

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission</b></p> <p><b>Resumé of the Implementation of the ‘Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland’, WGC(18)11, in 2018 and 2019</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WGCIS(21)05</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Agenda item 2b</p>
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***Resumé of the Implementation of the ‘Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland’, WGC(18)11, in 2018 and 2019***

### **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief resumé of the implementation of the ‘Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland’, [WGC\(18\)11](#), in relation to the 2018 and 2019 salmon fisheries at West Greenland.

### **Background**

At its Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting (held in 2018) the West Greenland Commission agreed a ‘Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland’, [WGC\(18\)11](#). This measure applied to the salmon fishery at West Greenland in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (following application of the Framework of Indicators in 2019 and 2020) and contained various measures to be implemented in relation to the fishery.

At its [2020](#) Annual Meeting, the Commission agreed to hold an Inter-Sessional Meeting prior to its 2021 Annual Meeting to begin discussions on a new regulatory measure to apply to the fishery from 2021.

To facilitate these discussions, a brief description of the progress made in respect of each paragraph of the measure, as reported by DFG and recorded in the reports of the [2019](#) and [2020](#) Annual Meetings of the Commission, is provided below.

### **Implementation of the Regulatory Measure in 2018, 2019**

- (1) **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees not to export wild Atlantic salmon or its products from Greenland and to prohibit landings and sales of Atlantic salmon to fish processing factories**

#### **2018**

No factory landings were allowed and the export ban on salmon continued in 2018.

#### **2019**

The export ban on salmon continued in 2019, and no landings or sale of Atlantic salmon to fish processing factories was permitted.

- (2) **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to open the fishery no earlier than 15 August and to close the fishery no later than 31 October each year**

#### **2018**

The fishing opened on 15 August 2018. The private fishery was closed on 19 October 2018 and the entire fishery was closed on 31 October 2018.

#### **2019**

The 2019 fishing season opened on 15 August and was closed on 25 September.

- (3) **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to restrict the total allowable catch for all components of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland to 30 metric tonnes. In the event of any overharvest in a particular year, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to an equal reduction in the total allowable catch in the following year, and agrees not to carry forward any under-harvest into a future year**

**2018**

The quota was set at 30 tonnes for the entire fishery in 2018, all segments included. The quota uptake at the end of the fishing season, based on received reports, was 29.8 tonnes. However, follow-up work carried out by the Government of Greenland (see paragraph 10 below) resulted in additional reports being recorded, bringing the total catch for the 2018 fishery to 40.5 tonnes.

**2019**

The quota in 2019 was reduced from 30 tonnes to 19.5 tonnes to compensate for the overharvest in 2018. There were again issues with delayed catch reports being received in 2019 (see paragraph 9 below). The final quota uptake in 2019 was 28.8 tonnes.

- (4) **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to, in a timely manner, inform NASCO and, as appropriate, ICES, of improvements of the monitoring, management control and surveillance or any modification to the management of the Atlantic salmon fishery and to provide an annual report on the outcome of the fishery**

**2018**

A [letter](#) detailing the management measures to be implemented in the 2018 salmon fishery was submitted on 30 August 2018 (referred to as DFG's letter dated 30 August 2018). The report on the 2018 salmon fishery in Greenland, [WGC\(19\)04](#), was submitted on 20 March 2019. The relevant information contained in these reports is summarised under the appropriate paragraphs herein.

**2019**

The measures to be implemented in the 2019 salmon fishery were contained in document [WGC\(19\)05](#), which was submitted on 23 May 2019. The report on the 2019 salmon fishery in Greenland, [WGC\(20\)04](#), was submitted on 17 February 2020. The relevant information contained in these reports is summarised under the appropriate paragraphs herein.

- (5) **States of origin agree to share experiences with Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) on monitoring, management, control and surveillance in the salmon fishery through knowledge-sharing exchange programmes**

**2018**

No information has been provided to the NASCO Secretariat.

**2019**

At the [2019](#) Annual Meeting of the Commission, the members of the Commission reiterated their support for DFG in sharing knowledge and experience, should this be beneficial to them. No further information on this has been provided to the NASCO Secretariat.

**(6) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to annually collect and verify catch data of fishing activity of all licensed fishers**

**2018**

DFG's [letter](#) dated 30 August 2018 indicated that data on catch and fishing activity for Atlantic salmon by all licensed fishers would be collected and verified on an annual basis.

Information on the evaluation of the 2018 fishery was provided in the 'Report on the Greenland Salmon Fishery in 2018', [WGC\(19\)04](#).

**2019**

DFG's [letter](#) dated 30 August 2018 indicated that data on catch and fishing activity for Atlantic salmon by all licensed fishers would be collected and verified on an annual basis.

Detailed information on the evaluation of the 2019 fishery was provided in the '2019 Report on the Salmon Fishery', [WGC\(20\)04](#).

**(7) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to require all fishers for Atlantic salmon to have a licence to fish, and to prohibit fishing for Atlantic salmon without a licence**

**2018**

Licensing for private Atlantic salmon fishers was introduced in 2018. Both professional and private fishers required a license to fish for salmon in 2018 and all fishing for Atlantic salmon without a license was prohibited. 457 professional and 322 private fishers were granted salmon fishing licenses in 2018.

**2019**

The requirement for all segments of the fishery to hold a license remained in place in 2019. Fishing for Atlantic salmon without a license was, again, prohibited. 303 professional and 416 private licenses were granted in 2019.

**(8) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) also agrees to authorise only licensed full-time hunters and fishers to sell Atlantic salmon only at open-air markets in communities**

**2018**

DFG has indicated that, under its 2018 Executive Order, only licensed professional fishers were authorised to sell salmon.

At its [2019](#) Annual Meeting, the Commission was advised that 'professional fishers were allowed to sell fish to outlets other than open-air markets where there was no open-air market in the local community'.

**2019**

Under the 2018 Executive Order, only licensed professional fishers were authorised to sell salmon in 2019.

**(9) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to require all licensed fishers for Atlantic salmon to provide a full accounting of fishing activity and harvest. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) also agrees**

**to require reporting on a daily basis to allow for in-season monitoring of the total allowable catch**

**2018**

A new Executive Order was implemented prior to the 2018 fishing season. Under this Order, all licensed fishers were required to report on their fishing activity and harvest, including zero catches. GFLK received regular reports throughout the fishing season as required (daily and every time nets were tended, which must be done on a regular basis). Infomercials were issued in the papers and on TV up to three times per week during the season reminding fishers of the reporting requirements. Each week, the Ministry published a report stating how much of the quota had been fished and how much of the quota remained. The entire fishery was closed on 31 October as planned with a quota uptake, based on received reports, of 29.8 tonnes. However, follow-up work carried out by the Government of Greenland (see paragraph 10 below) resulted in additional reports being recorded, bringing the total catch for the 2018 fishery to 40.5 tonnes.

**2019**

The 2018 Executive Order remained in place requiring fishers to report on their fishing activity and harvest, including zero catches.

Following the reporting issues identified in 2018, the Ministry, GFLK and KNAPK (the Fishermen and Hunters Association) held a start-up meeting prior to the 2019 fishing season. Following this meeting, the Ministry drafted instructions on reporting and shared these with the municipalities. The Greenlandic public citizen website was updated with current and relevant information about the salmon fishery, press releases were issued and daily national radio spots again reminded fishers to apply for a license before fishing and to report in a timely fashion throughout the season.

While there were still some issues with reporting in 2019, there were not as many as in 2018. Subsequent analysis of the reporting showed a delay of approximately 12 days between the salmon being caught and receipt of the reports by the Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK). Due to the short fishing season, this delay was not detected in time to react during the season.

In addition to the above-mentioned measures, two research projects were carried out in collaboration with Dartmouth College (USA), GFLK, KNAPK, the Fisheries Division under the Government of Greenland and Atlantic salmon conservation organizations. Both projects concerned catch reporting in the salmon fishery at Greenland and detailed information is provided in the '2019 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(20\)04](#).

- (10) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to prohibit all licensed fishers for Atlantic salmon who have not provided a full accounting of their catches, including reports for zero catches, within one month of the end of the fishing season at the latest, from acquiring a licence for the following season until required reporting is received. Within one month after the fishing season, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to follow up with fishers who have not provided a full accounting of their catches, including zero catches**

**2018**

DFG has indicated that, under the Executive Order implemented in 2018, licensed fishers were required to report their fishing activities, including zero catch reports, in order to

be granted a license for the following year. DFG's [letter](#) dated 30 August 2018 indicated that licensed fishers who had not provided a full account of their catch within one month of the end of the fishing season would be prohibited from acquiring a license for the following season until reporting was received.

Following the closure of the fishery, a letter was sent to fishers who had held a license in 2018 but had not reported. The letter reminded them of the obligation to report and of the consequences of non-reporting. A press release was also issued by the Ministry. These actions resulted in a number of reports being received after the fishery had closed, with some arriving several months after the fishery was closed, continuing into early spring 2019. Further, some fishers indicated that they had reported but had still received a reminder letter. This led to an investigation which revealed that a number of fishers without digital skills or tools had reported in paper form to their municipal office, but these reports had not subsequently been forwarded to GFLK. Additionally, some reports had been registered incorrectly by GFLK. As a result of the final adjustments, the final reported catch rose to 40.5 t. In total, 74% of license holders reported their 2018 catch.

### **2019**

The 2018 Executive Order remained in place in 2019. Therefore, to be eligible for a salmon fishing license in 2019, full accounting of fishing activities and harvest in 2018 (including zero catches) must have been provided where applicable. Following the closure of the 2019 fishery, letters were again sent to license holders that had not reported reminding them to report their catch by 1 December, or they would not be granted a license in 2020. Press releases were also issued by the Ministry. Only 7% of catch reports received were received after 1 December, with the last catch report received on 18 December 2019. In total, 84% of license holders reported their 2019 catch.

- (11) **As a condition of the licence, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to require fishers to allow samplers from the NASCO sampling programme to take samples of their catches upon request**

### **2018**

There has been a license requirement in place since 2015 requiring fishers to allow samplers to take samples of catches on request.

### **2019**

There has been a license requirement in place since 2015 requiring fishers to allow samplers to take samples of catches on request.

During the inter-sessional correspondence period prior to the 2020 Annual Meeting, the Commission was advised that in recent years, hygiene requirements at the modern market in Nuuk had made it increasingly difficult to obtain samples, as sampling would require removing salmon from the refrigerated display coolers and sampling with lab equipment (DNA vials full of preservatives) in front of customers. This had, in the past, led to customer reluctance and resentment from fishers. Therefore, in 2019, carcass sampling (DNA samples from discarded heads and skeletons, after the removal of fillets) had been initiated as an alternative to normal sampling. The main advantage of this method is the lack of conflict with fishers and customers and no increased fishery for sampling. While scale samples and weight data cannot be obtained, a DNA sample and individual length is obtained.

- (12) **Information should be provided to fishers and supervisors at open-air markets explaining the rationale for the sampling programme. The findings of the sampling programme should be disseminated through appropriate means, with the assistance of the Government of Greenland, as requested**

**2018**

DFG has indicated that, under the 2018 Executive Order, the NASCO sampling brochure was issued with each license and forwarded to the open-air markets. Additionally, the ICES advice, [CNL\(19\)08](#), under sal.wgc.all, noted that the ‘international sampling programme continued in 2018’.

**2019**

There was no report from DFG. However, the ICES advice, [CNL\(20\)10rev](#), under sal.wgc.all, noted that the ‘international sampling programme continued in 2019’.

- (13) **The Commission agrees to apply this regulatory measure to the fishery at West Greenland in 2018. The Commission also agrees to apply this measure in 2019 and 2020 unless:**

- a. **any member of the Commission requests its reconsideration based on the review of the annual report pursuant to Paragraph 4 and / or**
- b. **the application of the Framework of Indicators indicates that there has been a significant change to the indicators and, therefore, a reassessment is warranted.**

The Commission agreed at its [2019](#) and [2020](#) Annual Meetings that the Regulatory Measure would continue to apply in 2019 and 2020, respectively.