



West Greenland Commission

WGCIS(18)23

***Report of the Portland Inter-Sessional Meeting of the
West Greenland Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation
Organization***

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Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, USA

10 June 2018

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair of the West Greenland Commission (WGC), Mr Carl McLean (Canada), opened the meeting and welcomed participants to Portland and thanked the hosts (the United States) and the Secretariat for arranging the meeting.
- 1.2 No opening statements were made by representatives.
- 1.3 A list of participants at the meeting is attached as Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Secretary proposed a minor change to the numbering format of the Agenda sub-items under item 7 which was accepted by the Members of the Commission. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG) requested a change to the order of items under section 7 where item 7.2 *Identification and Review of the Options that may be Considered in a Possible Future Regulatory Measure* should be addressed before item 7.1 *Key Elements of Monitoring and Control Provisions that Parties Consider Important to be Implemented for the West Greenland Fishery*. The representative of the United States requested that items 7.1 and 7.2 should be considered in unison as there is likely to be considerable overlap between issues. The representative of Canada supported the proposal from the representative of DFG. The Chair advised that item 7.2 should be considered before item 7.1. No further changes to the Draft Agenda were suggested and the Commission adopted its Agenda, WGCIS(18)20, (Annex 2), incorporating the changes outlined herein.

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Dr Michael Millane (European Union) was appointed Rapporteur for the meeting.

4. Election of a Vice-Chair

- 4.1 The Commission's Vice-Chair, Ms Kim Damon-Randall (USA), had been elected at the Commission's Thirty-Third Annual Meeting, to serve until the end of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting. However, Ms Damon-Randall was no longer able to act in that capacity given that she is the new Head of Delegation for the United States. The Commission therefore needed to elect a new Vice-Chair. The Commission elected Mr Steve Gephard (USA) to serve until the end of Ms Damon-Randall's term of office at the end of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting, as nominated by the European Union (EU), seconded by Canada and additionally supported by DFG.

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

- 5.1 The representative of ICES, Dr Martha Robertson, presented a report on the scientific advice on salmon stocks in the West Greenland Commission area, CNL(18)08rev.
- 5.2 The Chair and the representatives of the EU, DFG and the NGOs thanked the representative of ICES for the presentation, which is contained in document WGC(18)05. The Chair then asked the Members of the Commission and representative of the NGOs for comments / questions on the presentation from ICES.
- 5.3 The representative of the United States requested information on gear restrictions between the licensed and unlicensed fishermen and the number of nets commercial fishermen typically fish. The representative of ICES did not have this information available. The representative of DFG informed the Commission that commercial fishermen are allowed to use up to 20 drift nets. However, very few fishermen use drift nets to catch salmon and the gill nets attached to the shore are the principal method of fishing employed. The representative of DFG noted that the amount of gear used is an element of required reporting, but that he was unsure whether the data have been compiled from the reports. In response to the representative of the NGOs, the representative of DFG informed the Commission that unlicensed fishermen are only allowed to use a single net when fishing. In response to the representative of the United States, the representative of ICES did not have information available on how accurate the landing figures are from unlicensed private fishermen and noted that the phone survey to verify unreported catches was not conducted in 2017. The representative of DFG provided information on the approach for assigning catches to four categories of fishermen, namely: catches by licensed commercial fishermen typically sold to open air markets or restaurants; unlicensed commercial catches; and catches by both licensed and unlicensed fishermen for private consumption. This manner of catch categorisation commenced in 2016. The representative of the United States requested information on why reported catches and the number of unlicensed fishermen reporting catches have both decreased in recent years. The representative of DFG committed to seeking further details on the issues raised by the United States with the relevant authorities in Greenland and reporting back during the next WGC session.
- 5.4 In response to the representative of the EU, the representative of ICES clarified that the fishing season was extended to 1 November as inclement weather made it unsafe for fishermen to service nets and retrieve gear at the end of the officially-designated season on 31 October.
- 5.5 In response to a question from the Chair, the representative of ICES informed the Commission that there is currently limited scientific understanding of the main factors contributing to low marine survival.
- 5.6 The value and limitations of the phone survey to verify landings and estimate unreported catches were discussed. The representative of ICES informed the Commission that such approaches to estimate unreported catch are necessary in any fishery where there is incomplete reporting. There is always the need for catch validation, but with very high reporting rates (approaching 100%) alternative survey methods could be employed and would be aimed at verifying reported catches. The representative of the NGOs highlighted that a number of jurisdictions employ a salmon carcass tagging programme in their domestic fisheries to better quantify harvests. The representative of the United States noted that landings by unlicensed fishermen for private consumption are difficult to quantify and verify via the phone survey approach.

The representative of ICES responded that a complete register of all fishermen would be required to enable the quantification of this catch information.

6. Overview and Discussion of the 2018 West Greenland Inter-Sessional Activities

6.1 The Chair noted that there had been two previous Inter-Sessional Meetings of the Commission in 2018; one in Copenhagen and one via Conference Call. The reports of these meetings are contained in documents WGC(18)03 and WGC(18)04 respectively. He presented a brief summary of the information and issues considered at those meetings, noting the following:

Copenhagen Inter-Sessional Meeting (27 February – 1 March)

A report on the 2017 salmon fishery at West Greenland is annexed to WGC(18)03:

- the management measures implemented for the 2015 fishery had continued in 2016 and 2017;
- factory landings were not permitted in 2016 and 2017 and the export ban remained in force during the three years the regulatory measure was in force;
- the Executive Order on catch reporting (in place before the 2015 fishery) requiring salmon catch to be reported by number of fish as well as weight continued;
- the reports indicated a 2017 catch of 26.8 tonnes, with the vast majority taken in West Greenland;
- GFLK continued its increased focus on monitoring of the fishery and provided reporting templates to fishermen reminding them of the requirement to report landings daily or every time the nets are mended;
- there was also an information campaign for newspapers, TV and radio during the fishing season and weekly updates on the quota uptake were published;
- 630 catch reports were received, of which approximately 160 were from unlicensed private fishers;
- written responses to questions raised by the Members of the Commission during the Copenhagen Inter-Sessional Meeting were received and are contained in document WGCIS(18)07;
- with regards to implementing the Updated Plan for Implementation of Monitoring and Control Measures, the Commission was advised that efforts to ensure proper reporting from open air markets continued, and dialogue with the responsible municipalities was maintained in 2017. Most catch reports were received within the season, the license condition requiring that samplers be allowed to take samples of catches upon request remained in force and the NASCO sampling brochure was issued with each license and forwarded to open air markets;
- the licensing of private / non-professional fishermen had not been implemented, nor had the measure stating that failure to report catches will result in no license being issued for the following year(s), even in the event of zero catch;
- the representative of DFG planned to complete an evaluation of the current regulatory measure prior to the Annual Meeting;

- the representative of Canada updated the Commission on progress that had been made with co-ordination of enforcement activities in Canada. The representative of the NGOs noted that the six tenets self-assessment for Canada had been a Canada-wide view and failed to recognise differences in levels of compliance between the Provinces. There had also been many changes to the management of the fisheries in Canada in 2017 due to low stock abundance which may merit reporting. The representative of Canada advised the Commission that a reappraisal of the six tenets report submitted in 2017 had not been considered. Canada would provide further details at the Annual Meeting;
- the representative of the EU reported on developments related to the six tenets for UK (England and Wales) and Ireland;
- the representative of the United States reported on progress with the ‘Species in the Spotlight initiative’;
- the representative of the EU presented an account of monitoring and assessment procedures in Ireland, including the reliance on catch data derived from carcass tagging. The presentation highlighted the vital role that carcass tagging and logbooks provided in ensuring that scientists and managers had reliable data to inform decisions and facilitate dynamic annual management; and
- the Commission also discussed possible elements for inclusion in a new regulatory measure for the fishery. This was discussed in detail under Agenda item 7.

Conference Call Inter-Sessional (15 May), WGC(18)04

- written responses from DFG to the second set of questions, posed by the Members of the Commission after the first Inter-Sessional Meeting, were received. These are contained in document WGCIS(18)14. Four of the questions had not been answered as DFG considered them to represent internal matters;
- the representative of the United States noted that it wanted to understand the constraints DFG faced in implementing monitoring and control provisions in the fishery, noting that some requirements of the previous regulatory measure had not been implemented (e.g. licensing all fishers and penalties for non-reporting). The representative of the United States also expressed disappointment that a phone survey had not been carried out in 2017. The representative of DFG later explained that this was due to staffing issues; and
- The representative of DFG recognised that DFG now had three years’ experience of the new monitoring and control requirements and of the resources needed to deliver against these. DFG would be exploring these issues further before the Annual Meeting in preparation for the development of a possible new regulatory measure. The representative of DFG noted that there is a need to balance the management commitments associated with salmon, where catches are now relatively small, with the wider political agenda and other fishery management priorities. The representative of the United States recognised that current catches were relatively low, but that catches at the current level (e.g. 27 t) still posed a threat to endangered salmon stocks originating in other jurisdictions. The representative of the United States also highlighted that significant uncertainties remain about the size of the unreported catch, particularly from the currently unlicensed component of the fishery.

- 6.2 The representative of the United States expressed appreciation for the time and effort the Commission Members have made for the Inter-Sessional Meetings to date in 2018. The representative of the United States noted that DFG previously indicated they would be undertaking a thorough review of management and control efforts and phone surveys in preparation for the Annual Meeting and requested an update on this. The representative of DFG explained that this will be considered at the full Commission meeting.

7. Considerations of Elements of a Possible Future Regulatory Measure for the West Greenland Commission

The Chair reminded the Members of the Commission of the considerations in accordance with Article 9 of the NASCO Convention that need to be taken into account by the Commission when setting a new regulatory measure.

7.1 Identification and Review of the Options that may be Considered in a Possible Future Regulatory Measure

- 7.1.1 Following relevant discussions at the Copenhagen Inter-Sessional Meeting in 2018 on potential elements for inclusion in a new regulatory measure, and with consideration to the operative paragraphs contained in the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Salmon at West Greenland for 2015, 2016 and 2017, WGC(15)21, the Chair advised the Commission that he had developed and tabled a document (WGCIS(18)11) that contained revised elements for potential inclusion in a new regulatory measure, to be considered prior to the Annual Meeting. Additionally, at the Inter-Sessional Conference Call, the United States indicated that they may table a document containing provisions that they consider should be included in a new regulatory measure. This document (WGCIS(18)19 – Annex 3) was received a day prior to the Portland Inter-Sessional Meeting.

- 7.1.2 The representative of DFG thanked the United States for presenting this paper, noting it was a constructive proposal with many existing and new positive elements which can be elaborated on. However, he expressed reservations on certain items and informed the Commission that further internal consultation within the authorities in Greenland will be required in advance of the Annual Meeting of the Commission. The representatives of the EU and Canada also acknowledged and thanked the United States for producing this document.

- 7.1.3 Extensive discussions commenced between the Members of the Commission on the content of document WGCIS(18)19. Items provisionally accepted by the Members were retained and included in a revised ‘Draft Proposed Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland, WGCIS(18)21 (Annex 4), with items remaining for further consideration in the Annual Meeting of the Commission identified within square brackets. Issues requiring further discussion include, *inter alia*:

- the appropriate use of the terminology ‘shall’ or ‘will’ where it occurs in the document;
- the opening and closing dates of fishing season (item 2);
- the total allowable catch level to be authorised (item 3);
- the Preamble; and
- item 8 of document WGCIS(18)19: on the time frame of the measure and on a process for review and reconsideration.

- 7.1.4 The representative of DFG noted that in certain fisheries regulated with multi-annual measures in other Regional Fisheries Management Organizations, a percentage of the catch under quota in a particular year can be carried through and added to the total allowable catch for the following year. The representatives of Canada and the United States noted that this approach would be problematic for stocks in critical zones and not appropriate for salmon fisheries which exploit specific components of the overall stock. This was accepted by the representative of DFG.
- 7.1.5 Clarification was sought on the appropriate definition in item 6 of the *timely manner* requirement to *inform NASCO and, as appropriate, ICES, of any modifications to the management of the West Greenland salmon fishery and provide a report on the outcome of the fishery*. The representative of the United States clarified that this measure would necessitate an inter-sessional meeting to review the information; however, that meeting could be the day before the NASCO Annual Meeting, or earlier, and that reference to ‘in a timely manner’ was not intended as a judgment on past reporting.
- 7.1.6 The representative of the NGOs noted that at the Copenhagen Inter-Sessional Meeting it was proposed that Greenland should distribute its weekly catch report to the Members of the Commission and the NGO representatives so that they are aware of the progress of the fisheries each year. The representative of DFG will enquire with their control unit if it is possible to do this when the fishery season starts. In addition, the representative of DFG noted that if this reporting scheme is adopted, it could be sent directly to the Secretariat for subsequent circulation to the Commission Members and accredited NGOs. The representative of the EU further suggested that weekly catches could indeed be reported but that, in the absence of a deadline, nothing prevented reporting weekly catches on a monthly or annual basis, and that for this reason it was necessary to request the submission of updated total catches on a weekly basis.
- 7.2 Key Elements of Monitoring and Control Provisions that Parties Consider Important to be Implemented for the West Greenland Fishery**
- a) Discussion on the Rationale for Considering these Monitoring and Control Provisions*
- 7.2.1 The Chair outlined the discussions undertaken by the Members of the Commission at the previous Inter-Sessional Meetings in 2018.
- b) Considerations on the Implementation of these Suggested Monitoring and Control Provisions*
- 7.2.2 Extensive discussions continued between the Commission Members on the content of items in paper WGCIS(18)19 under the section ‘Attachment to WGCIS(18)11’. As with the paragraphs discussed under item 7.1, some items were provisionally accepted by the Members of the Commission and retained and included in document WGCIS(18)21 and other items requiring further consideration during the Annual Meeting of the Commission are identified within square brackets, notably consideration of items 5, 6 and 7.
- 7.2.3 The representative of DFG thanked the representative of the United States for proposing items 6 and 7. However, he indicated that further consultation was required on aspects of these proposals with the relevant authorities in Greenland. The representatives of the EU and Canada acknowledged the constructive approach by DFG who indicated that it could accept, pending further internal consultation, the licensing of all fishermen and the non-renewal of licenses in the absence of the provision of catch reports. Further consideration was given by the Commission Members to the suggestion of a template

to better satisfy the reporting of catches in a more systematic and standardised manner. The representative of the United States noted that ICES will have incomplete data on the harvest if reporting of catches by some fishers is late. The representative of DFG informed the Commission that there is a register of all licensed fishermen, and under the approach proposed, they would have to report catches within one month of the close of the fishing season. Therefore, in order to verify catches and contact fishermen who have not reported catches within the specified reporting period, a written notification would take the place of the phone survey to seek such information. The representative of Canada suggested that rather than being too prescriptive in the manner used to follow up with fishermen that did not report, scope should be given to the Greenlandic authorities as to the particular mechanism used in this regard.

- 7.2.4 In addition to the discussion document WGCIS(18)19, draft text for the preamble section to the proposed regulatory measure was circulated by the United States for information. The representative of Canada noted that reference to the cultural importance of Atlantic salmon to the Greenlandic people should be included in the preamble. Additionally, the representative of DFG informed the Commission that he had difficulty accepting the proposed preamble text in paragraph 4 (referencing adjustments to the reported landings) as the exact mechanisms used to determine adjustments to landings in such situations were unclear. In addition, he requested another formulation of the proposed preamble text in paragraph 6. The Commission agreed to include the preamble text in square brackets in document WGCIS(18)21 and noted that the entire document remains under negotiation. Further revisions were made to this document and the revised version, WGC(18)06rev, will be tabled for consideration at the Annual Meeting of the Commission.
- 7.2.5 The Chair received confirmation from the Members of the Commission that the results of the discussion in agenda items 7.1 and 7.2 will form the contents of a draft new regulatory measure for consideration and will be appended to the inter-sessional meeting report as one document.

8. Other Business

- 8.1 There was no other business.

9. Report of the Meeting

- 9.1 The Commission agreed a report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting.

10. Close of the Meeting

- 10.1 The Chair thanked the participants for their contributions to the Inter-Sessional Meeting and closed the meeting.

List of Participants

Canada

Serge Doucet
Tony Blanchard
Frédéric Butruille
Gérald Chaput
Kate Johnson
Carl McLean (Chair)

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)

Emanuel Rosing
Tønnes Berthelsen
John Biilmann
Birta í Dali

European Union

Arnaud Peyronnet
Bernard Blazkiewicz
Delyth Dyne
Dennis Ensing
Cathal Gallagher
John McCartney
Denis Maher
Michael Millane
Lawrence Talks

United States

Kim Damon-Randall
Kim Blankenbeker
Steve Gephard
Alexis Ortiz
Rory Saunders
Tim Sheehan
Julie Williams
Rebecca Wintering

ICES

Martha Robertson

NGOs

Dave Meerburg
Andy Walker

Secretariat

Emma Hatfield
Sarah Robinson

WGCIS(18)20

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of the West Greenland Commission***

Holiday Inn by the Bay, Portland, Maine, USA

10 June 2018

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Election of Vice-Chair
5. ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
6. Overview and Discussion of the 2018 West Greenland Commission Inter-Sessional Activities
7. Consideration of Elements of a Possible Future Regulatory Measure for the West Greenland Fishery:
 - 7.1 Identification and Review of the Options that may be Considered in a Possible Future Regulatory Measure
 - 7.2 Key Elements of Monitoring and Control Provisions that Parties Consider Important to be Implemented for the West Greenland Fishery
 - a) Discussion on the Rationale for Considering these Monitoring and Control Provisions
 - b) Considerations on the Implementation of these Suggested Monitoring and Control Provisions
8. Other Business
9. Report of the Meeting
10. Close of the Meeting

WGCIS(18)19

***U.S. Views and Suggestions on a Possible Regulatory Measure
for the West Greenland Atlantic Salmon Fishery***

Introduction

In 2015, the West Greenland Commission (WGC) adopted a Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Salmon at West Greenland for 2015, 2016 and 2017 (WGC(15)21). In 2018, the WGC will consider development of a new regulatory measure for possible adoption. The United States is committed to engaging constructively with our WGC partners in this effort.

We have carefully considered the information and discussions from the two WGC intersessional meetings held so far in 2018. We continue to agree that there is no need to develop a new regulatory measure completely from scratch. Many of the existing paragraphs of the regulatory measure agreed in 2015 are still relevant. It is the U.S. opinion, however, that improvements and additional elements are needed in what the Chair's Working Document and its associated attachment to ensure any new regulatory measure is as clear as possible and that it strengthens the management of the West Greenland salmon fishery to balance, to the extent possible, stock conservation needs with an internal use fishery.

In an effort to help advance development and possible adoption of a new regulatory measure, the United States offers below its views and suggestions on various elements of a possible regulatory measure for consideration by WGC members. As noted, our starting point is the Chair's Working Document. It includes a number of elements, some of them longstanding, that we believe should be included in a new regulatory measure. Under some of the elements, we have provided commentary reflecting our views, including identifying additional elements and those elements that could potentially be dropped from a new regulatory measure. In some cases, we have also suggested phrasing to improve the clarity of an element, and / or to expand elements, including adding specificity. In addition, we request that, as a general matter, where the word 'will' appears, it be changed to 'shall' to conform with standard international usage.

We look forward to continuing discussion of a possible new regulatory measure for the West Greenland fishery during the third WGC intersessional meeting on June 10, 2018. In that regard, we hope this document facilitates discussions.

U.S. Views and Suggestions

Preamble

In Copenhagen, it was decided that the preambles of documents WGC(15)20 and WGC(15)21 should be reviewed at the Annual Meeting as necessary. A revised preamble will be needed as part of any new regulatory measure. Before turning to revising the preamble, additional progress is needed on the operative elements of a new measure.

Operative paragraphs of WGCIS(18)11

- (1) There shall be no export of wild Atlantic salmon or its products from Greenland;
- (2) The fishery shall open no earlier than DD MM and close no later than DD MM each year;
- (3) The catch limit for the West Greenland fishery shall be XX tonnes. Any overharvest in a particular year will result in an equal reduction in the catch limit in the following year; there will be no carry forward into a future year of any under-harvest;

Suggested modification to the first sentence of this element:

- *‘The total allowable catch for all components of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland shall be restricted to ## metric tonnes.’*
- (4) Efforts will be made to identify and implement temporal or spatial harvest restrictions that would provide increased protection for weaker stocks taking into account information provided by ICES;
 - To date, no such restrictions have been identified and until new information is presented, there appear to be no options available. Thus, this element could be dropped from a new regulatory measure.
 - Whether or not this element is included in a regulatory measure, it might be helpful to consider including a standing question in the Request for Scientific Advice from ICES to ‘advise on changes to temporal and / or spatial fishery patterns that may provide increased protection for weaker stocks’ as last requested in 2015 (CNL(15)11).
 - (5) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will further improve the monitoring, management control and surveillance of its salmon fishery during the period covered by this measure, at a minimum, in accordance with the attachment, with the objective of achieving full catch accountability and, if possible, will report annually on these actions;
 - Such general language could be included in a new regulatory measure; however, specific monitoring and control elements also need to be included.
 - (6) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will inform NASCO and, as appropriate, ICES in a timely manner of any modifications to the management of the West Greenland salmon fishery, of the outcome of the fishery and of progress with the implementation and effectiveness of agreed monitoring and control measures in the attachment for annual review by the Commission;
 - In line with current practice, requirements to report on modifications to the management of the fishery, the implementation of the regulatory measure and the fishery outcome each year should be included in a new regulatory measure.

Suggested modification to the text:

- *‘Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) shall, in a timely manner, inform NASCO and, as appropriate, ICES, of any modifications to the management of the West Greenland salmon fishery and provide a report on the outcome of the fishery.’*
- *‘The WGC shall review implementation of all aspects of this regulatory measure in advance of the NASCO Annual Meeting for each year that it is in force.’*

- (7) States of origin will explore opportunities to share experiences with Greenland on monitoring, management, control and surveillance in the salmon fishery through knowledge-sharing exchange programmes;
- (8) This regulatory measure will apply to the fishery at West Greenland in XX. This measure may also apply in XX unless any Member of the Commission requests review.
 - A new regulatory measure needs to cover, at a minimum, the West Greenland fishery for 2018. The United States is open to considering a multi-annual regulatory measure and to finding a way forward in this respect. If a multi-annual measure can be agreed, it should include a reconsideration clause along the lines of that in the 2015 regulatory measure and that also could include a reference to the Framework of Indicators since this can also be the basis for reconsideration.

Attachment to WGCIS(18)11

- (1) Greenland shall annually collect and verify catch data of fishing activity of all licensed fishermen;
 - Collecting and verifying the fishing activity of all fishermen is important. Specific actions in this regard should be included in the regulatory measure, and some ideas in this regard are offered below in the discussion under other paragraphs.
- (2) All professional fishermen fishing for salmon shall require a license; only licensed professional fishermen shall be authorised to supply salmon to the communities;
 - Licensing requirements are an effective fishery management tool and should not be limited to only professional fishermen. Further, fishing without a license should not be allowed.

Suggested modification to the text:

- *“All fishers for Atlantic salmon shall be required to have a license to fish and fishing for Atlantic salmon without a license shall be prohibited.”*
- (3) In the case of non-professional fishermen, approaches shall be identified and implemented to provide a means for accurately quantifying harvests;
 - Our suggestions under paragraph 2 above and paragraph 6 below would help address this element not only for non-professional fishermen but for all fishermen, which is essential. In addition, we continue to agree with the ICES advice that a standardized telephone survey should be implemented to help address any reporting gaps. Given its expertise and previous advice on the matter, ICES should be asked to help with the survey design. Further, this tool could potentially be implemented in a manner that would help with the outreach aspects of paragraph 7 below.

Suggested modification to the text:

- *“A telephone survey shall be implemented after the fishing season to interview all licensed fishers who did not report catches to gather relevant fishing information, including harvest, using a standardized questionnaire in light of the advice from ICES and agreed by the WGC. Results of the phone survey shall be provided to ICES for their consideration prior to their annual Atlantic salmon assessment meeting.”*
- (4) Landing of salmon at fish factories shall be prohibited;

Suggested modification to the text:

- *“Landings of wild Atlantic salmon to fish processing factories shall be prohibited.”*
- (5) Catches will be monitored regularly to allow in-season monitoring of the catch limit;
- (6) All salmon fishermen / all licensed salmon fishermen will be required to provide a seasonal catch report, including zero catch reports, within one month of the end of the salmon fishing season;
- Paragraphs 5 and 6 are important elements that should be retained in a new regulatory measure.
 - Development of a standardized reporting template to attach to a regulatory measure as a technical matter that should involve ICES scientists.

Suggested modification to the text in paragraphs 5 and 6:

- *All licensed fishers for Atlantic salmon shall provide a full accounting of all fishing activity and harvest, including zero harvest, according to the standardized template annexed to this measure. Reporting shall be required on a weekly and / or daily basis as appropriate to allow for in-season monitoring of the catch limit.’*
- (7) Failure by a fisherman to report catches, including zero catches, as specified in (6) shall result in follow-up action by the Government of Greenland to encourage reporting, and, if appropriate, other actions, such as the impositions of penalties;
- Non-punitive actions to encourage fishermen to meet their reporting obligations are important for effective management. Access to the resource, however, must be linked to meeting that fundamental obligation. In that regard, the suggested text below could replace or augment the language in the Chair’s Working Document.

Suggested modification to the text:

- *‘All Atlantic salmon fishers that have not provided a full accounting of their catches, including reports for zero catches, within one month of the end of the fishing season shall be prohibited from fishing for salmon during the subsequent fishing season until such catch data are received.’*
- (8) It shall be a condition of the licence that fishermen shall allow samplers from the NASCO sampling programme to take samples of their catches upon request; and
- The West Greenland sampling program has provided important information to NASCO. We would like to discuss this and other ways to continue to ensure access to samples.
- (9) Information will be provided to fishermen and supervisors at open air markets explaining the rationale for the sampling programme. The findings of the sampling programme will be disseminated through appropriate means, with the assistance of the Government of Greenland, as requested.
- Sharing information on the benefits of the sampling program within Greenland is valuable and should be continued.

WGCIS(18)21

***Draft Proposed Regulatory Measure
for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland***

[RECALLING that the West Greenland Commission (WGC) adopted regulatory measures that provided for a fishery at West Greenland that was ‘restricted to that amount used for internal consumption in Greenland, which in the past has been estimated at 20 t annually’ and that the regulatory measures adopted in 2006, 2009 and 2012 applied for three-year periods, subject to the application of the Framework of Indicators (FWI);

RECALLING as well that at its 2015 Annual Meeting, the WGC adopted a multi-annual regulatory measure intended, *inter alia*, to improve monitoring and control of the West Greenland fishery, but the WGC was unable to agree on a total catch limit as part of that measure;

NOTING that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) unilaterally committed to limit the total annual catch for all components of its fishery to 45 t in 2015, 2016 and 2017 and that over that time period, reported landings were approximately 57 t, 27 t, and 28 t respectively;

FURTHER NOTING that from 2002 – 2017, adjustments to the reported landings have been necessary in all but two years due to under-reporting identified through the multilateral West Greenland sampling program or the phone surveys conducted by Greenland;

CONSIDERING that ICES has assessed the status of the stocks of the seven regions contributing to the fishery at West Greenland and has advised that in line with the management objectives agreed by NASCO, there are no mixed-stock fishery options at West Greenland for the fishing years 2018 to 2020;

STRESSING that some stocks harvested at West Greenland are at risk of extinction and under special protection in some States of origin that includes prohibitions on harvest and sale;

RECOGNISING that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) has made some progress over the 2015 – 17 period to improve catch accountability from licensed fishers, but that additional improvements are needed to ensure catches from all components of the fishery are accounted for properly;

COMMITTING to continue to co-operate in the design and implementation of a sampling programme for the salmon fishery at West Greenland to obtain critical data needed for ICES stock assessments;

[NOTING that an updated Framework of Indicators has been provided by ICES and can be applied between assessments to evaluate if a significant change is signalled by the indicators and, therefore, a reassessment of the ICES advice is warranted;]

Thus, the Members of the Commission agree as follows:

- (1) There [shall] be no export of wild Atlantic salmon or its products from Greenland. Landings and sales of Atlantic salmon to fish processing factories [shall] be prohibited;
- (2) The fishery [shall] open no earlier than [15 August] and close no later than [31 October] each year;
- (3) The total allowable catch for all components of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland [shall] be restricted to ## metric tonnes. Any overharvest in a particular year [will] result in an equal reduction in the total allowable catch in the following year; there [will] be no carry forward into a future year of any under-harvest;
- (4) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) [will] further improve the monitoring, management control and surveillance of its salmon fishery during the period covered by this measure, at a minimum, with the objective of achieving full catch accountability and, if possible, [will] report annually on these actions;
- (5) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) [shall], in a timely manner, inform NASCO and, as appropriate, ICES, of any modifications to the management of the West Greenland salmon fishery and provide a report on the outcome of the fishery. The West Greenland Commission [shall] review implementation of all aspects of this regulatory measure in advance of the NASCO Annual Meeting for each year that it is in force;
- (6) States of origin [will] explore opportunities to share experiences with Greenland on monitoring, management, control and surveillance in the salmon fishery through knowledge-sharing exchange programmes; and
- (7) [This regulatory measure [will] apply to the fishery at West Greenland in XX. This measure may also apply in XX unless any Member of the Commission requests review.]

Additionally, the Members of the Commission agree the following paragraphs for the implementation of monitoring and control measures in the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland:

- (8) Greenland [shall] annually collect and verify catch data of fishing activity of all licensed fishermen;
- (9) [All fishers for Atlantic salmon [shall] be required to have a licence to fish and fishing for Atlantic salmon without a licence [shall] be prohibited. Only licensed full-time professional hunters and fishers [shall] be authorised to sell Atlantic salmon at open air markets in communities];
- (10) [All licensed fishers for Atlantic salmon [shall] provide a full accounting of all fishing activity and harvest, including zero harvest, according to an agreed standardised reporting template. Reporting [shall] be required on a daily basis to allow for in-season monitoring of the total allowable catch. Greenland [will] provide updated catch reports to the Secretariat on a weekly basis. The Secretariat [will] then provide these to the Parties and NGO representative of the Commission];
- (11) [All licensed fishers for Atlantic salmon that have not provided a full accounting of their catches, including reports for zero catches, within one month of the end of the fishing season at the latest [shall] be prohibited from acquiring a licence for the following season until required reporting is received. One month after the fishing

season the Government of Greenland [shall] follow up with fishers who have not provided full accounting of their catches, including zero catches;]

- (12) It [shall] be a condition of the licence that fishermen [shall] allow samplers from the NASCO sampling programme to take samples of their catches upon request; and
- (13) Information [will] be provided to fishermen and supervisors at open air markets explaining the rationale for the sampling programme. The findings of the sampling programme [will] be disseminated through appropriate means, with the assistance of the Government of Greenland, as requested.