

WGC(12)4
Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Salmon at West Greenland
for 2012, 2013, and 2014

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

RECALLING that at its 2006 Annual Session, the West Greenland Commission adopted a multiannual regulatory measure, as suggested within the 'Next Steps' Process, for 2006 that was continued in 2007 and 2008, as the result of application of the Framework of Indicators;

RECALLING that at its 2009 Annual Session, the West Greenland Commission adopted a multiannual regulatory measure, as suggested within the 'Next Steps' Process, for 2009 that was continued in 2010 and 2011, as the result of application of the Framework of Indicators;

RECALLING that NASCO has requested that ICES advice for 2012 include annual catch options or alternative management advice for 2012-2014 and an update of the Framework of Indicators for the West Greenland Commission area;

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

JOINING ICES in supporting the efforts of the Greenlandic authorities for the expansion of the logbook reporting system as a condition of the licensing system for the salmon fishery at West Greenland;

ENCOURAGING Greenland to implement ICES recommendation to continue and expand the broad geographic sampling program (multiple NAFO divisions) to more accurately estimate continent of origin and biological characteristics of the salmon in the West Greenland mixed-stock fishery and also assist, to the extent possible, in improving access to samples in Nuuk;

COMMITTING to continue multilateral cooperation in the design and implementation of a sampling program in close coordination with the fishery;

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

CONSIDERING FURTHER that ICES has advised that none of the stated management objectives which would allow a fishery at West Greenland will be met in 2012, 2013 or 2014;

RECOGNIZING that an updated Framework of Indicators has been provided by ICES and will be applied in 2013 and 2014 to evaluate if a significant change is signaled by the indicators and, therefore, a reassessment is warranted;

The Parties agree that:

(1) In 2012 the catch at West Greenland will be restricted to that amount used for internal consumption in Greenland, which in the past has been estimated at 20 tons annually. There will be no commercial export of salmon.

(2) This regulatory measure applies in 2013 and 2014 unless application of the Framework of Indicators indicates that there had been a significant change in the indicators and, therefore, a reassessment is warranted.

(3) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will inform NASCO of the outcome of the 2012, 2013 and 2014 fisheries, including progress in implementing a logbook program and any other measures to improve monitoring of the fishery and improve catch statistics.