

West Greenland Commission

WGC(10)3

Report on the Use of the Framework of Indicators in 2010

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1. At its 2009 Annual Meeting, in Molde, Norway the West Greenland Commission adapted a regulatory measure (WGC(09)7) for the fishing of salmon at West Greenland in 2009, with possible application in 2010 and 2011. Under this measure the catch at West Greenland in 2009 was restricted to the amount used for internal consumption in Greenland, which in the past has been estimated to be 20 tonnes annually. There would be no commercial export of salmon. The regulatory measure would also apply in 2010 and 2011 if the framework of indicators (FWI) developed by ICES indicates that there has not been a significant change in the indicators and, therefore, that reassessment of the catch advice is required.
2. The Commission had agreed that the same procedure used in 2008 for applying the FWI should apply to the new regulatory measure, WGC(09)7. 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 Secretariat would liaise with the Group's Coordinator and would report the Group's findings to the Parties and to ICES in January 2010.
3. In accordance with this decision each WGC Party was asked to nominate a representative to serve on the FWI Working Group. The representatives appointed were Gerald Chaput (Canada), Julius Peedah (Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland)), Ted Potter (European Union) and Rory Saunders (USA). Rory Saunders served as the coordinator. The Group's conclusions were that the FWI indicated that no reassessment of the management advice previously provided by ICES in 2009 is required for the 2010 fishery at West Greenland. This means that the multi-annual regulatory measure agreed in 2009 will continue to apply to the 2010 fishery and there will not, therefore, be a need for negotiations on a new measure at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting. It also means that, in accordance with the request for scientific advice adopted by the Council last year, ICES is not be required to provide advice on stock status or management options for either the NAC or WGC areas.
4. The arrangement appeared to work well and within the timescale proposed by the Commission. We are grateful to the Group for its work. A full report will be presented to the Commission in June.

Secretary
Edinburgh
9 April 2010