

	Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission <i>Explanatory Memorandum on the Draft Agenda</i>	WGCIS(21)04
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Explanatory Memorandum on the Draft Agenda

The Agenda will be adopted by correspondence on 12 February, prior to an inter-sessional correspondence period (15 – 26 February). This will allow the other Agenda items to be considered during the inter-sessional correspondence period. Brief background information on each Agenda item for the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission follows below.

All papers for the meeting will be posted on the NASCO website.

1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Steve Gephard (USA) will open the meeting during the video conference (VC). He will set out the procedures for the Meeting and note when the Agenda was adopted. Any submitted written Opening Statements will be available in advance and annexed to the report.

- no decision is required.

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

2. Review of the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland for 2018, 2019 and 2020, WGC(18)11

a) Report on the West Greenland Atlantic Salmon Fishery in 2020

The review of the 2020 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) (DFG) is required to report its fishery measures under the regulatory measure annually. Details of the proposed management measures to apply to the 2020 salmon fishery were included in documents [WGC\(20\)04](#) and [WGC\(20\)09](#).

DFG has agreed to submit its report on the 2020 fishery in January 2021. This will be posted on the NASCO website.

- no decision is required.

This is a substantive Agenda item for discussion in both the inter-sessional correspondence period and the VC. Use of the inter-sessional correspondence period is encouraged.

b) Progress in Implementing the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland, WGC(18)11

This Agenda item affords the opportunity to discuss the progress made and challenges faced in implementing the current regulatory measure. A background paper on progress made in 2018 and 2019 on the various items contained within the regulatory measure will be made available. The report on the 2020 salmon fishery at West Greenland, to be submitted by DFG, will contain information on any further progress made in 2020.

- no decision is required.

This is a substantive Agenda item for discussion in both the inter-sessional correspondence period and the VC. Use of the inter-sessional correspondence period

is encouraged.

3. Consideration of a New Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure to Apply to the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at West Greenland from 2021

The Commission agreed to hold this Inter-sessional Meeting as starting point for discussions on a potential new regulatory measure to apply to the West Greenland Salmon Fishery from 2021.

In a letter to NASCO ([WGCIS\(21\)02](#)), DFG indicated that it is in the process of drafting a management plan for the salmon fishery at West Greenland which it will present (in draft form) to the Commission for discussion at the Inter-Sessional Meeting. Once this draft management plan is provided by DFG, likely to be in late January / early February, it will be posted on the website. DFG has stated that it hopes that such a management plan will allow the Commission to adopt a multi-annual regulatory measure containing a quota only, as in previous years. DFG has also indicated that it would like the Commission to consider amending the period of validity of any multi-annual regulatory measure to five years to align with that of the management plan. Since 2006, the Commission has agreed three-year measures covering the periods 2006 – 2008, 2009 – 2011, 2012 – 2014, 2015 – 2017 and 2018 – 2020. All previous measures are available on the [NASCO website](#).

In exercising its functions, the West Greenland Commission is required to take into account the range of factors detailed in Article 9 of the Convention. These factors include the best available information including advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). In its request for scientific advice agreed in 2020, [CNL\(20\)13](#), the Commission requested that ICES provide catch options or alternative management advice and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding. The response to this request will not be available until May and so will not be available for consideration at the Inter-Sessional Meeting. A representative of ICES has been invited to attend the Inter-Sessional Meeting.

- no decision is required at this meeting. However, a decision on the adoption of a new regulatory measure for the West Greenland salmon fishery will be required at the Annual Meeting of the Commission in June.

This is a substantive Agenda item for discussion in both the inter-sessional correspondence period and the VC. Use of the inter-sessional correspondence period is encouraged.

4. Other Business

Any other business may be raised via inter-sessional correspondence or during the VC.

5. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Commission will be asked to consider whether it wishes to hold a further inter-sessional meeting prior to the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Commission.

- a decision on whether to hold a further inter-sessional meeting of the Commission prior to the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Council is required;
- a decision on the date of any further inter-sessional meeting may be required.

This item will be discussed and a decision taken at the VC.

6. Report of the Meeting

A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review. The inter-sessional correspondence will be annexed to the Report.

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

Any proposed changes to the Draft Report will be discussed, agreed revisions incorporated, and a final Report of the Meeting adopted during the VC.

7. Close of the Meeting

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

Secretariat
Edinburgh
11 January 2021