

CHAPTER 3: SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE SALMON

Formation of the IYS Working Group

The First Proposal of the IYS-SG was presented to the Commission at the 2015 Annual Meeting of the NPAFC in Kobe, Japan, by Mark Saunders (NPAFC 2015). All parties praised the excellent work of the IYS-SG—particularly in the development of the IYS science priorities—and it was at this point where the NPAFC became fully supportive of the IYS initiative. The importance of engaging and securing the commitment of partners as well as external funding due to the limited resources of the NPAFC was emphasized. These issues, as well as the need to further define the geographic scope and governance of the initiative, were referred to CSRS.

A suggestion was made to CSRS to create a formal IYS Working Group (IYS-WG) to continue the scoping and implementation of the IYS initiative. CSRS agreed to disband the IYS-SG and the IYS-WG was formed, with members including Mark Saunders (Canada, Chairperson), Ju Kyoung Kim and Do Hyun Lee (Korea), Shigehiko Urawa (Japan), Alex Zavolokin (Russia), and Ed Farley and Eric Volk (US). The IYS-WG received \$50,000 CAD to conduct a Second Scoping Meeting including core partners to refine the approach of the initiative prior to the 2016 Annual Meeting of the NPAFC. The expected outcome of this Second Scoping Meeting was to include a more detailed scheme for research, international governance of the IYS, and a business plan. NASCO was identified as a likely core partner in the IYS initiative implementation.

A Summary Description of the International Year of the Salmon (IYS) as proposed by the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission was written by Mark Saunders, Chairperson of the IYS-WG, in July of 2015. This document includes a summarized description of the IYS up until this point of the IYS planning process, including sections on background, concept, scope, timeline, funding and partnership, and next steps. This document is included as Appendix F at the end of this chapter.

Commitment from the NASCO and Exploration of Other Partnerships

Following the 2015 Annual Meeting of the NPAFC, NASCO committed to engage with the NPAFC in the development of its role as a partner with the IYS. Several weeks after the meeting, IYS-WG Chair Mark Saunders delivered a summary and presentation on developments of the IYS initiative at the NASCO Council at its 32nd Annual Meeting in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Canada. Upon completion of the presentation, the NASCO Council asked “*the NASCO Secretary to liaise with NPAFC on arrangements for an IYS and to consider NASCO’s possible involvement in, and contributions to, such an initiative*” (see M. Saunders’ article in the NPAFC Newsletter #38, p. 19–20).

Since July 4, 2015, NASCO Executive Secretary, Peter Hutchinson, and Head of the US delegation to NASCO, Daniel Morris, joined an informal “small organizational group” to formalize the arrangements between the two commissions. Several conference calls were conducted in the course of making Second IYS Scoping Meeting preparations. From March 15–16, 2016, the NASCO delegation participated in the Second Scoping Meeting with presentations on their SALSEA ocean studies, further

plans in the development of salmon telemetry tagging networks, and their vision of the IYS initiative implementation.

Among other international organizations, the NPAFC Secretariat sent an invitation to the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO (IOC-UNESCO). Executive Secretary, Vladimir Ryabini, to join the IYS initiative as one of the core partners in October 2015. The IYS scope, objectives, and timing were described based on the First Proposal of the IYS-SG adopted by the Commission. In his response, Ryabini informed the Secretariat that, while IOC does find the IYS initiative very worthwhile, it did not fall within the IOC focus or mandate. However, he asked that the IOC be kept on the list of addresses to which results of the IYS Scoping Meeting will be sent.

In 2015, NPAFC informed the international fisheries management society on planning of the IYS initiative implementation launch. Upon the invitation of the Regional Fishery Body Secretariat's Network (RSN), Mark Saunders and Nancy Davis wrote a brief article "*NPAFC: International Year of the Salmon—Envisioning a New Initiative*" on the Commission's major project for the RSN Newsletter No. 12 issued in October 2015 (see <http://www.fao.org/fishery/rsn/newsletter/en>).

The Second IYS Scoping Meeting

Prior to the Second Scoping Meeting, the NPAFC had endorsed in principle the concept of the IYS and had provisionally identified the scope, time frame, and key research themes. The newly formed IYS-WG was tasked by the Commission to identify potential partners, develop a business plan, and further define North Pacific research activities. After months of consultations between NASCO and NPAFC, NASCO agreed to participate in the Second Scoping Meeting and provided the Commission with constructive suggestions for the development of the IYS. A briefing note on the IYS initiative was written to incorporate views of NASCO into recommendations on how the IYS could be organized, as well as to set out objectives and approach for the Second Scoping Meeting (Appendix G).

Suggestions from NASCO largely focused on increasing the business and outreach strategy of the IYS initiative. One example included holding a focal year concentrated on outreach before the period of intensive research in order to raise awareness of the issues facing salmon and assist in fundraising for new research. It was also suggested that the scope of the initiative be finalized before bringing in other core partners. A conference call was held between IYS-WG Chairperson Mark Saunders, NPAFC representatives, NPAFC Secretariat staff, NASCO Secretary Peter Hutchinson, and NASCO Commissioner Dan Morris to discuss NASCO involvement in the scoping meeting. The approach suggested by NASCO was well-received by NPAFC representatives and was provided in the briefing note for further consideration of the IYS-WG.

The briefing note outlined a number of strategic considerations to provide a more complete perspective on the pressures and opportunities that should be anticipated in moving forward with the initiative. In order to gain support, identifying organizations and governments with interest and capacity to participate in a large-scale multi-year endeavour was essential, as well as matching IYS outcomes to the interests of potential donors and partners. Further informing the public on the challenges facing salmon was another way of gaining support, while also ensuring the IYS is seen as relevant to people outside the science community. Additionally, due to the dedicated effort required to run the initiative over several years, there was a need to define and secure organizational governance for the initiative.

These considerations reinforced the requirement for a progressive and phased approach to the IYS that had been outlined in the First Proposal. Some suggested changes mainly involved the business and outreach strategy of the initiative and thus did not change the fundamental concept of the IYS.

The initial focus would entail developing the IYS strategy to address the key strategic considerations noted above, identifying its core partners, seeking their views and support, and outlining and adopting an effective public engagement and donor approach. This would provide a solid foundation for the subsequent official launch of the IYS and its research and field component which would be concluded by reporting out on its outcomes and outlining the benefits and legacy of the IYS (p. 2).

Based on the new considerations listed above, the suggestion for the broad objective of the Second Scoping Meeting was to focus on reviewing, refining and building support for the IYS implementation strategy, and thus be a more formative process than originally intended. It was suggested that the workshop involve a more focused group of core partners with the following suggested actions (p. 4):

1. developing a public engagement and outreach approach;
2. identifying and securing organization capacity and support;
3. developing a funding strategy; and
4. developing and agreeing to a business plan.

At the point of the Second IYS Scoping Meeting, NPAFC had already invested three to four years in the initiative beginning with the Initial Proposal by Richard Beamish in 2012. The First IYS Scoping Meeting, held in February 2015, had been a major success through the development of the science portion of the initiative. The purpose of the Second Scoping Meeting, held in Vancouver, Canada, on March 15–16, 2016, was to bring together potential partners in the IYS initiative to provide input into the scoping and development of the IYS strategy and business model. Participants included IYS-WG members and other invitees; a complete list of participants is included in the Report of the International Year of the Salmon 2016 Scoping Workshop (Appendix H; IYS-WG 2016b). Specific objectives were as follows (IYS-WG 2016b p. 2):

- *develop a common understanding of the IYS initiative, scope, and purpose*
- *elaborate on, and further develop, the major components of the IYS strategy*
- *identify actions needed and next steps to create a comprehensive IYS strategy.*

The workshop began with a few introductory presentations, followed by numerous plenary and breakout group discussions. *“Much of the discussion centred on the scope of the IYS and how its approach could be made more relevant to partners and potential donors, what components, such as communication and public outreach strategies, were necessary and what governance structure best accommodated the diverse organizations who may be part of the initiative”* (IYS-WG 2016b p. 1). Immediately following the workshop, the IYS-WG met to develop a proposed implementation strategy, including outcomes, decisions, and next steps.

NASCO Perspectives

At the beginning of the workshop, a presentation was given by the Secretary of NASCO, Peter Hutchinson, on the status of Atlantic salmon and issues facing management of the species, in addition to the views of NASCO parties on the IYS initiative. There have been dramatic declines of Atlantic salmon in recent decades and declining adult returns have remained low despite significant fisheries restrictions. Low marine survival in the first and second years at sea is thought to be constraining abundance of the species. With respect to the IYS, there was unanimous support for the initiative among NASCO parties and core partners. Instead of a focal year concentrated on research, however, NASCO parties preferred a clearly defined year focused on outreach as a “call to action” to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities facing salmon and in support of fundraising for further research. It was stated that a focus on outreach should not take away from the need for new research or enhanced cooperation among scientists.

Potential Key Partners and Donors

Participants were divided into breakout groups to create a list of key partners and donors along with their interests related to salmon. A summary of the results can be seen in Table 3.1. A large number of donors were identified but fewer partners were discussed. With that being said, it was clear that a customized approach should be taken when approaching donors/partners and that “*any outreach should be funnelled, streamlined, and focused*” (IYS-WG 2016b p. 6).

Table 3.1. Potential partner/donor categories and examples of their interests related to salmon.

Partner/Donor Category	Example Interests/Considerations
Major foundations	Differs depending on foundation, but some examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education - Community outreach - Technology
Government/National Science Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Require long lead times - Land based research (provincial agencies) - Climate change
Private companies/industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social licence - Brand alignment with conservation issues - Getting results that provide direction
International science committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research
Universities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can likely provide in-kind support - Research - Brand affiliation - Recruitment
Purchasers/consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Want to be better informed - Want improved understanding
Food distributors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social licence - Public health
Treaty-related	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understanding salmon dynamics - Support for fisheries management
First Nations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salmon as cultural foundation - Sharing knowledge

Further Consideration of Research Themes

The IYS was originally proposed to include five research themes. With the potential expansion of the initiative into the Atlantic Ocean, as well as the broader interests of the meeting participants, it was necessary to determine whether the proposed research themes captured their interests. Participants were divided into five breakout groups under each of the research themes and asked to answer the following questions:

1. Consider the current theme and its subthemes: are there any missing subthemes?
2. Is there a different way we want to frame this research theme to better resonate with donors and partners and their interests?
3. In implementing this theme, what are the results or outcomes that will be important for decision-makers?
4. Considering the five themes identified, are we missing any themes?

Overall, there was broad support for all five research themes among workshop participants, although a few refinements were suggested. Group 1 discussed the research theme ‘Status of Salmon’ and developed a list of considerations for possible subthemes, reported to the plenary by Jim Irvine (IYS-WG 2016b p. 7):

- *scale (spatial and temporal), which ranges from taxonomic species in the North Pacific to Conservation Units; ties into the international aspect of salmon management*
- *information needed, varies depending on scale sources, could add local knowledge*
- *data quality, western science vs. aboriginal traditional and local knowledge*
- *forecasting*
- *hatchery production is an important issue, including effects on wild salmon and uses of hatcheries*

Follow-up discussions included a suggestion that the Atlas of Pacific Salmon—an exceptional communication tool originally published by the Wild Salmon Center that describes the status of salmon in watersheds around the Pacific Rim—could be updated as an outreach activity of the IYS. This suggestion was brought forward by numerous groups. To include a broader reach, it could be linked with similar activities underway in Alaska and the Atlantic region, and also include reports on new and exciting research on salmon navigation.

Under the ‘Human Dimension’ research theme, *“the original IYS proposal offered to investigate cultural, social, and economic elements that depend on sustainable salmon populations”* (IYS-WG 2016b p.7). During the plenary discussion, it was suggested that this wording needed to be changed as the term “investigate” did not adequately capture the research need required under this theme. Group 2 discussed a possible refinement of this approach with the following subthemes, presented to the plenary by Mark Saunders (IYS-WG 2016b p. 7):

- *understanding socio-economic and cultural impacts of changing salmon distribution, abundance and productivity*
- *addressing the role of salmon in food security*
- *engaging community in research and resulting societal choices and trade-offs*
- *addressing root causes of social, political, technical, and management challenges, that when solved, will greatly enhance the probability of salmon sustainability*
- *investigating long-term challenges to salmon dependent communities*
- *exploring options for maintaining access to salmon resources through changes in salmon productivity*

While discussing the Human Dimension theme, group 2 addressed the benefits of connecting people across large geographic scales, including the breadth of knowledge that can be gained from comparing management strategies across regions. There will be a common need for new fisheries management strategies across the entire range of salmon as a result of climate change. Building connections across the salmosphere will also assist in developing a relevant and focused IYS programme and potentially a “salmon nation” of people ready to protect salmon resources. Challenges affecting salmon are related to decisions that affect people’s lives and in this way, the social and economic “value” of salmon should be considered in the arguments for an IYS, as well as engaging the public in the development of the IYS research themes. A suggestion was also made for the development of a tool kit for communities dependent on salmon, in order to help them make the best possible decisions in the face of change.

Highlights from discussions within group 3 regarding the research theme ‘Salmon in a Changing Salmosphere’ were presented to the plenary by Kim Hyatt. The group did not develop any new subthemes but suggested that the effects of environmental variability and anthropogenic factors on biological traits of salmon should be considered in addition to the effects of these factors on salmon distribution and abundance. Biological traits could provide clues as to what may be driving any observed changes in salmon distribution and abundance. Other discussion points included the need for full suites of new models based on new observations, as well as the requirement for support systems for the IYS to consider data standards, data assembly, and data exchange. Issues of range expansion into the Arctic were also addressed, in addition to possible changes to Arctic charr populations, which ties into food security issues in the high Arctic. Additionally, there were some differing opinions among group members about whether the priority of the initiative should focus on open ocean research or look into cumulative outcomes across all life stage of Pacific salmon. Potential outcomes of the IYS were also discussed, including (IYS-WG 2016b p. 8):

- *improved forecasting*
- *improved planning given environmental uncertainties to improve the probabilities of success of hatcheries and/or spawning channels for example*
- *understanding of temporal and spatial risks in a changing salmosphere*
- *high social/cultural values of Atlantic salmon is something that IYS could inform by improving assessments of restoration possibilities. This might be an example of basin-specific differences in priorities*

- *different perspectives were expressed on the value of experimenting with hatchery production*

Highlights of the discussion from group 4 regarding the theme ‘Information Systems’ were presented by Nancy Davis (IYS-WG 2016b pp. 8–9):

- *A strong suggestion was NOT to develop a whole new database system but instead to integrate IYS data products with existing data systems.*
- *A working group could investigate which data systems would be the most appropriate places to house IYS data and, depending on the type of IYS data to be archived, this could be in several different existing data systems. The best practices established by these existing data systems would then become the best practices used for developing IYS data sets.*
- *The starting point would be to know stakeholders interests and then design the data to be generated, making this a customer-oriented process.*
- *Handling the data and information systems component of research generally requires more time and effort than originally estimated. Approximately 20% of the budget may be a reasonable estimate needed for this theme.*

Group 5 considered the theme ‘New Technologies’. Topics raised during the group discussion were presented by Marc Trudel (IYS-WG 2016b p. 9):

- *new developments in genomics*
- *new types of tags*
- *the value of including salmon as components of ecosystem models*
- *new models are needed that will utilize data from ocean observing systems; satellites and gliders*
- *applying new technologies in novel ways to longstanding problems in salmon research*
- *adopting techniques currently developed for brain science to questions about salmon migration*
- *stop doing activities that are not generating new information*

A Year of Outreach

The second day of the meeting began with more breakout group discussions—this time regarding a year of outreach. Prior to involvement with NASCO, outreach was not a top priority in IYS discussions. It was the strong view of NASCO, however, that IYS outreach would be an opportunity to gain awareness for issues facing salmon as well as support for salmon conservation and restoration and new research to partition mortality at sea. In light of this, each group was asked to consider the following questions:

1. What are the main objectives and outcomes needed to ensure a successful year at sea?
2. Who needs to be engaged and who engages them?

3. How do we effectively outreach to interested groups? (Considering the practicalities, what are some of the key messages? What are some of the media vehicles?)
4. What is the ideal timeframe for the outreach, and when should it begin? Why?
5. What are the main barriers that we will likely face in raising funds for the IYS? How can we adjust to overcome these barriers?

Group leaders presented the highlights of each discussion to the plenary and a number of common themes emerged (IYS-WG 2016b p. 13):

- *the idea of framing the joint future of salmon and people in light of climate change*
- *a need to articulate a realistic, yet optimistic message*
- *how to measure whether the IYS was successful*
- *nuanced communication strategies for different audiences will likely be needed.*
- *a need for a logo/theme to be attached to something concrete*
- *there was unanimity that some dedicated communications support will be required*
- *finally, IYS scope was flagged as an issue (thematic, geographic, etc.) that will require more attention from the architects of the IYS. It can be quite narrow if focused on something like high seas research, or it can be something more universal about research in the salmosphere. At present there is no convergence of views in the room on whether to adopt the broad or narrow views.*
- *IYS needs a balance of projects and activities that is international and inclusive on one end of the spectrum and programs with a more narrow focus on the other.*

Governance and Capacity to Undertake the IYS

At this point in the planning process of the IYS, the major components of the IYS had been identified, including the purpose, themes, and duration of the initiative, in addition to the need for donor and public outreach strategies, and the need for partners and their roles to be identified. What was most pressing was to determine how to best organize partners in order to finalize the IYS strategy and begin its implementation. As the IYS-WG Chairperson, Mark Saunders made a presentation on issues surrounding governance and capacity to undertake an IYS. IYS governance must “*ensure effective coordination and continuity over the IYS time frame and bring coherence to an international endeavour*” (IYS-WG 2016b p. 13). It is also necessary for “*the governance structure to define who is involved, their roles and responsibilities and what process will be used to interact, identify actions, make decisions (as necessary) and communicate effectively*”. Participants of the workshop were asked to consider:

- *the makeup of IYS Partners and their roles in IYS*
- *respecting the interests and needs of the diversity of organizations that may be involved in IYS*
- *potential differences in IYS approach and scope between oceans*
- *what level of (in)flexibility is appropriate during the research phase,*

- *deviations from themes, IYS approvals process*
- *centralized or distributed coordination*
- *ensuring that capacity and resources are available for IYS oversight and coordination*

The need for dedicated capacity to implement the IYS was reiterated throughout the meeting. Multiple suggestions were made to have an international overarching or steering committee that would include science and non-science experts. In addition, there could be regional sub-committees which would require a communication system to be able to exchange information. Suggestions were also made for working groups to be established to address different components of the IYS (e.g., outreach, research themes, and international collaboration). Moreover, it was necessary to define the scale of activities that would be appropriate at different levels. There was a specific suggestion to divide objectives into three scales: international, basin-specific, and party-specific. The need to for a programme champion was also brought forward by multiple participants—someone excited and committed to follow through the next steps of the implementation process. Overall, it was determined that a governance structure needed to be flexible and be able to address the wide range of mandates and roles of organizations that will be a part of the IYS while also providing a focused direction for the IYS approach.

The Outline Proposal for the IYS

A meeting of the IYS-WG and other invited guests (including representatives from NPAFC and NASCO) was held following the Second Scoping Meeting on March 17, 2016, in order to develop an ‘Outline Proposal for an International Year of the Salmon’ (Appendix I; IYS-WG 2016). This new proposal differed from the First Proposal that had been previously presented to NASCO by NPAFC, as its intention was to support both organizations in the implementation of the IYS initiative in the North Pacific and the North Atlantic regions, and potentially the Arctic and Baltic regions. To differentiate this proposal from the First Proposal of the IYS-SG, it will be referred to as the ‘Outline Proposal’ for the duration of Technical Report 10.

Rationale, Vision, and Aims

The Outline Proposal reiterates the overall reasoning behind the need for an IYS put forward in the First Proposal, expanding this discussion to the North Atlantic and Baltic Sea regions and the benefits that will be felt by salmon-dependent communities throughout the salmosphere as a result of the initiative. In addition to stimulating an investment in salmon research, the IYS seeks to raise awareness of what humans can do to better insure salmon and their varied habitats are conserved and restored against a backdrop of increasing environmental variability—and thus, the theme of the IYS remains ‘Salmon and People in a Changing World’. The proposed aims of the IYS put forward in the Outline Proposal included (IYS-SG 2016a pp. 1–2):

- *improve scientific understanding and public and political awareness of the factors driving salmon abundance, the environmental and anthropogenic challenges facing salmon and the measures being taken to mitigate these;*
- *generate further support for strategies to conserve, restore and rationally manage salmon;*

- *develop a legacy of collaboration among organisations and researchers across disciplines in countries throughout the salmosphere;*
- *inspire and support a new generation of researchers and managers;*
- *improve understanding and awareness of the ecological, social, cultural and economic values of salmon; and*
- *engender a call to action to support research and conservation of salmon and their supporting environment throughout the salmosphere.*

Themes

All proposed research themes of the IYS in the Outline Proposal remain unchanged from the First Proposal, except for the subtheme of the ‘Human Dimension’ research theme, which was changed from “*to investigate the cultural, social, and economic elements that depend upon sustainable salmon populations*” (IYS-SG 2015a p. 3) in the First Proposal to “*to improve the resilience of people and salmon through the collection and collaboration of salmon-dependent communities, indigenous people, youth, harvesters and resource managers across the salmosphere*” (IYS-WG 2016b p. 2) in the Outline Proposal. The Outline Proposal also proposed core outreach, engagement and education themes for the IYS, which are adaptable in scale and include “*improving public and political awareness of the status of salmon stocks and their cultural, social and economic importance and of the challenges they face from major environmental changes and a variety of anthropogenic factors*” (p. 2).

Timeframe

The IYS-WG proposes three phases to the IYS initiative: planning (2016–2017), launch (2018), and implement and report on new research (2018–2022). In comparison to the original suggestion of a two-year focal period concentrated on research, the Outline Proposal suggests a single focal year involving a significant outreach and communication initiative to raise awareness of the challenges facing salmon and gather support for the initiative. This focal year would be followed by a longer period of data collection, data analysis and publication, concluding with a dénouement symposium to share findings, review accomplishments, and consider whether coordination should continue at the salmosphere level. Throughout all phases, the IYS brand and organisational and communication structure will persist, but the nature and scope of activities will be at the discretion of regional/RMFO and party/jurisdiction levels. The suggested focal year of the IYS is 2018, with the possibility of postponing it to 2019 with an opening symposium in late 2018 if the timeframe is not deemed feasible.

Scope

With respect to focal species of the IYS, Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) will be the focus of North Atlantic and Baltic research and outreach, while Pacific salmon, including pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), chum salmon (*O. keta*), sockeye salmon (*O. nerka*), coho salmon (*O. kisutch*), Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), cherry salmon (*O. masou*) and steelhead trout (*O. mykiss*), will be the focus of these activities in the North Pacific. As lead organizations, it will be the responsibility of NPAFC and NASCO to expand the scope to cover other species (e.g., charr and trout) or non-anadromous members of

the focal species. Involvement of the Arctic and Baltic regions in the IYS will depend on the liaison of the lead organizations with different organizations within these regions.

Governance

One of the most important outcomes of the meeting of the IYS-WG following the Second Scoping Meeting was the delineation of a possible governance structure for the IYS. There is a need for the IYS governance to be inclusive, flexible and supportive and it will depend on a range of partners to be successful. As a result of different outreach and research priorities across the salmosphere, three levels of governance were suggested for the IYS in the Outline Proposal: the salmosphere level (IYS Coordinating Committee), the regional/RFMO level (IYS Regional Steering Committees), and the party/jurisdiction specific level (Individual Parties/jurisdictions, NGOs, and core partners). It was anticipated that most of the IYS activities would occur at the regional/RFMO and party/jurisdictional levels and coordination with regards to a wide range of objectives will be required between all levels of IYS governance.

The IYS-WG envisioned the IYS Coordinating Committee to be comprised of appointed representatives from lead organizations that would work via correspondence whenever possible, perhaps meet face-to-face on an annual basis, and report back to the lead organizations on their progress. Suggestions for activities that would occur at the salmosphere level included:

- Developing an IYS brand and website;
- Developing and distributing IYS newsletters, posters, brochures, and other material concerning IYS activities at the salmosphere level;
- Defining broad outreach principles;
- Developing criteria for research and other activities seeking IYS endorsement;
- Reviewing First Proposals
- Identifying research priorities at the salmosphere level and coordination of any research programs implemented (recognizing that most research activities will occur at the regional/RFMO or party/jurisdiction level);
- Coordinating fundraising activities in support of IYS Coordinating Committee functions;
- Organizing the international IYS symposium through a dedicated Symposium Steering Committee; and
- Establishing of a hub for information sharing.

The Outline Proposal envisioned the Symposium Steering Committee as a separate entity with appointed representatives from the lead organizations that would be responsible for planning, organizing, and running the international symposium to launch the IYS. Responsibilities would include determining a date and venue, developing the programme and objectives, including inviting keynote speakers and soliciting contributed papers, establishing a web page for registrations, seeking sponsors and supporters as well as handling all other financial matters, and making arrangements for publication of the proceedings.

At the regional/RFMO level, the Outline Proposal specified that there would be Regional Steering Committees on both the Pacific and Atlantic sides, led by NPAFC and NASCO, respectively, and supported by the secretariats of each lead organization. The regional Steering Committees would provide the means for cooperation between lead organizations and core partners, coordinate activities

being undertaken at the regional level, and share information with the Coordinating Committee. Specific activities carried out at the regional/RMFO level would include

- Engaging core partners;
- Resolving species, life stages, and geographical areas to be included in the IYS in addition to the focal species already listed;
- Identifying research priorities and development of research plans;
- Establishing of a hub for compilation and sharing of information on IYS activities; and
- Coordinating fundraising activities in support of the IYS Regional Steering Committee functions.

At the party/jurisdiction specific level, which would include individual parties/jurisdictions, NGOs and core partners, activities would potentially include conducting the primary IYS functions of research and engagement, seeking and distributing funding, organizing or supporting regional symposia or workshops and other events, and engaging with First Nations.

Initial Budgetary Considerations

The Outline Proposal anticipated that the initial activities of the IYS would require a small centralized budget that would be shared by the two lead organizations (and possibly core partners and external sources). With that being said, the proposed governance structure of the IYS was designed for regional implementation that would be adaptable in the scale and nature of the activities undertaken; thus, further consideration of budgetary issues would primarily be the responsibility of the Regional Steering Committees. The Coordinating Committee, would, however, be involved in the case of activities being undertaken at the salmosphere level, and these costs would be shared equally among the lead organizations.

The Outline Proposal stated that the most immediate need was to approve funding for the initial planning stages of the IYS that would be carried out in 2016 and 2017. This was to be agreed upon in the respective annual meetings of both lead organizations in 2016. While the funding strategy could raise funds externally in addition to using Commission funds, the Outline Proposal suggested that NPAFC and NASCO make budgetary provisions for IYS brand and web development (which would require professional expertise) and towards the 2018 symposium. Additionally, DFO recognized the potential of the initiative and a Canadian Partnership Fund proposal was funded to facilitate internal coordination between NPAFC and NASCO towards planning for the IYS. Clarification on future expenditure past 2018 (e.g. the need for regional coordinators or an IYS project officer) was suggested to occur well before the 2017 annual meetings of both lead organizations.

Next steps outlined in the Outline Proposal included its consideration for endorsement by both the NPAFC and NASCO at their respective 2016 annual meetings, as well as further consideration of core partners. The need for representatives to be appointed to the IYS Coordinating Committee, the Regional Steering Committees, and the Symposium Steering Committee was also outlined by the Outline Proposal.

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