

WGC(06)6

Regulatory Measure for the Fishing for Salmon at West Greenland for 2006, with possible application in 2007 and 2008

RECALLING that the Parties to the West Greenland Commission have previously agreed regulatory measures for the West Greenland fishery based on the scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES);

RECALLING that NASCO has requested that the ICES advice for 2006 include annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2006-2008 for the West Greenland Commission area;

RECALLING that in 2005 the West Greenland Commission committed to explore the possibility during the 2006 Annual Session of adopting regulatory measures on a multi-annual basis, subject to revision in case of unforeseen developments, as suggested within the 'Next Steps' Process;

ACKNOWLEDGING the good work undertaken by Greenland to improve the estimates of the annual catches of salmon taken for private sales and local consumption in Greenland and encourage Greenland to continue this work;

COMMITTING to continue to cooperate in the design and implementation of a sampling program that will be closely coordinated with the fishery;

CONSIDERING that ICES considers the stock complex at West Greenland to be below the conservation limit and thus suffering reduced reproductive capacity;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that ICES has advised that there should be no catch on the stocks at West Greenland in 2006, 2007 or 2008;

RECOGNIZING that ICES considers it highly unlikely that the catch options provided for the West Greenland Commission will change during the next three years;

RECOGNIZING that a Framework of Indicators has not yet been provided by ICES;

The Parties agree that:

- (1) In 2006 the catch at West Greenland will be restricted to that amount used for internal consumption in Greenland, which in the past has been estimated at 20 tons annually. There will be no commercial export of salmon.
- (2) This regulatory measure would also apply in 2007 and 2008 if the following two conditions are met:
 - (a) A Framework of Indicators is provided by ICES; and
 - (b) The Parties to the West Greenland Commission accept the Framework of Indicators for use in the interim years to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual advice.
- (3) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will inform NASCO of the outcome of the 2006, 2007, and 2008 fisheries.