



**West Greenland Commission**

**WGC(20)06**

*Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda*



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### *Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda*

In light of the Covid-19 pandemic, the face-to-face meeting planned for Edinburgh in June 2020 has been cancelled. Parties agreed that the business of the West Greenland Commission would be conducted through inter-sessional correspondence and video conference.

The Agenda will be adopted on 8 May, via correspondence. This will allow Parties to address all other items. The approach to be used to address each item is set out below.

The video conferences for the West Greenland Commission will begin on Monday 1 June 2020.

All papers for the West Greenland [Commission](#) (WGC) meeting will be posted on the NASCO website.

A summary of the decisions to be made is in Annex 1.

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

The Chair, Carl McLean (Canada) will open the meeting during the video conference (VC) on 1 June 2020. He will set out the procedures for the meeting. Any submitted written Opening Statements will be available in advance.

- no decision is required.

*No correspondence, other than the written Opening Statements, is expected.*

#### **2. Adoption of the Agenda**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the Chair, a Provisional Agenda, [WGC\(20\)01](#), was made available to all members of the Commission on 3 February 2020. Since then, in light of the Covid-19 pandemic a revised Draft Agenda has been produced following discussion with the Parties, [WGC\(20\)03](#).

- a decision to adopt the Agenda is required.

*The Agenda will be adopted via correspondence by 8 May. This provides the basis for discussions to be held by inter-sessional correspondence prior to the VC on 1 June.*

#### **3. Election of Officers**

The election of officers is required under Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure for the WGC.

2020 is the final year in office for the Chair, Carl McLean (Canada). It is the end of the first term for the Vice-Chair S Gephard (USA) who is eligible for election as Chair or re-election as Vice-Chair.

No background papers are produced for this item.

- a decision to elect a Chair and (re)elect the Vice-Chair is required.

*Work to determine the candidates' availability for election / re-election will be conducted by correspondence. The formal process for nominating, seconding, and electing the identified individuals will be undertaken during the VC.*

#### **4. Review of the 2019 Fishery and ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

The review of the 2019 fishery is essential business under Articles 13 and 14 of the Convention which require an ‘annual statement of the actions’ on the regulatory measure, [WGC\(18\)11](#).

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) Greenland is required to report its fishery measures under the regulatory measure. The report is available, [WGC\(20\)04](#).

The ACOM report is important business but not required annually (Articles 7a and 9 of the Convention). Advice is provided annually under the ICES / NASCO Memorandum of Understanding. The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(20)10, will be circulated by ICES in early May. ICES will make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available on the ICES website after the scientific advice is released.

- no decision is required.

*The review of the 2019 fishery will be conducted by inter-sessional correspondence prior to the VC. Any decisions arising will be adopted at the VC.*

*The ICES advice for all areas will be presented to Council, Commissions and all delegates in a webinar on Monday 1 June 2020.*

#### **5. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission**

The Parties have agreed that although this Agenda item is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention, it is not required annually.

Under the Council’s ‘Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the ‘Next Steps’ for NASCO’, [CNL\(13\)38](#), it was agreed that there should be an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries.

Each Party with mixed-stock fisheries (MSF) was requested to provide the Secretariat with a short paper for distribution prior to the meeting. The intention is that each of these papers would include a brief description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs.

Papers submitted by the Parties will be available in advance.

- no decision is required.

*Parties have agreed this is not a priority item for 2020. Correspondence is, therefore, unlikely to be needed and will take place only if indicated by a Party or NGO Co-Chair.*

#### **6. Regulatory Measures**

This is essential business under Articles 13 and 14 of the Convention which require an ‘annual statement of the actions’ on the regulatory measure, [WGC\(18\)11](#).

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) Greenland is required to report its fishery measures under the regulatory measure. The report is available, [WGC\(20\)04](#).

The continuation of the regulatory measure in 2020 / 2021 is dependent on the outcome of running the Framework of Indicators in 2020.

The WGC Framework of Indicators paper is available, [WGC\(20\)05](#). It concludes that:

*‘As ICES indicated that there was no catch option on mixed-stock fisheries at West Greenland that would satisfy the management objectives, the catch option on the sheet was set to 0. The overall conclusion of the FWI Working Group is that the FWI does not show that there has been a significant change in the indicators used, and therefore a reassessment of the ICES management advice for the 2020 fishery is not required.’*

- no decision is therefore required.

*Consideration of the regulatory measure will be conducted by inter-sessional correspondence prior to the VC. Any decisions arising will be adopted at the VC.*

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

This is essential business under the Regulatory Measure, [WGC\(18\)11](#), with sampling required in each fishing season.

The Commission has previously recognised the important contribution of sound biological data to inform science-based management decisions for the fishery at West Greenland. Members of the Commission have worked co-operatively over the past three decades to collect these biological data and Sampling Agreements have been agreed annually since 2002.

Details of the 2019 sampling programme at West Greenland are included in the ACOM advice for West Greenland.

- a decision to agree a sampling agreement / statement of co-operation for the 2020 fishery is required.

*Consideration of sampling in the West Greenland Fishery will be conducted by inter-sessional correspondence prior to the VC. Any decisions arising will be adopted at the VC.*

## **8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize**

Parties have agreed that this is not essential business.

The winner of the West Greenland Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme will be announced on the NASCO website and on Twitter. It will be recorded in the Report of the Meeting.

- no decision is required.

*No other action is required with respect to this matter in 2020.*

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

Parties have agreed that this is required under Article 9 of the Convention which requires a Commission to take into account the best scientific evidence. Advice is provided annually under the ICES / NASCO Memorandum of Understanding.

At its 1992 Annual Meeting, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. The Committee comprises two representatives from each Commission, ideally one scientist and one administrator. Its work is co-ordinated by Paddy Gargan (European Union).

Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (European Union) serves as the Commission's scientific representative. The Commission needs to appoint an additional representative, as John Biilmann, (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)) is no longer a representative in that delegation. Given that the SSC will commence its work before the VC, Sissel Fredsgaard (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)) will act as Mr Biilmann's replacement until a formal appointment can be made by the Commission.

The Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations concerning the request to ICES for scientific advice, CNL(20)13, will be available once its work is complete.

- a decision to appoint an additional WGC representative on the SSC is required; and
- a decision to accept the SSC's recommendations is required.

*Work to determine who might be appointed as the additional WGC representative on the SSC is ongoing. The formal agreement to appoint the identified individual will be taken during the VC.*

*Any discussion on the SSC's recommendations can be conducted by inter-sessional correspondence; the formal decision will be taken during the VC.*

## **10. Other Business**

Any other business may be raised via inter-sessional correspondence or at the start of the VC. Any decisions required with respect to these matters may be approved formally by VC or postponed until 2021.

## **11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting**

The Commission will be asked to consider the venue for its Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting to be held during 1 – 4 June 2021.

- a decision to hold its next meeting during the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council is required.

*Any discussion can be conducted by inter-sessional correspondence; the formal decision will be taken during the VC.*

## **12. Report of the Meeting**

Parties have agreed that this is essential business. Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure for the WGC requires that 'A draft report shall be considered by the Commission before the end of the meeting.'

A Draft Report of the meeting will be circulated for review. A summary of business conducted inter-sessionally via correspondence will be annexed to the Report.

- a decision to adopt a Report of the meeting is required.

*Proposed changes to the Draft Report will be discussed, agreed revisions incorporated, and a final Report of the meeting adopted during the VC.*

## **13. Close of the Meeting**

The Chair will close the meeting at the end of the VC.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
4 May 2020

*Summary of West Greenland Commission Decisions*

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Decision</b>	<b>Paper No.</b>
2. Adoption of the Agenda	The Agenda will be adopted via correspondence by 8 May	WGC(20)03
3. Election of Officers	Elect a Chair and (re)elect the Vice-Chair	
7. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery	Agree sampling agreement / statement of co-operation for the 2020 fishery	To be issued
9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• appoint an additional WGC representative on the SSC; and</li> <li>• accept the Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations</li> </ul>	CNL(20)13
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Hold the next WGC meeting during the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council	
12. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting