

## **WGC(09)4**

### ***Draft Report of the Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission Rica Seilet Hotel, Molde, Norway***

**2-5 June, 2009**

#### **1. Opening of the Meeting**

- 1.1 The Chairman, Mr. Guy Beaupré (Canada) opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the Twenty-Sixth 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-Sixth 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(09)xx (Annex 2).

#### **3. Nomination of a Rapporteur**

- 3.1 Mr Hakan Carlstand (European Union) was appointed as rapporteur.

#### **4. Review of the 2008 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

- 4.1 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) reported on events in the 2008 salmon fishery at West Greenland. The catch in 2008 was 26 tonnes of which about half was used for direct consumption and half was sold at open air markets or to institutions. Of the 260 licenses issued only 55 were used and this low level of utilization is because fishermen continue to apply for a license in the expectation that a commercial fishery may be reopened in the future. She indicated that the agency responsible for controlling the fishery does its utmost to improve reporting of catches and in this regard revisions to the legislation are being considered. One problem is that there are some difficulties in determining where a salmon originates and double counting can occur when salmon are caught in one place and sold elsewhere. With regard to the quota for the commercial fishery this was set to zero in 2008 and that will be the case again in 2009. It is expected that the 2009 fishery will open on 1 August and remain open for 2 months. TV broadcasts have been used to increase awareness of the need to report catches and this will be repeated again in 2009. A report on the fishery in 2008 was tabled, WGC(09)6 (Annex 3).
- 4.2 The representative of the European Union referred to statements in the ICES advice that indicate that there is no quantitative approach to estimate unreported catches. He

asked if there had been any advances in this regard rather than just relying on an estimate of 10 tonnes. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) indicated that new measures are being considered to reduce the level of unreported catch.

- 4.3 The representative of the US referred to a statement in the Annual Return for Greenland that indicated that it is no longer permitted to sell salmon to hotels, restaurants, institutions etc. Only sale at open markets is allowed. She asked for clarification of the expected impact of this measure on future catches. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) indicated that this restriction was an agreement between KNAPK and NASF. However, the Greenland Home Rule Executive Order still permits sales to hotels, restaurants and institutions. She indicated that there may be a need to clarify the situation since there is a meeting of KNAPK scheduled for the week beginning 8 June and it is expected that there will be changes to the agreement.
- 4.4 The representative of ICES, Mr. Jaakko Erkinaro, provided a report from ICES on the scientific advice on salmon stocks in the West Greenland Commission area, CNL(09)8. His presentation is available as NASCO document CNL(09)xx. The ACOM report, which contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page xx of this document.
- 4.5 The representative of Canada asked for clarification from ICES that the status of stocks remains the same as when the multi-annual measure was agreed in 2006. The representative of ICES confirmed that this was the case.

## **5. Regulatory Measures**

- 5.1 The representative of the US indicated that given the scientific advice from ICES on the status of the stocks, she would propose that the Commission adopt a multi-annual measure for the West Greenland fishery for the period 2009 – 2011. The framework of indicators would be used each year to assess if there was any significant change that would necessitate revisiting the measure.
- 5.2 The representative of Canada indicated that he supported a multi-annual measure and believed that given the status of the stocks this would be consistent with the Precautionary Approach.
- 5.3 The representative of the European Union also expressed support for a multi-annual measure and urged Greenland to try to restrict the harvest to around 20t.
- 5.4 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) indicated that Greenland intends to set up a quota for a subsistence fishery only in 2009. She referred to earlier concerns about the Framework of Indicators but as this had now been refined in the spirit of cooperation her delegation would support a three year measure.
- 5.5 The Commission considered a proposal for a multi-annual regulatory measure for the West Greenland salmon fishery, WGC(09)3. This measure was adopted, WGC(09)5, (Annex 4) for the calendar years 2009 – 2011.

- 5.6 [The Commission agreed that the same procedure used in 2008 for applying the Framework of Indicators would apply to 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 Framework of Indicators. [ ] were appointed to the group which would be chaired by { }. The Secretariat would liaise with the Chairman and would present the findings to the parties and to ICES in January in the years when the FWI is used.]

## **6. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery**

- 6.1 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) asked for clarification as to why there was a need for 900 salmon to be sampled in the extended sampling programme at West Greenland as this represented about 10% of the catch which seemed higher than other sampling programmes. Mr Tim Sheehan explained that the situation at West Greenland was different. In the case of the marine surveys the aim was to catch as many post-smolts as possible. At West Greenland the aim is to get a large sample so that an adequate number of European fish is obtained (as they comprise only around 15% of the catch) but there is a limit to the number of fish that can be processed by samplers and there are also budgeting issues.
- 6.2 The representative of the NGOs asked what measures are taken to ensure that the samples obtained are from within the internal use fishery and are not an additional harvest. Mr Sheehan indicated that while there are no guarantees that this could not happen checks and balances have been introduced. Samplers can only handle a certain number of fish and they cannot accept more fish than they can sample in the day. The programme will be coordinated with KNAPK and targets and limits will be set. A sub sample of the fisherman's catch would be purchased and the fisherman would sell the remainder at the market as normal. Once the fish have been sampled they will be donated to institutions not sold, so these institutions will not need to purchase these fish at the market.
- 6.3 [The Commission adopted a West Greenland Fishery Sampling Agreement for 2009, WGC(09)5 (Annex 5)].

## **7 Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize**

- 7.1 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 5 May. The winning tag was of Canadian origin. The tag was applied to a smolt in the Restigouche River, Canada on 28 May 2007 as part of a study to estimate wild smolt production in that river. It was recaptured at West Greenland. The winner of the \$1,500 prize is Mr Massinguaq Molgaard, Sisimiut, Greenland.

## **8. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice**

- 8.1 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(09)10 (Annex 6).

**9. Other Business**

9.1 [There was no other business].

**10. Date and Place of Next Meeting**

10.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next meeting at the same time and place as the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the Council in 2010.

**11. Report of the Meeting**

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