

DFC Resolutions 2007

2007/2/DFC01 The Study Group on data requirements and assessment needs for Baltic Sea trout [SGBALANST] (Chair: Stig Pedersen*, Denmark) will be established and will work by correspondence from November 2007 to February 2008 to:

- a) review data availability and quality of data being used in the framework and methodology for the assessment of wild and mixed Baltic sea trout stocks and their fisheries;
- b) review monitoring methods of wild and mixed sea trout stocks in each Baltic country;
- c) develop ToRs for a possible follow-up meeting to expand on issues identified at the SGBALANST, with the aim of developing a quality control process for future inputs to a framework and methodology for the assessment of Baltic Sea trout stocks and associated fisheries.

SGBALANST will report by 1 March 2008 for the attention of the, DFC, WGBAST and ACOM.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The work of the Group is essential if ICES is to progress the developments of techniques in fish stock assessment.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Action Plan No: 1.1, 1.2.1, 1.2.2, 1.9, 1.12, 1.13, 3.2, 3.5, 3.6,3.7,3.13, 4.10, 5.3, 6.4 In 2007, the review group for the WGBAST was not in a position to provide advice on sea trout stocks in the Baltic stating that : ”The framework for evaluating the state of the sea trout stocks is being reconsidered by ICES. In the absence of an agreed framework, ICES does not provide advice for the sea trout stocks this year” The review group further noted that although it appeared that information regarding smolt potential and present smolt production was available it was difficult to see how much of this was well supported by data and the quality of these data. The review Group suggested that a better description of the data and the methods used to obtain the data should be reviewed and encouraged WGBAST to consider how this could be better displayed in the report
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	No specific resource requirements beyond the need for members to prepare for and participate in the meeting by correspondence.
PARTICIPANTS:	Members of WGBAST and invited experts from North Atlantic areas with sea trout populations and established sea trout assessment programmes.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	No additional software/hardware is anticipated beyond that which is currently available.
FINANCIAL:	None specific.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	An obvious very close link with ACOM and review group activities.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	WGBAST and DFC
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	Part of the wider brief for the Baltic Assessment plan

2007/2/DFC02 **A Workshop on Salmon historical information – new investigations from old tagging data [WKSHINI]** (Chair: Lars Petter Hansen*, Norway) will be established and will meet in Halifax, Canada, from 18–20 September 2008 to:

- a) build on progress made in WKDUHSTI (2007);
- b) provide further information from historical oceanic tagging and recovery programmes in the format agreed at WKDUHSTI;
- c) update the database of tagging and tag recovery information which was established in WKDUHSTI;
- d) develop testable hypotheses of salmon migration and behaviour;
- e) test these hypotheses using information compiled in WKDUHSTI and any new information which becomes available;
- f) Use the information to describe distribution of salmon of different river (stock) origins and sea age in time and space and assess changes in the distribution over time in relation to hydrographical factors.

WKSHINI will report by 1 November 2008 for the attention of the Diadromous Fish Committee and WGNAS.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	Recently, there has been major focus on research on salmon at sea, but such research is labour intensive and expensive. Most countries in the North Atlantic have tagged a large number of salmon at different life stages over the past 25 years in particular, but many of these data have not been properly analysed and published. During this period a significant phase shift has occurred in marine conditions leading to a more than 50% reduction in marine survival of salmon in just over a decade. It is anticipated that a more thorough analysis of historical and archival data on oceanic tagging and tag recovery would improve and enhance the information on salmon at sea and provide a more comprehensive overview of the oceanic migrations and distributions of salmon at sea.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	Action Plan No. 3.16, 3.17, 5.7, 1.9 A substantial amount of data on tagged salmon is available in the different national laboratories. A Workshop was convened in 2007 (WKDUHSTI) which reviewed published information including the grey literature, presented and evaluated data (quantity and quality) available from different countries, compilation of an inventory of available databases and evaluated metadata for georeferencing. The workshop also made significant progress with preparing historical data in a standardised format and preliminary modelling using a GIS approach was initiated. In the intervening period extra data have been sourced and a second workshop will allow more extensive analyses and further development of the GIS modelling and hypothesis testing..
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	Specific venue to be decided. NASCO will sponsor the attendance of an oceanographer/GIS expert to expand the scope of the preliminary analyses already carried out.
PARTICIPANTS:	Members of the WGNAS or those they designate as experts in oceanic tagging. Invited experts (oceanographers/GIS experts) will be sponsored to ensure good and relevant coverage in this area .
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	The Secretariat will be involved as normal in general professional and secretarial support, and the Secretariat could provide direct assistance if necessary during the Workshop.
FINANCIAL:	
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	The proposal originates from DFC but will have direct significance to ACOM in the context of provision of advice to NASCO.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	Living Resources Committee in particular.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS:	NASCO

2007/2/DFC03 The **Study Group on Salmon Age Determination** [SGSAD] (Chair: J. Raitaniemi, Finland) will meet in St. Petersburg, Russia from 11–12 November 2008 to:

- a) investigate the potential for using thin slices from salmon pelvic fin rays as an effective means of aging salmon;
- b) review and report on progress with using Baltic salmon otoliths for aging;
- c) examine the possibilities for assessing post smolt survival rate using scale growth patterns;
- d) evaluate the results of a scale reading blind test with scales from each part of the Baltic Sea;
- e) initiate a reference collection of scale photographic images representative of stocks in the Baltic area;
- f) develop a description of salmon life cycle of Baltic salmon based on scale and otolith features..

SGSAD will report by 1 February 2009 for the attention of the Diadromous Fish and Baltic Committees.

Supporting Information

PRIORITY:	The highest priority of SGSAD is to increase and maintain a high level of reliability in age determination of salmon as a basis for the stock assessment and other research concerning salmon.
SCIENTIFIC JUSTIFICATION AND RELATION TO ACTION PLAN:	In age determination of fish, quality assurance is vital to ensuring the reliability of age determinations. With the Baltic populations of salmon, cooperation of age readers from different countries and laboratories can be used as a means to improve and validate the age determinations and to maintain high quality and repeatability. In addition to age determination, SGSAD contributes to the use of scientific methods that utilize calcified structures e.g. scale, otoliths and fin rays. Stock assessment of salmon and investigations into marine mortality will also be linked to the work of SGSAD.
RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS:	
PARTICIPANTS:	The Group is normally attended by some 10–20 members and guests.
SECRETARIAT FACILITIES:	None.
FINANCIAL:	BSRP has supported the work of SGSAD by funding travelling expenses of the participants from countries under the BSRP.
LINKAGES TO ADVISORY COMMITTEES:	There are obvious direct linkages with the ACOM in terms of provision of advice and accurate stock assessment.
LINKAGES TO OTHER COMMITTEES OR GROUPS:	There are linkages with Diadromous Fish Committee, Baltic Committee, and Baltic Salmon and Trout Working Group.
LINKAGES TO OTHER ORGANIZATIONS:	Links to ongoing initiatives within NASCO, particularly in relation to marine survival investigations.