track Programme, in its current form, should be closed. A final report should be written and circulated to Parties / jurisdictions and the co-ordinators of projects linked to the SALSEA-Track programme' [ICR\(20\)07](#). Relevant discussion may therefore have taken place under agenda item 3.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- possible required decisions in light of decisions taken under Agenda item 3: to stop receiving SALSEA-Track updates and to remove this item from the Agenda in future years.

7. Finance and Administrative Issues

Rules of Procedure

At its 2019 Annual Meeting, the Board discussed proposed revisions to its Rules of Procedure. The Board proposed that it would work inter-sessionally to consider and revise further the proposed revisions. This was agreed by Council. The Board agreed and Council adopted revised 'Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group' [ICR\(20\)03](#), during the inter-sessional period.

Accounts

At its 2006 Annual Meeting, 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

accordance with this decision, the Board decided not to have its 2019 accounts audited. The Board's 2019 accounts are available, [ICR\(20\)02](#). The total value of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund as at 31 December 2019 was £480,090.04.

The accounts for the year-ending 31 December 2017 were the last to be audited. Since then, three of the EU funded projects, the funds for which comprise the bulk of the Board's Fund, have ended and a fourth project has started. The Board will need to consider whether it wishes for the accounts for the year-ending 31 December 2020 to be audited. Of the Funds available at the end of 2019, £428,877 is grant funding from the European Union and reserved for those projects. Of the remaining £51,212, £40,150 is a voluntary contribution from the United States to fund projects under the SALSEA-Track or ROAM initiatives. The Grand Prize Tag winner again donated their winnings to the Fund in 2019. After accounting for an adjustment for an incorrectly paid bill in 2019, this leaves the Board with an available balance of £12,044.30. The Board has previously indicated that it is desirable to retain a reserve of £4,000 - £5,000. Auditing of the Board's accounts, based on the cost of auditing the 2017 accounts, is likely to cost around £2,500.

No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.

- required decision: to adopt the Board's 2019 Accounts; and
- required decision: whether to have the Boards' accounts audited for the year ending 31 December 2020.

8. Other Business

No other business is expected.

9. Report of the Meeting

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

- desired decision: to adopt a Report of the Meeting.

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.

- required decision: to hold the next Board meeting in advance of the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council.

11. Close of the Meeting

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

Secretariat
Edinburgh
25 May 2020

Summary of Board Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	The Agenda was adopted via correspondence by 8 May	ICR(20)10
3. Report of the Working Group for the Review of SALSEA-Track and the Inventory of Research	Accept the recommendations of the Working Group Additionally, a decision on whether Board Members should canvass colleagues on a potential successor to SALSEA-Track may be required.	ICR(20)07
6. Developments in Relation to SALSEA-Track	Decisions to stop receiving SALSEA-Track updates and to remove this item from the Agenda in future years may be required in light of decisions taken under Agenda item 3	
7. Finance and Administrative Issues	Adopt the accounts Whether to have the Boards' accounts for the year ending 31 December 2020 audited	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	