

WGC(15)20

Updated Plan for Implementation of Monitoring and Control Measures in the Salmon Fishery at West Greenland

RECALLING the Report of the West Greenland Commission *Ad Hoc* Working Group on Monitoring and Control (WGC(15)3), including the working document setting forth six tenets for effective management of an Atlantic salmon fishery;

FURTHER RECALLING the outcomes from the 2015 Inter-sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission held in Nuuk, Greenland, which developed a *Plan for Implementation of Monitoring and Control Measures in the Salmon Fishery at West Greenland*;

NOTING that Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) has taken some steps to improve monitoring and control of their salmon fishery following the 2015 West Greenland Commission inter-sessional meeting;

RECOGNISING the commitment of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to further improve the monitoring and control of its salmon fishery at West Greenland;

The Members of the West Greenland Commission agree as follows:

In accordance with the recommendations of the *Ad hoc* Working Group on Monitoring and Control, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, in cooperation with the Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK) and the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GN), implemented a telephone questionnaire survey of fishing activity of fishermen who held licences in 2014. The survey will be repeated after the 2015 fishery.

The Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture will take forward proposals to implement measures, where possible in advance of the 2015 salmon fishery at West Greenland, such that:

- (1) All individuals fishing for salmon will require a license; only licensed professional fishermen will be authorised to supply salmon to the communities;
- (2) Fish factories will be permitted to accept landings of salmon where they have authorisation to do so, and fishermen will be advised that landing of salmon at non-authorised factories is not permitted;
- (3) Fish factories will report landings by weight and also where possible by number no less frequently than on a weekly basis;
- (4) Catches will be monitored regularly to allow in-season monitoring of the catch limit;
- (5) 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;
- (6) Failure to report catches as specified in (5) will result in no license being issued for the following year(s) even in the case of zero catch;
- (7) It will be a condition of the license that fishermen shall allow samplers from the NASCO sampling programme to take samples of their catches upon request; and
- (8) Information will be provided to fishermen and supervisors at open air markets explaining the rationale for the sampling programme and the findings of the programme

to date through the members' magazine of the Fishermen and Hunters Organization (KNAPK) and press releases.

Progress in implementing these measures and evaluating their effectiveness will be reported at the meetings of the West Greenland Commission.

In addition, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture will undertake the following:

- (1) Consider delaying the opening date of the fishing season and other measures such as the setting of factory-specific quotas, eliminating fishing for Atlantic salmon by non-professional fishermen, increased enforcement activity and reporting, etc.;
- (2) Evaluate and report on the costs and benefits of conducting a pilot carcass tagging project in one or more communities in conjunction with other Members of the Commission who may be able to provide information on the application of carcass tagging; and
- (3) Review the Plan on an annual basis, make recommendations for its further improvement and report the outcomes at the meetings of the West Greenland Commission.