



**REPORT OF THE
THIRTY-SIXTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION**

5 – 7 JUNE 2019

Tromsø, Norway

Chair: Carl McLean (Canada)

Vice-Chair: Kimberly Damon-Randall (USA)

Rapporteur: Ian Russell (European Union)

Secretary: Emma Hatfield

WGC(19)10

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

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway

5 – 7 June 2019

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair, Carl McLean (Canada), opened the Meeting and welcomed delegates to Tromsø. He thanked the hosts for the beautiful venue and surroundings for the meeting, and the Secretariat for the preparations made for the Annual Meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair advised that there would be no verbal opening statements this year. Written Opening Statements were tabled by Canada, the United States and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (Annex 1).
- 1.3 A list of participants at the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO is included as Annex 2.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Draft Agenda issued to all delegates on 18 April 2019 included an item on the report of an Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission. It was subsequently agreed that there would not be an Inter-Sessional Meeting. The Commission therefore agreed that this item (Item 5) should be removed from the agenda. The Commission adopted its revised Agenda, WGC(19)08 (Annex 3).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Ian Russell (European Union) was appointed as Rapporteur for the meeting.

4. Review of the 2018 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

- 4.1 The Chair noted that a new three-year regulatory measure came into effect in 2018. He asked the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG) to introduce document WGC(19)04, describing the events in the West Greenland salmon fishery in 2018. The Chair reminded members of the Commission that issues related to the 2019 fishery should be raised under a later agenda item.
- 4.2 The representative of DFG indicated that, in accordance with the regulatory measure (WGC(18)11), the quota for the Greenland fishery in 2018 was set at 30 t for the entire fishery, this to include all sectors of the fishery. A new Executive Order for salmon fishing came into effect in 2018 in order to implement the requirements within the regulatory measure, such as the need for all fishers to hold licenses, mandatory reporting, including of zero-catches, and no licenses being issued to Atlantic salmon fishers who have not provided a full catch report in the previous year. Salmon fishers were required to report daily, or every time their nets were mended, either directly to the Greenlandic Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK), or indirectly through the municipalities. There were no landings of Atlantic salmon to factories in 2018. The

season again ran from 15 August – 31 October, unless the quota was exhausted earlier, and the export ban on salmon was also continued. The representative of DFG advised that the total catch recorded by the authorities on 31 October was 18.4 t. However, it became apparent that certain catches had not been registered and the total catch, taking account of reports received subsequently, rose to 26.8 t.

- 4.3 Following the close of the fishery, a letter was sent to fishers who had held a license in 2018 but had not reported, which reminded them of the obligation to report and of the consequences of non-reporting. A press release was also issued by the Ministry. These actions resulted in a number of reports being received after the fishery had closed, although some fishers stated that they had reported but had still received a reminder letter. Other factors had contributed to reporting difficulties in 2018, including a number of fishers without digital skills or tools who had reported in paper form to their municipal office, but where reports had not subsequently been forwarded to GFLK. Some reports had also been wrongly registered in GFLK. As a result of the final adjustments, the final reported catch rose to 40.5 t.
- 4.4 In response to questions from the representative of the United States, the representative of DFG advised that the private fishery had closed on 19 October, while the professional fishery had closed on 31 October. She also confirmed that the majority of fish landed were recorded as gutted weights, but that these were adjusted and reported to ICES as whole weights. Since a small number of fish may be landed and reported as whole weights, this might result in a small element of over-reporting of the total reported weight. Responding to a question from the representative of Canada, the representative of DFG indicated that 75% of professional fishers and 70% of private fishers had reported their landings in 2018.
- 4.5 The representative of the United States asked if there had been any follow-up of those fishers who had not reported and also asked for clarification about the reduction in the proportion of the private-use catch reported by professional fishers between 2017 and 2018. The representative of DFG indicated that Greenland had already contacted non-respondents and indicated that when the new quota for 2019 is announced, and new licenses are applied for, this would provide a further opportunity to seek information on catches in the previous year. She further clarified that this could lead to an additional revision of the reported catch for 2018. If so, there would be a commensurate reduction in the quota for 2019. With regard to the private catch, the representative of DFG indicated that 20 t of the 2018 quota had been allocated to professional fishers and 10 t to private fishers but suggested that the new licensing procedures may have accounted for some confusion in what to report when. This may have accounted for the reduction in professional fishers reporting private-use landings.
- 4.6 In response to questions from the representative of the NGOs, the representative of DFG confirmed that there had been no change to the conditions attached to professional licenses in 2018. The only change had been the introduction of licenses for private fishers; separate licenses were also required to fish for other species and for hunting. She further clarified that the rules about reporting applied to all fishers and that it would not be possible for a professional fisher who had failed to report previously to be issued a private license. She also advised that professional fishers were allowed to sell fish to outlets other than open-air markets where there was no open-air market in the local community.
- 4.7 It was noted that detailed written answers had been prepared by the representative of DFG in response to additional questions from the representative of the United States

that had been sent by email. It was agreed that this additional information would be made available to the Commission as document WGC(19)07 (Annex 4).

- 4.8 A representative of ICES, Martha Robertson, presented a report on the scientific advice on salmon stocks in the West Greenland Commission area based on the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM) report, CNL(19)08. This report contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions. Dr Robertson's presentation to the Commission is available as document WGC(19)11 (Annex 5).
- 4.9 In response to a question from the representative of the United States in relation to the implications of better spatial and temporal coverage in the West Greenland sampling programme, ICES confirmed that the more samples were collected the more confident one could be in the results and in supporting management efforts to help protect the weakest stocks. In response to a question from the Chair, ICES stated that there was no clear explanation for the increase in the proportion of North American fish in the harvest at West Greenland in the past three years, but that this may represent the distribution of sampling effort and annual variability in the continent of origin of fish available to the fishery.

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

- 5.1 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 agenda items in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries (MSFs).
- 5.2 Canada (NAC(19)03) and the European Union (NEA(19)06) tabled papers providing 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.
- 5.3 A representative of Canada provided a summary of the subsistence (food, social, and ceremonial) fisheries that operate in coastal and estuarine areas of Labrador and are prosecuted by indigenous groups and Labrador residents. The management of these fisheries includes a number of controls related to gear, seasons, weekly closures, carcass tagging of harvested salmon, a logbook programme for reporting catches, a limit on total harvest using tags and a prohibition on sales. In 2018, the recorded harvest was 33 t which was slightly lower than in previous years. Sampling in the fisheries had resulted in biological characteristics being recorded for 7% of the fish landed and 4% had been subject to genetic analysis to determine area of origin. As reported in previous years, this confirmed that the fish exploited in the different fisheries were almost exclusively fish from local regional river groups. No fish of U.S.-origin had been detected in the samples collected in 2018 (two U.S.-origin fish had been detected in 2017). Sampling is planned to continue in 2019.
- 5.4 In response to a question from the representative of the NGOs, Canada confirmed that 73% of logbooks had been returned from the fishers in these fisheries in 2018 and that the total catch was estimated by raising the declared catch by the proportion of returns received. The reporting rates for the four groups operating in the different Labrador fisheries ranged from 69% to 100%. In response to a further question from the representative of the NGOs, Canada indicated that the reporting groups were of very different sizes so the reported average of 73% and the range of reporting rates were not

inconsistent. The representative of the NGOs further noted that the approach used in Canada to derive the reported catch – i.e. adjusting according to the proportion of returns received – differed in other jurisdictions. The representative of the NGOs indicated that had such an approach been used in Greenland, the reported catch in 2018 would have risen by some 10 t to 14 t.

- 5.5 A representative of the European Union provided an overview of the MSFs in the EU, NEA(19)06. The fishery in the River Teno (Finland) operates in the main stem of the river but exploits a number of genetically different populations from different tributary populations. In Ireland there are currently two MSFs that are exploiting stocks that are above their CLs and which are managed to safeguard the weakest stocks. There are three MSFs in UK (England and Wales). The previous coastal MSFs in Sweden and UK (Scotland) remain closed. The catches in the remaining MSFs in 2018 were: 21 t in the River Teno (an additional catch of 28 t was taken in Norwegian catches), Ireland (2.6 t) and UK (England and Wales) (35.9 t).
- 5.6 With regard to recent management changes, the representative of the European Union advised that the Parliaments in Finland and Norway have accepted a bilateral fishery agreement which came into force in 2017. This relates to river fisheries, including MSFs in the main stem of the river; coastal MSFs are under Norwegian management. The new regulations in Finland had resulted in a 30% reduction of fishing pressure on the weakest stocks by tailoring fishery regulations to particular areas, at particular times and on specific fishing methods. A recovery plan is in preparation to ensure the recovery of the weakest stocks in a time frame of 2 to 3 salmon generations.
- 5.7 In UK (England and Wales), the phase out of the Anglian coastal fishery is continuing and it will be mandatory to release any salmon caught in the fishery from 2019. New proposals are under development for the fishery on the River Severn. Catch limits have applied on the different gears operating in this fishery and these are designed to safeguard the weakest contributing stocks. Under new national measures for England approved in December 2018, the drift net fishery on the North-East coast of England was closed, bringing forward the closure date previously set for the end of the 2022 netting season. In addition, new restrictions come into force for the T and J net fishery from 2019. These shorten the fishing season in some districts and impose mandatory release of any salmon caught. Fishers will thus only be permitted to land sea trout and allowed to operate their nets in areas / times when sea trout typically predominate in the catch. The fishery also remains subject to a phase-out as fishers retire. The introduction of the new national measures in England means there will be no salmon taken in coastal MSFs in UK (England and Wales) from 2019.
- 5.8 The representative of the NGOs indicated that concerns had been raised about the impact of a MSF in the Adour Estuary in France and in relation to possible by catch of salmon in other coastal fisheries in the area, which had not been reported on by the EU. The representative of the European Union expressed concern and indicated that this would be investigated further.

6. Regulatory Measures – Any Matters Arising

- 6.1 The Chair noted that at its Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting (2018), the Commission had adopted a Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Salmon at West Greenland, WGC(18)11. This placed additional requirements on Greenland around licensing, monitoring and harvest levels. The Chair recognised the progress Greenland had made with regard to new monitoring and control measures and their willingness to

improve on the implementation of these measures and thanked the representative of DFG. He then asked her to present document WGC(19)05 containing the evaluation of the 2018 fishery and the proposed measures for the 2019 fishery. It was noted that document WGC(19)05 would replace the report required under paragraph 4 of WGC(18)11, which is usually issued in August.

- 6.2 The representative of DFG acknowledged that there had been unforeseen reporting issues in 2018. Once these shortcomings had become apparent, Greenland had actively considered how they could improve procedures for the coming season, meetings were held with interested parties and a plan was produced. A key issue identified was the need to avoid misreporting within their own internal catch-recording systems and plans had been advanced to update a database to ensure that all catch reports were entered directly. In addition, new instructions had been developed to help regional municipalities improve their reporting arrangements. It was evident that not all fishers had access to email and that it was therefore necessary to improve the audit trail for reports submitted in paper form. The representative of DFG also indicated that it would be necessary to improve public engagement and that it was proposed to include information in an already existing citizen website to help provide a source of information; alongside this other reporting mechanisms (e.g. by phone) were under consideration. In addition, KNAPK was planning to meet with its members to keep them informed of the reporting requirements. Radio and TV campaigns would also be continued, and start-up meetings have also been proposed with relevant authorities in the early part of season to aid planning. A targeted postal reminder campaign would continue to be used to seek returns after the close of the fishing season. In the longer term, it was hoped that a suitable App could be introduced to enable online reporting, as is already being done for hunting.
- 6.3 The representative of DFG confirmed that all the current regulatory restrictions on the fishery would remain in place for 2019 and that the quota would be 19.5 t in line with the agreements set out in the regulatory measure, assuming no additional catch reports for 2018 were received. If they were, the quota would be reduced by a commensurate amount. The fishing season would be as previous, although it was noted that with a low quota, it was likely that the season in 2019 might finish earlier. No license would be issued to fishers who did not report in 2018. The representative of DFG accepted that there had been teething problems with the new regulatory measures in 2018 but she was confident that appropriate decisions had been made to improve arrangements and was confident that reporting arrangements would be better in future.
- 6.4 The Chair welcomed the proposed developments and the clear improvements that were evident in monitoring and control activities. This view was reiterated by the representatives of Canada, the United States and the European Union and by the representative of the NGOs. Members of the Commission also reiterated their support for DFG in sharing knowledge and experience, should this be beneficial to them.
- 6.5 The representative of the NGOs questioned whether it might be possible to arrange for weekly updates on catches from the various communities in Greenland; this had been recommended previously by the NGOs and he felt it might be useful to add it to the regulatory measure. The representative of the United States felt that this was not required given the commitments made by DFG in respect of the monitoring and control measures proposed for the 2019 fishery. This was endorsed by the representative of Canada. The representative of the NGOs indicated that such information could be of value in the context of co-ordinating the sampling programme and other research

initiatives. The representative of DFG indicated that weekly reports are published and circulated to KNAPK; it may therefore be possible to share these more widely.

- 6.6 The report of the FWI Working Group was presented by the Group's Co-ordinator, Gérald Chaput (Canada), WGC(19)03. The Group's overall conclusion was that 'the FWI does not show that there has been a significant change in the indicators used, and therefore a reassessment of the ICES management advice for the 2019 fishery is not required'.
- 6.7 The Commission agreed that the regulatory measure adopted in 2018 would continue to apply to the West Greenland salmon fishery in 2020, provided that there is no significant change to the indicators when the FWI is next applied in January 2020 or requests for reconsideration by a member of the Commission consistent with the provisions of the West Greenland regulatory measure. In the event of a significant change in the indicators, a reassessment and new catch advice would be required from ICES.

7. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery

- 7.1 The Chair noted that the Commission has previously recognised the important contribution of sound biological data to inform science-based management decisions for the fishery at West Greenland. Members of the Commission have worked co-operatively over the past three decades to collect these biological data and Sampling Agreements have been agreed annually since 2002.
- 7.2 The Chair indicated that details of the 2018 sampling programme at West Greenland had been included in the presentation from ICES. Proposals for the sampling programme in 2019 had been drafted and circulated as document WGC(19)06 – 'Statement of Cooperation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Program for 2019'. The representative of the European Union confirmed that the EU would continue to support the sampling effort. The Chair further noted that ICES has recommended that the broad geographic sampling programme, including in Nuuk, should be expanded across the fishing season to ensure that samples are representative of the entire catch. Such expansion would allow more accurate estimates of region of origin and biological characteristics in the mixed-stock fishery.
- 7.3 In response to a question from the representative of the NGOs about the lack of sampling by the Greenland authorities at Nuuk in recent years, the Greenland sampling programme Co-ordinator, Tim Sheehan (USA), advised that sampling at Nuuk continued to be included in the sampling agreement. The representative of DFG advised that sampling in 2018 had been constrained by resource issues. However, assurances were given that sampling would be conducted at Nuuk in the coming year.
- 7.4 The Commission adopted a Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Program for 2019, WGC(19)06 (Annex 6).

8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 8.1 The Chair announced that the winner of the West Greenland Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Ole Simonsen, Nanortalik, Greenland. The winning tag had been applied to an emigrating kelt on Hunt River, Labrador in 2018. It was recaptured on 19 September 2018 near Nanortalik, Greenland, NAFO Division 1F. The Commission offered its congratulations to the winner.

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

- 9.1 The request for scientific advice from ICES prepared by the Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) in relation to the West Greenland Commission area was deferred to the Council. The request to ICES, as agreed by the Council, is contained in document CNL(19)11 (Annex 7).
- 9.2 The Chair noted that the Commission needed to appoint a representative to the SSC. The Commission appointed John Biilmann (DFG) to the SSC. The Commission's representatives on the SSC in 2019 will therefore be Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (European Union) and John Biilmann (DFG).

10. Other Business

- 10.1 There was no other business.

11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

- 11.1 The Commission agreed to hold its Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Thirty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council.

12. Report of the Meeting

- 12.1 The Commission agreed a report of its Meeting.

13. Close of the Meeting

- 13.1 The Chair thanked the members, delegates, NGOs and observers for their contributions and closed the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission.

Note. The annexes mentioned above follow the French translation of the report of the meeting. A list of West Greenland Commission papers is included in Annex 8.

WGC(19)10

Compte rendu de la trente-sixième session annuelle de la Commission du Groenland Occidental de l'Organisation pour la conservation du saumon de l'Atlantique Nord

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norvège

5 – 7 juin 2019

1. Ouverture de la session

- 1.1 Le Président Carl McLean (Canada), a ouvert la session et accueilli les délégués à Tromsø. Il a remercié les hôtes pour le cadre magnifique et ses environs et le Secrétariat pour les préparatifs de la session annuelle.
- 1.2 Le Président a annoncé qu'il n'y aurait pas de déclaration d'ouverture verbale cette année. Des déclarations d'ouverture écrites ont été présentées par le Canada, les États-Unis et le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) (Annexe 1).
- 1.3 Une liste des participants aux trente-sixièmes sessions annuelles du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN est incluse en Annexe 2.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

- 2.1 L'ordre du jour provisoire distribué à tous les délégués le 18 avril 2019 incluait un point sur le rapport de la réunion d'inter-session de la Commission. Il a été convenu par la suite qu'une réunion d'inter-session n'aurait pas lieu. La commission a par conséquent convenu que ce point (Point 5) serait retiré de l'ordre du jour. La Commission a adopté son ordre du jour révisé, WGC(19)08 (Annexe 3).

3. Nomination d'un rapporteur

- 3.1 Ian Russell (Union européenne) a été nommé rapporteur pour la session.

4. Examen de la pêcherie de 2018 et du rapport du Comité Consultatif (ACOM) du CIEM sur les stocks de saumons dans la zone de la Commission

- 4.1 Le Président a souligné qu'une nouvelle mesure de règlementation de trois ans est entrée en vigueur en 2018. Il a demandé à la représentante du Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) (DFG) de présenter le document WGC(19)04, décrivant les événements dans la pêcherie de saumon du Groenland occidental en 2018. Le Président a rappelé aux membres de la Commission que les questions relatives à la pêcherie de 2019 devraient être soulevées dans un point ultérieur de l'ordre du jour.
- 4.2 La représentante de DFG a indiqué que, conformément à la mesure de règlementation (WGC(18)11), le quota pour la pêcherie du Groenland en 2018 était fixé à 30 t pour l'ensemble de la pêcherie, ce qui devrait inclure tous les secteurs de la pêcherie. Un nouveau décret sur la pêche au saumon est entré en vigueur en 2018 afin de mettre en œuvre les exigences de la mesure réglementaire, telles que la nécessité pour tous les pêcheurs de détenir des permis, la déclaration obligatoire, y compris en l'absence de prises, et la non-délivrance de permis aux pêcheurs de saumon Atlantique n'ayant pas

effectué de déclaration complète de leurs prises l'année précédente. Les pêcheurs de saumon étaient tenus de déclarer chaque jour ou chaque fois que leurs filets étaient réparés, soit directement à l'autorité de contrôle des permis de pêche groenlandaise (GFLK), soit indirectement par l'intermédiaire des municipalités. Les débarquements de saumon Atlantique dans les usines n'ont pas eu lieu en 2018. La saison a repris du 15 août au 31 octobre, à moins que le quota ne soit épuisé plus tôt, et l'interdiction d'exportation du saumon a également été maintenue. La représentante de DFG a indiqué que le total des prises enregistrées par les autorités le 31 octobre étaient de 18,4 t. Cependant, il est apparu que certaines prises n'avaient pas été enregistrées et le total des prises, compte tenu des déclarations reçues ultérieurement, a atteint 26,8 t.

- 4.3 À la suite de la fermeture de la pêche, une lettre a été envoyée aux pêcheurs détenteurs d'un permis en 2018 mais n'avaient pas effectué de rapport, leur rappelant l'obligation de déclarer et les conséquences de la non-déclaration. Un communiqué de presse a également été publié par le ministère. Suite à cela, un certain nombre de rapports ont été reçus après la fermeture de la pêcherie. Cependant, certains pêcheurs ont indiqué qu'ils avaient déclaré leurs prises mais qu'ils avaient quand même reçu une lettre de rappel. D'autres facteurs ont contribué aux difficultés de déclaration en 2018, notamment un certain nombre de pêcheurs sans compétences ni outils numériques ont fait une déclaration sur papier à leur bureau municipal, mais leurs déclarations n'ont pas été transmis par la suite à GFLK. Certaines déclarations ont également été enregistrées erronément dans GFLK. À la suite des derniers ajustements, les prises finales déclarées ont atteint 40,5 t.
- 4.4 En réponse aux questions de la représentante des États-Unis, la représentante de DFG a déclaré que la pêche privée a fermé le 19 octobre, tandis que la pêche professionnelle a fermé le 31 octobre. Elle a également confirmé que la majorité des poissons débarqués avaient été enregistrés en tant que poids éviscétré, mais que ceux-ci avaient été ajustés et déclarés au CIEM en tant que poids entier. Étant donné qu'un petit nombre de poissons peuvent être débarqués et déclarés en poids entier, cela pourrait entraîner dans une petite mesure une sur-déclaration du poids total déclaré. Répondant à une question du représentant du Canada, la représentante de DFG a indiqué que 75% des pêcheurs professionnels et 70% des pêcheurs privés avaient signalé leurs débarquements en 2018.
- 4.5 La représentante des États-Unis a demandé s'il y avait eu un suivi des pêcheurs qui n'avaient pas déclaré et a aussi demandé une clarification sur la réduction de la proportion de prises pour usage privé rapportées par les pêcheurs professionnels entre 2017 et 2018. La représentante de DFG a indiqué que le Groenland avait déjà contacté les non-répondants et que lorsque le nouveau quota pour 2019 sera annoncé, et que des nouvelles demandes de permis auront été effectuées, cela constituerait une nouvelle opportunité de chercher des informations sur les prises de l'année précédente. Elle a par ailleurs clarifié que ceci entraînerait une révision supplémentaire des prises déclarées pour 2018. Si tel est le cas, il y aurait une réduction comparable du quota pour 2019. Concernant les prises à caractère privé, la représentante de DFG a indiqué que les 20 tonnes du quota de 2018 avaient été allouées à des pêcheurs professionnels et 10 t à des pêcheurs privés mais a suggéré que les nouvelles procédures en matière de permis peuvent avoir entraîné de la confusion concernant ce qui doit être déclaré et quand. Cela peut avoir entraîné la réduction des pêcheurs professionnels déclarant des débarquements pour usage privé.

- 4.6 En réponse aux questions du représentant des ONGs, la représentante de DFG a confirmé que les conditions liées aux permis professionnels n'avaient pas été modifiées en 2018. Le seul changement avait été l'introduction de permis pour les pêcheurs privés; des permis distincts étaient également nécessaires pour pêcher d'autres espèces et pour la chasse. Elle a ensuite précisé que les règles relatives à la déclaration s'appliquaient à tous les pêcheurs et qu'il ne serait pas possible pour un pêcheur professionnel qui avait omis de se déclarer de se voir délivrer un permis privé. Elle a également indiqué que les pêcheurs professionnels étaient autorisés à vendre du poisson à des points de vente autres que des marchés en plein air là où il n'y avait pas de marché en plein air dans la communauté locale.
- 4.7 Il a été souligné que la représentante de DFG avait préparé des réponses écrites détaillées en réponse aux questions supplémentaires de la représentante des États-Unis envoyées par courrier électronique. Il a été convenu que ces informations supplémentaires seraient mises à la disposition de la Commission dans le document WGC(19)07 (Annexe 4).
- 4.8 Une représentante du CIEM, Martha Robertson, a présenté un rapport sur les conseils scientifiques sur les stocks de saumon dans la zone de la Commission du Groenland occidental fondé sur le rapport du Comité consultatif (ACOM) du CIEM, CNL(19)08. Ce rapport contient les conseils scientifiques pertinents pour toutes les Commissions. La présentation de Dr Robertson auprès de la Commission est disponible dans le document WGC(19)11 (Annexe 5).
- 4.9 En réponse à une question de la représentante des États-Unis concernant les conséquences d'une meilleure couverture spatiale et temporelle du programme d'échantillonnage du Groenland occidental, le CIEM a confirmé que plus le nombre d'échantillons recueillis était élevé, plus on pouvait avoir confiance dans les résultats et dans le soutien des efforts de gestion pour contribuer à la protection des stocks les plus faibles. En réponse à une question du Président, le CIEM a déclaré qu'il n'existe aucune explication claire de l'augmentation de la proportion de poissons nord-américains capturés au Groenland occidental au cours des trois dernières années, mais que cela pourrait représenter la répartition des efforts d'échantillonnage et variabilité annuelle dans le continent d'origine des poissons disponibles pour la pêcherie.

5. Pêches de stocks mixtes menées par des Membres de la Commission

- 5.1 Selon le ‘Plan d’action pour mettre en œuvre les conseils de l’étude externe des performances et la révision des ‘Prochaines étapes’ pour l’OCSAN’, CNL(13)38, il était convenu qu’il devrait y avoir des points d’ordre du jour dans chacune des Commissions pour permettre de se concentrer sur les pêches de stocks mixtes (MSFs).
- 5.2 Le Canada (NAC(19)03) et l’Union européenne (NEA(19)06) ont présenté des articles fournissant une description des MSFs opérant encore dans leurs juridictions, les données sur les prises les plus récentes, et les mises à jours éventuelles des Plans d’application (IPs) concernant des MSFs et tous changements ou développements dans la gestion des MSFs au cours de la période IP pour mettre en œuvre les accords de l’OCSAN. Les États-Unis n’ont pas effectué de rapport car il n’existe aucunes pêches de saumon Atlantique sauvage dirigées aux États-Unis.
- 5.3 Un représentant du Canada a présenté un aperçu des pêches de subsistance (alimentaires, sociales et cérémoniales) qui sont opérées dans des zones côtières et d’estuaire du Labrador par des groupes autochtones et des résidents de la région du

Labrador. La gestion de ces pêcheries inclut un certain nombre de contrôles liés à les engins, les saisons, les fermetures hebdomadaires, le marquage de carcasses de saumon récolté, un programme utilisant des journaux de bord pour rapporter les prises, une limite sur le total des prises en utilisant des marquages et une interdiction des ventes. En 2018, les prises rapportées s'élevaient à 33 t ce qui était légèrement inférieur aux années précédentes. Un échantillonnage dans la pêcherie avait entraîné l'enregistrement de caractéristiques biologiques pour 7% des poissons débarqués et 4% ont fait l'objet d'analyse génétique pour déterminer la zone d'origine. Comme cela est rapporté les années précédentes ceci a confirmé que le poisson exploité dans les différentes pêcheries était presque exclusivement du poisson de groupes de rivières régionales locales. Aucun poisson originaire des États-Unis n'a été détecté dans les échantillons collectés en 2018 (deux poissons originaires des États-Unis ont été détectés en 2017). Il est prévu de poursuivre un échantillonnage en 2019.

- 5.4 En réponse à une question du représentant des ONGs, le Canada a confirmé que 73% des journaux de bord avaient été rapportés par les pêcheurs dans ces pêcheries en 2018 et que le total des prises était estimé en élevant les prises déclarées proportionnellement aux retours reçus. Les taux de déclaration pour les quatre groupes opérant dans les différentes pêcheries du Labrador allaient de 69% à 100%. En réponse à une autre question du représentant des ONGs, le Canada a indiqué que les quatre groupes étaient de tailles très différentes, de sorte que la moyenne rapportée de 73% et la fourchette des taux de rapport n'étaient pas incohérentes. Le représentant des ONGs a en outre noté que l'approche utilisée au Canada pour calculer les prises déclarées – c'est-à-dire l'ajustement en fonction de la proportion de rapports reçus – était différente dans d'autres juridictions. Le représentant des ONGs a indiqué que si une telle approche avait été utilisée au Groenland, la capture déclarée en 2018 aurait augmenté de 10 à 14 tonnes.
- 5.5 Un représentant de l'Union européenne a présenté un aperçu des MSFs de l'Union européenne, NEA(19)06. La pêcherie dans la rivière Teno (Finlande) opère dans le bras principal de la rivière mais exploite un nombre de populations génétiquement différentes des différentes populations tributaires. En Irlande, il existe actuellement deux MSFs qui exploitent des stocks qui sont au-dessus de leurs limites de conservation et qui sont gérés pour sauvegarder les stocks les plus faibles. Il existe trois MSFs au Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles). Les MSFs côtiers précédents en Suède et au Royaume Uni (Ecosse) restent fermés. Les prises dans les MSFs restants en 2018 ont été de 21 t dans la rivière Teno (une prise supplémentaire de 28 t a été prise dans les prises norvégiennes), en Irlande (2,6 t) et au Royaume Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles) (35,9 t).
- 5.6 Concernant les récents changements en matière de gestion, le représentant de l'Union européenne a fait savoir que les parlements finlandais et norvégien avaient accepté un accord de pêche bilatéral entré en vigueur en 2017. Celui-ci concerne les pêcheries fluviales, y compris les MSFs dans le bras principal du fleuve; les MSFs côtières sont gérés par la Norvège. Les nouvelles réglementations en vigueur en Finlande ont permis de réduire de 30% la pression de la pêche sur les stocks les plus faibles en adaptant les réglementations de pêche à des zones spécifiques, à des moments particuliers et à des méthodes de pêche spécifiques. Un plan de reconstitution est en préparation pour assurer la reconstitution des stocks les plus faibles dans un délai de 2 à 3 générations de saumon.

- 5.7 Au Royaume-Uni (Angleterre et Pays de Galles), l'élimination progressive de la pêcherie côtière Anglaise se poursuit et il sera obligatoire de libérer tout saumon pris dans la pêcherie à partir de 2019. De nouvelles propositions sont en cours d'élaboration pour la pêcherie de la rivière Severn. Des limites de capture s'appliquent aux différents engins opérant dans cette pêcherie et sont conçues pour préserver les stocks les plus faibles qui la constituent. En vertu de nouvelles mesures nationales pour l'Angleterre approuvées en décembre 2018, la pêche au filet dérivant sur la côte Nord-Est de l'Angleterre a été fermée, ce qui a rapproché la date de fermeture fixée antérieurement pour la fin de la saison de filet 2022. De plus, de nouvelles restrictions sont entrées en vigueur pour les pêcheries au filet T et J à partir de 2019. Elles réduisent la saison de la pêche dans certaines régions et imposent la remise à l'eau obligatoire de tout saumon capturé. Les pêcheurs ne seront donc autorisés qu'à débarquer de la truite de mer et à utiliser leurs filets dans les zones / périodes où la truite de mer prédomine généralement dans les prises. La pêcherie fait aussi l'objet d'une élimination progressive à mesure que les pêcheurs prennent leur retraite. L'introduction des nouvelles mesures nationales en Angleterre signifie qu'il n'y aura plus de prises de saumons dans les MSFs côtiers en Royaume-Uni (Angleterre et pays de Galles) à partir de 2019.
- 5.8 Le représentant des ONGs a indiqué que des préoccupations ont été soulevées sur l'impact d'un MSF sur l'estuaire de l'Adour, en France, et les éventuelles prises accessoires de saumon dans d'autres pêcheries côtières de la région, qui n'avaient pas été signalés par l'UE. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a exprimé sa préoccupation et indiqué que cette question ferait l'objet d'une enquête plus approfondie.

6. Mesures de réglementation – toute question soulevée

- 6.1 Le Président a souligné que lors de sa trente-cinquième session annuelle (2018), la Commission avait adopté une mesure réglementaire pluriannuelle pour la pêche du saumon au Groenland occidental, WGC(18)11. Celle-ci a imposé au Groenland des exigences supplémentaires concernant les permis, la surveillance et les niveaux de prises. Le Président a pris acte des progrès réalisés par le Groenland relatifs aux nouvelles mesures de surveillance et de contrôle, ainsi que de leur volonté d'améliorer la mise en œuvre de ces mesures, et a remercié la représentante de DFG. Il lui a ensuite demandé de présenter le document WGC(19)05 contenant l'évaluation de la pêcherie de 2018 et les mesures proposées pour la pêcherie de 2019. Il a été souligné que le document WGC(19)05 remplacerait le rapport requis au paragraphe 4 de WGC(18)11, qui est généralement publié en août.
- 6.2 La représentante de DFG a reconnu qu'il y avait eu des problèmes de reporting imprévus en 2018. Une fois que ces lacunes avaient été mises en évidence, le Groenland avait activement étudié les moyens d'améliorer les procédures pour la saison à venir. Des réunions avaient été organisées avec les parties intéressées et un plan élaboré. Un problème clé identifié était la nécessité d'éviter toute déclaration erronée au sein de leurs propres systèmes internes d'enregistrement des prises et des plans avaient avancé pour mettre à jour une base de données afin de garantir que tous les rapports relatifs aux prises étaient saisis directement. En outre, de nouvelles instructions ont été élaborées pour aider les municipalités régionales à améliorer leurs procédures en matière de reporting. Il était évident que tous les pêcheurs n'avaient pas accès au courrier électronique et qu'il était donc nécessaire d'améliorer la piste consistant à vérifier les rapports soumis en version papier. La représentante de DFG a également indiqué que l'engagement du public devrait être amélioré et qu'il a été suggéré que

l'inclusion d'informations sur un site Web citoyen déjà existant pour contribuer à fournir une source d'information était à l'étude; en parallèle des autres mécanismes de reporting (par exemple par téléphone). En outre, KNAPK prévoyait de rencontrer ses membres pour les tenir informés des exigences en matière de reporting. Des campagnes de radio et de télévision seraient également poursuivies et des réunions de démarrage ont également été proposées avec les autorités compétentes au début de la saison pour faciliter la planification. L'utilisation d'une campagne ciblée de rappels par la poste se poursuivrait pour obtenir des rapports après la fin de la saison de pêche. À plus long terme, on espérait l'introduction d'une application appropriée permettant de créer de rapports en ligne, comme cela se fait déjà pour la chasse.

- 6.3 La représentante de DFG a confirmé que toutes les restrictions réglementaires actuelles de la pêcherie resteraient en vigueur pour 2019 et que le quota serait de 19,5 t conformément aux accords énoncés dans la mesure de réglementation, en supposant qu'aucune déclaration de capture supplémentaire n'ait été reçue pour 2018. Si tel était le cas, le quota serait réduit d'un montant correspondant. La saison de pêche serait la même que la précédente, bien qu'il ait été indiqué qu'avec un quota faible, il était probable que la saison de 2019 pourrait se terminer plus tôt. Aucun permis ne serait délivré aux pêcheurs qui n'auraient pas effectué de rapport en 2018. La représentante de la DFG a reconnu des problèmes initiaux avec les nouvelles mesures réglementaires en 2018, mais elle était convaincue que les décisions appropriées avaient été prises pour améliorer les dispositions et était convaincue que les dispositions seraient à l'avenir meilleures.
- 6.4 Le Président s'est félicité des développements proposés et des améliorations évidentes des activités de suivi et de contrôle. Les représentants du Canada, des États-Unis et de l'Union européenne ainsi que le représentant des ONGs ont réitéré ce point de vue. Les membres de la Commission ont également réitéré leur soutien à DFG pour le partage de connaissances et d'expérience, si cela leur était bénéfique.
- 6.5 Le représentant des ONGs s'est demandé s'il serait possible d'organiser des mises à jour hebdomadaires des prises des différentes communautés du Groenland; cela avait déjà été recommandé par les ONGs et l'ajouter à la mesure réglementaire pourrait être utile. La représentante des États-Unis a estimé que cela n'était pas nécessaire compte tenu des engagements pris par DFG concernant les mesures de surveillance et de contrôle proposées pour la pêcherie 2019. Cela a été approuvé par le représentant du Canada. Le représentant des ONGs a indiqué que ces informations pourraient être utiles dans le cadre de la coordination du programme d'échantillonnage et autres initiatives de recherche. La représentante de DFG a indiqué que des rapports hebdomadaires étaient publiés et distribués à la KNAPK; il serait donc possible de les partager plus largement.
- 6.6 Le rapport du Groupe de travail sur le Cadre d'Indicateurs (FWI) a été présenté par le coordonnateur du groupe, Gérald Chaput (Canada), WGC(19)03. La conclusion générale du Groupe était que 'le FWI ne montre pas un changement important des indicateurs utilisés et qu'il n'est donc pas nécessaire de réévaluer les conseils de gestion du CIEM pour la pêcherie en 2019'.
- 6.7 La Commission a convenu que la mesure réglementaire adoptée en 2018 continuerait de s'appliquer à la pêcherie au saumon au Groenland occidental en 2020, à condition qu'il n'y ait ni modifications importantes des indicateurs lors de la prochaine application du FWI en janvier 2020 ni de demandes de réévaluation par un membre de la Commission conformément aux dispositions de la mesure réglementaire du

Groenland occidental. En cas de changement significatif des indicateurs, une réévaluation et de nouveaux conseils en matière de prises seraient nécessaires de la part du CIEM.

7. Echantillonnage dans la pêcherie du Groenland occidental

- 7.1 Le Président a souligné que la Commission avait déjà reconnu l'importante contribution de données biologiques fiables à la prise de décisions en matière de gestion fondées sur des données scientifiques pour la pêcherie au Groenland occidental. Les membres de la Commission ont collaboré au cours des trois dernières décennies pour collecter ces données biologiques et des accords d'échantillonnage ont été conclus chaque année depuis 2002.
- 7.2 Le Président a indiqué que des informations relatives au programme d'échantillonnage de 2018 au Groenland occidental avaient été incluses dans la présentation du CIEM. Des propositions concernant le programme d'échantillonnage de 2019 avaient été élaborées et diffusées dans le document WGC(19)06 – ‘Déclaration de coopération concernant le programme d'échantillonnage de la pêcherie au Groenland occidental pour 2019’. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a confirmé que l'UE poursuivait son soutien à l'effort d'échantillonnage. Le Président a ajouté que le CIEM avait recommandé que le grand programme d'échantillonnage géographique, y compris celui de Nuuk, soit étendu tout au long de la saison de la pêche afin de garantir la représentativité des échantillons de l'ensemble des prises. Une telle expansion permettrait d'estimer plus précisément la région d'origine et les caractéristiques biologiques dans la pêcherie de stocks mixtes.
- 7.3 En réponse à une question du représentant des ONGs sur l'absence d'échantillonnage par les autorités groenlandaises à Nuuk ces dernières années, le coordinateur du programme d'échantillonnage pour le Groenland, Tim Sheehan (États-Unis), a indiqué que l'échantillonnage à Nuuk figurerait encore dans l'accord d'échantillonnage. La représentante de DFG a indiqué que l'échantillonnage de 2018 avait été limité par des problèmes de ressources. Cependant, il a été assuré que des échantillonnages seraient effectués à Nuuk au cours de l'année à venir.
- 7.4 La Commission a adopté une déclaration de coopération concernant le programme d'échantillonnage de la pêcherie au Groenland occidental pour 2019, WGC(19)06 (Annexe 6).

8. Annonce du gagnant du prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes

- 8.1 Le Président a annoncé que le gagnant du prix de la Commission du Groenland occidental de £1,000 du Programme incitatif au renvoi des étiquettes de l'OCSAN était Ole Simonsen, Nanortalik, Groenland. L'étiquette gagnante avait été appliquée sur un charognard émigrant sur la rivière Hunt, dans le Labrador en 2018. Il a été recapturé le 19 septembre 2018 près de Nanortalik, au Groenland, dans la division 1F de l'OPANO. La Commission a présenté ses félicitations au gagnant.

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

- 9.1 La demande de conseils scientifiques auprès du CIEM établie par le Comité scientifique permanent (CSP) concernant la zone de la Commission du Groenland occidental a été différée au Conseil. La demande auprès du CIEM, comme convenu par le Conseil, est

incluse dans le document CNL(19)11 (Annexe 7).

- 9.2 Le Président a noté que la Commission devait nommer un représentant au CSP. La Commission a nommé John Biilmann (DFG) au CSP. Les représentants de la Commission au CSP en 2019 seront donc Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (Union européenne) et John Biilmann (DFG).

10. Divers

- 10.1 Aucune autre question n'a été soulevée.

11. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

- 11.1 La Commission a convenu de tenir sa trente-septième session annuelle à la même période et lieu que la trente-septième session annuelle du Conseil.

12. Compte rendu de la session

- 12.1 La Commission a accepté un compte rendu de la session.

13. Clôture de la session

- 13.1 Le Président a remercié les membres, délégués, ONGs et observateurs pour leurs contributions et a clos la trente-sixième session annuelle de la Commission du Groenland occidental.

Note. Les annexes mentionnées ci-dessus commencent à la page suivante. Une liste des articles de la Commission du Groenland occidental est incluse en Annexe 8.

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Annex 1

Opening Statements submitted by the Parties

Opening statement to the West Greenland Commission submitted by Canada

With the exception of some areas in Labrador, Atlantic salmon stocks of eastern Canada have shown a large decline in abundance over the past 40 years despite continued support of habitat conservation programs and increasingly restrictive measures, including reduced retention limits in recreational fisheries and harvests in Indigenous fisheries.

Overall estimated harvest of Atlantic salmon from all fisheries in the North Atlantic was reported to be 1090 t in 2018, the lowest of record. In 2018, Canadians harvested an estimated total of 90 t of wild Atlantic Salmon, also the lowest of record for Canada, of which 60% (53 t) were taken in Indigenous peoples' food, social and ceremonial fisheries (FSC), and 39% (35 t) in recreational fisheries. In a number of areas of eastern Canada, Indigenous people fisheries were closed due to conservation concerns. Recreational fisheries in 2018 were closed or restricted to catch and release only in the Maritime provinces for the entire season and for part of the season in Newfoundland (after July 20) and Labrador (after August 3) due to low in-season returns. In the province of Quebec, the retention of large salmon in the recreational fishery was allowed in only 13% (14 rivers) of the 114 salmon rivers in the province, and small salmon only could be retained in 52% (59 rivers). In 30 rivers (26%) in Quebec, no fisheries for Atlantic salmon were permitted.

Canada recognizes the work remaining within its own domestic fisheries to improve reporting systems particularly in some recreational and Indigenous people fisheries, consistent with the "six tenets" review that was completed in 2018 by Parties in this Commission. We also recognize the concerns regarding the mixed-stock fisheries in Labrador and are encouraged by the recent report of ICES indicating the subsistence fisheries in this northern area of eastern Canada are harvesting salmon almost exclusively from these northern rivers with few to no non-Labrador origin detections in recent years.

Canada is encouraged by the progress that Greenland has made in recent years, most notably in relation to improving their licencing and reporting processes. Specifically, we greatly appreciate the work done regarding the introduction of mandatory licence requirements for everyone fishing for Atlantic salmon. We are also greatly pleased that Greenland has recently eliminated factory landings.

While we welcome the increase in the number of people reporting catches in Greenland in 2018, we encourage Greenland to implement measures to better quantify, monitor and control the subsistence fishery at West Greenland in order to restrict it to the 30 tonne level for subsistence purposes.

In light of the reported catch levels for 2018, we will encourage Greenland to reduce their 2019 catches to 20 tonnes, which is in line with the regulatory measures that were agreed upon during last year's meeting of the WGC.

We look forward to continuing our collaborative work through the West Greenland Commission to support Greenland in further strengthening its monitoring, control and surveillance measures going forward.

In 2018, Canada participated in the international sampling program of the fishery at Greenland by providing one sampler for a two week period in September, to process tissue collected from

harvested salmon for stock origin using DNA, to continue ageing scales collected from the fishery, and to maintain the sampling database at DFO's Newfoundland and Labrador region.

Sampling of the fishery is essential to document the origin of the salmon in the fishery and the consequences to salmon stocks in Canada, especially the endangered and threatened population groups.

For the most part, these North American-origin salmon are large egg-bearing females of paramount importance to conservation efforts undertaken in their countries of origin to protect, restore, and conserve salmon stocks.

We look forward to a successful discussion over the next two days.

Thank you.

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

Mr Chair, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Greenland would like to begin by thanking our Norwegian hosts for arranging the West Greenland Commission in this beautiful location of Tromsø, being here north of the polar circle feels a bit like home.

Commercial salmon fisheries at sea were once of high importance to Greenland. It was therefore at great expense for our small communities that the Greenlandic government decided to take responsibility and refrain from all commercial fishing of wild salmon in our waters with a view to re-building the stocks. Still, even though we have stopped our commercial salmon fisheries, we retain our rights to conduct fishing in accordance with NASCO's guidelines. Therefore, Greenland continues to set a small quota for the subsistence fishery that has been going on for generations and is of high importance namely for the small and remote settlements.

It is our belief that the limited subsistence fishery, close to 1 % of the historic fishery in Greenland, is not preventing the recovery of the Atlantic salmon. Despite the extensive reductions in catch, strict management regimes and increased monitoring and control, with great sacrifices made by our small coastal communities, we have not seen any recovery of the stocks and it must thus be concluded that we need to consider other factors and measures in order to improve the stock.

It is important to focus on all aspects of the lifecycle of the salmon. Therefore, Greenland wants to emphasise the importance of focusing on the external factors that affect the Atlantic salmon stock such as pollution, climate change, obstacles and predation. The number of Grey seals, harp seals, harbour seals, cormorants and other birds and cetacean predators have increased substantially in the North Atlantic in the last 20 years – yet, predation is hardly touched in the scientific advice. Therefore, Greenland is very pleased that NASCO and ICES is arranging a workshop on sea mortality of Atlantic salmon, and appreciate that our suggestion to add predation to the agenda has been accepted. We look forward to reviewing the outcome of this workshop. Considering these factors and the extensive improvements that Greenland has introduced into our management and control of the subsistence fishery, we once again urge the

river nations to step up and keep their side of the bargain too and create the best possible conditions for rebuilding the salmon stock.

Greenland is of the opinion that it was a step in the right direction to establish a procedure, where the Parties now submit Annual Progress Reports and we look forward to the evaluation of the current reporting cycle, but more importantly to the expected progress of the reporting under the Third Reporting Cycle (2019-2024). We believe that there is still room for improvement in the reporting and we want to emphasise the importance of ensuring full transparency on how Parties manage wild salmon in their rivers and waters.

Mr Chair, Greenland is looking forward to productive meetings in the West Greenland Commission and will assure you that we are prepared to work in a constructive way so that we collectively can contribute to a successful outcome.

Thank you.

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

Chair McLean, Secretary Hatfield, Assistant Secretary Robinson, distinguished Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen:

The United States appreciates the work that the Government of Greenland has undertaken since we last met in Portland, Maine. We recognize the significant changes that have been implemented in support of the management of their Atlantic salmon fishery, and we are hopeful that these changes will lead to continued improvement in the management of the resource. The United States also acknowledges the significant overharvest, which occurred in 2018. We look forward to continuing our discussions on this issue and we appreciate the Government of Greenland's efforts to ensure this situation doesn't occur again. We also greatly appreciate the continued communication of this issue and the exchange which has already occurred between members of the Commission in lieu of an inter-sessional meeting.

In closing, the United States looks forward to continuing to work with all the Parties to strengthen the management of the West Greenland salmon fishery to balance, to the extent possible, stock conservation needs with an internal-use fishery.

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Annex 3

WGC(19)08

Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission

Scandic Ishavshotel, Tromsø, Norway

5 – 7 June 2019

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Review of the 2018 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
5. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
6. Regulatory Measures – Any Matters Arising
7. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery
8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
10. Other Business
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
12. Report of the Meeting
13. Close of the Meeting

WGC(19)07

Exchange of information between the United States and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) in relation to paper WGC(19)05

To: Katrine Kærgaard From:

Kim Damon-Randall

CC: Carl McLean and Emma Hatfield

1. Clarification of fishery information: dates of the 2018 fishery and landings reported at the time the fishery was closed

With respect to the progress and management of the 2018 West Greenland fishery, we note the following from reports submitted:

- WGC(19)04 stated that the 2018 fishery ran from 15 August - 31 October and 26.8 t were registered at the end of the season
- ICES stated that the 2018 fishery ran from August 15 to October 31 and one month after the season had ended only 18.4t had been registered
- WGC(19)05 stated that the fishery was closed on 19th of October with 29.8 tonnes (33.2 tonnes live weight) recorded

We understand there can be difficulties in keeping track of salmon landings on a daily/weekly basis, especially given the varied reporting mechanisms and infrastructure which you identified in WGC(19)05 and plan to consolidate in 2019. Given the discrepancies from the various documents noted above, however, we would be grateful if you could clarify the timeline of the fishery, reported landings, and follow-up up campaign so it is clear to all WGC members what happened in 2018.

2. Reporting of landings data to NASCO and ICES: whole (live) weight vs gutted weight

As we understand it, Greenland reports its landings data to ICES as whole (i.e., live) weight.

- Our understanding from ICES is that since 2005, it has been mandatory to report gutted weights, and the gutted weights are converted to whole weight using a conversion multiplier of 1.11.
 - Can you confirm that our understanding is correct and that the landings reported to ICES and NASCO are whole weights equivalents?

3. Column headings

Can you please confirm that the column headings in Table 2 of WGC(19)05 are as follows:

1. Year
2. Commercial fishermen - # of licenses
3. Commercial fishermen - # reporting
4. Commercial fishermen - % reporting
5. Commercial fishermen - kg reported
6. Private fishermen - # of licenses
7. Private fishermen - # reporting
8. Private fishermen - % reporting
9. Private fishermen - kg reported
10. Total - # of licenses
11. Total - # reporting
12. Total Catch - kg reported

Response to the US on questions in relation to WGC(19)05

Below the Government of Greenland's response to United States Questions and Requests in response to WGC(19)05 has been outlined.

04-06-2019
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Akt nr.: 10896306

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1. Clarification of fishery information: dates of the 2018 fishery and landings reported at the time the fishery was closed

- The Salmon fishery in 2018 was closed on 31th October. The private fishery segment was closed on 19th October, but the entire fishery was closed on 31th October.

The landings reported at the time of the closure of the fishery was 18.4 tons, during the follow-up campaign additional reports which had been registered within the season but not added at the time was found. So with those reports included by the end of the season, the catch was 29.8 tons.

Then including the new reports that was submitted after the letter-campaign and press release, the final catch was 40.513 tons.

These reports were added after the ICES working paper was completed, the number will be corrected at the next ICES working group meeting. Here it is important to note that the statistics used in the ICES working paper is based on date of capture reported and not on the date when GFLK received the reports.

2. Reporting of landings data to NASCO and ICES: whole (live) weight vs gutted weight

All landings of all species, including salmon is in official statistics converted and reported to ICES in whole weight. All landings are commonly registered as 'landed weight', i.e. the weight of the product, when the fish is gutted or filleted. In order to convert the number to 'live weight' the reportings are multiplied by 1.11. However, concerning salmon, the weight may in some instances be reported in live weight and not as landed weight. This can thus lead to an overestimate as all reportings are multiplied by 1.11 and reporting of landed weight and live weight cannot be differentiated from one another.

3. Column headings

- Yes, we can confirm that.



West Greenland Commission

WGC(19)11

*Presentation of the ICES Advice on Atlantic Salmon
at West Greenland to the West Greenland Commission*

sal.wgc.all

Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland



Terms of Reference

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

- 4.1 describe the key events of the 2018 fisheries;
- 4.2 describe the status of the stocks;

The Framework of Indicators was applied in 2019 and there was no indication of underestimated abundance forecasts.

Therefore, a full reassessment was not required in 2019 and the 2018 ICES advice remains valid. Consequently, there are no mixed-stock fishery options at West Greenland for the fishing years 2019 to 2020.

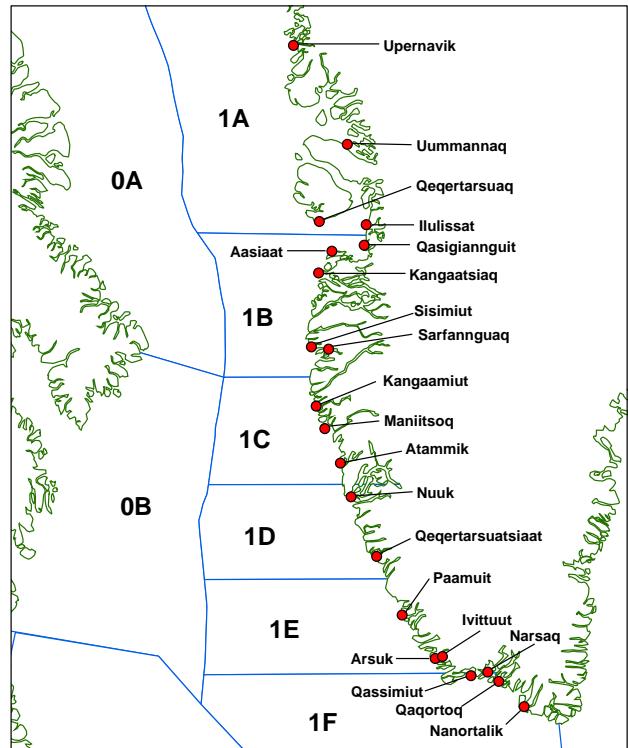


4.1 Key Events 2018 Fishery

- 2018 quota was 30t
 - Commercial fishery for internal use only (20t)
 - Private fishery (10t)
- No sales to factories allowed
- All fishers required to have a license and mandatory reporting requirements
- Fishing season: 15 August to 31 October



Figure 1: sal.wgc.all



4.1 Key Events 2018 Fishery: Catch

- Reported catch was 39.9 t
 - 12 t increase over 2017
 - 82% for Commercial use (55% in 2017)
 - 18% for Private use (45% in 2017)
- Unreported Catch
 - no quantitative approach
 - 10 t, previously reported by the Greenlandic authorities to account for private non-licensed fishers in smaller communities

Table 3: sal.wgc.all

Licence status	Landings type	Reported 2017 catch (t)	Reported 2018 catch (t)
Licensed	Commercial (from commercial fishers)	15.3	32.5
	Private use (from commercial fishers)	9.7	0.1
	Private use (from private fishers)	-	7.2
Unlicensed	Commercial	0.0	-
	Private use	3.1	-
	Total Commercial catch	15.3	32.6
	Total Private use catch	12.8	7.3
	Total catch	28.0	39.9

4.1 Key Events 2018 Fishery: Catch

- 18.4 t of landings had been registered by the end of the fishery (31 October)
- Catch later corrected to 39.9 t in March 2019, resulting in an overharvest of approximately 10 t
- Catch peaked at approximately 2700 t in 1971

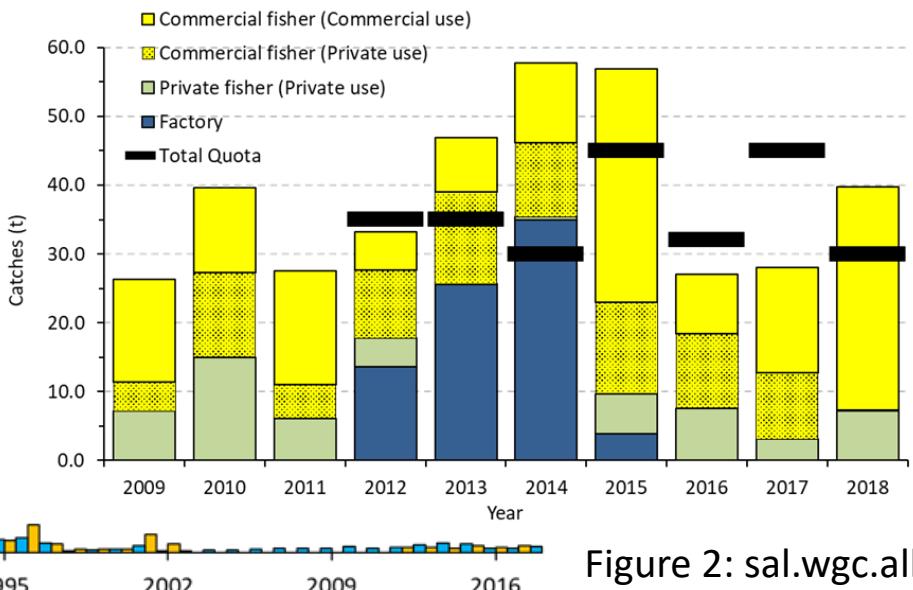
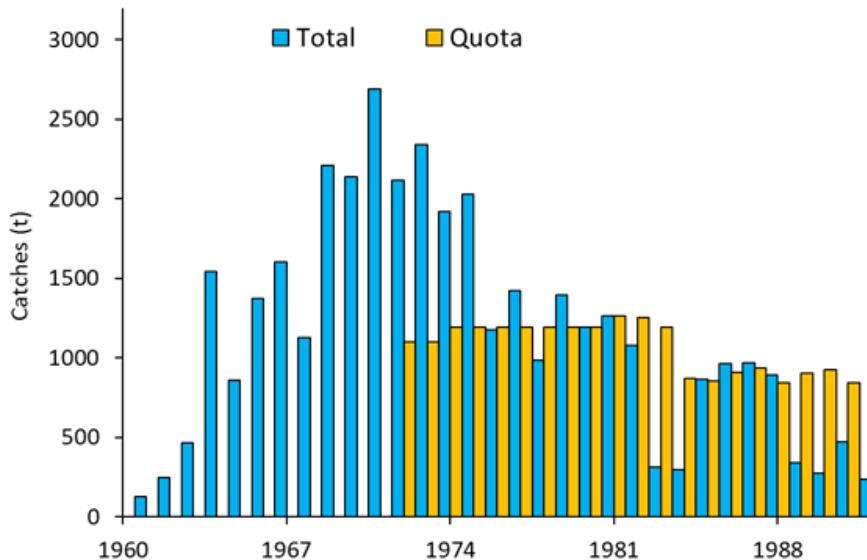


Figure 2: sal.wgc.all

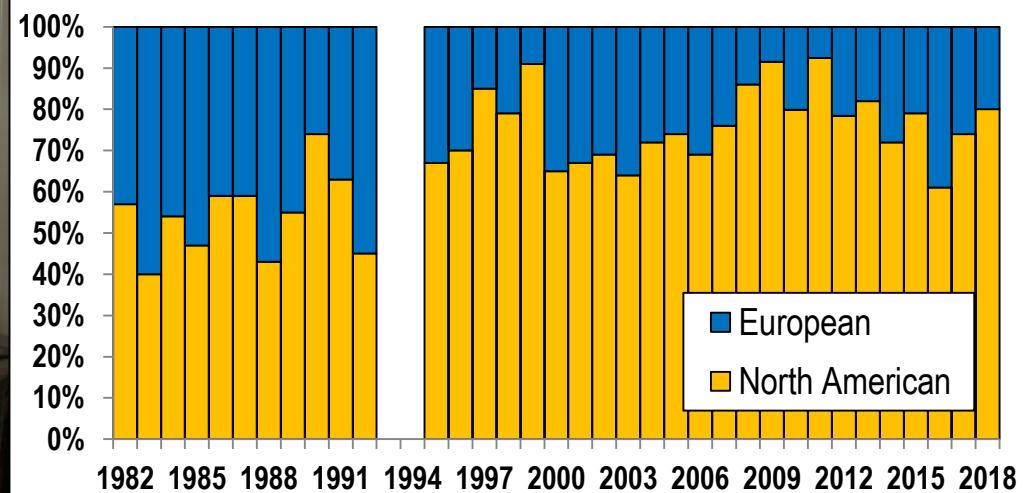
4.1 Key Events 2018 Fishery: Phone Survey

- Phone survey conducted after the fishing season from 2014 to 2016 resulted in adjusted landings from unreported catch:
 - 2014: + 12.2 t
 - 2015: + 5.0 t
 - 2016: + 4.2 t
- 2017 phone survey conducted with 9 fishers: no adjustment made
- No survey conducted in 2018



4.1 Catch: Continent of Origin

- International sampling programme continued in 2018
 - 1115 samples from four communities representing four of the six NAFO divisions
- Continent of Origin: North American: 83% European: 17%



4.1 Catch: Continent of Origin

- Estimated number of salmon harvested

$$\text{Number of Salmon} = \text{Total Catch kg} \div \text{Average Weight of Individual Salmon Harvested kg}$$

- North American:
 - ~10600 (32.4 t)
- European:
 - ~2600 (6.6 t)

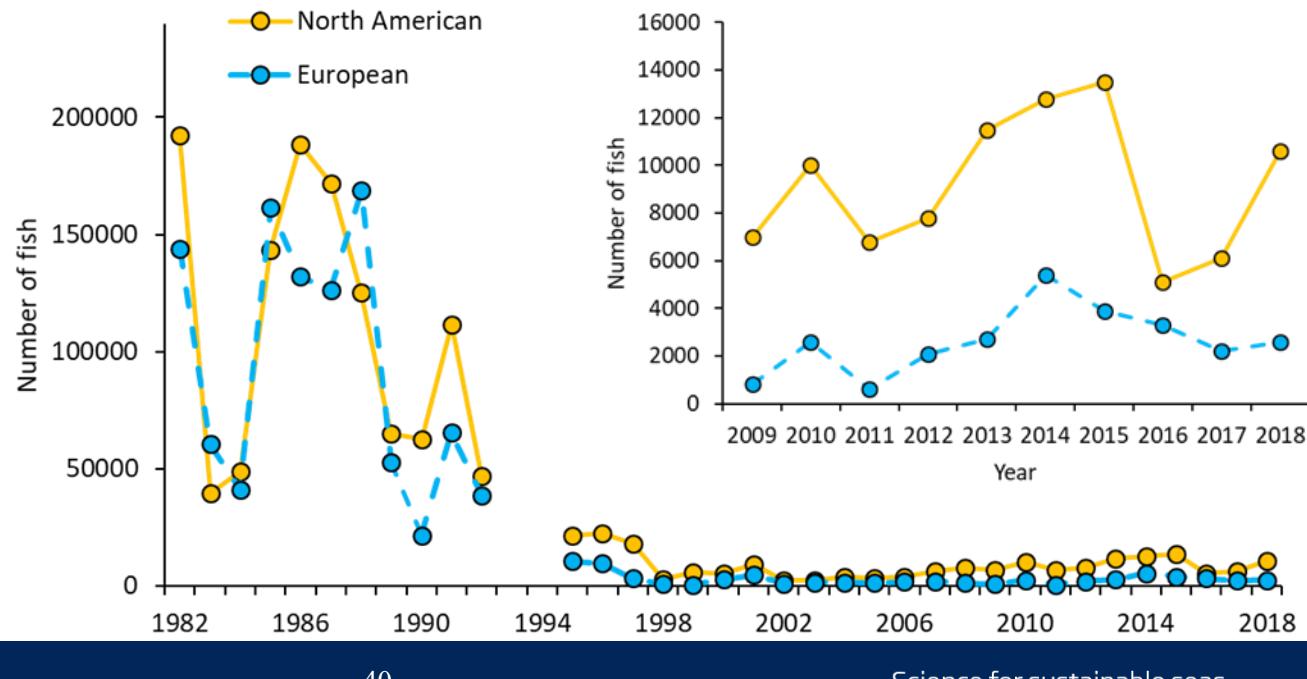
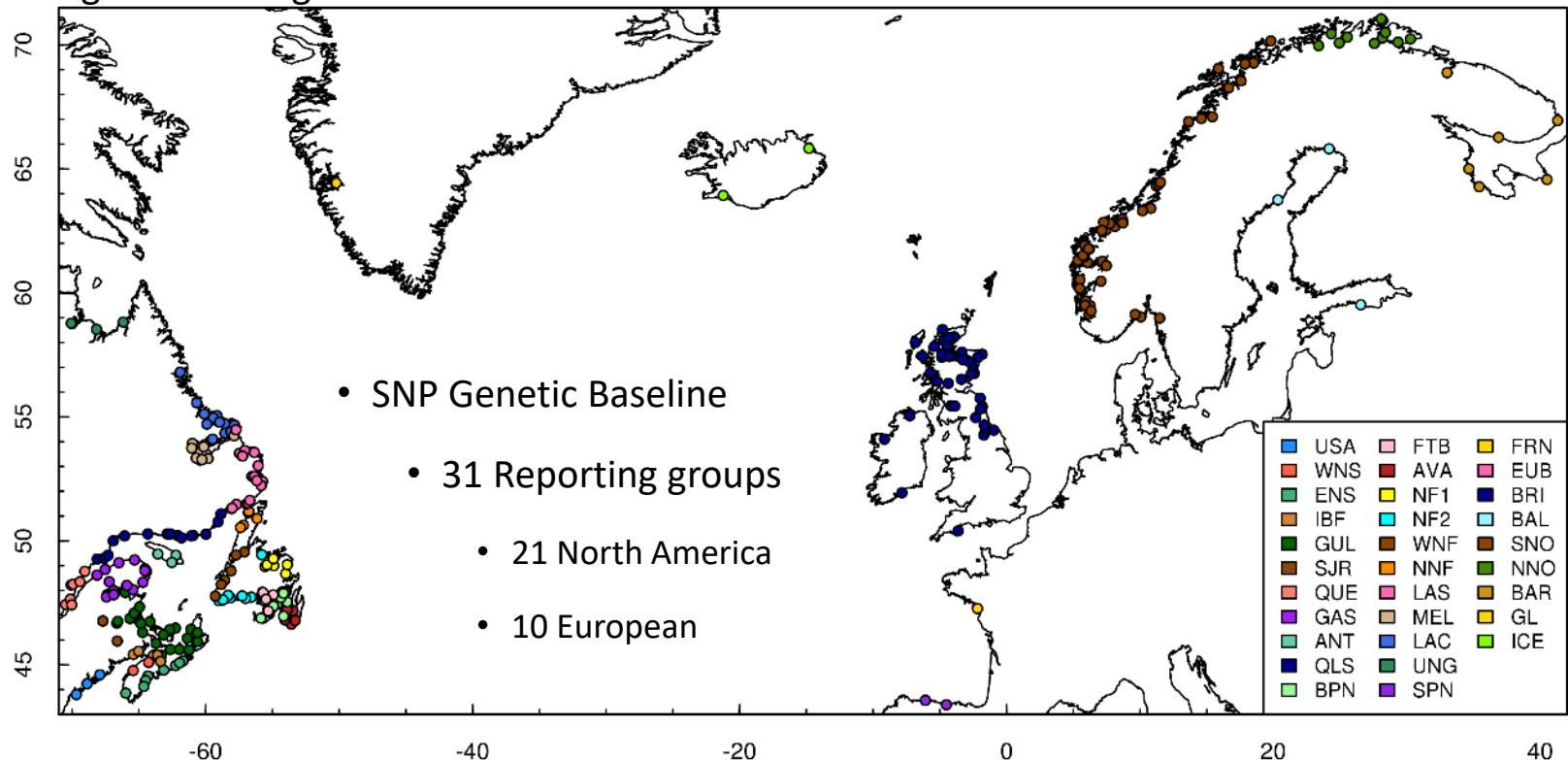


Figure 4: sal.wgc.all

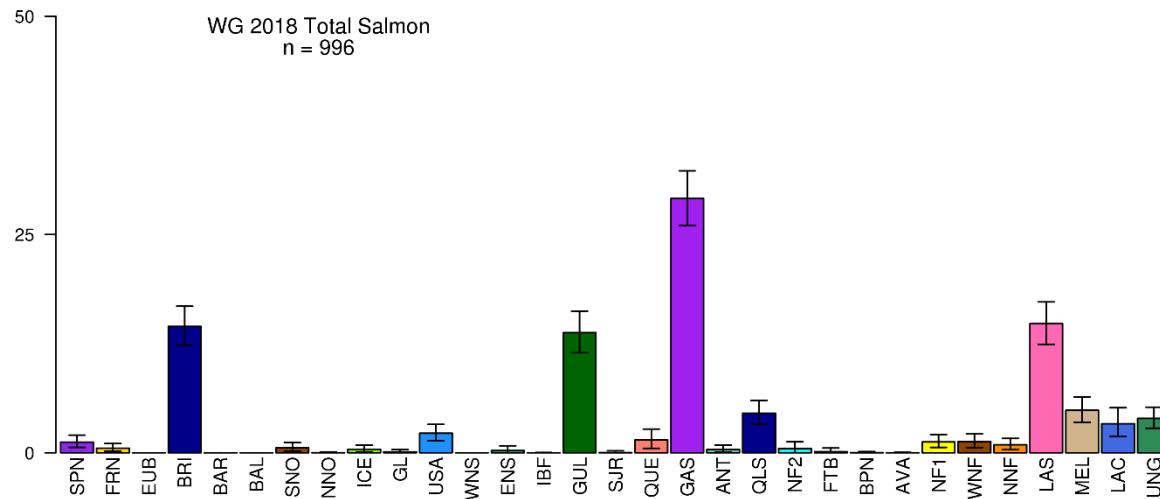
4.1 Catch: Region of Origin

Figure 5: sal.wgc.all



4.1 Catch: Region of Origin

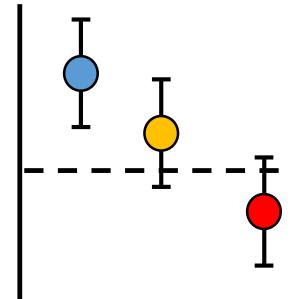
- North American:
 - 74% to 4 genetic reporting groups
 - Gulf (GUL), Gaspe (GAS), Labrador (LAC and LAS)
- European:
 - 84% to UK and Ireland genetic reporting group
 - 1 fish assigned to the Greenland genetic reporting group (Kapisillit River)



4.2 Status of Stocks: Risk Assessment Framework

- Management advice for West Greenland fishery based on non-maturing 1SW salmon (return as 2SW/MSW) from North America (NAC) and Southern-Northeast Atlantic (S-NEAC)
 - Pre-Fishery Abundance (PFA) relative to Spawner Escapement Reserve (SER)
 - SERs - CLs adjusted for natural mortality (3% per month at sea)
 - Spawners (2 SW NAC and MSW S-NEAC) relative to Conservation Limits (CLs)

- Full Reproductive Capacity:
 - lower bound of the 90% confidence interval of the estimate above reference point
 - equivalent to a probability of at least 95% of meeting reference point
- At Risk of Suffering Reduced Reproductive Capacity:
 - lower bound of the confidence interval is below reference point, but the midpoint is above
- Suffering Reduced Reproductive Capacity:
 - midpoint is below reference point



4.2 Status of Stocks: Pre-Fishery Abundance (PFA)

Figure 6: sal.wgc.all

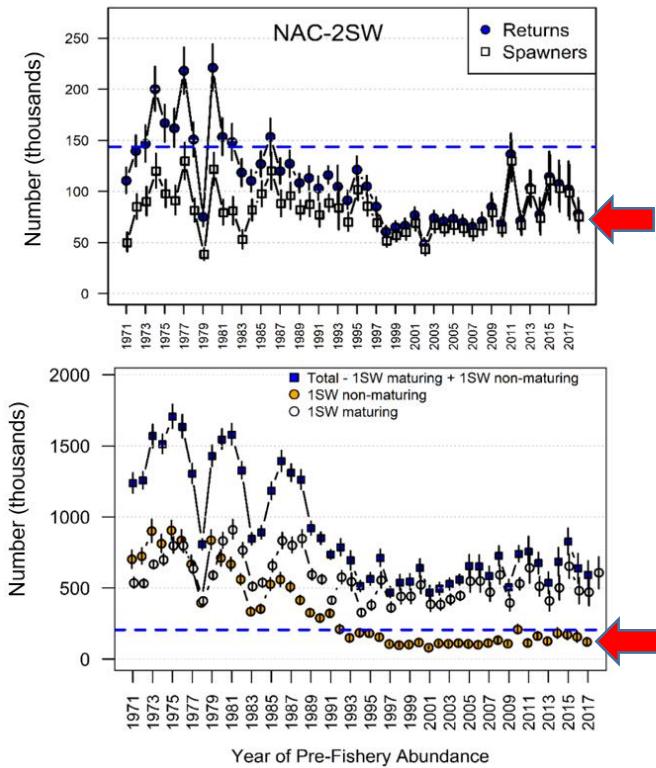
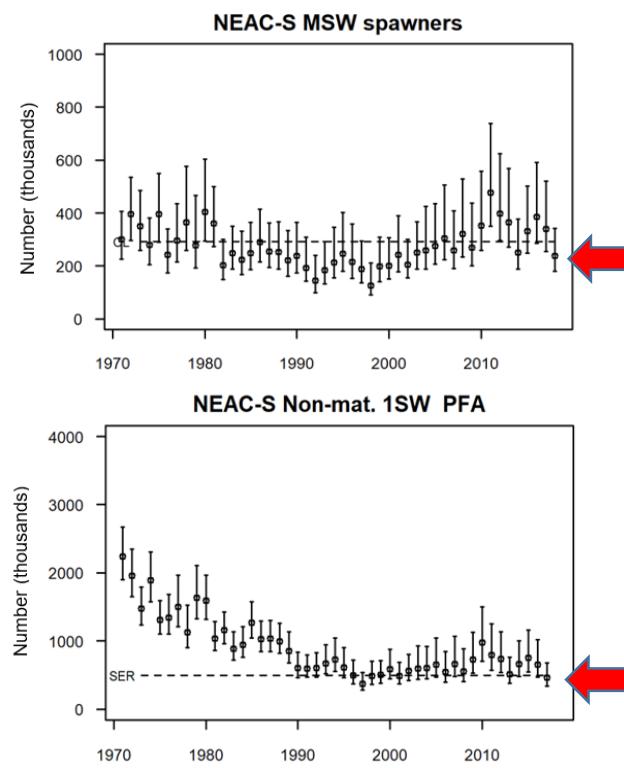


Figure 7: sal.wgc.all

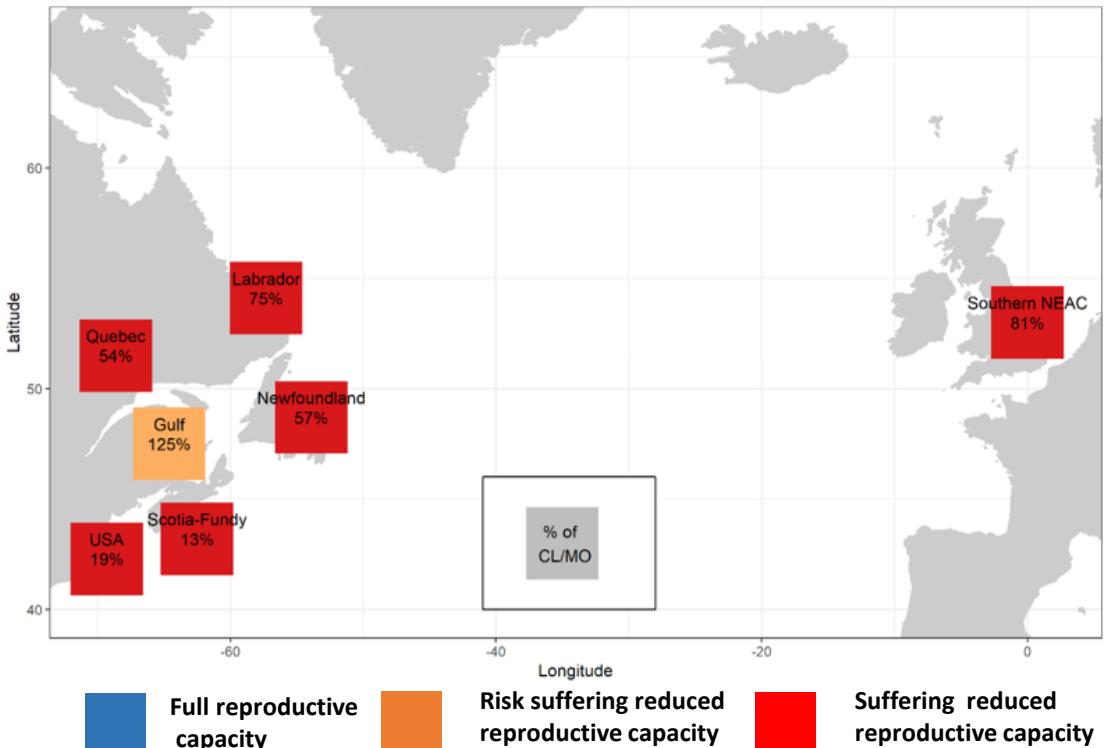


- PFA estimates of non-maturing 1SW salmon suggest continued low abundance
 - North American: suffering reduced reproductive capacity
 - Southern-NEAC: suffering reduced reproductive capacity

4.2 Status of Stocks: Spawners

- 2018 Spawners
- Median estimate < CLs
 - 5 of 6 North American 2SW stocks
 - Southern-NEAC MSW stock

Figure 8: sal.wgc.all



4.2 Status of Stocks: Exploitation Rate

- Exploitation rate = Greenland Catch ÷ Pre-Fishery Abundance (PFA)
 - North America: 6.7% Southern NEAC: 0.8%
 - among lowest in time series (1971-2017)

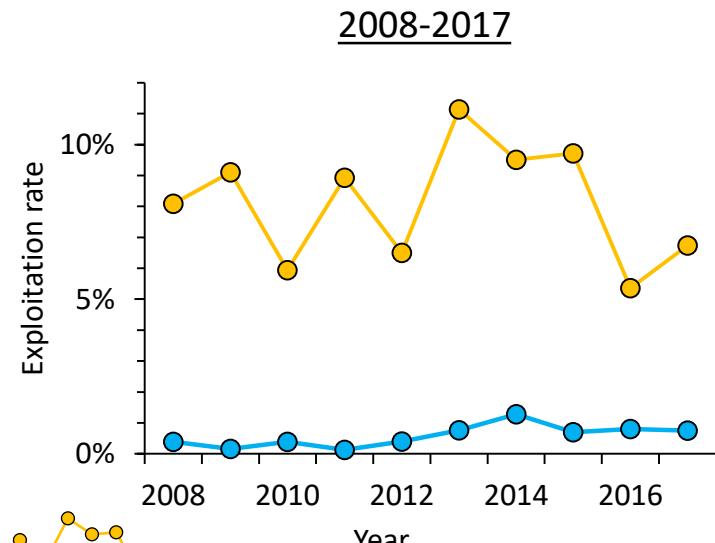
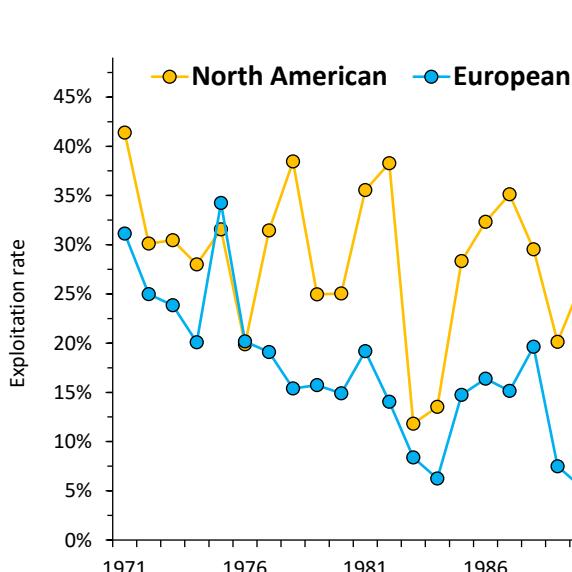


Figure 9: sal.wgc.all

The background of the slide features a close-up, low-angle shot of a school of fish swimming upwards through clear blue water. Sunlight filters down from the surface, creating bright highlights on the fish and the water's surface.

4.2 Status of Stocks: Summary

- Despite major changes in fisheries management in the past few decades and increasingly more restrictive fisheries measures, returns have remained near historical lows
- It is likely, therefore, that other factors besides fisheries are constraining production.

Photo by Nick Hawkins

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**ICES
CIEM**

Relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs, and research requirements



- Efforts to improve the reporting system of catch in the Greenland fishery should continue, while spatially and temporally explicit catch and effort data from all fishers should be made available for analyses.
- The broad geographic sampling programme including in Nuuk (multiple NAFO divisions including factory landings when permitted) should be expanded across the fishing season to ensure that samples are representative of the entire catch. This will allow more accurate estimates of region of origin and biological characteristics of the mixed-stock fishery.





Photo by Nick Hawkins

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Annex 6

WGC(19)06

Statement of Cooperation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Program for 2019

The West Greenland Commission recognizes 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 cooperatively over the past five decades to collect biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland. These data provide critical inputs to the stock assessment completed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) North Atlantic Salmon Working Group annually.

The objectives of the sampling program in 2019 are to:

- Continue the time series of data (1969-2018) 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 2019 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 the ICES scientists and NASCO cooperators.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following staff inputs to the cooperative sampling program at West Greenland during the 2019 fishing season:

- The European Union¹: provide a minimum of 8-person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2019 fishing season;
- Canada: provide a minimum of 2-person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2019 fishing season;
- The United States: provide a minimum of 2-person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2019 fishing season;
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in cooperation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources: sample Atlantic salmon from the city of Nuuk on a weekly basis during the 2019 fishing season;

¹ Ireland (2 samplers) and the United Kingdom (2 samplers).

² For the purposes of this statement of cooperation, 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.

- The United States: provide a Sampling Program Coordinator to coordinate the sampling program for 2019; and
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in cooperation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the Sampling Program Coordinator: 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 2019 fishing season:

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in cooperation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the Sampling Program Coordinator: work with any factories receiving harvested salmon (if factory landings are allowed) to collect biological characteristics data and samples from a proportion of the landed fish via factory staff;
- The United States: provide oversight for the processing of all collected biological samples;
- The United States: report the sampling program results to the ICES North Atlantic Salmon Working Group in support of the stock assessment completed by this group;
- The United States: coordinate the publishing of a report that details the results of the sampling program in cooperation 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 European Union (UK (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 coordination activities in support of the cooperative sampling program at West Greenland during the 2019 fishing season:

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland): identify a mechanism to provide sampling access to landed Atlantic salmon before grading / culling and before fish are subject to health regulations that would restrict or prohibit activities associated with sampling as needed;
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland): inform persons designated by cooperating 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 Coordinator 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; and
- All members of the West Greenland Commission participating in the sampling program are expected to share access to resulting data and work cooperatively in the publication of information.

Performance of activities set forth in this Statement of Cooperation 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 Cooperation. If compliance with domestic law and/or the lack of sufficient funds impairs a participating member's ability to implement this Statement of Cooperation, the participating member should notify the other members as soon as possible.

CNL(19)11

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 2019¹;
- 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management²;
- 1.3 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2019;
- 1.4 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements;
- 1.5 provide an overview of the methods used by jurisdictions to calculate conservation limits, including assumptions, benefits and short comings of each method, and advise on next steps to improve methodologies and include how conservation limits are used for setting catch advice;
- 1.6 provide an update on the distribution and abundance of pink salmon across the North Atlantic and advise on potential threats to wild Atlantic salmon.

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

- 2.1 describe the key events of the 2019 fisheries³;
- 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;

In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required, the aim should be for NASCO to inform ICES by 31 January of the outcome of utilising the FWI.

- 2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2020 / 2021 – 2022 / 2023 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 rebuilding⁴; and
- 2.5 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice.

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

- 3.1 describe the key events of the 2019 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;

In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required, the aim should be for NASCO to inform ICES by 31 January of the outcome of utilising the FWI.

- 3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2020-2023 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 rebuilding⁴; and
- 3.5 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice.

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

- 4.1 describe the key events of the 2019 fisheries³;
- 4.2 describe the status of the stocks⁵;

In the event that NASCO informs ICES that the Framework of Indicators (FWI) indicates that reassessment is required, the aim should be for NASCO to inform ICES by 31 January of the outcome of utilising the FWI.

- 4.3 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2020-2022 with an assessment of risk 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 rebuilding⁴;
- 4.4 update the Framework of Indicators used to identify any significant change in the previously provided multi-annual management advice.

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, including information on any new research into the migration and distribution of salmon at sea and the potential implications of climate change for salmon management.*
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 phone surveys are conducted, ICES should review the results and advise on the appropriateness for incorporating resulting estimates of unreported catch into the assessment process).*
4. *In response to questions 2.4, 3.4 and 4.3, 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.*
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)
Peder Fiske (NEAC, scientist representative)
Tony Blanchard (NAC, manager representative)
Tim Sheehan (NAC, scientist representative)
John Biilmann (WGC, manager representative)
Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)
Martha Robertson (ICES representative, Observer)
Patrick Gargan (Co-ordinator)

New questions, originator:

- 1.5 Standing Scientific Committee
- 1.6 European Union

Annex 8

WGC(19)00

List of West Greenland Commission Papers

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| WGC(19)01 | Provisional Agenda (English and French) |
| WGC(19)02 | Draft Agenda (English and French) |
| WGC(19)03 | Report on the Use of the Framework of Indicators in 2019 |
| WGC(19)04 | Report on the Greenland Salmon Fishery in 2018 |
| WGC(19)05 | Report to the West Greenland Commission on the Evaluation of the Salmon Fishery in Greenland in 2018 and Measures for the 2019 Salmon Fishery |
| WGC(19)06 | Statement of Cooperation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Program for 2019 (Tabled by the US) |
| WGC(19)07 | Exchange of Information between the United States Denmark (in respect to Faroe Islands and Greenland) |
| WGC(19)08 | Agenda |
| WGC(19)09 | Draft Report of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization |
| WGC(19)10 | Report of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization |
| WGC(19)11 | Presentation of the ICES Advice on Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland to the West Greenland Commission |