

WGC(15)16

Draft Terms of Reference for the West Greenland Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on the Application of the Six Tenets for Effective Management of an Atlantic Salmon Fishery

The *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Monitoring and Control considered a working paper entitled The Six Tenets for Effective Management of an Atlantic Salmon Fishery (WGCMC(14)2). The paper contained a matrix which supported the assessment of the management of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland against the six tenets. The Working Group saw merit in using the matrix as a tool to evaluate the current monitoring and control of the West Greenland salmon fishery with a view to developing recommendations for possible future enhancements. The six tenets matrix was applied to the West Greenland Atlantic salmon fishery and proved to be a useful tool for providing a framework for the assessment of the fishery as well as a common agreed upon language to structure the subsequent discussions on the management of the fishery. Participants at the intersessional meeting of the West Greenland Commission considered the six tenets approach to be useful and informative. The West Greenland Commission supported, in principle, taking the approach forward for the fisheries managed by Parties in the Commission but noted the need for consultation and coordination of the approach before it was formally adopted. The Commission noted the possibility for incorporating this assessment within the Annual Progress Report process, but noted that would be a decision for the Council to make.

The West Greenland Commission agreed to establish an *Ad Hoc* Working Group on the Application of the Six Tenets for Effective Management of an Atlantic Salmon Fishery. The *Ad Hoc* Group is tasked with developing an approach and suggested timeline for the application of the six tenets process to all Atlantic salmon fisheries conducted by members of the West Greenland Commission.

To initiate the work of the *Ad Hoc* Group, the West Greenland Commission will request that the members of the Commission provide a self-assessment of the management of their Atlantic salmon fisheries (excluding fisheries from Jurisdictions within the Northern NEAC stock complex as defined by ICES) according to the procedures outlined within WGCMC(14)2. Members may want to refer to WGCMC(14)14 (*Report of the West Greenland Commission Ad Hoc Working Group on Monitoring and Control*) and WGC(15)3 (*Report of the Inter-sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission*) to learn from the experiences of members that have previously provided self-assessments. The *Ad Hoc* Group will use these self-assessments to satisfy the terms of references outlined below.

Terms of Reference

The *Ad Hoc* Group will:

1. review and evaluate the self-assessments;

2. develop a framework by which the Members of the West Greenland Commission can evaluate their Atlantic salmon fisheries management procedures against the six-tenets for all Atlantic salmon fisheries within their jurisdictions based on the experience and issues raised with the trial assessment and review process including:
 - a. reviewing WGCMC(14)2, providing clarification of the text, where needed, on the wording of the tenets and suggesting re-organization, if required, of the six tenets matrix for application to all Atlantic salmon fisheries conducted by Members within the West Greenland Commission;
 - b. advising on other ‘tenets’ used in other countries or management organizations, which may be considered for inclusion to enhance relevance and applicability of the proposed six tenets;
3. advise on the appropriate level of categorization (e.g. report on fisheries at a national or sub-national level, commercial/recreational/subsistence fisheries) and for fisheries that are closed;
4. provide standardized protocols guiding jurisdictions on the application of the six tenets matrix by;
 - a. providing guidance on the determination of qualitative scoring (e.g. red, yellow and green, if appropriate), for each tenet to assist Jurisdictions in completing the assessment
 - b. advising on ancillary information that may be provided by Jurisdictions (e.g. tenet-specific footnotes) to be used towards further interpretation of the qualitative scoring of each tenet
 - c. advising on the utility of individual Jurisdictions providing their own assessments versus the assessments being informed by a group discussion and consensus approach.

Work Schedule

The *Ad Hoc* Group will receive the trial self-assessments from the Members of the West Greenland Commission (excluding Jurisdictions within the Northern NEAC stock complex as defined by ICES) by the 30 October 2015. The *Ad Hoc* Group will meet in person to review the assessments provided by Parties before 26 February 2016 and will present an overview of its findings and a proposed six-tenet assessment process to the West Greenland Commission at its 2016 Annual Meeting.

Composition of the *Ad Hoc* Group

The *Ad Hoc* Group may be composed of representatives of Members of the West Greenland Commission and a maximum of two representatives from an accredited NGO group (one from North America and one from Europe). The Working Group will be supported by the Secretariat.