

WGC(10)5

Draft Report of the Twenty-/Seventh Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission

Le Château Frontenac, Québec City, Canada

1 - 4 June, 2010

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chairman, Mr Guy Beaupré (Canada) opened the meeting and welcomed participants to the Twenty-Seventh 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-Seventh 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(10)**XX** (Annex 2).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Ms. Nicole Ricci (United States) was appointed as rapporteur.

4. Election of Officers

- 4.1 The Commission unanimously elected **XXXX** as its Chairman and **XXXX** as its Vice-Chair.

5. Review of the 2009 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

- 5.1 The representative of ICES, Mr. Gerald Chaput, provided a report from ICES on the scientific advice on salmon stocks in the West Greenland Commission area, CNL(010)8. His presentation is available as NASCO document CNL(10)**XX**. The ACOM report, which contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page **XX** of this document.
- 5.2 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) advised the Commission that a new act for self government had been introduced last June and a new government is now in place which has resulted in some changes. As in previous years no quota was set for the commercial fishery. The subsistence fishery, estimated to be around 20t, had a reported catch in 2009 of 26t. Of this total, 15t were sold on the open market and 11t were used for private consumption. This represented a minor decrease over the catch in 2008. She indicated that reporting had improved due mainly to the government's outreach program in the form of television advertising

broadcasted prior to the start of the fishing season explaining the need to report catches. Furthermore, the tag return incentive scheme has also been well publicized and is popular in Greenland. There is a press release following the award ceremonies which are attended by the Minister. No new regulations have been introduced since 2002 but Greenland is constantly working to improve management and control of the fishery.

- 5.3 The representative of the European Union noted with satisfaction that there was a proposal for the introduction of log books to assist with improving reporting. The NGO representative sought clarification on the number of licenses issued in 2009. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) indicated that 262 licenses had been issued but only 64 had been utilized. This was due to the fact that fishermen would like to preserve their right to fish in case a commercial fishery reopened. The NGO representative asked if it was possible to differentiate between Canadian and US fish in the North American component of the harvest. The representative of ICES explained that with advances in genetic techniques this should be possible in the future. The representative of the NGOs asked for clarification of how the 412 salmon for the enhanced sampling were obtained. It was explained that these salmon were bought at the open market and thus formed part of the catch from the internal-use fishery.

6. Regulatory Measures

- 6.1 At its Twenty-Sixth Annual Meeting, the Commission had adopted a multi-annual regulatory measure for the West Greenland salmon fishery, WGC(09)7, for the calendar years 2009 – 2011. The Commission had agreed that the same procedure used in 2008 for applying the Framework of Indicators (FWI) 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 FWI. The Secretariat would contact the Parties to seek their nominations for the Group. The Secretariat would liaise with the Chairman of the group and would present its findings to the Parties and to ICES in January in the years when the FWI would be used (2010 and 2011).
- 6.2 Document WGC(10)3 (Annex 3) describes the work of the FWI Working Group. The members of this group 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 Coordinator advised the Commission that the Group's conclusions were that the FWI indicated that no reassessment of the management advice previously provided by ICES in 2009 was required for the 2010 fishery at West Greenland. This meant that the multi-annual regulatory measure agreed in 2009 would continue to apply to the 2010 fishery and there is not, therefore, a need for negotiations on a new measure at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting. In accordance with the request for scientific advice adopted by the Council last year, ICES was not required to provide advice on stock status or management options for either the NAC or WGC areas.
- 6.3 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) indicated that the authorities were constantly reviewing the regulation of the fishery which is small and limited in time. Over the years improvements have been made to the reporting and information is now being received by Greenland as well. The

representative of Canada thanked Greenland for its work in improving reporting of catches.

7. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery

7.1 The West Greenland salmon fishery sampling programme provides critical 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. ICES, the International Atlantic Salmon Research Board and its Scientific Advisory Group, and NASCO all endorse taking additional samples from fish captured in the internal use only fishery in Greenland. This Enhanced Sampling Program, SALSEA West Greenland, requires whole fresh fish and is recognized as complementary to SALSEA Merge and SALSEA North America, which collectively hold promise in providing insights into the critical marine portion of the salmon's life cycle. In 2008, it had not been possible to conduct the enhanced sampling as planned but in 2009, NASCO had facilitated the purchase of these whole fish, using funds provided by the US, and the enhanced sampling programme had been successfully implemented in addition to the long-term baseline sampling

7.2 The Commission adopted a West Greenland Fishery Sampling Agreement for 2010, WGC(10)xx (Annex 4)

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 4 May 2010. The winning tag was of Canadian origin. The winning tag was of Canadian origin and was applied to a salmon smolt on 18 May 2008 in the Restigouche River as part of a program to assess the freshwater production and to contribute to SALSEA North America. The smolt monitoring program in the lower portion of the Restigouche River is a collaborative initiative between the Department of Fisheries and Oceans and the Listigujj First Nation. The fish was recaptured at West Greenland on 7 September 2009. The winner of the \$1,500 prize is Mr. Per Nuleaarag Hansen, Inuit, Greenland

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

9.1 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(10)XX (Annex XX).

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 Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council in 2011.

12. Report of the Meeting

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