

ICR(10)5

Terms of Reference for an IARSB Working Group on Marine Salmon Survey Data and Sample Coordination

Recent international initiatives under the SALSEA Programme have generated some extremely valuable databases. These include biological and genetic databases generated under the SALSEA Merge project, time series developed by the ICES SGBICEPS initiative and historical tagging information compiled by three recent ICES workshops. These ICES groups have been supported by the Board. There is a need to ensure that these databases are securely held, maintained and agreed procedures developed to allow access to the data for further research. In addition, the Board is aware of some historical marine survey samples such as those generated by the international sampling programme at West Greenland, that represent an invaluable resource dating back some 30 years or more. Similarly there is a need to ensure that these samples are being maintained and agreed procedures should also be developed to allow access to these samples for further research.

Recognising the importance of these databases and sample collections the Board is proposing a Working Group to work by correspondence with the Chairman of the Board and to report back to the Board no later than 1st April 2011 with the following Terms of Reference:

- Compile a listing of available databases of relevance to the SALSEA Programme including a description of these data, the size of the database and the current location and agency/individual scientist responsible for their maintenance and storage.
- If necessary, advise on appropriate arrangements for securely maintaining these databases and for updating the data if required, including appropriate quality control procedures.
- Develop an agreed procedure with the owners/holders of the data regarding access to the information
- Compile a listing of samples resulting from the international cooperative programmes held by NASCO Parties or jurisdictions both current and archival including a description of the nature and size of the samples, their storage and current locations and agency/individual scientist responsible for their maintenance and storage
- Advise on options to ensure that these samples are safely maintained for future use.
- Develop an agreed procedure with the owners/holders of these samples regarding access to the information
- Advise on the possible roles for the Board in assisting with the maintenance, storage and updating of databases (including seeking advice from ICES) and for maintaining these biological samples

- Advise on approaches that might be adopted by the Board to encourage enhanced cooperation with regard to sharing of long time series of data being held nationally but which might support the work of the Board