

	<p>Scientific Advisory Group of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board</p> <p><i>Background Paper for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's Scientific Advisory Group Meeting to Identify Potential Research Priorities</i></p>	<p>SAG(23)02</p>
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***Background Paper for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's
Scientific Advisory Group Meeting to Identify Potential Research Priorities***

Purpose

The purpose of the paper is to provide background information to support the work of the Board's Scientific Advisory Group in fulfilling the Terms of Reference, [ICR\(23\)14](#), agreed by the Board at its 2023 Annual Meeting.

Decision

The SAG has been asked to:

- 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; and
- 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.

Background

During its 2022 Annual Meeting, the Board considered 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](#). 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.

At that meeting, [CNL\(22\)10](#), the Board Chair noted that it would be difficult to give these recommendations sufficient time and attention. Therefore, an Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Board was held in January 2023 by video conference, [ICR\(23\)02](#), at which 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.

During the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Board, [CNL\(23\)10](#), the Board agreed 'Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's Scientific Advisory Group to Identify Potential Research Priorities', [ICR\(23\)14](#). In addition to the sources of information listed within

the Terms of Reference, the SAG may also wish to consider the vision, scope and purpose of the Board as contained in the ‘Revised Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group’, [ICR\(23\)18](#), agreed by the Council of NASCO at its 2023 Annual Meeting.

The SAG will meet virtually to complete these Terms of Reference on the following dates:

- 20 October 2023
- 16 – 17 November 2023
- 29 – 30 November 2023

For the first of these meetings, on 20 October 2023, it is proposed that the SAG considers its Terms of Reference and Working Methods before drafting an initial list of research priorities.

Secretariat
Edinburgh
27 September 2023