

WGC(12)5

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

George Hotel, Edinburgh, Scotland, UK

5 - 8 June 2012

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman, Mr George Lapointe (United States) opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commission.
- 1.2 An opening statement was made on behalf of the NGOs (Annex 1).
- 1.3 A list of participants at the Twenty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council and Commissions is included on page **xx** of this document.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda, WGC(12)**XX** (Annex 2).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Ms Marie Debieuvre was appointed as rapporteur.

4. Election of Officers

- 4.1 The Commission elected Mr George Lapointe (United States) as its Chairman and Mr Ted Potter (European Union) as its Vice-Chairman.

5. Review of the 2011 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

- 5.1 The representative of ICES, Mr Gérald Chaput, presented a report on the scientific advice on salmon stocks in the West Greenland Commission area, CNL(12)8. His presentation to the Commission is available as document WGC(12)**xx**. The ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM) report, which contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page **xx** of this document.
- 5.2 The representative of the US supported the recommendation from ICES that arrangements be made to enable sampling of the fishery in Nuuk where an important proportion of the catch is landed annually and requested assistance of the Greenlandic authorities in this regard. While in the last three years samples had been obtained

through the enhanced sampling programme, this had now ended so it would be important to have other arrangements in place. She also indicated that it was the intention of the US to make a proposal in the North American Commission for an inter-sessional meeting with Canada to review the management objectives for the Scotia Fundy and US regions. At present the rebuilding objective is to achieve a 25% increase in returns of 2SW salmon compared to the average returns in the period 1992 - 1996. She noted that if this was achieved it would still only represent 10% of the conservation limits which is not consistent with NASCO agreements. The external performance review panel had also encouraged progress in relation to initiatives for endangered species. The US would, therefore, wish to work with Canada to review these objectives with a view to considering a sequential approach to moving these objectives towards those contained in NASCO's agreements.

- 5.2 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) presented a report on the 2011 fishery, WGC(12)3 (Annex 3). The representative of the US thanked the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) for the report and expressed appreciation for the consideration being given to amending the current regulation with a view to improving catch reporting so as to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the fishery. She asked if unlicensed fishermen fishing for salmon for private consumption were required to report their catch. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) indicated that while fishermen fishing only for private consumption do not require a licence, they are urged to report their catch to GLFK and there have been media campaigns to encourage this. Fishermen wishing to sell their catch and tourist fishermen require a licence and are required to report their catch.

6. Regulatory Measures

- 6.1 The multi-annual measure for the West Greenland fishery adopted at the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Commission, WGC(09)7, applied to the fishery in 2009, 2010 and 2011. The Commission considered a proposal for a multi-annual regulatory measure for the West Greenland salmon fishery, WGC(12)4. This measure was adopted for the calendar years 2012 - 2014, WGC(12)xx, (Annex 4).
- 6.2 [The Commission agreed that the same procedure as used during the previous regulatory measure for applying the Framework of Indicators (FWI) would apply during the new regulatory measure. Under this arrangement a small group comprising one representative from each member of the Commission would work by correspondence to coordinate the data collection and application of the FWI. The Secretary will contact the Parties to seek their nominations for the Group and liaise with the Chairman and would report the findings to the Parties and to ICES in January in each year when the FWI is used.]

7. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery

- 7.1 [The West Greenland salmon fishery sampling programme provides valuable biological data to the stock assessments conducted by ICES that inform science-based management decisions for this fishery. The Parties to the West Greenland Commission have worked cooperatively over the past three decades to collect these

biological data. The Commission adopted a West Greenland Fishery Sampling Agreement for 2012, WGC(12)xx (Annex 5).]

8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

8.1 [The Chairman announced that the draw for the West Greenland Commission prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was made by the Auditor on 9 May 2012. There have been some difficulties contacting the winner and this matter will be resolved after the Annual Meeting.]

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

9.1 The Commission appointed Ms Kristina Guldbaek (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to serve on the Standing Scientific Committee. The Commission agreed to the request for scientific advice from ICES prepared by the Standing Scientific Committee in relation to the West Greenland Commission area. The request to ICES, as agreed by the Council, is contained in document CNL(12)10 (Annex 6).

10. Other Business

10.1 [There was no other business.]

11. Date and Place of Next Meeting

11.1 [The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at the same time and place as the Thirtieth Annual Meeting of the Council in 2013.]

12. Report of the Meeting

12.1 [The Commission agreed a report of the meeting.]

Note: The annexes mentioned above begin on page XX, following the French translation of the report of the meeting. A list of West Greenland Commission papers is included in Annex 7.