

	<p>International Atlantic Salmon Research Board</p> <p><i>Draft Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's Scientific Advisory Group to Identify Potential Research Priorities</i></p>	<p>ICR(23)04</p> <p>Agenda item: 4b)</p>
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Draft Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's Scientific Advisory Group to Identify Potential Research Priorities

Purpose

The purpose of the paper is to provide Draft Terms of Reference (ToRs) for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's (the Board) Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) to conduct work inter-sessionally on identifying potential research priorities for the Board.

Decision

The Board may wish to:

- agree what it will do with the results of the SAG's work, when they are presented to the Board prior to the 2024 Annual Meeting;
- agree these Draft Terms of Reference for the SAG; and
- ask that the Secretary work with the Chair of the SAG to facilitate the work inter-sessionally.

Background

During the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Board, the 'Report of the Review of the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections of Relevance to Mortality of Salmon at Sea', [ICR\(22\)03](#), was considered. In addition to making recommendations about the Metadatabase, the Working Group had recommended that the Board may wish 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 now have for the Board; and
- consider establishing a process for requesting and reviewing proposals.

During the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Board, [ICR\(22\)15](#), the Chair noted that it would be difficult to give these recommendations sufficient time and attention, and as a result an Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Board was held in January 2023 by video conference, [ICRIS\(23\)09rev](#). During that meeting it was agreed that, prior to seeking funding opportunities, the Board should identify what its research priorities are to help focus its efforts. To facilitate this work, the Board agreed to task its SAG to identify a prioritised list of research needs based on the current state of knowledge and the Board's Inventory of Marine Research.

At the Inter-Sessional Meeting in January, the Board also agreed that it would consider what it will do with the results of the SAG's work at its meeting in June 2023.

The prioritised list of research needs should be available for consideration by the Board prior to its 2024 Annual Meeting.

Draft Terms of Reference for the Scientific Advisory Group to Identify Potential Research Priorities

The Scientific Advisory Group will:

- develop a prioritised list of research needs / topics that the Board may consider directing resources towards to advance the understanding of the drivers of Atlantic salmon marine mortality. In support of this task, the SAG may consider the following sources of information during their deliberations:
 - current state of knowledge on the drivers of marine mortality;
 - the Board’s [Inventory of Marine Research](#) and [Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections of Relevance to Mortality of Salmon at Sea](#);
 - ‘Report of the Working Group to Review the SALSEA-Track Programme and the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea’, [ICR\(20\)07](#), including the suggested attributes for a potential Board signature project;
 - ‘Report of the Review of the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections of Relevance to Mortality of Salmon at Sea’, [ICR\(22\)03](#);
 - other relevant sources of information related to salmon marine mortality; and
 - consulting with a wider representation of researchers outside of the SAG, if appropriate.
- for each research need identified, provide a brief assessment of how the expected information gained could be applicable to the development of management options that could help mitigate the impact of marine mortality on stock productivity.

Work Schedule

The SAG will co-ordinate a single meeting or a series of meetings to conduct its work. The meeting(s) may be in-person or virtual as decided by the Chairs of the Board and SAG and in consultation with the Secretariat.

The report of the SAG and the list of prioritised research needs will be made available to the Board prior to its 2024 Annual Meeting. The Chair of the SAG will also provide an overview presentation of the work and conclusion for the Board during its 2024 Annual Meeting.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
4 May 2023