



International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

SAG(14)7

Proposal to International Atlantic Salmon Research Board

Fish Telemetry Workshop for Practitioners

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Summary: Workshop for telemetry practitioners on recent developments in technology and considerations around designing, planning and delivering a fish telemetry project. To be held in Ireland in April 2015.

The technology involved in fish telemetry has made significant advances in recent years and progress is rapid in this field. It is proposed that NASCO would promote a workshop to provide practical knowledge on telemetry for fishery practitioners and to present and discuss the latest developments with regard to developing technologies. The workshop would provide a platform for practitioners and the telemetry industry to share and exchange experiences and to interact with one another. The workshop also aims to describe the fundamentals regarding telemetry dealing with considerations around designing, planning and delivering a fish tracking project.

The workshop would be aimed specifically at practitioners, researchers and tag manufacturers and the objective is to address the following:

- current telemetry technology
- future requirements and advances in the tools available for tracking fish both in freshwater and at sea
- international networking considerations and the industry perspective
- the practical requirements relating to design, planning, tag and receiver system selection, combining telemetry with other techniques (e.g. genetics) and tracking
- data analysis toolkit – recognizing behavioral patterns – case studies
- costing of telemetry programmes identifying all of the factors to be included

Ethical requirements relating to the protection of animals for scientific purposes covering training needs for practitioners, animal welfare and ethics review issues would also be covered. An important aspect of this is fish surgery techniques and associated areas such as anesthetics etc.

The workshop would be of interest to fishery management practitioners, research scientists including undergraduates, and representatives of the telemetry industry. Presentations will be given by scientists who have extensive experience of the practical aspects of telemetry and industry representatives.

Possible themes (not exhaustive) are:

Current range of tags:

Overview of the current selection of available tags and technology; review of their application windows, benefits and restrictions. Review to be given by suppliers and practitioners.

Recent and pending advances in tag technology:

Review of the new available technology e.g. mini satellite tags, new small acoustic tags, new PIT tag receivers etc.

Review to be given by technology developers and by tag manufacturers

Information requirements and what is possible

What data can be captured and what is required. What data management tools are available? Data storage tags, temperature and depth loggers, battery life, remote retrieval of data, Etc.

Practical aspects of designing, planning and executing a tagging/telemetry programme

Main focus of workshop targeting a wide audience

Practical Workshop on fish surgery

New developments in fish surgery, anesthetic, ethical requirements and legislation. Optimum surgical and other attachment techniques to support different tags.

Workshop plan:

2 days of presentations by international and national practitioners with workshop sessions

1 site visit to National Sea Trout Index catchment at the River Erriff, Co. Mayo

Costing

- Expert support for travel and subsistence: €12,000
 - o 4 or 5 international experts
- Fish Veterinary support: €1000
- Workshop materials: €1000
- Location Rental : €500

Inland Fisheries Ireland will support the workshop with facilities, access to fish, authorisations, resources and expertise.

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