REPORT OF THE
THIRTY-NINTH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edinburgh, Scotland

6 – 9 June 2022

Chair:	Stephen Gephard (USA)
Vice-Chair:	Katrine Kærgaard (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))
Secretary:	Emma Hatfield

WGC(22)12

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Report of the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

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1. Opening of the Meeting

1.1 The Chair, Stephen Gephard (USA), opened the meeting and welcomed delegates.

1.2 The representatives of Canada, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG) and the United States provided written Opening Statements (Annex 1).

1.3 The representative of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) referred to Opening Statements from previous meetings and said that the views of the NGOs had not changed.

1.4 A list of participants at the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO is included as Annex 2.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda, WGC(22)07 (Annex 3).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

3.1 Alan Walker (United Kingdom (UK)) was appointed Rapporteur.

4. Election of Officers

4.1 The Commission re-elected Stephen Gephard (USA) as its Chair (proposed by the representative of DFG, seconded by the representative of the UK) for a period of two years, to commence from the close of the 2022 Annual Meeting.

4.2 The Commission re-elected Katrine Kærgaard (DFG) as its Vice-Chair (proposed by the representative of the European Union (EU), seconded by the representative of Canada) for a period of two years, to commence from the close of the 2022 Annual Meeting.

5. ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

5.1 The representative of ICES, Dennis Ensing, presented the scientific advice relevant to the West Greenland Commission, as contained in the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(22)09. Dr Ensing's presentation is available as document WGC(22)13.

6. Report of the Inter-Sessional Meetings of the West Greenland Commission

6.1 The Chair noted that, in 2021, the West Greenland Commission agreed a one year 'Interim Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland in 2021', WGC(21)18. Discussions on a new regulatory measure to apply to the fishery

from 2022 had taken place inter-sessionally. The Chair advised that there had been three Inter-Sessional Meetings of the Commission since the 2021 Annual Meeting. In December 2021 (WGC(21)22) and April 2022 (WGC(22)04) the Commission considered the West Greenland Atlantic salmon fishery in 2021 and the progress made in implementing the interim regulatory measure. Additionally, as agreed at the April Inter-Sessional Meeting, a number of meetings of the Commission's Heads of Delegations had taken place in May. The Heads of Delegations had considered a Draft Regulatory Measure, WGCIS(22)06, prepared by DFG.

6.2 The Chair introduced the process followed during the June Inter-Sessional Meeting (WGC(22)06), where two Working Groups had been tasked to (i) conduct a retrospective analysis of the catch data to examine the percentage catch reported that would have achieved a 100% TAC uptake after all catch reports had been recorded, and (ii) a further discussion of the draft regulatory measure text, as contained in document WGCIS(22)09, which had been developed following the May Heads of Delegations meetings.

6.3 The two Working Groups had reported to the Commission at the Inter-Sessional Meeting on the progress made. The 'Data Working Group' noted that it was making progress but was unable to finalise its task. The Group agreed to continue its efforts after the Inter-Sessional Meeting and agreed to report back to the Commission during the Annual Meeting. The Chair provided an overview of the progress made by the 'Text Working Group'. The Commission discussed many of the suggested edits, and edits were accepted as appropriate. A number of issues still remained, and the Chair agreed to finalise the draft document and use the draft as a starting point for continued discussions on the regulatory measure during the Annual Meeting of the Commission.

7. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission

7.1 The Chair noted that under the Council's 'Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO', CNL(13)38, it was agreed that there should be an Agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries.

7.2 The Chair referred the Commission to the papers submitted by Canada (NAC(22)03), the European Union (NEA(22)07) and the UK (NEA(22)06). These provided a description of the MSFs still operating in their jurisdictions, the most recent catch data, any updates to the Implementation Plans (IPs) relating to MSFs and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs in the IP period to implement NASCO's agreements. The United States did not report as there are no directed wild Atlantic salmon fisheries in the United States. The Commission welcomed these reports.

8. Regulatory Measures

8.1 The Commission considered the 'Revised Proposed Draft Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland (Tabled by the Chair)', WGC(22)05rev.

8.2 The Chair invited a representative of the 'Data Working Group', Tim Sheehan (USA), to present its findings. Mr Sheehan noted that some values included in the presentation were revised slightly by the Data Working Group after the presentation. The preliminary values as presented are noted below, whereas the final values are provided in the Working Group's presentation, WGC(22)14, (Annex 4), which is summarised as follows.

8.3 The task was to conduct a retrospective analysis of the 2018 – 2021 fishery data to

determine what level of percentage TAC uptake would have triggered a fishery closure that resulted in the final catch matching the TAC, given reporting delays by fishers and data entry and processing delays. Data from the 2018 fishery were not readily available. The data for the 2019 – 2021 fisheries consisted of catch weight, catch date, registration date, license type (professional, private), management area (West Greenland in 2019, 2020; Northwest and Southwest Greenland in 2021) and TAC (whole area for 2019, 2020; separate for fishing type / management areas in 2021). Data for the Kapissillit river and for East Greenland were excluded from the analysis.

8.4 The analytical process was demonstrated using data from the 2021 Southwest professional fishery segment. Catch date was when the fish was caught, but registration date was when the catch was entered into the official database. The catch date and registration date often differed because the submitted catch data were often delayed given data reporting and data entry processes and therefore lagged behind the actual catch date by a varying number of days. According to the catch data, the TAC was reached on 8 September. As it was assumed that fishery closure notification would need to be posted three days prior to the targeted closure date, the 100 % TAC date was backdated by three days to identify the date when the fishery closure would need to be announced. The registered catch, as a percentage of TAC, on 5 September was 58 % (hereafter the 'trigger percentage'). According to the data, if the fishery closure was initiated on 5 September the total harvest for that fishery would have been approximately 100 % of the TAC.

8.5 This process was followed for the available years, fishing types and management areas. The trigger percentages were as follows: 2019: 54 %, 2020: 6 %, 2021: NW professional 13 %, NW recreational 100 %, SW professional 56 %, SW recreational 60 %. The average of the four percentages in 2021 was 57 %, whereas the average weighted by TAC was 50 %. The overall (2019 – 2021) average was 39 %, and 41 % when weighted by TAC.

8.6 Several caveats to the analysis were recognised:

(i) the data were only for three fishery years, within which time period there were two different management approaches;

(ii) these historic, best available data are indicative but cannot be guaranteed to indicate the future dynamics. The addition of data in the future should improve the predictive power of such analyses;

(iii) the analysis was based on the fishery catching 100 % of the TAC and therefore the analysis identified the day after 100 % was reached as the basis for determining the trigger percentage, but another percentage could be used;

(iv) a different closure notification period could be applied; and

(v) minor data issues were recognised, that could be resolved with more time, but were not considered to have a material effect on the overall message.

8.7 The presentation concluded with an illustration of scenario testing for applying the various trigger percentages to the 2021 catch data series. The lowest trigger percentage of 16 % might have yielded in a total TAC uptake of 58 %; the highest trigger percentage of 81 % might have yielded in an uptake of 145 %; the 48 % trigger percentage, based on the weighted average, might have led to an uptake of 114 %. The Chair invited questions on the analytical approach.

8.8 The representative of the NGOs sought clarification on how the catch registration date

was taken into account, noting that this would be the information that DFG would use as the basis for its management decision. Mr Sheehan clarified that the trigger percentages presented were based on the catch registration dates.

8.9 The representative of the NGOs asked that the presentation be revised so the terms used were consistent with those used by DFG, specifically to replace 'commercial' with 'professional'.

8.10 The representative of DFG thanked the Data Working Group for its efforts and noted that the presentation provided a good visual illustration of how difficult it was to manage the fishery to achieve a final catch exactly meeting the TAC. She noted that DFG would continue to learn from these data and analyses and hoped that, at the end of the five-year Management Plan, the fishery reporting and management would be better at closing the fishery at the right time. However, she noted that a sunny weekend could change everything.

8.11 The representative of the United States reflected that, from her recollection, several members around the table considered that the 90 % upper limit in an earlier version of the draft regulatory measure was too high and noted that the values presented confirmed that view, even when taking account of the variability in trigger percentages. She suggested that the Commission might consider whether to aim to develop a single trigger percentage for the entire fishery, or separate trigger percentages per fishery type / management area. She proposed the use of separate trigger percentages in the first year, as these would be the most precautionary. The trigger percentage developed by the Data Working Group should be used as an upper limit in the implementation of the regulatory measure.

8.12 The representative of the UK noted that the presentation was very insightful. Responding to the question from the representative of the United States, she suggested that DFG might wish to clarify that it was comfortable with using a trigger percentage as a reference point for closing the fishery.

8.13 The representative of DFG reminded the Commission that Greenland was not willing to include a payback clause in the regulatory measure and so the trigger percentage was their proposed way forward, unless other members of the Commission had any alternative suggestions.

8.14 The representative of Canada recognised that the work had been very valuable in allowing the discussions of the Commission to proceed based on real data rather than on speculation, and that Canada was in favour of proceeding with this approach.

8.15 The representative of Canada cautioned that the members of the Commission should not lose sight of the three key quantitative elements of the negotiation, those being the weight of the TAC, the trigger percentage(s) and the time period of a new regulatory measure.

8.16 The representative of Canada referred back to the scenario testing slide in the Data Working Group presentation and observed that, although the weighted average trigger of 48% might have led to an overharvest in the region of 114%, he proposed that the trigger percentage should be around this level.

8.17 The representative of the UK supported Canada, noting that the analyses suggested a relatively low figure would be necessary to give confidence of no overharvest. Responding to the proposal from the United States for fishing type / management area specific trigger percentages, she asked whether DFG had a preference.

8.18 The representative of DFG expressed its preference for an overall trigger percentage with some flexibility. She noted that the management responsibility remains with the Government of Greenland, and that separate trigger percentages might be viewed by some as micromanagement that would not be well received in Greenland. She also noted its need for flexibility to allow for variable conditions affecting the fishery, such as weather conditions.

8.19 The representative of the EU noted that, recognising the variability in the results of the scenario testing, a trigger percentage of around 50 % seemed reasonable. He supported DFG in wishing to avoid micromanagement. The representative of the UK expressed the same position as Canada.

8.20 The representative of the United States recognised progress had been made by the Commission last year to support a TAC for a single year, with the agreement that it should not be greater than 27 tonnes. However, she noted that the TAC and trigger percentage are inter-related, and as such, the position of the United States on the size of the TAC is dependent on the trigger percentage agreed. The representative of the EU agreed that the two numbers were inter-related, stating that they could accept 27 tonnes but this could be related to the trigger percentage to provide confidence to the Commission members.

8.21 The representative of DFG stated that, as last year, the minimum possible TAC acceptable to Greenland was for 27 tonnes for the West Greenland fishery, plus three tonnes for the East Greenland fishery. The total of 30 tonnes is considered by Greenland as the minimum acceptable for its subsistence fishery providing food for people across Greenland.

8.22 During extensive discussions, agreement was reached on important aspects of the regulatory measure, specifically: a Total Allowable Catch of no more than 27 tonnes; that there would be a multi-year measure; and that in the first year (i.e. 2022) the fishery at West Greenland would be closed when the registered catch reached no more than 49 % of the overall TAC.

8.23 During discussions on paragraph 5 of WGC(22)05rev, the representative of Canada asked the representative of DFG to explain how they interpreted this paragraph by explaining how this would be actioned by DFG during the fishing season. The representative of DFG explained that the governance process for creation of public announcements for closure of the fisheries had been changed in order to allow for faster closure of the fishery. The closure percentage for each component of the fishery would be estimated pre-season for each management area and further adjusted according to relevant parameters such as weather forecast, observed and expected reporting lag, etc.

8.24 The representative of Canada sought further clarification regarding paragraph 5 of the draft regulatory measure on how DFG would consult with Commission members when the closure percentage was under consideration for adjustment. The representative of DFG responded by clarifying that the data would be presented in the annual report on the fishery, to be reviewed by the Commission, and based on that review, discussions on the percentage could take place.

8.25 The Commission agreed to adopt the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland, WGC(22)10.

9. Frequency of Reporting on the West Greenland Salmon Fishery

9.1 The Chair noted that DFG had requested that the West Greenland Commission consider

its proposal for a reduction in the number of reports it submits to the Commission each year. In an Explanatory Memorandum tabled by DFG in 2021, and contained in document WGC(21)06, DFG stated:

> *'... one single report that covers all relevant issues would reduce not only the burden on Greenland but also on the West Greenland Commission and it would ensure stronger reporting for discussion at the West Greenland Commission meetings*.'

9.2 The representative of DFG noted the efforts implemented to manage the fishery, and that there was a management plan in place for five years. She therefore asked the Commission to agree to a single comprehensive report per year.

9.3 The representative of the UK supported the use of a single report but requested clarification on the timing of the delivery of this report.

9.4 The representative of DFG proposed to continue the February report schedule as in recent years.

9.5 The representative of the United States supported DFG's proposal, providing that DFG would inform the Commission of any proposed changes in its regulation of the fishery.

9.6 The Commission agreed that DFG would provide the Commission with an Annual Report, scheduled in February as per recent practice.

10. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery

10.1 The Chair noted that the members of the West Greenland Commission had worked co-operatively over the past five decades to collect biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland. These data provide critical inputs to the stock assessments conducted annually by the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon.

10.2 A representative of the United States, Tim Sheehan, provided details on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme in 2020 and 2021.

10.3 The representative of DFG noted that 67 citizens provided samples in 2021 from the West Greenland fishery. She noted that DFG planned to provide additional support to citizen sampling in 2022, for example including a prize or incentive scheme.

10.4 The representative of the NGOs asked whether the salmon captured during the satellite tracking study would be included in the sampling database. Mr Sheehan explained that this was not done yet, because these fish are not from the West Greenland Fishery *per se*. However, this would be considered by the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS) for inclusion in the report provided in 2023.

10.5 Mr Sheehan introduced a 'Draft Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme for 2022', WGC(22)08.

10.6 The Commission agreed to adopt a 'Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme for 2022', WGC(22)11 (Annex 5).

11. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

11.1 The Chair announced that the winner of the West Greenland Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Isboseth Jensen from Qaqortoq, Greenland.

11.2 The tag was placed on a wild adult female salmon returning to the Margaree River (Nova Scotia, Canada) in 2021. The fish was captured as broodstock and spawned by

the Nova Scotia Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture and externally marked with a light blue Carlin tag as part of the Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) assessment programme for Atlantic salmon in the Margaree River. The tag was recaptured in the Qaqortoq region; the whole weight was estimated as 4.5 kg. The tag was provided directly to the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources by the fisher.

12. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice

12.1 The Commission agreed to defer consideration of the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice in relation to the West Greenland Commission to the Council. The request to ICES, as agreed by Council, is contained in document CNL(22)13 (Annex 6).

13. Other Business

13.1 There was no other business.

14. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

14.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Council.

15. Report of the Meeting

15.1 The Commission agreed a report of its Meeting.

16. Close of the Meeting

16.1 The representative of the United States provided a closing statement, as follows:

> *'Mr. Chair, Madam Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:*
>
> *We would like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to the members of the West Greenland Commission for their spirit of cooperation in finding a way forward on a multi-annual regulatory measure this year. It has been a difficult road to get to this point, but the United States is satisfied with the result. The cooperation and openness shown by all over the last days and weeks led us to find innovative approaches that helped us bridge our differences with regard to the management of the fishery. Kudos, in particular, go to the ad hoc Data Working Group. Without their hard work to find a science-based approach to support informed decision-making, we would not be where we are. From our perspective, the commitment of all the members to find a solution has been clearly on display and has been supported immeasurably by the fact that we have finally been able to work together in person. We look forward to seeing how the very creative approaches taken in this multilateral management measure will work in practice.*
>
> *Thank you, Mr. Chair.'*

16.2 The representative of the UK supported the closing statement from the United States and appreciated the spirit of the negotiations. The representatives of the EU, Canada and DFG similarly supported the statement.

16.3 The representative of the NGOs provided a closing statement:

> *'The NGOs wish to thank the Commission for allowing our participation in mostly open deliberations, both within the intersessional and annual meetings*

of this Commission. We are however disappointed that the level of quota agreed is the same as in the previous year, considering the precarious state of many of the salmon stocks in North America and Southern Europe that contribute to this fishery. We also felt that quota reduction to a much lower number was warranted as a result of the overages of quota that occurred during the past four years.

We welcome the new closure mechanism introduced in the agreed regulatory measure that should lead to better quota control and are anxious to review the results, as soon as possible, after the fishery closes in the fall of 2022.'

16.4 The Chair thanked the members of the Commission and observers for their contributions and closed the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission.

Note. The annexes mentioned above begin after the French translation of the report of the meeting.

WGC(22)12

Compte rendu de la trente-neuvième session annuelle de la Commission du Groenland occidental de l'Organisation pour la Conservation du Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edimbourg, Ecosse

6 – 9 juin 2022

1. Ouverture de la session

1.1 Le Président, Stephen Gephard (USA), a ouvert la session et accueilli les délégués.

1.2 Les représentants du Canada, du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) (DFG) et des États-Unis ont transmis des déclarations d'ouverture écrites (Annexe 1).

1.3 Le représentant des organisations non-gouvernementales (ONGs) a fait référence aux déclarations d'ouverture des sessions précédentes et a dit que les opinions des ONGs étaient inchangées.

1.4 Une liste des participants aux trente-neuvièmes sessions annuelles du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN figure en Annexe 2.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

2.1 La Commission a adopté son ordre du jour, WGC(22)07 (Annexe 3).

3. Nomination d'un rapporteur

3.1 Alan Walker (Royaume-Uni (RU)) a été nommé comme Rapporteur.

4. Election des Membres du Bureau

4.1 La Commission a ré-élu Stephen Gephard (USA) comme Président (proposé par la représentante de DFG, avec le soutien de la représentante du RU) pour une période de deux ans à compter de la clôture de la session annuelle 2022.

4.2 La Commission a ré-élu Katrine Kærgaard (DFG) comme Vice-Présidente (proposée par le représentant de l'Union européenne (UE), avec l'appui du représentant du Canada) pour une période de deux ans à compter de la clôture de la session annuelle 2022.

5. Rapport du Comité d'Avis du CIEM (ACOM) sur les stocks de saumons dans la zone de la Commission

5.1 Le représentant du CIEM, Dennis Ensing, a présenté l'avis scientifique relatif à la Commission du Groenland occidental, tel qu'il figure dans le Rapport du comité d'avis du CIEM (ACOM), CNL(22)09. La présentation du Dr Ensing est disponible comme document WGC(22)13.

6. Rapport des réunions d'inter-session de la Commission du Groenland occidental

6.1 Le Président a noté qu'en 2021, la Commission du Groenland occidental a adopté pour un an une 'Mesure de Réglementation Provisoire pour la Pêche du Saumon de

l'Atlantique au Groenland occidental', WGC(21)18. Des discussions sur une nouvelle mesure de réglementation pour application à la pêcherie à compter de 2022 avaient eu lieu en inter-session. Le Président a fait savoir qu'il y avait eu trois réunions d'inter-session de la Commission depuis la session annuelle de 2021. En décembre 2021 (WGC(21)22) et en avril 2022 (WGC(22)04) la Commission a examiné la pêcherie de saumon atlantique au Groenland occidental en 2021 et les progrès réalisés pour mettre en œuvre la mesure de réglementation provisoire. De plus, comme décidé lors de la réunion d'inter-session d'avril, plusieurs réunions des chefs de délégation de la Commission ont été tenues en mai. Les chefs de délégation ont étudié une Mesure projet de réglementation, WGCIS(22)06, préparée par DFG.

6.2 Le Président a présenté la procédure suivie pendant la réunion d'inter-session de juin (WGC(22)06), où deux Groupes de travail ont été chargés de (i) mener une analyse rétrospective des données de captures pour examiner le pourcentage de captures rapportées qui aurait conduit à une consommation de 100 % du TAC après enregistrement de toutes les déclarations de captures, et (ii) discuter plus avant du texte de la mesure de réglementation projet, comme figurant dans le document WGCIS(22)09, qui avait été élaboré à la suite des réunions de mai des chefs de délégations.

6.3 Les deux groupes de travail avaient rendu compte à la Commission des avancées lors de la réunion d'inter-session. Le 'Groupe de travail données' a indiqué qu'il faisait des progrès mais n'était pas en mesure de compléter sa tâche. Il a accepté de poursuivre ses efforts après la réunion d'inter-session et a accepté de rendre compte à la Commission pendant la session annuelle. Le Président a donné une vue d'ensemble des progrès réalisés par le 'Groupe de travail texte'. La Commission a discuté un grand nombre des modifications proposées et des modifications ont été acceptées le cas échéant. Un certain nombre de difficultés subsistaient, et le Président a accepté de rédiger une version définitive du document et d'utiliser ce texte comme base pour la suite des discussions sur la mesure de réglementation lors de la session annuelle de la Commission.

7. Pêcheries de stocks mixtes menées par des Membres de la Commission

7.1 Le Président a noté que dans le cadre du Plan d'action pour mettre en œuvre les conseils de l'étude externe des performances et la révision des 'Prochaines Etapes' pour l'OCSAN', CNL(13)38, du Conseil, il a été décidé qu'il y aurait un point à l'ordre du jour de chacune des Commissions pour permettre de se concentrer sur les pêcheries sur stocks mixtes (PSMs).

7.2 Le Président a renvoyé la Commission aux documents soumis par le Canada (NAC(22)03), l'Union européenne (NEA(22)07) et le RU (NEA(22)06). Ceux-ci donnaient une description des PSMs encore en opération dans leurs juridictions, les données de captures les plus récentes, toute mise à jour des Plans de mise en oeuvre (IPs) relative aux PSMs et tout changement ou développement dans la gestion des PSMs au cours de la période de l'IP afin de mettre en œuvre les accords de l'OCSAN. Les États-Unis n'ont pas rendu compte puisqu'il n'y a pas de pêche ciblée du saumon sauvage de l'Atlantique aux États-Unis. La Commission s'est félicitée de ces rapports.

8. Mesures de réglementation

8.1 La Commission a étudié la Mesure de réglementation projet révisée proposée pour la pêche du saumon de l'Atlantique au Groenland occidental (déposée par le Président), WGC(22)05rev.

8.2 Le Président a invité un représentant du 'Groupe de travail données', Tim Sheehan (USA), à présenter ses conclusions. M. Sheehan a indiqué que certaines valeurs se trouvant dans la présentation ont été légèrement révisées par le Groupe de travail données après que celle-ci ait été faite. Les valeurs préliminaires telles qu'elles ont été présentées sont indiquées ci-dessous, tandis que les valeurs finales se trouvent dans la présentation du Groupe de travail (Annexe 4) qui est résumée comme suit.

8.3 Le travail consistait à conduire une analyse rétrospective des données 2018 – 2021 de la pêcherie pour déterminer quel niveau de pourcentage de consommation du TAC aurait déclenché une fermeture de la pêche ayant pour résultat une adéquation entre les captures définitives et le TAC, étant donné les délais de déclaration par les pêcheurs et les délais pour rentrer les données et les traiter. Les données de la pêcherie en 2018 n'étaient pas disponibles. Les données pour les pêches de 2019 – 2021 consistaient en poids de captures, date de capture, date d'enregistrement, type de permis (professionnel, privé), zone de gestion (Groenland occidental en 2019, 2020; Groenland du Nord-ouest (NO) et du Sud-ouest (SO) en 2021) et TAC (pour l'ensemble de la zone en 2019, 2020; séparé par type de pêche / zones de gestion en 2021). Les données pour la rivière Kapissillit et pour le Groenland oriental ont été exclues de l'analyse.

8.4 La méthode d'analyse a été présentée en utilisant des données 2021 du segment de la pêche professionnelle du Sud-ouest. Les dates de capture étaient celles de la prise du poisson, mais la date d'enregistrement était celle de l'entrée dans la base de données officielle. Les dates de capture et d'enregistrement étaient souvent différentes parce que les données de captures transmises subissaient souvent un retard dû aux procédures de déclaration des données et d'entrée des données, résultant en un décalage avec la date réelle de capture d'un nombre variable de jours. Sur la base des données de captures, le TAC a été atteint le 8 septembre. Comme on supposait que la notification de fermeture de la pêche devrait être publiée trois jours avant la date de fermeture visée, la date de 100 % du TAC a été anticipée de trois jours afin de déterminer la date à laquelle l'annonce de fermeture de la pêche devrait être faite. Les captures enregistrées, en pourcentage du TAC, le 5 septembre étaient de 58 % (ci-après le 'pourcentage de déclenchement'). Selon les données, si la fermeture de la pêche avait été initiée le 5 septembre, le total de captures pour cette pêcherie aurait été approximativement de 100 % du TAC.

8.5 La méthode a été suivie pour les années disponibles, les types de pêche et les zones de gestion. Les pourcentages de déclenchement étaient les suivants: 2019: 54 %, 2020: 6 %, 2021: NO professionnelle 13 %, NO récréative 100 %, SO professionnel 56 %, SO récréative 60 %. La moyenne des quatre pourcentages en 2021 était de 57 %, tandis que la moyenne pondérée par TAC était de 50 %. La moyenne générale (2019 – 2021) était de 39 %, et de 41 % une fois pondérée par TAC.

8.6 Il a été reconnu que plusieurs réserves devaient être faites quant à la méthode:

(i) les données ne portaient que sur trois années de pêche, sur une période temporelle où il y avait deux approches de gestion différentes;

(ii) ces données, qui sont historiques et les meilleures disponibles, sont indicatives mais on ne peut garantir qu'elles orientent vers les dynamiques futures. L'ajout de données à l'avenir pourrait renforcer la prédictivité de telles méthodes d'analyse;

(iii) l'analyse étant basée sur la capture de 100 % du TAC par la pêcherie, elle identifiait donc le jour suivant l'atteinte des 100 % comme base pour déterminer le pourcentage de déclenchement, mais il était possible d'utiliser un autre

pourcentage;

(iv) une période de notification de la fermeture différente pouvait être utilisée; et

(v) il a été reconnu l'existence de difficultés mineures relatives aux données, qui pouvaient êtres résolues avec plus de temps, mais qui n'étaient pas jugées comme ayant un effet significatif sur le message général.

8.7 La présentation se concluait par une illustration de test de scénario pour appliquer les différents pourcentages de déclenchement aux séries de données de captures 2021. Le plus bas pourcentage de déclenchement de 16 % aurait pu entrainer au total une consommation du TAC de 58 %; le pourcentage de déclenchement le plus élevé de 81 % aurait pu résulter en une consommation de 145 %; le pourcentage de déclenchement de 48 %, basé sur la moyenne pondérée, aurait pu aboutir à une consommation de 114 %. Le Président a invité à poser des questions sur l'approche analytique.

8.8 Le représentant des ONGs a demandé une clarification de la façon dont la date d'enregistrement des captures était prise en compte, soulignant que c'était cette information que DFG utiliserait comme base de sa décision de gestion. M. Sheehan a précisé que les pourcentages de déclenchement présentés étaient basés sur les dates d'enregistrement des captures.

8.9 Le représentant des ONGs a demandé si la présentation pouvait être révisée pour que les termes utilisés soient cohérents avec ceux utilisés par DFG, spécifiquement en remplaçant 'commerciale' par 'professionnelle'.

8.10 La représentante de DFG a remercié le Groupe de travail données pour ses efforts et a souligné que la présentation illustrait bien visuellement combien il était difficile de gérer la pêcherie pour atteindre un niveau de captures finales correspondant exactement au TAC. Elle a indiqué que DFG continuerait de tirer les enseignements de ces données et analyses, en espérant qu'à la fin du Plan de gestion de cinq ans la déclaration et la gestion de la pêcherie seraient plus propices à une fermeture de la pêche au bon moment. Toutefois, elle a fait remarquer qu'un weekend ensoleillé pouvait tout modifier.

8.11 La représentante des États-Unis a fait la réflexion que, autant qu'elle s'en souvienne, plusieurs membres autour de la table étaient d'avis que la limite supérieure de 90 % dans une version antérieure de la mesure de réglementation projet était trop élevée, et elle a noté que les valeurs présentées confirmaient cette opinion, même en prenant en compte la variabilité des pourcentages de déclenchement. Elle a suggéré que la Commission puisse examiner si elle allait se fixer le but de développer un unique pourcentage de déclenchement pour la pêcherie toute entière, ou des pourcentages de déclenchement distincts par type de pêche / zone de gestion. Elle proposait d'utiliser des pourcentages de déclenchement distincts la première année, car ceux-ci seraient plus précautionneux. Le pourcentage de déclenchement développé par le Groupe de travail données devrait server de limite supérieure dans la mise en œuvre de la mesure de réglementation.

8.12 La représentante du RU a indiqué que la présentation était très éclairante. En réponse à la question de la représentante des États-Unis, elle a suggéré que DFG pourrait souhaiter clarifier si elle était à l'aise avec l'utilisation d'un pourcentage de déclenchement comme point de référence pour la fermeture de la pêche.

8.13 La représentante de DFG a rappelé à la Commission que le Groenland n'était pas disposé à inclure une clause de 'payback' dans la mesure de réglementation et que le

pourcentage de déclenchement était donc leur proposition d'avancée, à moins que d'autres membres de la Commission aient des suggestions alternatives.

8.14 Le représentant du Canada a admis que le travail réalisé avait été d'un grand intérêt pour permettre aux discussions de la Commission de se poursuivre sur la base de données concrètes plutôt que sur des spéculations, et que le Canada était disposé à continuer avec cette approche.

8.15 Le représentant du Canada a mis en garde les membres de la Commission de ne pas perdre de vue les trois éléments quantitatifs clés de la négociation, ceux-ci étant le tonnage du TAC, le(s) pourcentage(s) de déclenchement et la période temporelle d'une nouvelle mesure de réglementation.

8.16 Le représentant du Canada est revenu à la diapositive sur le test de scenario dans la présentation du Groupe de travail données et son observation a consisté à proposer, bien que le pourcentage de déclenchement moyen pondéré de 48 % puisse conduire à une surconsommation autour de 114 %, que le pourcentage de déclenchement soit voisin de ce niveau.

8.17 La représentante du RU a soutenu le Canada, notant que les analyses suggéraient un chiffre relativement bas pour donner confiance en une absence de surconsommation. En réaction à la proposition des États-Unis de pourcentages de déclenchement spécifiques par type de pêche / zone de gestion, elle a demandé si DFG avait une préférence.

8.18 La représentante de DFG a fait part de leur préférence pour un pourcentage de déclenchement global avec une certaine flexibilité. Elle a souligné que la responsabilité de la gestion reste la prérogative du gouvernement du Groenland, et que des pourcentages de déclenchement distincts pourraient être perçus par certains comme de la microgestion, ce qui ne serait pas bien accueilli au Groenland. Elle a aussi fait part de leur besoin de flexibilité pour tenir compte de conditions variables jouant sur la pêcherie, telles que les conditions météorologiques.

8.19 Le représentant de l'UE a noté que, compte tenu de la variabilité des résultats dans le test de scenario, un pourcentage de déclenchement voisin de 50 % semblait raisonnable. Il a soutenu DFG dans son souhait d'éviter la microgestion. La représentante du RU a adopté la même position que le Canada.

8.20 La représentante des États-Unis a acté le progrès réalisé par la Commission l'année précédente pour soutenir l'adoption d'un TAC pour une seule année, avec un accord pour qu'il ne dépasse pas 27 tonnes. Cependant, elle a indiqué que le TAC et le pourcentage de déclenchement étaient inter-dépendants et que par conséquent, la position des États-Unis sur le niveau du TAC dépendait du pourcentage de déclenchement adopté. Le représentant de l'UE a convenu que les deux chiffres étaient inter-dépendants, déclarant pouvoir accepter 27 tonnes mais en lien avec un pourcentage de déclenchement donnant confiance aux membres de la Commission.

8.21 La représentante de DFG a déclaré que, comme l'an dernier, le TAC minimal acceptable par le Groenland était de 27 tonnes pour la pêcherie du Groenland occidental, plus trois tonnes pour la pêcherie du Groenland oriental. Le total de 30 tonnes est considéré par le Groenland comme le minimum acceptable pour sa pêcherie de subsistance qui est source de nourriture pour la population de l'ensemble du Groenland.

8.22 Au cours de discussions approfondies, un accord a été trouvé sur les aspects importants de la mesure de réglementation, spécifiquement: un Total Admissible de Captures ne dépassant pas 27 tonnes; qu'il y aurait une mesure pluriannuelle; et que la première année (c'est à dire 2022) la pêche au Groenland occidental serait fermée lorsque les captures enregistrées atteindraient au maximum 49 % du TAC total.

8.23 Lors des discussions sur le paragraphe 5 de la WGC(22)05rev, le représentant du Canada a demandé à la représentante de DFG d'expliquer leur interprétation de ce paragraphe, en précisant comment ceci serait réalisé par DFG pendant la campagne de pêche. La représentante de DFG a expliqué que le processus de gouvernance pour la création d'annonces publiques de fermeture des pêcheries avait été modifié pour permettre une fermeture plus rapide de la pêche. Le pourcentage de fermeture pour chaque composante de la pêcherie serait estimé en pré-campagne pour chaque zone de gestion et ajusté en tenant compte de paramètres appropriés tels que les prévisions météorologiques, le retard de déclaration observé et attendu, etc.

8.24 Le représentant du Canada a demandé une clarification supplémentaire concernant le paragraphe 5 de la mesure de réglementation projet sur la façon dont DFG se concerterait avec les membres de la Commission au moment où le pourcentage de déclenchement serait examiné pour ajustement. La représentante de DFG a répondu en apportant la clarification que les données seraient présentées dans le rapport annuel sur la pêcherie, pour examen par la Commission, et que sur la base de cet examen les discussions sur le pourcentage pourraient avoir lieu.

8.25 La Commission a convenu d'adopter la Mesure de réglementation pluriannuelle pour la pêche du saumon de l'Atlantique au Groenland occidental, WGC(22)10.

9. Fréquence du reporting sur la pêcherie du saumon du Groenland Occidental

9.1 Le Président a noté que DFG avait demandé que la Commission du Groenland occidental examine sa proposition d'une réduction du nombre de rapports qu'ils soumettent à la Commission chaque année. Dans un exposé des motifs déposé par DFG en 2021, et qui se trouve dans le document WGC(21)06, DFG déclarait:

> *'... un rapport unique couvrant toutes les questions pertinentes réduirait non seulement la charge de travail pour le Groenland mais aussi pour la Commission du Groenland occidental, et assurerait un reporting plus solide pour discussion lors des sessions de la Commission du Groenland occidental.*'

9.2 La représentante de DFG a souligné les efforts réalisés pour gérer la pêcherie, et le fait qu'il y avait un plan de gestion en place pour cinq ans. Elle a demandé en conséquence à la Commission d'accepter un rapport complet unique par an.

9.3 La représentante du RU a soutenu le recours à un rapport unique mais a demandé une clarification de la date de fourniture de ce rapport.

9.4 La représentante de DFG a proposé de maintenir le calendrier des dernières années avec reporting en février.

9.5 La représentante des États-Unis a soutenu la proposition de DFG, sous réserve que DFG informe la Commission de tous changements proposés dans sa réglementation de la pêcherie.

9.6 La Commission a accepté que DFG transmette à la Commission un rapport annuel, attendu en février conformément à la pratique récente.

10. Echantillonnage dans la pêcherie du Groenland occidental

10.1 Le Président a noté que les membres de la Commission du Groenland occidental avaient travaillé en coopération pendant les cinq décennies précédentes pour collecter des données biologiques sur le saumon de l'Atlantique capturé au Groenland occidental. Ces données apportent une contribution essentielle aux évaluations de stocks menées annuellement par le Groupe de travail du CIEM sur le saumon de l'Atlantique nord.

10.2 Un représentant des États-Unis, Tim Sheehan, a fourni des détails sur le Programme d'échantillonnage dans la pêcherie du Groenland occidental en 2020 et 2021.

10.3 La représentante de DFG a souligné que 67 habitants avaient fourni des échantillons issus de la pêcherie du Groenland occidental en 2021. Elle a indiqué que DFG prévoyait de fournir en 2022 un soutien supplémentaire à l'échantillonnage par les habitants, incluant par exemple un prix ou un programme d'incitation.

10.4 Le représentant des ONGs a demandé si les saumons capturés lors du suivi par satellite seraient inclus dans la base de données d'échantillonnage. M. Sheehan a expliqué que ceci n'avait pas encore été fait, parce que ces poissons ne sont pas issus de la pêcherie du Groenland occidental à proprement parler. Toutefois, ceci serait examiné par le Groupe de travail du CIEM sur le saumon de l'Atlantique nord (WGNAS) pour intégration dans le rapport fourni en 2023.

10.5 M. Sheehan a présenté la 'Déclaration projet de coopération pour le Programme d'échantillonnage dans la pêcherie du Groenland occidental pour 2022', WGC(22)08.

10.6 La Commission a décidé d'adopter une 'Déclaration de coopération pour le Programme d'échantillonnage dans la pêcherie du Groenland occidental pour 2022', WGC(22)11 (Annexe 5).

11. Annonce du gagnant du prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des marques

11.1 Le Président a annoncé que le gagnant du prix de £1,000 de la Commission du Groenland occidental dans le Programme incitatif au renvoi des marques de l'OCSAN était Isboseth Jensen de Qaqortoq, Groenland.

11.2 La marque a été posée sur un saumon femelle sauvage adulte retournant à la rivière Margaree (Nouvelle-Ecosse, Canada) en 2021. Le poisson a été capturé comme stock reproducteur par la Direction des Pêches et de l'Aquaculture de Nouvelle-Ecosse, a frayé et a reçu un marquage externe par apposition d'une étiquette Carlin bleu clair dans le cadre du programme d'évaluation du saumon de l'Atlantique dans la rivière Margaree de Pêches et Océans Canada (DFO). Le poisson marqué a été recapturé dans la région de Qaqortoq, son poids total étant estimé à 4,5 kg. Le pêcheur a transmis directement la marque à l'Institut des Ressources Naturelles du Groenland.

12. Recommandations au Conseil concernant la demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM

12.1 La Commission a décidé de renvoyer l'examen de la demande de conseils scientifiques au CIEM relative à la Commission du Groenland occidental au Conseil. La demande au CIEM, telle qu'adoptée par le Conseil, se trouve dans le document CNL(22)13 (Annexe 6).

13. Divers

13.1 Il n'y a pas eu de point divers.

14. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

14.1 La Commission a accepté de tenir sa prochaine session annuelle à la même date et au même lieu que la quarantième session annuelle du Conseil.

15. Compte rendu de la session

15.1 La Commission a accepté un compte rendu de sa session.

16. Clôture de la session

16.1 La représentante des États-Unis a fourni une déclaration de clôture, comme suit:

> *'M. le Président, Madame la Secrétaire, Distingués Délégués, Observateurs, Mesdames et Messieurs:*
>
> *Nous aimerions profiter de cette opportunité pour exprimer notre profonde appréciation aux membres de la Commission du Groenland occidental pour leur esprit de coopération dans la recherche d'une issue sur une mesure de réglementation pluriannuelle cette année. La route a été difficile pour arriver à ce point, mais les États-Unis sont satisfaits du résultat. La coopération et l'ouverture dont tous ont fait preuve lors de ces derniers jours et semaines nous a conduits à trouver des approches innovantes qui ont contribué à surmonter nos différences en ce qui concerne la gestion de la pêcherie. Bravo, en particulier, au Groupe de travail ad hoc données. Sans leur travail acharné pour trouver une approche basée sur la science afin d'appuyer une prise de décision éclairée, nous n'en serions pas là où nous sommes. De notre point de vue, l'engagement de tous les membres pour trouver une solution a été clairement démontré et a été soutenu sans commune mesure par le fait que nous avons finalement pu travailler ensemble en personne. Nous sommes impatients de voir comment l'approche très créative adoptee dans cette mesure de gestion multilatérale fonctionnera en pratique.*
>
> *Merci, M. le Président.'*

16.2 La représentante du RU a appuyé la déclaration de clôture des États-Unis et a marqué son appréciation quant à l'esprit des négociations. Les représentants de l'UE, du Canada et de DFG ont appuyé la déclaration de la même façon.

16.3 Le représentant des ONGs a fourni une déclaration de clôture:

> *'Les ONGs souhaitent remercier la Commission d'avoir permis notre participation à des débats la plupart du temps ouverts, aussi bien aux réunions en inter-session qu'aux sessions annuelles de cette Commission. Nous sommes cependant déçus que le niveau de quota adopté soit le même que l'année précédente, compte tenu de l'état précaire de beaucoup des stocks de saumon en Amérique du Nord et en Europe du Sud qui contribuent à cette pêcherie. Nous pensions aussi qu'une réduction du quota à un chiffre beaucoup plus faible était justifiée suite aux dépassements de quota qui se sont produits lors des quatre dernières années.*
>
> *Nous accueillons favorablement le nouveau mécanisme de fermeture introduit dans la mesure de réglementation adoptée, qui devrait conduire à un meilleur*

contrôle du quota, et nous sommes impatients d'examiner les résultats, dès que possible, après la fermeture de la pêche à l'automne 2022.'

16.4 Le Président a remercié les membres de la Commission et les observateurs pour leurs contributions et a clos la trente-neuvième session annuelle de la Commission du Groenland occidental.

List of Annexes

Annex 1

Opening Statements to the West Greenland Commission Submitted by Members of the Commission

Opening Statement to the West Greenland Commission Submitted by Canada

With the exception of some areas in Labrador, Atlantic salmon stocks in eastern Canada continue to show long-term declines over the past 40 years despite continued support by the Government of Canada, provincial governments and local jurisdictions with habitat conservation programs and increasingly restrictive fisheries management measures, including reduced or eliminated retention limits in recreational fisheries and reduced harvests in Indigenous fisheries.

We appreciate the extensive work that Greenland has done in recent years, notably eliminating factory landings, and introducing mandatory license requirements for everyone fishing for Atlantic salmon. Canada will work through the West Greenland Commission to support Demark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to further strengthen its monitoring, control, reporting, and sampling measures going forward to ensure that agreed total allowable catches are respected.

We welcome the continued improvement in the number of fishers reporting catches and the timeliness of reporting in Greenland in 2019. However, we note with concern the over-harvest in the fishery in 2019, following an over-harvest in 2018. We encourage Greenland to improve measures to better quantify, monitor and control the subsistence fishery at West Greenland.

In the upcoming year, as we have done in the past, Canada is committed to work with other parties to reach decisions on NASCO regulatory measures that are effective, practical, and above all address our common conservation objectives for wild Atlantic salmon with mutually agreeable catch limits and effective monitoring regimes.

In 2019, Canada continued to support and to participate in the international sampling program of the fishery at Greenland by providing one sampler for a two week period to collect samples, to conduct DNA analyses on tissue collected from harvested salmon, to age scales collected from the fishery, and to maintain the sampling database.

International participation in sampling programs in 2020 will likely prove to be more challenging given the coronavirus pandemic and consequent restrictions on travel. Nevertheless, Canada remains committed to assisting with this important work to the extent possible given the evolving constraints imposed by the pandemic.

The importance of this West Greenland Commission meeting continues to be reinforced by the continued decline of many of our salmon stocks in Canada. In terms of work carried out under the framework of this Commission, Canada would like to thank the Government of Greenland for reports it submitted this year. We look forward to continue to work together to ensure successful sampling in 2020, and the establishment of an effective new Regulatory Measure in 2021.

Thank you,

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Opening Statement to the West Greenland Commission Submitted by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Mr. Chairman, Ms. Secretary, distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, Greenland would like to thank the Secretariat for their extensive work, under ever so fast changing circumstances, on facilitating yet another meeting of the West Greenland Commission.

During the last year, the West Greenland Commission has held two intersessional meetings. The focus of the Commissions meetings has entirely revolved around the quota uptake of Greenland.

During the last meetings, some of the obstacles in the Greenlandic management of the salmon became clearer, as this fishery is completely different from all other fisheries in Greenland, and new management requirements has made every year. The introduction of a Management Plan is giving stability, giving subsistence fishermen a fair chance of learning all the special requirements. Greenland hope that we will meet understanding and acknowledgement, that adaptation takes time. Greenland has been very collaborative, completely transparent and continues to share extensive data and take new measures in order improve the efforts made in Greenland, and to show NASCO the willingness to continue improving the management.

We believe that we have made significant progress in the work towards agreeing on a new regulatory measure. As we aim to reach an agreement during this meeting, we want to stress the need for stability in the management of the salmon fishery and therefore the importance of agreeing on a measure that can be valid for several years. In our work, we also want to underlined the need to be aware of the limited resources that the Government of Greenland has available and the continued demand for more detailed data reporting and initiatives from the Parties.

If we aim to conserve and restore wild Atlantic salmon, this organization has to point out all threats to the population and accordingly act on all threats to the population.

The latest ICES advice states that: "*Despite major changes in fisheries management in the past few decades and increasingly more restrictive fisheries measures, returns have remained low compared to historical levels. It is likely, therefore, that other factors besides fisheries are constraining production."*

In our opinion, these factors must be of the greatest interest to NASCO, but also to the West Greenland Commission and we hope we can increase our efforts on mitigating these other factors such as migration obstacles, predation, invasive species and habitat improvements moving forward.

Mr. Chairman, it is our hope that all members of the West Greenland Commission will contribute to improve conditions for the Atlantic Salmon population by taking responsibility for our own respective areas and actions.

Greenland looks forward to a week of productive discussions.

Thank you.

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Opening Statement to the West Greenland Commission Submitted by the United States

Mr. Chair, Madam Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

We would like to underscore all the hard work that has occurred intersessionally this year to develop a new regulatory measure for the West Greenland fishery as well as our appreciation for the commitment that the Members of the Commission have shown to trying to find a way forward that is agreeable to all. Given all that work, we are cautiously optimistic that we can reach a resolution that all Members can agree to this week. We would like to thank Denmark (in respect to the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in particular, for their efforts towards revising the draft regulatory measure and working cooperatively with the other Members prior to this Annual Meeting. That said, we still have much work to do to address the remaining challenging issues. While we will do our best to help find a way forward, we must recall the very poor status of many stocks that mix off West Greenland, including endangered U.S. populations, and the longstanding scientific advice for no fishery. In light of this advice, the United States considers that the only truly defensible action this Commission could take this week is a complete fishery closure. Short of that, the total allowable catch must be kept to a minimum and be fully respected within any future regulatory measure. For any new regulatory measure to serve its intended purpose of conserving and rationally managing Atlantic salmon, it is critical that steps are taken to ensure that the overharvest that has occurred each year of the past two regulatory measures is finally prevented. From our perspective, the ability of this Commission to meet face-to-face once again will greatly facilitate communication and collaboration. This is essential to our finding an approach that balances the need to protect particularly vulnerable Atlantic salmon stocks that contribute to the fishery while fulfilling Denmark's (in respect to the Faroe Islands and Greenland) desire to continue to have a small internal use fishery. We look forward to cooperative and productive discussions over the course of this Annual Meeting.

Thank you.

Annex 2

2022 List of Participants

* Denotes Head of Delegation

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Annex 3

WGC(22)07

Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edinburgh, Scotland

6 – 9 June 2022

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Election of Officers
5. ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
6. Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting(s) of the West Greenland Commission
7. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
8. Regulatory Measures
9. Frequency of Reporting on the West Greenland Salmon Fishery
10. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery
11. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
12. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
13. Other Business
14. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
15. Report of the Meeting
16. Close of the Meeting

WGC(22)14

‘Data Working Group’ Overview

Ruth Allin, Cathal Gallagher, Magnus Hansen, Seamus Howard, Dale Marsden, Mick Millane, Tim Sheehan, Alan Walker

Updated June 6, 2022

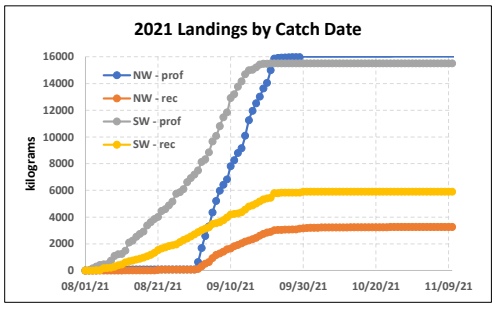
Charge

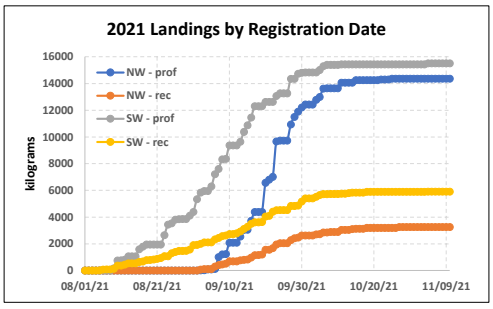
Retrospective analysis of 2018-2021 fishery data to determine what TAC uptake percentages could have been used as ‘triggers’ to close the fishery to prevent overharvest

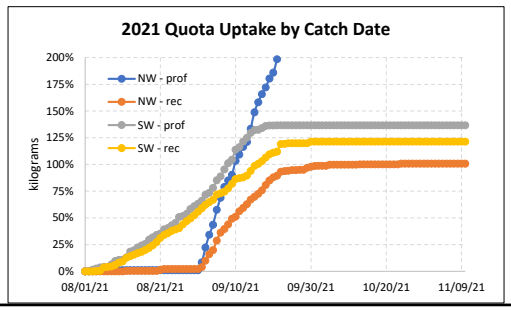
Process

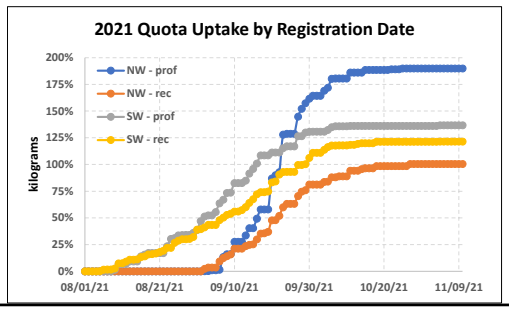
- Data available for 2019-2021 fisheries
  - Catch date
  - Registration date
  - Harvest (kg) by region and license type
- 2019-2020
  - 1 region and 1 quota
- 2021
  - 4(2) regions, 2 license types, 6(4) quotas
    - Entire fishery(West Greenland focus only)
- Retrospectively compared harvest timelines to determine optimal percentage quota uptake necessary to fulfill, but not exceed quota

Data (2021)



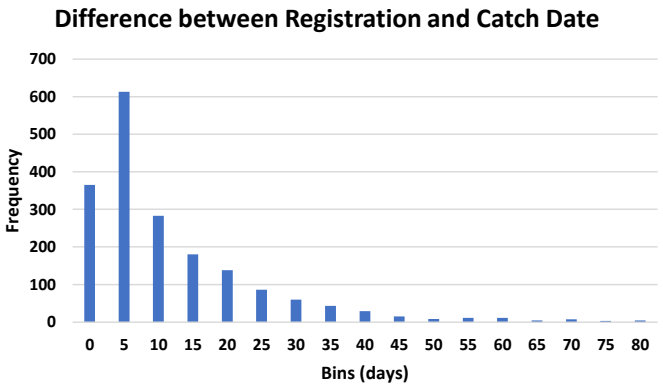




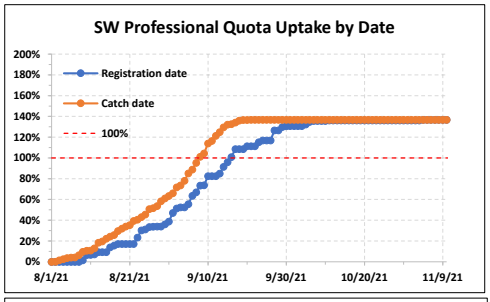


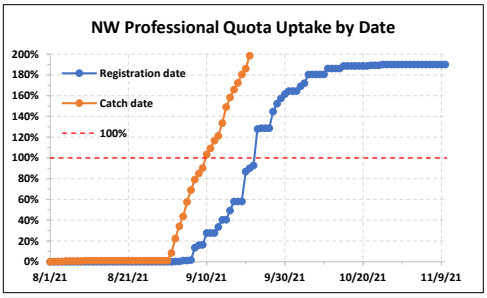
Reporting Biases?

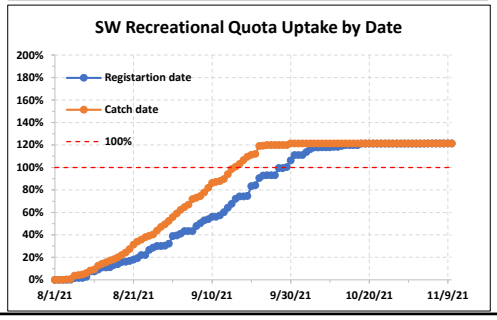
- Catch and Registration date differ
  - Minimum = 0
  - Maximum = 80
  - Mean = 10
- Majority (68%) within 10 days
- No apparent biases
  - Date
  - Harvest amount

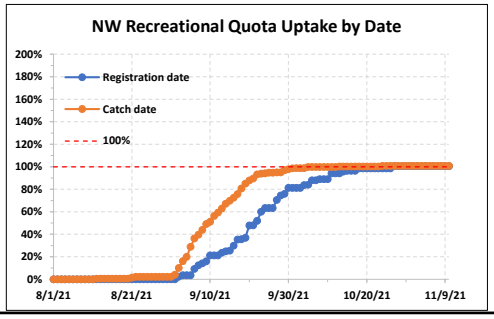


Registration versus Catch Date



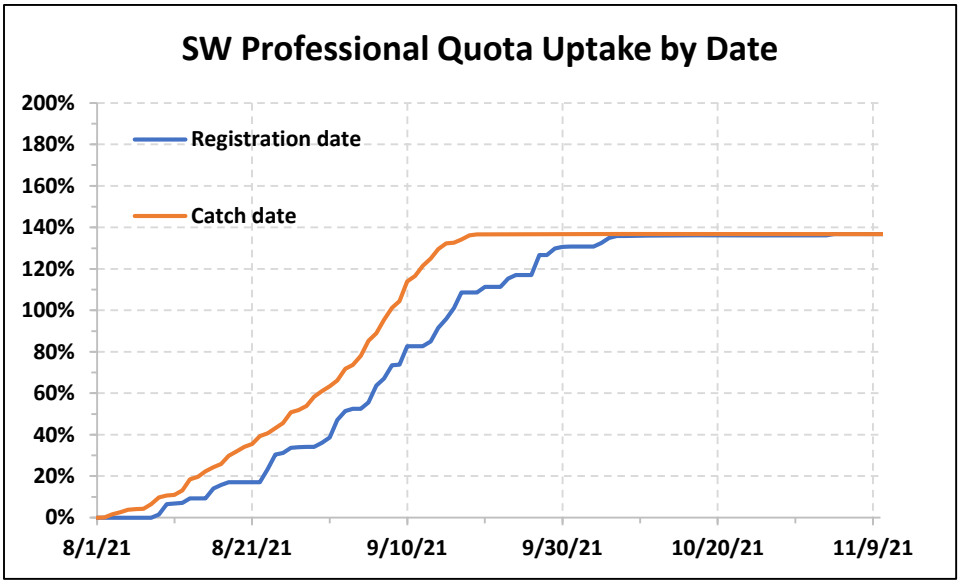


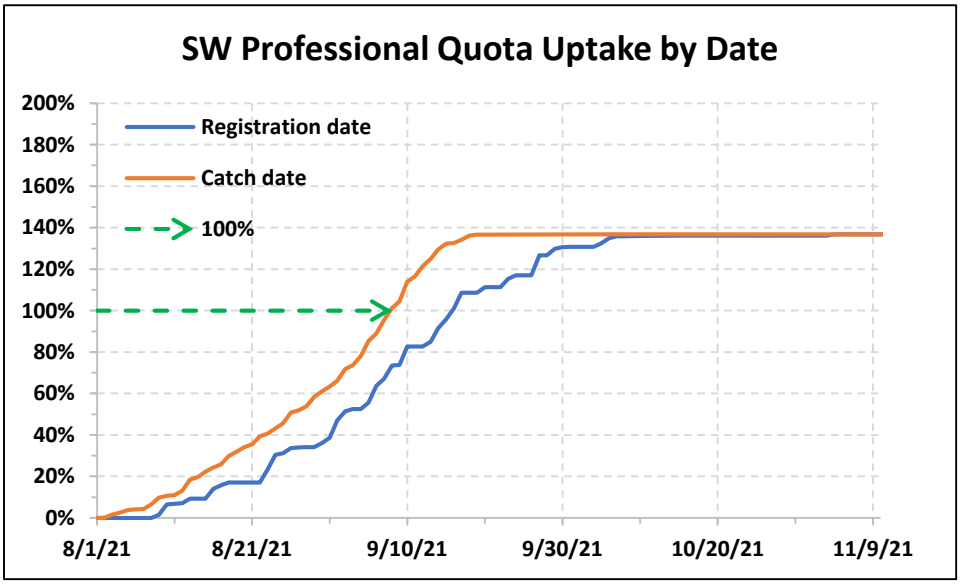


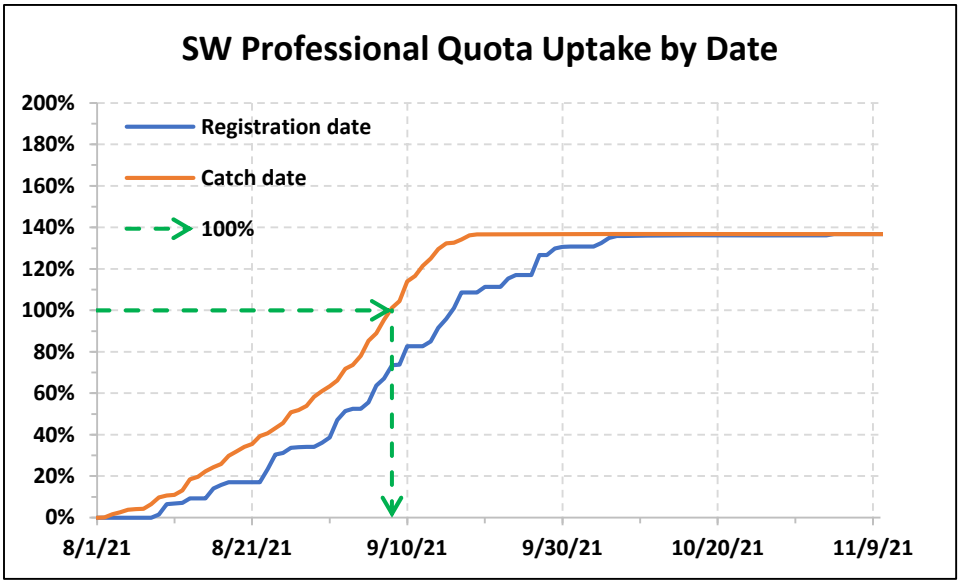


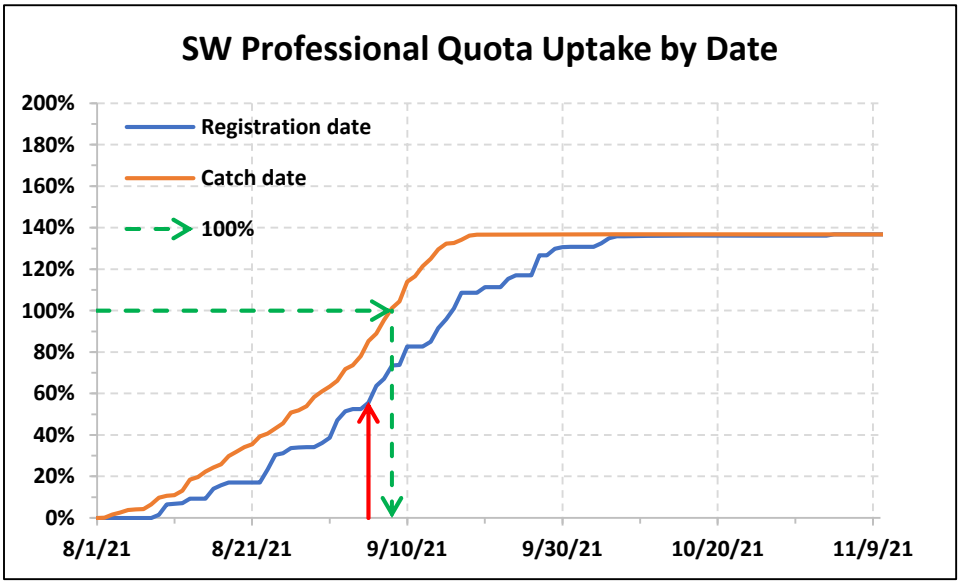
Example of process

for one year/area/license type




SW Professional Quota Uptake by Date
200%
180%
160%
140%
120%
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Registration date
Catch date
100%
8/1/21
8/21/21
9/10/21
9/30/21
10/20/21
11/9/21


SW Professional Quota Uptake by Date
200%
180%
160%
140%
120%
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Registration date
Catch date
100%
8/1/21
8/21/21
9/10/21
9/30/21
10/20/21
11/9/21


SW Professional Quota Uptake by Date
200%
180%
160%
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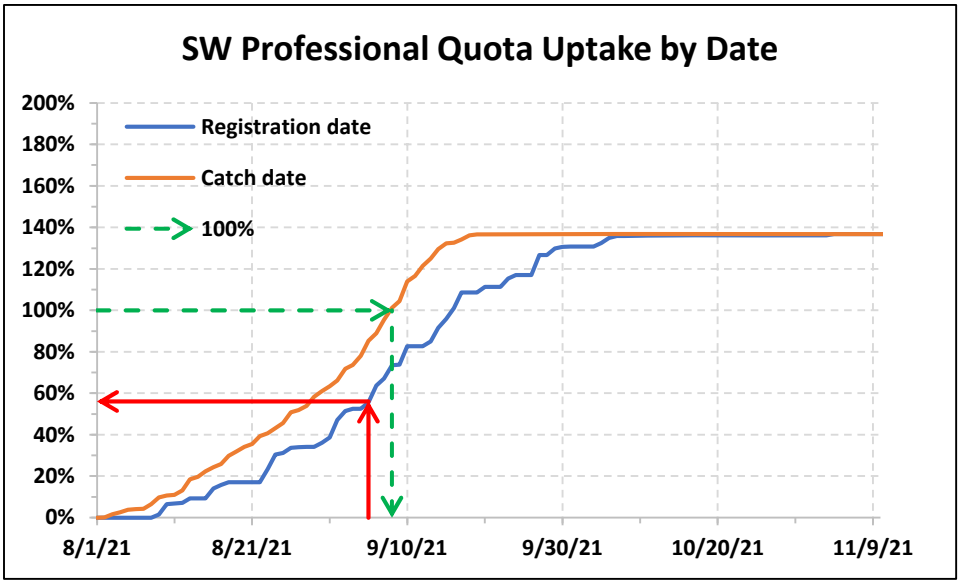
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Registration date
Catch date
100%
8/1/21
8/21/21
9/10/21
9/30/21
10/20/21
11/9/21


SW Professional Quota Uptake by Date
200%
180%
160%
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120%
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
Registration date
Catch date
100%
8/1/21
8/21/21
9/10/21
9/30/21
10/20/21
11/9/21

Repeat

for each area/license type (2021) or overall (2019 and 2020)

Results

	2019	2020	2021			
	Total	Total	NW - prof	NW - rec	SW - prof	SW – rec
opening date	8/15/19	9/1/20	09/01/21	09/01/21	08/01/21	08/01/21
closing date	9/25/19	9/20/20	09/22/21	10/01/21	09/15/21	09/22/21
season (days)	41	19	21	30	45	52
quota (kg)	19.5	20.7	7.56	3.24	11.34	4.86
harvest (kg)	28.80	30.70	15.86	3.26	14.95	5.90
overage (kg)	9.30	10.00	8.30	0.02	3.61	1.04
total quota uptake	148%	148%	210%	101%	132%	121%
>100% quota date (Catch)	9/17/19	9/13/20	09/10/21	10/13/21	09/08/21	09/16/21
days fished	33	12	9	42	38	46
3 days prior	9/14/19	9/10/20	09/07/21	10/10/21	09/05/21	09/13/21
% quota uptake (Registered)	**54%**	**6%**	**13%**	**89%**	**56%**	**60%**

Results - Sums

	2019	2020	2021			
	Total	Total	NW - prof	NW - rec	SW - prof	SW – rec
individual	54%	6%	13%	89%	56%	60%
2021 average				55%		
2021 wt'd average				49%		
Overall average			38%			
Overall wt'd average			39%			

Caveats

- 3 years of data
  - 2 different data types
  - Annual variation
- Past performance does not guarantee future performance
  - May be indicative
  - Best available
  - Ability to inform increases with increasing data
- Management target - 100% quota uptake
- 3-day notification period
- Minor data issues

Scenario Testing (2021 only)

Scenario		NW - prof	NW - rec	SW - prof	SW - rec	Total	% total TAC
16% (NW - prof)	Reg (date+3)	09/11/21	09/12/21	08/20/21	08/21/21		
	Catch (harvest)	8.26	1.92	3.86	1.52	15.57	58%
81% (NW - rec)	Reg (date+3)	09/23/21	10/03/21	09/13/21	09/23/21		
	Catch (harvest)	15.92	3.20	14.17	5.80	39.10	145%
56% (SW - prof)	Reg (date+3)	09/20/21	09/26/21	09/08/21	09/13/21		
	Catch (harvest)	14.06	3.07	11.48	4.36	32.98	122%
60% (SW - rec)	Reg (date+3)	09/23/21	09/26/21	09/09/21	09/16/21		
	Catch (harvest)	15.92	3.07	11.85	4.89	35.74	132%
55% (average)	Reg (date+3)	09/20/21	09/26/21	09/08/21	09/11/21		
	Catch (harvest)	14.06	3.07	11.48	4.24	32.86	122%
49% (wt'd average)	Reg (date+3)	9/19/2021	9/25/2021	9/5/2021	9/10/2021		
	Catch (harvest)	13.64	3.07	9.67	4.19	30.57	113%

Annex 5

WGC(22)11

Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme for 2022

The West Greenland Commission recognises the important contribution of sound biological data to science-based management decisions for fisheries prosecuted in the West Greenland Commission area. The members of the West Greenland Commission have worked co-operatively over the past five decades to collect biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland. These data provide critical inputs to the stock assessments completed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon annually.

The objectives of the sampling program in 2022 are to:

- Continue the time series of data (1969-2021) on continent of origin and biological characteristics of the Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland fishery;
- Provide data on mean weight, length, age, and continent of origin for use in the North American and European Atlantic salmon run-reconstruction models;
- Collect information on the recovery of internal and external tags.

To this end, members participating in the sampling program in 2022 plan to collect:

- Biological characteristics data including lengths and weights of landed fish;
- Information on tags, fin clips, and other marks;
- Scale samples to be used for age and growth analyses;
- Tissue samples to be used for genetic analyses;
- Other biological data requested by ICES scientists and NASCO co-operators.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following staff inputs to the co-operative sampling program at West Greenland during the 2022 fishing season:

- The European Union[1]: provide a minimum of 6 person weeks[2] to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- The United Kingdom: provide a minimum of 2 person weeks[2] to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- Canada: provide a minimum of 2 person weeks[2] to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- The United States: provide a minimum of 2 person weeks[2] to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;

[1] Ireland (2 samplers) and France (1 sampler).
[2] For the purposes of this statement of co-operation, a person week of sampling is defined as a trained individual who works on site in West Greenland to collect samples of Atlantic salmon for a period of 7 days.

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources: sample Atlantic salmon from the city of Nuuk on a weekly basis;
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources: implement a Citizen Science sampling program for the sampling of Atlantic salmon;
- The United States: provide a Sampling Program Co-ordinator to co-ordinate the sampling program; and
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the Sampling Program Co-ordinator: provide support for the sampling program by facilitating the sampling of Atlantic salmon by the samplers identified above.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following technical support for sample analysis and data collected at West Greenland during the 2022 fishing season:

- The United States: provide oversight for the processing of all collected biological samples;
- The United States: report the sampling program results to the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon in support of the stock assessment completed by this group;
- The United States: co-ordinate the publishing of a report that details the results of the sampling program in co-operation with institutes participating in the sampling program via a participating institution's official report series;
- Canada: provide single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis of tissue samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland;
- Canada: provide ageing of scale samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland;
- Canada: maintain the historical West Greenland sampling database; and
- The United Kingdom (England & Wales): act as a clearing house for coded wire tags recovered from the fishery.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following co-ordination activities in support of the co-operative sampling program at West Greenland during the 2022 fishing season:

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland): inform persons designated by participating members of the West Greenland Commission of important developments in the management of the West Greenland fishery, including planned openings and closures of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland;
- The United States: the Sampling Program Co-ordinator is expected to determine the allocation of available scientific sampling personnel to ensure spatial and temporal coverage to characterize both the fishery and the Atlantic salmon populations along the West Greenland coast;
- The United States: the Sampling Program Co-ordinator will work with participating samplers to provide fishers and market supervisors with information explaining the rationale for the sampling program; and

- All members of the West Greenland Commission participating in the sampling program are expected to share access to resulting data and work co-operatively in the publication of information and to disseminate the findings of the sampling programme through appropriate venues.

Performance of activities set forth in this Statement of Co-operation are subject to the availability of appropriated funds under domestic law. Each member should make reasonable and good faith efforts to secure the necessary funds to implement fully its intended activities identified in this Statement of Co-operation. If compliance with domestic law and / or the lack of sufficient funds or other legitimate circumstances prevailing at the time impairs a participating member's ability to implement this Statement of Co-operation, the participating member should notify the other members as soon as possible.

Annex 6

CNL(22)13

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:

1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings by country, including unreported catches and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2021 and 2022[1];

1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management[2];

1.3 provide information on causes of variability in return rates between rivers within regions in the North Atlantic;

1.4 provide a summary of the most recent findings of ongoing research projects investigating the marine phase of Atlantic salmon (e.g. SeaSalar, SeaMonitor, SAMARCH, satellite tagging at Greenland);

1.5 provide a summary of the current state of knowledge on freshwater and marine predation by cormorants and impact on stocks;

1.6 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2021 and 2022; and

1.7 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:

2.1 describe the key events of the 2021 and 2022 fisheries[3];

2.2 review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;

2.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;

2.4 advise on the risks of salmon bycatch occuring in pelagic and coastal fisheries, and report on effectiveness and adequacy of current bycatch monitoring programs;

In the event that NASCO informs ICES (response requested by 31 January) that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required:

2.5 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2023/2024 - 2025/2026 fishing seasons, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding[4] and;

2.6 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice; and

3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:

3.1 describe the key events of the 2021 and 2022 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)[3];

3.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;

3.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction;

4. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:

4.1 describe the key events of the 2021 and 2022 fisheries[3];

4.2 describe the status of the stocks[5];

Notes:

1. With regard to question 1.1, for the estimates of unreported catch the information provided should, where possible, indicate the location of the unreported catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Numbers of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries should be provided.

2. With regard to question 1.2, ICES is requested to include reports on any significant advances in understanding of the biology of Atlantic salmon that is pertinent to NASCO.

3. In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Information on any other sources of fishing mortality for salmon is also requested. For 4.1, if any new surveys are conducted and reported to ICES, ICES should review the results and advise on the appropriateness of incorporating resulting estimates into the assessment process.

4. In response to question 2.5 provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice and report on any developments in relation to incorporating environmental variables in these models. Also provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any concerns with salmon data collected in 2022 which may affect the catch advice considering the restrictions on data collection programmes and fisheries due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

5. In response to question 4.2, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.3 and 3.3.

Attendees:

Sergey Prusov (NEAC, manager representative); regrets sent for meeting of June 06.

Peder Fiske (NEAC, scientist representative)

Isabelle Morisset (NAC, manager representative)

Tim Sheehan (NAC, scientist representative)

Sissel Fredsgaard (WGC, manager representative)

Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)

Dennis Ensing (ICES representative, Observer)

Livia Goodbrand (Co-ordinator)

New questions, originator:

- 1.3: Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)
- 1.4: EU- Finland
- 1.5: EU- Denmark
- 2.6: NGO