



West Greenland Commission

WGC(20)11

*Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery
Sampling Programme for 2020*

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The West Greenland Commission recognises the important contribution of sound biological data to science-based management decisions for fisheries prosecuted in the West Greenland Commission area. The members of the West Greenland Commission have worked co-operatively over the past five decades to collect biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland. These data provide critical inputs to the stock assessment completed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) North Atlantic Salmon Working Group annually.

The objectives of the sampling programme in 2020 are to:

- continue the time series of data (1969-2019) on continent of origin and biological characteristics of the Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland fishery;
- provide data on mean weight, length, age, and continent of origin for use in the North American and European Atlantic salmon run-reconstruction models; and
- collect information on the recovery of internal and external tags.

To this end, members participating in the sampling programme in 2020 plan to collect:

- biological characteristics data including lengths and weights of landed fish;
- information on tags, fin clips, and other marks;
- scale samples to be used for age and growth analyses;
- tissue samples to be used for genetic analyses; and
- other biological data requested by the ICES scientists and NASCO co-operators.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following staff inputs to the co-operative sampling programme at West Greenland during the 2020 fishing season:

- the European Union¹: provide a minimum of eight person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2020 fishing season;
- Canada: provide a minimum of two person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2020 fishing season;
- the United States: provide a minimum of two person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2020 fishing season;
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources: sample Atlantic salmon from the city of Nuuk on a weekly basis during the 2020 fishing season;
- the United States: provide a Sampling Programme Co-ordinator to co-ordinate the sampling programme for 2020; and

¹ Ireland (2 samplers) and the United Kingdom (2 samplers).

² For the purposes of this statement of co-operation, a person week of sampling is defined as a trained individual who works on site in West Greenland to collect samples of Atlantic salmon for a period of seven days.

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator: provide support for the sampling programme by facilitating the sampling of Atlantic salmon by the samplers identified above.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following technical support for sample analysis and data collected at West Greenland during the 2020 fishing season:

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator: work with any factories receiving harvested salmon (if factory landings are allowed) to collect biological characteristics data and samples from a proportion of the landed fish via factory staff;
- the United States: provide oversight for the processing of all collected biological samples;
- the United States: report the sampling programme results to the ICES North Atlantic Salmon Working Group in support of the stock assessment completed by this group;
- the United States: co-ordinate the publishing of a report that details the results of the sampling programme in co-operation with institutes participating in the sampling programme via a participating institution's official report series;
- Canada: provide single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis of tissue samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland;
- Canada: provide ageing of scale samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland;
- Canada: maintain the historical West Greenland sampling database; and
- the European Union (UK (England & Wales)): act as a clearing house for coded wire tags recovered from the fishery.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following co-ordination activities in support of the co-operative sampling programme at West Greenland during the 2020 fishing season:

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland): identify a mechanism to provide sampling access to landed Atlantic salmon before grading / culling and before fish are subject to health regulations that would restrict or prohibit activities associated with sampling as needed;
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland): inform persons designated by co-operating members of the West Greenland Commission of important developments in the management of the West Greenland fishery, including planned openings and closures of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland;
- the United States: the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator is expected to determine the allocation of available scientific sampling personnel to ensure spatial and temporal coverage to characterise both the fishery and the Atlantic salmon populations along the West Greenland coast; and
- all members of the West Greenland Commission participating in the sampling programme are expected to share access to resulting data and work co-operatively in the publication of information.

Performance of activities set forth in this Statement of Co-operation is subject to the availability of appropriated funds under domestic law. Each member should make reasonable and good faith efforts to secure the necessary funds to implement fully its intended activities identified in this Statement of Co-operation. If compliance with domestic law and / or the lack of sufficient funds or other legitimate circumstances prevailing at the time impair a participating member's ability to implement this Statement of Co-operation, the participating member should notify the other members as soon as possible.