

SAG(08)9

FUNDING PROPOSAL TO IASRB

***Participation of additional experts at ICES Study Group on
Biological Characteristics of Salmon***

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Funding sought: Up to £5,000

Rationale:

In the request for scientific advice in 2007, NASCO asked ICES to examine and report on associations between changes in biological characteristics of all life stages of Atlantic salmon, environmental changes and variations in marine survival with a view to identifying predictors of abundance. Such information may provide valuable insights into the factors affecting the changes in marine mortality of salmon and therefore support the SALSEA programme. Work was initiated by the North Atlantic Salmon Working Group in 2008, and ICES has recommended that efforts be continue to identify and collate further information on biological characteristics of salmon from river populations and fisheries throughout the North Atlantic. It has therefore proposed that an ICES Study Group be established to facilitate a unified effort to further develop and investigate the datasets for changes in biological characteristics and stock performance. A proposal will be submitted to the ICES Diadromous Fish Committee in September for a Study Group to meet in the next year.

The IASRB SAG has noted the need for greater co-ordination of research activities related to the SALSEA programme, in relation to both the marine and freshwater factors affecting the survival of salmon at sea. The SAG has further noted that there are scientists working in relevant research areas who may not easily be able to attend the proposed ICES Study Group, for example from universities, because of lack of funding.

Funding is therefore sought from the IASRB to pay for up to two additional scientists to participate in this Study Group at the invitation of the Study Group Chair. The total cost will not exceed £5,000.