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|  | <p>International Atlantic Salmon Research Board</p> <p><i>Draft Revised Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group</i></p> | <p>ICR(23)03</p> <p>Agenda item: 4a</p> |
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Draft Revised Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group

Purpose

The purpose of the paper is to provide the background to the process of developing Revised Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) and its Scientific Advisory Group (SAG). The Draft Revised ToRs are in Annex 1.

Decision

The Board may wish to:

- agree the Draft Revised Terms of Reference for the Board and SAG in Annex 1; and
- recommend that Council adopt the Revised Terms of Reference for the Board and SAG.

Background

During the 2022 Annual Meeting the Board agreed to conduct an inter-sessional process which allowed it to:

- consider its overall vision, scope and purpose;
- assess whether the funding available to the Board is commensurate with its vision, scope and purpose;
- identify the priorities the Parties have for the Board; and
- consider establishing a process for requesting and reviewing proposals.

Details of the process can be found in the Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Board, [ICRIS\(23\)09rev](#). During that inter-sessional meeting, the Board agreed that:

- it would recommend to the Council of NASCO that the Terms of Reference of the Board be revised.

Prior to seeking agreement for the revisions from the Council:

- the revised text of paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Terms of Reference agreed at the inter-sessional meeting, would be subject to minor edits by the Secretariat and Chair;
- the revised text would be circulated to the Board with the rest of the Terms of Reference for review; and
- the Board would be invited to agree to the revisions at its meeting in June 2023.

The Draft Revised Terms of Reference in Annex 1 include the revised text of paragraphs 1 and 2 agreed at the inter-sessional meeting, along with the rest of the Terms of Reference which have been subject to minor edits as required.

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VISION

Factors causing salmon mortality at sea are understood to the level that supports the development of management actions by Parties to reduce mortality to recover, protect and conserve salmon stocks.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. The International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) is a body, established by, and reporting to, the Council of NASCO, to promote and initiate collaboration and co-operation on research into the causes of marine mortality of Atlantic salmon and the opportunities to counteract this mortality through the following activities:
 - i. maintaining an inventory of relevant research;
 - ii. identifying and prioritising research needs;
 - iii. providing a forum for co-ordination of relevant research efforts by the Contracting Parties of NASCO;
 - iv. maintaining and reviewing the administrative mechanisms to accept financial contributions to an International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund (the Fund);
 - v. seeking and accepting financial contributions and managing the Fund; and
 - vi. evaluating, funding and / or endorsing relevant research projects, according to agreed guidance.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE BOARD

2. The Board will comprise one representative from each Party. Each Party's representative will be considered a Member of the Board and may be assisted, as appropriate, by one or more advisers. Each Party is responsible for covering the costs associated with its participation on the Board. In exceptional circumstances, the Board may, by consensus, deviate from the terms of this paragraph.
3. The Board will work by consensus but in the event that agreement cannot be reached the matter concerned will be referred to the Council for resolution.
4. The Board will meet on an annual basis or at more frequent intervals if it, or the Council of NASCO, so decides.
5. Between meetings, the Board may conduct its work and take decisions by correspondence and / or conference calls.
6. The Board will elect a Chair, who will serve for a term of two years and will be eligible for re-election provided that the individual does not serve for more than four years in succession. A Party providing the Chair will be entitled to provide a replacement representative to serve as a Member of the Board and one or more advisers as appropriate.
7. If needed, the Chair with agreement from the Members of the Board may establish informal, ad hoc, Working Groups to enable progress in specific areas of its work.

Discussions and any outputs or recommendations from such Groups will be presented to the Board for consideration.

8. The Board may seek advice from NASCO's Standing Scientific Committee.
9. As necessary and appropriate, the Board may make arrangements for external scientific evaluation of research projects funded by the Board or any research projects considered for funding.

NGO INVOLVEMENT

10. The Board will invite one of the Co-Chairs of NASCO's accredited NGOs, or their designee from within the accredited NGOs, to participate in the meetings of the Board and provide relevant input on the issues under discussion. The Chair of the Board may recognise requests from the floor by the NGO representative on any agenda item under discussion. The NGO representative will be included in all correspondence to the Board.

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY GROUP

11. To assist the Board in carrying out its responsibilities, a Scientific Advisory Group (the SAG) may be established to provide scientific and technical input and advice to the Board where needed.
12. The SAG will meet only at the behest of the Board. To enable the work of the SAG, the Board will establish separate Terms of Reference to outline appropriate tasks, timelines, and meeting procedures.
13. The SAG will be composed of one representative from each Party. Each Party's representative will be considered a Member of the SAG. Each Party is responsible for covering the costs associated with its participation on the SAG. In exceptional circumstances the Board may, by consensus, deviate from the terms of this paragraph.
14. The SAG will elect a Chair who will serve for a term of two years and who will be eligible for re-election provided that the individual does not serve for more than four years in succession. A Party providing the Chair of the SAG will be entitled to provide a replacement representative to serve as a Member of the SAG if necessary.
15. The Board will invite one of the Co-Chairs of NASCO's accredited NGOs, or their designee from within the accredited NGOs, to participate in SAG meetings and provide relevant input on the issues under discussion. The NGO representative will be included in all correspondence to the SAG.

SUPPORT, REPORTING and REVIEW

16. The Secretariat will provide support to the Board and the SAG, including serving as Rapporteur as necessary and appropriate. Reports of the meetings will be finalised in a timely manner for presentation to the relevant NASCO body. SAG meeting reports will be considered by the Board for adoption. Board meeting reports will be considered by the Council for adoption.
17. To maintain an up-to-date inventory of the current Board and SAG Members, the Secretary will request confirmation of this information from each Party and the NGO Co-Chairs every two years. Further, any time there is a change in the representation on either the Board or the SAG, the Party or NGO Co-Chair making the change will notify the Secretariat of the name of its new Member without delay.
18. These Terms of Reference are subject to review by the Council at any time.