

## **CNL(19)09**

### ***Report of the Eighteenth Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board***

***Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway***

***1 June 2019***

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

1.1 In the absence of the Chair, the Secretary opened the meeting and welcomed members of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (IASRB), their scientific advisers and observers to Tromsø.

1.2 A list of participants is contained in Annex 1.

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

2.1 The IASRB adopted its Agenda, ICR(19)05 (Annex 2).

#### **3. Election of Officers**

3.1 The Chair of the IASRB (Rory Saunders, USA) was unable to attend the meeting. Tony Blanchard (Canada) was proposed by the representative of the United States (US) to serve as Chair of the IASRB until the close of the 2019 Annual Meeting, he was seconded by the representative of the European Union (EU). The IASRB duly elected Tony Blanchard as its Chair, to serve for the remainder of his predecessor's term in office. The Chair then asked for proposals for a Chair to serve the next term beginning immediately after the end of the 2019 Annual Meeting. The IASRB elected Ciaran Byrne (EU) as its Chair (proposed by the representative of Norway and seconded by the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG))).

#### **4. Report of the Scientific Advisory Group**

4.1 The Chair of the IASRB's Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), Gérald Chaput, presented a report on the Group's meeting, SAG(19)05 (Annex 3). During its meeting the SAG had:

- discussed the updated Inventory of Marine Research. The Inventory contains 94 completed projects and 52 on-going projects, seven new projects have been included since last year, some of which have been ongoing for some time and one of which is completed. One of these new projects involves tracking individual fish;
- recognised several ambitious and resource intensive ongoing projects including: ASF projects in North America that now have a 17 year time series of smolt / post smolt tracking from 4 rivers; a Norwegian project 'Salmon at Sea' that addresses a number of research avenues related to the ecology of salmon, several EU funded initiatives 'SMOLTrack I and II', and satellite tagging initiatives of salmon from West Greenland.

- discussed the importance of the Inventory, a worthwhile initiative that led to better collaborations and highlighted initiatives under the SALSEA banner. He welcomed the addition of dropdown menus to aid reporting and noted the SAG's view that a review of the Inventory and how it is compiled annually in 2020 is still appropriate. The opportunity to better promote the Inventory was also raised.
  - been informed that there was no update in the metadatabase of salmon survey data and sample collections, but this was not unexpected. The upcoming Likely Suspects Framework workshops may make use of this valuable resource;
  - received an update on projects and workshops being held during the International Year of the Salmon (IYS). These included the 'International Year of the Salmon' workshop hosted by DFO and NPAFC in January 2019, the 'International Year of the Salmon: Salmon and People in a Changing World: 2019 Atlantic Salmon Ecosystems Forum' held in Quebec in March 2019, 'The Wild Salmon Conference' (Villakskonferansen) was held in Trondheim, Norway, in January 2019, the 'SAMARCH International Coastal and Marine Telemetry Workshop' to be hosted by Salmon & Trout Conservation, Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and Atlantic Salmon Trust in November 2019 in Southampton, UK and the ICES / NASCO Likely Suspects Framework 'Workshop for North Atlantic Salmon At-Sea Mortality' to be held in June 2019, NGO lead initiative the 'Missing Salmon Initiative';
  - discussed streamlining the annual reporting to the IASRB in terms of SALSEA – Track progress reports and whether updates on these projects can be included in the Inventory;
  - discussed developments in relation to SALSEA – Track (see item 5 below);
  - received an update on the telemetry programme being conducted by the Atlantic Salmon Federation;
  - received an update on the SALSEA – Track report, including on a new project, SeaMonitor and the EU sea lice dynamics modelling project;
  - discussed the importance of the IASRB having resources available to support studies in the future, recognising the challenge of raising these funds.
- 4.2 The Chair of the IASRB thanked Mr Chaput for the report. The IASRB then discussed several items relating to the SAG report.
- 4.3 The representative of the Norway asked the Chair of the SAG whether there were any recommendations from the SAG regarding the proposed Rules of Procedure detailed in ICR(19)03. The Chair of the SAG responded that it felt that some points in ICR(19)03 need to be clarified but in general there was no issue taken with the proposal that the SAG will meet on the recommendations of the IASRB.
- 4.4 The representative of the US raised a question regarding SALSEA – Track and how it is inputted to the inventory. The Chair noted that this could be raised in the next agenda item.
- 4.5 In the light of the recommendations from the SAG, the IASRB decided to:
- ask the Parties to provide to the Secretariat, by 1 July, any changes or updates for the inventory, prior to it being uploaded to the IASRB website;

- clarify in any future iterations of the Rules of Procedure (ICR(19)03) details relating to how the SAG would be convened;
- encourage Parties / jurisdictions to provide details of archive scale collections for inclusion in the metadata database and ask the Secretary to contact Parties / jurisdictions in order to seek relevant additional information.
- issue a revised version of the Progress Report on SALSEA – Track (ICR(19)04) to include the information on the new Sea Monitor project;

## **5. Developments in relation to SALSEA – Track**

- 5.1 The IASRB received an update on the ROAM project from Tim Sheehan (USA). He noted that the project is still moving forward although there have been some delays in equipment delivery for some of the components needed to construct the sound sources and prototype tags. The equipment for the sound sources has been acquired and construction on a sound source unit is currently ongoing. The IASRB was informed that, as a consequence of these delays, the field trials are now planned to be conducted in late summer / early autumn 2019.
- 5.2 The representative of the EU enquired whether the IASRB contribution of £4,000 identified to support a research workshop for the ROAM project could be spent on a spring 2020 workshop following the field trials in late summer / early autumn 2019. The Chair of the IASRB suggested that a workshop date should be scheduled and, based on the results of the initial field trials, it could then be determined whether the date should be retained and the workshop held. Tim Sheehan asked the IASRB what they anticipated would be the desired outcome of the workshop. A discussion determined that the purpose of the workshop could also be established based on the outcomes of the field trials. The IASRB agreed that the Secretary should liaise with Mr Sheehan to agree a date and the purpose of the workshop would be established following the field trials.
- 5.3 In 2014, the IASRB had endorsed the need for an international acoustic tracking programme and adopted a Resolution (ICR(14)10) encouraging Parties to continue the development of local collaborative telemetry projects, encouraging the development of large international collaborative projects building on local efforts and encouraging Parties to make efforts to identify funding sources. The IASRB had noted that the telemetry programme should build on the success and identity of the SALSEA Programme.
- 5.4 In 2015, the IASRB received a report from its Telemetry Workshop that had, *inter alia*, developed 12 outline project proposals. The IASRB had recognised that it would be important to liaise with the outline project leaders with a view to following progress and, where appropriate, to provide support to assist with their implementation. The IASRB also recognised the high value of the SALSEA brand and the strong impact of NASCO as the international forum for consultation and co-operation on wild Atlantic salmon. The IASRB reaffirmed its commitment to an international telemetry project under the SALSEA brand, named ‘SALSEA – Track’ by making funds available to prepare a vision statement for SALSEA – Track and other mechanisms as resources allow.
- 5.5 The Secretary introduced document ICR(19)04 (Annex 4) providing an update on developments in relation to SALSEA – Track. Since the IASRB’s 2016 Annual Meeting, applications for funding from the European Union were successfully completed and funding has been granted for three projects. The progress on each is detailed in the

document (ICR(19)04) and a brief update was provided verbally by the EU member of the IASRB. Although these projects are not part of the original 12 projects identified in 2015, they do involve differing levels of telemetry-based investigations and are considered to contribute to the overall goals of SALSEA – Track.

- 5.6 The NGO representative suggested that a review of the SALSEA – Track programme should be undertaken. This review could consider a full range of options for the future of the SALSEA – Track programme. As one example, should a broader spectrum of tracking including new technologies be included and whether this would require that a new umbrella programme term is applied.
- 5.7 The EU representative noted that this suggestion related to the review of the Inventory of research and could benefit from putting the two reviews together.
- 5.8 Discussions amongst the IASRB recognised that the projects identified under the SALSEA – Track brand have had mixed success coming to fruition. It was acknowledged that SALSEA – Track projects were focused on acoustic tracking technology and that new tracking technology and methods have been developed in the lifetime of SALSEA – Track (e.g. ROAM). In addition, a number of new large-scale collaborative projects have since been initiated whose objectives are in-line with the objectives of SALSEA – Track and maybe should also be considered. The IASRB agreed to an inter-sessional review of the SALSEA – Track programme, which would allow this information to be discussed and considered at the next meeting of the IASRB.
- 5.9 It was agreed that the EU and US representatives would lead the drafting of high-level objectives that would form the basis of a Terms of Reference to be developed by the Secretariat / IASRB after the Annual Meeting for a Working Group to review the Inventory and SALSEA – Track projects and in addition consider how the Inventory could be best updated and managed going forward. The Secretariat will contact the IASRB for proposals on members for the Working Group and a likely date, as agreed by the IASRB.

## **6. Finance and Administrative Issues**

### **6.1 Report on 2018 Accounts – Income and Expenditure Statements**

The Secretary introduced document ICR(19)02 presenting the IASRB’s accounts for 2018. The decision had been taken not to have the 2018 accounts audited, but rather income and expenditure statements have been prepared. At the end of 2018, the balance of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Fund was £406,802.64. Of this, approximately £396,600 is ring-fenced for the EU funded projects. For the IASRB’s general account, the year-end balance was £10,200 after the sum of £5,000 was paid to the Atlantic Salmon Trust to support the workshop for the Likely Suspects Framework and £2,400 for the costs in 2018 of the 2017 audit. The IASRB had previously agreed that it was desirable to retain a reserve of £4,000 – £5,000.]

The Chair thanked the EU for its continuing generous support.

At its 2006 Annual Meeting, the IASRB recognised that it was not necessary to have the accounts audited annually and agreed that, in future, the IASRB’s accounts should be audited as required in relation to the funds held. For years in which an audit is not conducted, details of the IASRB’s income and expenditure statements would be circulated

to the members of the IASRB and discussed at its Annual Meeting. In accordance with this decision, the IASRB decided not to have its 2019 accounts audited. The Secretary was asked to provide income and expenditure statements at next year's IASRB meeting.

## 6.2 **Rules of Procedure of the Board and the Scientific Advisory Group**

At its 2017 Annual Meeting, the Council asked the Secretary to prepare a review of the procedures relating to the work of the IASRB. The Secretary had provided a summary of the review in 2018, CNL(18)10, which included the history of the establishment of the IASRB, its Rules of Procedure and past and current membership. In conducting the review, the Secretary identified some issues that were somewhat unclear, including the clarification of the role of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG) for which there are no Terms of Reference currently. This document was considered both by the IASRB and Council of NASCO at their respective 2018 Annual Meetings. The then Chair of the IASRB, Rory Saunders (USA), was asked to work inter-sessionally, in consultation with the Secretary, members of the IASRB and current and past Chairs of the SAG, to propose new Rules of Procedure and clarify the Terms of Reference for the IASRB and SAG for consideration by the IASRB at its 2019 Meeting.

The Secretary presented document CNL(19)10, containing the Review of the Procedures relating to the work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group. This document will also be considered by the Council at its 2019 Annual Meeting.

Mark Saunders (NPAFC) posed a question regarding observers such as other RFMOs and asked if they could better engage with the working of the IASRB. Members of the IASRB felt that observers, such as RFMOs, should not be official members of the IASRB, but they are encouraged to attend the meetings as observers. They should also be encouraged to participate in these meetings in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the Board and at the discretion of the Chair and could be invited to participate in relevant Sub- or Working Groups as appropriate.

The representative of the US raised a number of issues with document CNL(19)10 that should be addressed and corrected before the IASRB considers it for adoption (e.g. use of correct terminology within the document clarifying that the Chair is elected and not appointed, clearly identifying if a Chair can serve more than two terms if there is a hiatus between their terms, etc). While there was some uncertainty as to whether the IASRB is bound by the NASCO Council's Rules of Procedure, the IASRB agreed to follow them. Following discussion, the IASRB concluded that the US representative would lead on the initial redrafting of the document inter-sessionally, which would include considering the issues raised by the SAG Chair in relation to clarifying how the SAG would be convened in future. The US representative would liaise with the other members of the IASRB and Secretariat during this process and a revised document will be considered for approval by the IASRB members inter-sessionally. During this process the IASRB will need to decide if it is necessary to convene a meeting of the SAG prior to or during the 2020 IASRB Meeting and if so the IASRB will need to address Terms of Reference for the SAG.

## **7. Other Business**

- 7.1 The Chair noted thanks to Rory Saunders for all his preparation for the meeting of the IASRB and for his work as Chair of the IASRB. All present requested that their thanks and well wishes be passed on to Rory and his family.
- 7.2 The representative of the EU noted thanks to Tony Blanchard for taking on the role of Chair at short notice.

## **8. Report of the Meeting**

- 8.1 The IASRB agreed a report of its meeting.

## **9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

- 9.1 The IASRB agreed to hold its next meeting in conjunction with the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of NASCO.

## **10. Close of the Meeting**

- 10.1 The Chair thanked participants for their contributions and closed the meeting.

*2019 IASRB List of Participants*

**Canada**

\*\*Tony Blanchard (Chair)

Doug Bliss

Gérald Chaput

Lis Sondergaard

**Denmark (in respect of the FI & G)**

\*\*Rasmus Nygaard

Katrine Kærgaard

**European Union**

\*\*Cathal Gallagher

Dennis Ensing

Naill Ó Maoiléidigh

Mick Millane

**Norway**

\*\*Raoul Bierach

Peder Fiske

Heidi Hansen

**Russian Federation**

\*\*Sergey Prusov (for Alexander Khatuntsov)

**United States**

\*\* Tim Sheehan

Kim Damon-Randall

**IGO**

Mark Saunders

**NGO**

\*\*Ken Whelan

Dave Meerburg

**Secretariat**

Emma Hatfield

Sarah Robinson

\*\*Nominated IASRB Member

**ICR(19)05**

***Eighteenth Meeting of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board***

***Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway***

***Saturday 1 June 2019***

***Agenda***

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Report of the Scientific Advisory Group
5. Developments in relation to SALSEA - Track
6. Finance and Administrative Issues
  - 6.1 Report on 2018 Accounts - Income and Expenditure Statements
  - 6.2 Rules of Procedure of the Board and the Scientific Advisory Group
7. Other Business
8. Report of the Meeting
9. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
10. Close of the Meeting

## SAG(19)05

*Report of the Seventeenth Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group of the  
International Atlantic Salmon Research Board*

*Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway*

*1 June 2019*

**1. Opening of the Meeting**

- 1.1 The Chair of the Scientific Advisory Group (SAG), Gérald Chaput (Canada), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Tromsø.
- 1.2 A list of participants is contained in Annex 1.
- 1.3 The Chair introduced the Secretary to explain the setup of the meeting and the review process that had taken place regarding the Rules of Procedure for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board (the IASRB).

**2. Adoption of the Agenda**

- 2.1 The SAG adopted its Agenda, SAG(19)03 (Annex 2), with the addition of an item for information under item 8 of the agenda, 'Other business'. This related to clarification of the proposed rules and procedures of the IASRB with specifics to the functioning of SAG.

**3. Review of the Updated Inventory of Research and the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections***Research Inventory*

- 3.1 The Secretary presented an overview of the Inventory of Research Relating to Salmon Mortality in the Sea, SAG(19)02. For 2019, the total annual expenditure on the 52 ongoing projects (5 of which are un-costed) is approximately £8.5 million. Approximately 46% of the expenditure is associated with long-term monitoring programmes. The Secretary indicated that there are seven new projects included in the Inventory in 2019, some of which have been ongoing for some time and one of which is completed. One new project involving tracking individual fish has been included since last year. The new projects are as follows:

**Canada**

- Coastal acoustic telemetry receiver infrastructure off the Coast of Greenland;
- Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture – Evaluating The Potential of Open-Ocean Acoustic Telemetry of Atlantic Salmon;
- Mapping Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Atlantic Salmon Mixed Stocks in the North Atlantic.

### **European Union – Ireland**

- National Salmon Scale Archive (NSSA).

### **European Union – UK (England and Wales)**

- Evaluation of potential stressors affecting Atlantic salmon at sea, particularly in estuarine and nearshore environments.

### **United States**

- Evaluation of age-1 hatchery smolts in the Narraguagus River;
- Monitoring the energy density of Atlantic salmon prey at Greenland.

3.2 The SAG noted that there are a number of ongoing projects that were of particular relevance to NASCO and the IASRB. Not exclusively, these projects included:

- Project N22 from Norway: “Salmon at Sea” that addresses a number of research avenues and multiple disciplines related to ecology of salmon;
- Project C18 from Canada: project led by the Atlantic Salmon Federation that is currently in its 17th year of consecutive tracking of smolts and post-smolts from four index rivers in eastern Canada;
- Project EU De6: one of several European Union (EU)-led projects to further understand salmon distribution, migration and survival at sea;
- Project C41 from Canada: a new initiative to extend tracking of salmon at sea using satellite tracking tags placed on larger salmon during their second summer at sea at West Greenland.

3.3 The Chair recognised the effort and the information provided in the summary report by the Secretariat, and the SAG highlighted the great value of the current Inventory. The SAG discussed the challenges in maintaining the Inventory, in incorporating updates and assimilating all the information from the Inventory. The addition of pull-down menus for contributors to categorise projects according to SALSEA work packages and IASRB topics was felt to be a useful addition to the Inventory template. There was also a brief discussion on whether there were alternate processes for compiling and maintaining the Inventory more efficiently. The SAG was not in a position to propose alternatives but indicated that a review of alternate approaches could be included as a task for the future review of the Inventory and process.

3.4 The SAG also discussed how further to promote the Inventory. The SAG felt that Parties could promote the Inventory, (SAG(19)02), further by communicating it to the groups that contributed input to the Inventory thus completing the follow-up with contributors and making reference to the IASRB’s website. There was also a suggestion that the Inventory could be mentioned and the link to the IASRB’s website could be made in the press release from the NASCO Council.

3.5 A few questions were raised regarding omissions in specific projects (such as absence of funding estimates). The Secretary clarified that the funding information was requested in relation to the relevant year and not the entire project. The SAG recommended to the IASRB that the Parties be asked to provide any comments, including omissions and

corrections, on the Inventory to the Secretariat by 1 July and, thereafter, that the revised Inventory should be uploaded to the IASRB's website.

- 3.6 The SAG discussed a possible duplication of effort in terms of the annual reporting to the IASRB for the SALSEA – Track progress reports. The Chair suggested that that work could be streamlined, possibly by adding a 'SALSEA – Track' row to the Inventory return form. The SAG agreed to propose this addition to the Inventory template to the IASRB.
- 3.7 In 2018, the SAG had recommended that the need for a further review of the Inventory should be reconsidered at the earliest in 2020 given that it thought that it might be appropriate to wait until after the IYS to conduct the next review of the Inventory. In addition, it was suggested that when the review is undertaken, the Group could also consider how the information is collated and solicited. Members of the SAG were keen to highlight to the IASRB that they felt the Inventory was still very much useful and relevant.

#### *Metadatabase*

- 3.8 The IASRB had previously decided that it could play an important role with regard to marine salmon survey data and sample co-ordination by establishing a metadatabase of existing datasets and sample collections of relevance to mortality of salmon at sea. This metadatabase was established in 2014 and is made available on the IASRB's website. In 2015, the IASRB agreed that information on archival scale collections should, as a first step, be included in the IASRB's metadatabase. Accordingly, Parties / jurisdictions were requested to provide details to the Secretariat of any archival scale collections. The IASRB had also agreed that information on the West Greenland Sampling Programme Biological Characteristics database should be included in the metadatabase.
- 3.9 There have been no further updates on the metadatabase since the 2018 Annual Meeting and the Chair encouraged Parties / jurisdictions to contribute details of scale collections for inclusion in the metadatabase.
- 3.10 Part of the intention of creating a metadatabase was to make it available to researchers for consideration. Members involved in the creation of the metadatabase recognised that further consideration needed to be given to the next steps relating to this valuable resource. It was recognised that the Likely Suspects Framework project and related workshops will draw on the metadatabase; this process may provide some insight on the current metadatabase contents and suggestions for next steps.

## **4. Update on Projects / Workshops during the International Year of the Salmon**

- 4.1 The Chair invited presentations on a number of workshops organized as part of the International Year of the Salmon.
- 4.2 Mark Saunders (NPAFC) was invited to provide an update and gave some background to the development of IYS research and the activities taking place in the Pacific. A number of activities and symposiums were highlighted that had engaged hemispheric collaborations between the Pacific and Atlantic research communities (Annex 3).
- 4.3 Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) and the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) co-hosted an IYS workshop on Pacific and Atlantic salmon status and trends in Vancouver (BC; Canada), during 23 – 24 January 2019. The primary goal of the workshop

was to bring together salmon ecologists interested in working with others on representative times series of data and associated metadata to understand salmon status and trends. The specific objectives of the workshop were to:

- 1) identify a series of legacy datasets (and associated standards where possible);
- 2) look at broad temporal patterns for salmon data categories; and
- 3) link observed state changes and trends to potential drivers and mechanisms.

- 4.4 The workshop followed on from a meeting held in Santa Barbara (USA) in June 2018 (entitled ‘Toward Effective Coupling of the Science of a Changing Climate with Salmon and People’) and immediately preceded one developing an international salmon data laboratory. There were 25 participants at the workshop who contributed information on state changes and trends for sockeye, pink, chum, chinook and Atlantic salmon with incidental information provided for steelhead, coho, and masu salmon. The workshop report will be published in the NPAFC Technical Report series.
- 4.5 Doug Bliss (Canada) updated the SAG on the 2019 Atlantic Salmon Ecosystems Forum was held in Quebec City (Canada) on 12 – 13 March 2019. The Atlantic Salmon Ecosystems Forum (ASEF) began in 2002 as the biennial ‘Maine Atlantic Salmon Technical Advisory Committee Research Forum’. In 2018, the Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture (ASRJV), based in Canada but with US representation through NOAA, hosted the forum in Canada, coinciding with the focal year of International Year of the Salmon (IYS). The overarching theme of the Forum was the theme of the IYS: *Salmon and People in a Changing World*. The 2019 Forum included session themes based on three of the Research Themes for the International Year of the Salmon. Additional contributors to the forum were the province of Quebec, and NGOs. The topics discussed at the forum contributed to understanding the causes of Atlantic salmon declines, foster collaboration for the purpose of developing research and assessment projects related to wild Atlantic salmon. There were 150 participants at the forum with 35 oral presentations and 15 poster presentations. The conference abstracts are to be published in the near future.
- 4.6 The Atlantic Salmon Research Joint Venture (ASRJV) has produced a five-year science plan intended to support the development of projects in furthering the understanding of Atlantic Salmon and ultimately the conservation of the species.
- 4.7 Peder Fiske (Norway) explained that as part of the IYS, a conference called ‘The wild salmon conference’ (‘Villakskonferansen’) was held in Trondheim, Norway 22 and 23 January 2019. The conference was science-based but was held in Norwegian to reach out to a broader audience of stakeholders, fishers and interested members of the public. The name on the conference was ‘New methods give new insights – Salmon research into its second century’. The focus of the conference was not the methods themselves, but rather what had been learned using the new methods. The conference was very well attended with over 200 participants and 40 talks were given during the conference. The talks covered topics from how to best communicate science, effects of climate change, effects of cultivation, migration of salmon in rivers and at sea, survival at sea, effects of parasites and diseases, to the effects of aquaculture on wild Atlantic salmon. The program and summaries of the talks can be found on the following website <https://www.vitenskapsradet.no/villakskonferansen2019>.

- 4.8 Ken Whelan (NGO) appraised the SAG of an ICES / NASCO workshop to be held during 24 – 28 June 2019 entitled ‘A Workshop for North Atlantic Salmon At-Sea Mortality (WKSalmont)’. In June 2018, both the SAG and the IASRB had discussed moving forward with a workshop to identify and obtain data to define specific salmon domains as proposed by the Likely Suspects Framework workshop. The Chair of the IASRB had requested that the Secretary liaise with ICES about the possibility of organising a data workshop to identify and prioritise data gaps in relation to candidate mortality factors. A 5-day workshop has been announced by ICES with associated terms of reference. Potential relevant data providers include experts from a number of ICES expert groups: WGNAS; EPDSG; WGOOFE; WGZE; WGSPEC; WGWIDE, as well as ICES survey group members, ICES Data Centre staff and ICES Advisory Department staff. The first workshop would be tasked to:
- 1) identify the available and relevant data in the Atlantic basin;
  - 2) develop, with ICES / the MSA Marine Team, a format for uploading data to the relevant ICES database(s); and
  - 3) identify other data sets that may be of relevance to the analysis of at-sea-salmon mortality e.g. oceanographic time-series, plankton survey data, International Ecosystem Summer Survey in the Nordic seas (IESSNS), and other relevant pelagic or demersal fish surveys and a plan developed to access these data in a relevant format for this work.
- 4.9 An update on the Missing Salmon project was also provided by Ken Whelan and its development into the Missing Salmon Alliance. The Alliance is a collaboration between a number of UK NGOs (Atlantic Salmon Trust, Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust, Salmon and Trout Conservation, and the Angling Trust, supported by the Fishmongers' Company London) that successfully has secured funding to employ several scientists over three years to take forward the identified research.
- 4.10 Salmon & Trout Conservation, the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust and the Atlantic Salmon Trust, on behalf of the SALMONID MANAGEMENT Round the CHANNEL (SAMARCH) project, and as a contribution to the International Year of the Salmon, will host a two-day SAMARCH International Salmonid Coastal and Marine Telemetry Workshop, on 5 and 6 November 2019 in Southampton (UK). The sessions will focus on sharing knowledge of current tracking projects, new and emerging technologies, and maximising the benefits and opportunities of multiple tracking projects.
- 4.11 The Chair thanked all of the speakers for providing updates.

## **5. Developments in relation to SALSEA – Track**

- 5.1 In 2014, the IASRB had endorsed the need for an international telemetry programme and adopted a Resolution (ICR(14)10) encouraging Parties to continue the development of local collaborative telemetry projects, encouraging the development of large international collaborative projects building on local efforts and encouraging Parties to make efforts to identify funding sources. The IASRB had noted that the telemetry programme should build on the success and identity of the SALSEA Programme and had recognised that there may be a role for the IASRB in co-ordinating efforts and supporting fund raising initiatives. In 2014, a Telemetry Workshop organized by the IASRB had developed 12 outline project

proposals utilising telemetry. The IASRB had recognised that if the international telemetry programme is to proceed, it would be important to liaise with the project leaders with a view to following progress and, where appropriate, to provide support to assist with their implementation. In 2015, the IASRB had recognised the high value of the SALSEA brand and the strong impact of NASCO as the international forum for consultation and co-operation on wild Atlantic salmon. The IASRB reaffirmed its commitment to an international telemetry project under the SALSEA brand, namely SALSEA – Track. Specifically, the IASRB agreed to support SALSEA – Track as a continuing commitment to understanding the factors affecting the mortality of salmon at sea, to make funds available to prepare a vision statement for SALSEA – Track and to advance existing initiatives towards an integrated collaborative telemetry programme. In 2016, the IASRB had confirmed that it endorsed the twelve projects but noted that, if they changed substantially, they should be referred to the SAG. It was recognised that there might be scope to combine some of these projects into larger projects within the North American and North-East Atlantic Commission areas.

- 5.2 In 2016 and 2017, funding had been provided to the IASRB for three projects relating to marine mortality through an EU funding mechanism. Approximately €800,000 funding has been provided by the EU and this has contributed to projects costing approximately €2,000,000 being implemented.
- 5.3 The Chair referred participants to paper ICR(19)04, which contains an update on the outline project proposals developed in 2014 and the European Union funded projects. The Chair proposed that the SAG recommend to the IASRB that the updates on SALSEA – Track initiatives be included in the Inventory to ensure that all projects are captured and / or updated annually.
- 5.4 Niall Ó Maoiléidigh was asked to provide the SAG with a talk on the INTERREG Sea Monitor project, another of the SALSEA – Track projects that had not been able to be provided to the Secretariat in time for inclusion in the paper ICR(19)04. The Chair thanked Dr Ó Maoiléidigh for informing the SAG about the project and suggested that the SAG recommend to the IASRB that the paper ICR(19)04 be revised to include this project and redistributed.
- 5.5 In 2017, the SAG received a report on a new approach to tracking, ‘ROAM’, based on a technique for sub-surface oceanographic monitoring. This technique may offer potential for fine scale positioning of salmon at sea obtained with satellite tags and related archival tag technologies. The Council had recognised that it would be important for the IASRB to be kept informed of developments in relation to this technology. Tim Sheehan (USA) stated that he would provide an update on progress with the ROAM project to the IASRB.
- 5.6 Dave Meerburg (NGO) briefly updated the SAG on smolt and kelt tracking studies carried out by the ASF in the Gulf of St Lawrence.

## **6. Progress Reports on Projects Funded by the IASRB**

- 6.1 No new projects were supported in 2018 and no applications for funding were received.

## **7. Review of Project Applications for Potential Funding by the IASRB**

- 7.1 Cathal Gallager (EU) was invited to update the SAG on the EU-funded SMOLTrack projects, the first of which was started in early 2017. Tagging has highlighted the high mortality rates of smolts as they migrate out to the nearshore environment and shown temporal differences between 2017 and 2018 (in the second SMOLTrack project). A new website is available for the project: [www.smolttrack.eu](http://www.smolttrack.eu). A new tranche of funding from the EU is available and it is anticipated that the SMOLTrack project will be expanded to include more partners to range from northern Finland to northern Portugal in a third project. The LICETrack project was also highlighted.
- 7.2 The IASRB had previously agreed that it would be important to have reserves available to it so that it could continue to support initiatives such as the Greenland and Faroes GSI projects, where the IASRB's support had assisted in securing additional funding from other sources. These projects had resulted in new information of value to management with limited financial support from the IASRB. The SAG recognised that the IASRB has limited resources and recognised that if it is to continue to play a role in supporting research on salmon at sea, it should consider how it can address this situation.

## **8. Other Business**

- 8.1 The Chair referred the members of SAG to paper ICR(19)03, 'Chair's Proposed Revisions to the Rules of Procedure for the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board' and highlighted the aspects of the Rules of Procedure that related directly to the SAG (items 10 to 12). The Secretary clarified that the idea was that the SAG would meet at the request of the IASRB and therefore each SAG meeting would have a specific Terms of Reference relevant to the requirements specified by the IASRB. The SAG noted that clarification on the development of the Terms of Reference and whether the SAG would meet as discussed in the report of the inter-sessional meeting of the IASRB (ICRIS(19)04) would be welcomed, where paragraph 7.3 provides specifics on the interactions of SAG and IASRB that could be included in the procedures for the SAG.
- 8.2 The Chair clarified further that the members of the SAG would be specified and retain their positions for the identified term. The Chair requested comments from the SAG regarding how the SAG meetings were conducted (i.e. only identified representatives were seated at the table) and the approach was considered to be effective by SAG. Members of the SAG recognised that how meetings were conducted could change given the proposed revisions to the rules.
- 8.3 No other business was raised.

## **9. Report of the Meeting**

- 9.1 The SAG agreed the report of the meeting.

## **10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

- 10.1 The SAG noted that if the proposals contained in the 'Review of Procedures Relating to the Work of the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group', to be considered by the IASRB and Council, there was no defined date for the next meeting. However, if a further regular meeting is to be held, the SAG agreed that it should

be held in conjunction with the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of NASCO (2 – 5 June 2020).

## **11. Close of the Meeting**

- 11.1 The Chair of the SAG thanked the participants for their contributions and in particular the Secretariat for their excellent work in support of the IASRB and the meeting of the SAG. The Chair closed the meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group.

*List of participants*

**Canada**

Gérald Chaput (Chair)  
Tony Blanchard  
Doug Bliss  
Martha Robertson  
Lis Sondergaard

**Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands & Greenland)**

\*\*Rasmus Nygaard

**European Union**

Michael Millane  
Niall Ó Maoiléidigh  
\*\*Cathal Gallagher (for Jaakko Erkinaro)

**Norway**

Peder Fiske

**Russian Federation**

\*\*Sergey Prusov  
Kristina Belogurova

**United States**

\*\*Tim Sheehan

**IGOs**

Mark Saunders

**NGOs**

David Meerburg (NGO member)  
Nigel Milner  
Ken Whelan

**Secretariat**

Emma Hatfield  
Sarah Robinson

\*\*Nominated SAG Member

**SAG(19)03**

***Seventeenth Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Group of the  
International Atlantic Salmon Research Board***

***Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway***

***Saturday 1 June 2019***

***Agenda***

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Review of the Updated Inventory of Research and the Metadatabase of Salmon Survey Data and Sample Collections
4. Update on Projects / Workshops during the International Year of the Salmon
5. Developments in relation to SALSEA – Track
6. Progress Reports on Projects Funded by the IASRB
7. Review of Project Applications for Potential Funding by the IASRB
8. Other Business
9. Report of the Meeting
10. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
11. Close of the Meeting



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## Activities and Actions Related to IYS in the North Pacific in 2019-2022

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### **Preamble**

The International Year of the Salmon (IYS) is a five-year outreach and research initiative of the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (NPAFC) and the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO). The IYS goal is to inspire/motivate/activate a new hemispheric-wide partnership of government, academia, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples, and industry that will drive an intense burst of outreach and research to create a well-informed community of decision-makers who can establish the conditions necessary for the resilience of salmon and people in an uncertain future.

Establishing the conditions necessary for resilience of salmon and people by the end of 2022 is a bold objective, requiring rigor to establish programs, projects, workshops and symposia that will make this possible. A suite of six objectives stated as **OUTCOMES** describe the conditions that when considered collectively will allow us to achieve our **VISION**.

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### IYS OUTCOMES

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<b>Status of salmon</b>	The present status of salmon and their environments is understood
<b>Salmon in a changing salmosphere</b>	The effects of natural environmental variability and human factors affecting salmon distribution and abundance are understood and quantified
<b>New frontiers</b>	New technologies and analytical methods are advanced and applied to salmon research. Research is carried out to fill gaps in poorly studied regions of the salmosphere
<b>Human dimensions</b>	Communities, Indigenous Peoples, youth, harvesters, scientists and resource managers across the Northern Hemisphere share knowledge and collaborate in the development of new tools and approaches to restoring, managing and sustaining salmon

<b>Information systems</b>	Freely available information systems contain historic and current data about salmon and their environment
<b>Salmon outreach and communication</b>	People understand the value of healthy salmon populations and engage to ensure salmon and their varied habitats are conserved and restored against the backdrop of increasing environmental change

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Projects and activities will be sought that are deemed to be high-impact with respect to making significant progress in achieving the five research outcomes and the single outreach outcome. Specifically, we will look for high-impact projects that will significantly address barriers or gaps that have hindered achieving each outcome to this point.

The IYS consists of a planning phase for outreach and research during 2018/19, a focal year in 2019 with outreach and research continuing through the end of 2022. In the Pacific, IYS **Theme Counsel Groups** composed of experts will conduct research planning for the research and outreach outcomes. Scoping meetings with small groups of experts drawn from the Theme Counsel Groups have and will be convened to develop recommendation for high impact projects. The Theme Counsel Groups and IYS staff in the Secretariat will also coordinate the planning of symposia or workshops that will contribute to the research and outreach outcomes. This could for most outcomes be a strategic series of symposia with cumulative learning that builds over the four years and culminates at the wrap-up symposium.

***Details of Workshops/Symposia/Scoping Meetings to be held in the Pacific in 2019-2022.***

***Salmon in A Changing Salmosphere - High Seas Expeditions (2019-2021) Workshop #1***

**When:** October 19&20, 2019

**Where:** Victoria BC

**Convenor(s):** PICES/NPAFC

**Expertise Required:** Oceanographers with experience in complex ocean models; salmon ecologists with knowledge / experience in ocean mechanisms affecting salmon productivity and climate change; researchers with expertise in climatic modelling.

**Objectives:** Co-sponsored with PICES, this workshop will convene salmon/fish specialists, oceanographers, climatologists and resource managers to review the progress made during the March 2019 survey and recommend the core elements of a pan-Pacific high seas ecosystem research survey program that would be implemented through 2022 to assess the ocean/climate mechanisms affecting salmon distribution and productivity

***World Salmon Forum***

**When:** August 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019

**Where:** Seattle, WA, USA

**Convenor(s):** Bruce McNae, World Salmon Forum

**Objectives:** The World Salmon Forum is designed to bring together wild salmon conservation groups from around the world to share new policies and measures that will provide for the survival of Atlantic and Pacific salmon, seatrout, and steelhead populations.

- **Aquaculture** – Open water or land-based?
- **Harvest** – Mixed Stock or Terminal – Nonselective or Selective?
- **Hatcheries** – Problem or Solution?
- **Management** – Status quo or New Place-based Conceptual Foundation?
- **Research** – Likely Suspects Framework
- **International Year of the Salmon** – Working together

### ***The Science of Pacific Salmon Conservation: Foundations, Myths, and Emerging Insights***

**When:** September 29-Oct 3, 2019

**Where:** Reno, Nevada, USA

**Convenor(s):** American Fisheries Society/The Wildlife Society

**Expertise Required:** Experts in the applied salmon sciences, including: genetics, evolution, ecology, geomorphology, hydrology, oceanography, and climate science.

**Objectives:**

- To distill historical and emerging science to inform salmon conservation and management
- To highlight key foundations and advances in applied Pacific salmon science that are relevant to their conservation and management
- To discuss emerging tools and their application, such as genomics
- To examine emerging evidence for impacts of pressures such as:
  - Ocean competition
  - Climate change
  - Hatcheries
  - Rise of marine predators
- To address common misperceptions in salmon conservation and management
- Collectively synthesis the big ideas in salmon science relevant to their conservation and effective management

### ***Multi-scale Impact of Climate Change and Human Activities on Salmon Productivity***

**When:** September 29-Oct 3, 2019

**Where:** Reno, Nevada, USA

**Convenor(s):** American Fisheries Society/The Wildlife Society

**Expertise Required:** Experts salmon ecology and climatology.

**Objectives:**

## ***Local Advocacy to Hemispheric Outreach through the International Year of the Salmon***

**When:** September 29-Oct 3, 2019

**Where:** Reno, Nevada, USA

**Convenor(s):** American Fisheries Society/The Wildlife Society

**Expertise Required:** Experts in communications, outreach, international collaboration, and management.

**Objectives:** This presentation will focus on the successes and lessons learned around the outreach approach for the International Year of the Salmon initiative (IYS).

- Discussion of challenges in bringing such an ambitious research driven initiative to the grassroots level in a way that galvanizes support and mobilizes local interest towards positive change.
- Discussion of current IYS outreach tactics, which involve leveraging the IYS brand through social media, website, signature events and projects, presentations, celebrities, stewardship activities, and global strategic partnerships.
- The goal is to align these tactics across every scale and throughout various networks in order to #signupforsalmon and realize benefits at the local level.

## ***New Frontiers #2 – CSI Salmon - Otolith Microchemistry Scoping Meeting***

**When:** TBD

**Where:** TBD

**Convenor(s):** NPAFC

**Expertise Required:** Salmon ecologists with knowledge / experience with otolith microchemistry; microbiologists.

**Objectives:** Review the potential for otolith microchemistry to determine stock specific migration routes and scope high impact project(s) to remove barriers to implementation. New Frontiers was the main focus of the Second NPAFC-IYS Workshop on Salmon Ocean Ecology in a Changing Climate and a Symposia will take place in the UK this summer. The information from those workshops will inform the planning for this workshop..

## ***New Frontiers #3 – Salmon CSI – Genomics eDNA/Fish health – Scoping Meeting***

**When:** TBD

**Where:** TBD

**Convenor(s):** NPAFC

**Expertise Required:** Salmon ecologists with knowledge / experience with eDNA and genomics; geneticists; microbiologists, fish health experts-epidemiologists-veterinarians.

**Objectives:** Leading experts in salmon ecology, eDNA, fish health and genomics will come together to discuss:

- the potential for eDNA to be used to determine the distribution and abundance of salmon in aquatic environments and to identify project(s) to provide definitive proof of concept and/or requirements for broad application. Note link to High Seas Expeditions. During the high seas research cruise in March 2019, eDNA samples were collected.

- The application of genomic technology to assess the impact of pathogens across life history stages.

***Likely Suspects Framework – NE Pacific Scoping Meeting #1***

**When:** TBD

**Where:** TBD

**Convenor(s):** NPAFC

**Expertise Required:** Salmon ecologists with knowledge / experience with threat assessment, western scientific and indigenous knowledge of salmon interactions in freshwater, coastal, and marine environments. Experts in data synthesis.

**Objectives:** This workshop will be convened to bring together experts with knowledge of threat assessment; knowledge of salmon interactions in freshwater, coastal and marine environments and knowledge of life history modelling and knowledge of integrated data systems. The experts will consider methods for bottleneck/threat assessments and recommend case studies with associated teams. They will also consider an experimental approach to data synthesis.

***NPAFC-IYS Workshop on Salmon Ocean Ecology in a Changing Climate***

**When:** 2020

**Where:** Hakodate, Japan

**Convenor(s):** NPAFC

**Expertise Required:** TBD

**Objectives:** TBD

***Fourth NPAFC-IYS Workshop on Salmon Ocean Ecology in a Changing Climate***

**When:** 2021

**Where:** Republic of Korea

**Convenor(s):** NPAFC

**Expertise Required:** TBD

**Objectives:** TBD

***IYS Concluding Symposium***

**When:** 2022

**Where:** TBD

**Convenor(s):** NASCO/NPAFC

**Expertise Required:** TBD

**Objectives:**

Summary of IYS workshops and activities from NPAFC Mark Saunders