



Atlantic Salmon Federation

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ASF Research Policy

Mission Statement

The Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) is an international non-profit organization which promotes the conservation and wise management of the Atlantic salmon and its environment.

Preamble

The 1968 Certificate of Incorporation establishing ASF (US) emphasized the importance of promoting scientific research.

Acting upon this research mandate, the Salmon Genetics Research Program (SGRP) was established, which soon became--as it still is--ASF's flagship research program. In the early 1980's, application of the results of the SGRP for the management of salmon was broadened to include the aquaculture industry. The question arose whether research in support of the aquaculture industry was not off-mission. This was addressed in 1988. The Boards concluded that support of the aquaculture industry was very much on-mission on the somewhat leap-of-faith view that a healthy, growing aquaculture industry in Canada would reduce pressure on wild stocks. History has more than justified this. There is a second benefit, not foreseen at the time. Increasing concern is now being expressed by the conservation community on possible adverse ecological and genetic effects on wild stocks caused by their interactions with escapes from the aquaculture industry. The SGRP is ideally positioned to deal with this double-edged scientific challenge.

In 1993, ASF's strategic planning exercise produced the document, *A Flight Plan for ASF*, in which five goals were identified to assist ASF achieve its mission, one of which is.... **further Atlantic Salmon Research.**

There is little doubt that research has a significant role to play within ASF. The question is, what kind of research under what set of guidelines? In other words, what should be ASF's research policy? A draft policy follows.

ASF Research Policy

It is implicit in its mission statement and goals that the Atlantic Salmon Federation will conduct and sponsor research in support of wild Atlantic salmon and the fresh and saltwater ecosystems that support them. Guidelines for ASF's involvement in such research activities are:

1. ASF strongly supports fact-based conservation and management decision-making. A major purpose of ASF's Research and Environment Department is to help provide these facts.
2. ASF will have staff competent in research both to provide direction for its in-house and sponsored research programs, as well as to assess programs and their results, such as those for stock assessment, conducted by other agencies.
3. ASF's research efforts will be directed at providing the knowledge necessary to conserve, enhance and manage salmon stocks.
4. ASF will promote and encourage multidisciplinary and collaborative research programs. In particular, ASF will play a lead role in forming teams to conduct research on major scientific questions such as, but not limited to, survival of salmon in the sea, forage fish depletion, predator depredation, wild salmon/aquaculture salmon interactions, causes and control of diseases affecting salmon, effects of hydro dams and land use on salmon populations, enhancement techniques, and the impacts of global warming on salmon. Such an approach not only maximizes the impact of scarce resources to conduct research, but also permits problems to be addressed that are often beyond the capability of any one organization.
5. New knowledge from ASF research will be available to any and all those interested in the sustainable use, conservation and restoration of Atlantic salmon. Research results will be published in conventional scientific journals, and articles will be published in ASF publications. As part of ASF's public relations program, information on research activities will be presented to the public through conventional media outlets, as well as others, such as Internet, videos, etc.
6. ASF will organize, sponsor and participate in conferences and seminars for the purpose of exchange of knowledge and ideas.
7. ASF will have continuing fundraising activities to support its research programs. This will include seeking restricted funds (grants and contracts), as well as endowment funds to support graduate students and scholarship students so that future generations of salmon biologists can be trained. Allocations from general revenues should be made from time to time so that pressing research problems can be addressed in a timely manner.

Revised

October 5, 1999