

	<p>International Atlantic Salmon Research Board</p> <p><i>Terms of Reference for the international Atlantic Salmon Research Board's Scientific Advisory Group to outline a Marine Growth Study Proposal</i></p>	<p>ICRIS(24)08</p>
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Terms of Reference for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board's Scientific Advisory Group to Outline a Marine Growth Study Proposal

Taking into account that:

- the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the Board) reviewed the priority research list developed by its Scientific Advisory Group (the SAG), presented in the 'Report of the Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board to Identify Potential Research Priorities', (SAG(23)10);
- the Board agreed the need to prioritise research into the future prospects for Atlantic salmon populations towards 2050, on both a basin-wide and regional scale, so as to support an adaptive management approach to their protection and conservation into the future;
- the Board has decided to advertise its prioritised research list widely and has decided that its top priority at this time will be to pursue 'basin-wide patterns of marine growth and survival of Atlantic salmon'.

The Board has decided the following:

- at this time, its focus should be on a basin-wide marine growth project, based on adult scales, given their spatiotemporal availability and suitability for such studies; and
- the research should aim to link scale growth indices and oceanic conditions to provide insights into the drivers of Atlantic salmon marine productivity and to forecast future productivity given projected climate change.

Therefore, the Scientific Advisory Group is tasked to draft an outline that:

Describes the details of a basin-wide marine growth project based on adult scales as referenced in the 'Report of the Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board to Identify Potential Research Priorities', SAG(23)10, including:

- a) an outline of the hypothesis(es) that could be tested given available data;
- b) identification of representative scale samples from across the North Atlantic that could be included within such a study (e.g. country of origin, river of origin, sample size, years, points of contact) to provide region-specific growth patterns;
- c) identification of the methods to be used for data collection, including the methods for obtaining the scale samples in the required state (e.g. whole scales, scale impressions, scale images) and for extracting the growth data (e.g. standardised and co-ordinated scale processing, automated scale processing);
- d) identification of the options for making data available publicly (e.g. FAIR data standards);
- e) an estimate of the staff and fiscal resources needed by collaborating jurisdictions (including in-kind contributions) to gather the data (e.g. staff time to secure required samples and metadata, jurisdictional work team or hired contractor(s), other collaborators such as oceanographers and / or climate scientists);
- f) identification of options to facilitate the analysis and outputs, including staff resources (e.g. work team, hired contractor(s));

- g) an estimate of the fiscal resources needed to successfully complete the analysis and manuscript(s) (including a breakdown of the costs for the various products);
- h) a proposed outline timetable of high-level deliverables; and
- i) identification of the potential management implications that may result from the outlined project.

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 draft project outline will be made available to the Board prior to its 2024 Annual Meeting to enable its discussion in the first meeting on Sunday 2 June. The Chair of the SAG will provide an overview presentation of its work then. The SAG may then need to work further, prior to the Board's second meeting on Tuesday 4 June to present a further developed draft outline to the Board.