	<p align="center">Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission</p> <p align="center"><i>Letter from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) - Greenland to the West Greenland Commission on the Future Management of Salmon in Greenland</i></p>	<p align="center">WGCIS(21)02</p>
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Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture

North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation
Members of the West Greenland Commission

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Information on the future management of salmon in Greenland

The Government of Greenland works at an overall level to secure more efficient and stable fisheries management in Greenland, in order to ensure the best possible utilization of the common fishery resources to the benefit of the entire Greenlandic community. Consequently, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture works to draw up management plans for all the most important fisheries, both coastal and offshore.

In June 2020, the Government of Greenland adopted Guidelines for fisheries management plans, which included a clear and transparent procedure that ensures the involvement of all stakeholders and minimum content for the management plans in order to ensure manageable management plans. Guidelines attached for your information.

During the following months, the Ministry has been working hard to revise its current four (4) management plans and drafting a new management plan according to the new guidelines. In connection with this process, it has been decided that a management plan for the salmon fishery in Greenland shall be drafted in the coming months.

The decision is based on a number of considerations; a) the need for stability on regulation and regulatory measures for the fishermen and the managers, b) improved implementation of management measures, c) close involvement of both professional and recreational fishermen, d) possibility to introduce management areas, and e) full transparency on the management of the salmon fishery.

The many new regulatory measures adopted and implemented close to the start of the fishing season in later years has made it difficult for both fishermen and managers and it has put an enormous strain on the Ministry and GFLK, especially considering that it is a subsistence fishery. A management plan will provide strong management and control measures for a longer term, which creates stability for all stakeholders.

The management plan will be based on the Greenlandic guidelines for management plans, NASCO Guidelines for management of salmon fisheries, the current Multi-Annual Regulatory Measures and the coming evaluation of this year's fishery.

Currently, stakeholders has been invited to appoint members for a working group for drafting a management plan for salmon. The first meeting will held on 23rd of October 2020 and it is expected to be ready for adoption late April 2021 – in due time before the NASCO Annual Meeting.

Even though, it is not a requirement it is important for Greenland to be open and transparent about our management in the West Greenland Commission and therefore,

we would like to present a draft management plan to the West Greenland Commission for discussion during the West Greenland Commission Inter-sessional meeting. It is expected that a draft can be circulated late January/early February for your consideration.

It must of course be underlined that it is the Government of Greenland that adopt management plans and thus have the final say but we would appreciate to receive any inputs your might have before finalizing the management plan.

It is our intention that the adoption of a management plan will entail that the West Greenland Commission will return to having Multi-Annual Regulatory Measures that just include a quota as previously.

Furthermore, we want our fellow members of the West Greenland Commission to consider the period of validity for the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure. Today, it is 3 years. However, considering that our management plans are valid for 5 years by default with a clause for revision, we could consider to align the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure with the management plan. This would also provide more stability for the fishermen whom is providing for their family and a longer period for the implementation of new measures.

We look forward to presenting our draft management plan to you all during the West Greenland Inter-sessional meeting.

Inussiarnersumik inuulluaqqusillunga
Best regards,



Kariine Kærsgaard
Head of Delegation

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Guidelines for Management Plans for Fish Stocks in Greenland

Framework for basis, procedure and minimum content

MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, HUNTING AND AGRICULTURE

JUNE 2020

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1. Introduction

1.1 Objective with Management Plans

In later years, international expectation and praxis has been developed concerning the management of important fisheries based on robust management plans that clarifies in what way political objectives can be fulfilled in consideration of economic, social and biological issues. This development is also reflected in Greenland, where fishermen, industry, politicians and the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture has a shared objective to draft management plans for all essential fisheries.

The primary objective with management plans is to function as a practical tool for the management authority to support a long-term, predictable and robust management of the resource. An effective management plan should thus provide guidelines as to how to react in specific circumstances and on specific issues which can arise in the fisheries and with the stock. In addition to contributing to transparency and predictability in the management, the use of management plans ensure a common understanding for the background and the purpose with management decisions, especially when developed in cooperation between the industry and management, and including scientific as well as practical knowledge and experience from the industry.

All management plans must be approved by the Government of Greenland and be publically available on naalakkersuisut.gl.

1.2 Objective with the Guidelines

The objective with this document is to establish guidelines for management plans for fish- and shellfish in Greenland. These guidelines is based on *FAO Technical Guidelines for Responsible Fisheries, A Fishery Managers Guidebook*, former management plans in Greenland and experiences from the management as well as stakeholders.

The guidelines is developed in cooperation between the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources, Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK) and the Fisheries Council and they will form the basis for the development and evaluation of coherent fisheries management plans in Greenland.

The guidelines must ensure that management plans for individual species or stocks in Greenland as a basis is coherent, developed in cooperation with stakeholders and that as a minimum describe the framework which the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture and GFLK needs to manage, monitor and regulate the fisheries in the best way possible

Even though, the guidelines provides an overall guide for the development and evaluation of management plans, the individual plan can, depending on objectives and needs, vary in complexity and level of detail and they can from time to time be revised and adapted to changing political objectives and new knowledge concerning sustainable management.

These guidelines and potential revisions must be approved by the Government of Greenland and be publically available on Naalakkersuisut.gl.

2. Procedure for the Development and Revision of Management Plans

In order to ensure, the best possible basis for the development and revision of management plans it is vital to follow the procedure outlined in the following sections concerning division of responsibility and involvement of stakeholders.

2.1 Development of Management Plans

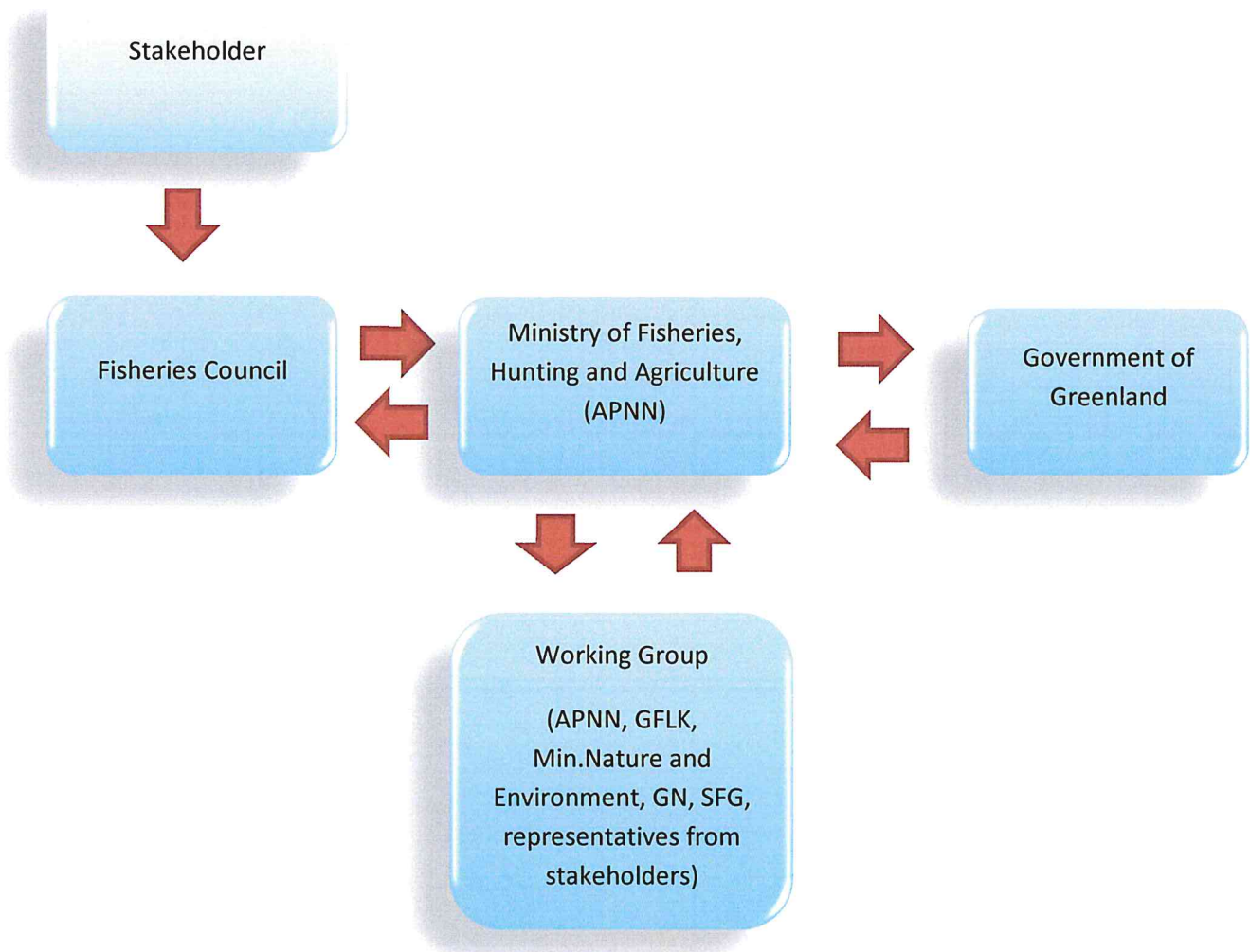
- As the responsible management authority, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture (APNN) leads the process developing management plans.
- All stakeholders can initiate the development of a management plan by making a proposal to the Fisheries Council. The Fisheries Council can hereafter request the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture to develop a management plan for the specific fisheries. The Ministry can choose to start the work on a management plan right away, add the request to the priority list or dismiss the request.
- When the Ministry has decided to start the process of developing a management plan, the ministry together with the Fisheries Council identify all stakeholders that should be invited to participate in the work and a working group for drafting a management plan is created. GFLK, the Ministry for Nature and Environment, Greenland Institute for Natural Resources and Sustainable Fisheries Greenland (SFG) should always be invited to participate in the working group. Furthermore, members are appointed from the identified stakeholders.
- The drafting of the management plan should as much as possible be coordinated with relevant other management areas such as for marine mammals, sea birds etc. This way, we ensure that no conflicts occur between the management of different species or environment.
- During the drafting the working group should consider whether the management plan will require changes to the legislation. If changes are necessary, the work must be initiated in order to ensure a realistic time frame for the commencement of the management plan.
- A draft in Greenlandic and Danish must undergo consultation for a period of a minimum of 4 weeks.
- The final version of the management plan must be approved by the Government of Greenland.
- A brief overview of the main points of the management plan should be published together with a press release on the commencement of the management plan to ensure transparency.
- The management plan should be published on Naalackersuisut.gl

2.2 Revision of Management Plans

- As the responsible management authority, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture leads the process revising management plans.
- A revision of a management plan can be initiated on the basis of the revision requirements in the management plan.
- All relevant stakeholders is identified together with the Fisheries Council and a working group is formed to revise the management plan.
- The Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, GFLK, the Ministry of Nature and Environment, Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and SFG must always be invited to participate in the revision of management plans. Furthermore, representatives from the identified stakeholders is invited to participate in the working group.

- The revision should as much as possible be coordinated with relevant other management areas such as for marine mammals, sea birds etc. This way, we ensure that no conflicts occur between the management of different species or environment.
- During the drafting the working group should consider whether the management plan will require changes to the legislation. If changes are necessary, the work must be initiated in order to ensure a realistic time frame for the commencement of the management plan.
- A draft in Greenlandic and Danish must undergo consultation for a period of a minimum of 4 weeks.
- The revised management plan must be approved by the Government of Greenland
- A brief overview of the main points in the revised management plan should be published together with a press release on the commencement of the management plan to ensure transparency.
- The revised management plan should be published on Naalakkersuisut.gl

Flowchart for the procedure for the development and revision of management plans



3. Minimum Content in Management Plans for Fisheries

As the management plans should function as guidelines for the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture and GFLK it is important that they are understandable and operational and as a minimum outlines the framework which is needed in the management of fisheries, including:

- Objective and strategy
- Period of validity and Revision Requirements
- Legislation and Management responsibility
- Introduction to the species in relation to fishery and environment
- Scientific Advice and Management principles in the fishery
- Reporting and Control
- Relevant annexes and reference that support the management plan

Depending on the specific fisheries additional content might be added e.g. in relation to MSC certification. As much as possible it should be considered whether additional substance can be presented as an annex, as it is essential that the management plan provides an overview and structure for the management of the fishery. Preferably reports, assessments etc. in relation to information on biology, ecosystem etc. should be reference in order to ensure topicality. The management issues such as management tools, control, legislation etc. should be the primary substance of the management plan.

3.1 Objective and Strategy

A management plan should always have an introduction paragraph which brief and precis describes what the objective with the plan is and which strategy the use of management tools is based on.

If a management plan is coordinated with other management plans e.g. for sea birds, marine mammals or other fishery management plans it should be outlined.

Political priorities, socio-economic considerations and the fisheries capacity should also be specified in this paragraph. It is further important to describe if it is a shared stock with other countries and any possible management and sharing arrangement which is enforced in relation to this.

The paragraph should be drafted together with the stakeholder in order to ensure common grounds on status, objectives and means. This paragraph should be very concrete and specific.

3.2 Period of Validity and Revision Requirements

All management plan should have a specific period of validity and as an underlying basis it should have a procedure for revision/evaluation. A management plan should create stability in the fishery and for the management, however, it can be necessary to be able to react on new knowledge or a substantial change in the development of the fishery. Thereby, one ensures that the management plan continues to be a relevant framework for the specific fishery.

The timeframe for the evaluation/revision of the management plan depends on the management initiatives and the timeframe for implementation and effect of the management initiatives. A relevant timeframe is incorporated into the plan.

It is important to describe which events that would prompt a revision and how these are defined.

3.3 Legislation and Management Responsibility

This paragraph refers to the legislation which forms the foundation for the management plan and the management tools outlined in the plan. Reference to the relevant legislation via links to lovgivning.gi is preferred.

Furthermore, the section should very clearly state who has the management responsibility and how the responsibility is divided, if more than one unit or authority is involved in the management e.g. hunting unit (FJA), Ministry of Nature and Environment etc. This in order to make it clear to everyone including stakeholders who is responsible and to whom they should direct requests etc.

3.4 Introduction to the species in relation to the fishery and environment

A short and precis introduction to the species and the fishery, including by-catch and other important factors which should be considered in the management is provided in this section. Use of illustrative maps giving an overview of management and fisheries areas is encouraged.

In case, relevant information concerning connected marine areas or habitats is available it is presented in this paragraph including whether any possible principles or guidelines on how to respond to these in relation to the management. The management of marine areas and habitats is anchored in the Ministry of Nature and Environment.

Attention should be given to the fact that depending on the objective for the management plan the need to describe specific issues could arise, however, this section should be short and clear and should as much as possible reference potential technical reports, data and additional information. Preferably with links or as annexes to the plan.

3.5 Scientific Advice and Management Principles in the Fishery

In addition to the principles behind the scientific advice and the setting of TAC, concrete management principles which should be used during different scenarios should be outlined in the paragraph. This in order to ensure predictability for all the parties involved in the fishery and to ensure a consistent, transparent and current management of the resources.

As a minimum rules and principles should be determined for the following:

3.5.1 Scientific Advice

This section describes the basis for the scientific advice. MSY and other biological reference points can be described through diagrams and flowcharts.

3.5.2 Setting of TAC and Quotas

This section should describe the principles used in the setting of TAC and should specify how the consequence of possible fluctuation in TAC potentially can be curbed through the use of Harvest Control

Rules (HCR) in cases where the advice fluctuates significantly (e.g. if the advice changes with more than X %, a step-wise adjustment towards the TAC is made with Y % a year).

In case, there are more than one management area, it should also describe how and on which background TAC is divided between the management areas.

3.5.3 Regulating Mechanisms

This section describes which regulating mechanisms is used in the fishery that the management plan covers e.g. where it is regulated by open access, input regulation (fleet capacity, fishing days), output regulation (quota), individual Transferable Quotas (ITQ) etc.

3.5.4 Output Regulation: quota

Through output regulation the fishery is managed through one or more quotas which is set on the basis of the established TAC. The quotas can be distributed to management areas and/or fleet segments. This section should provide a clear description of the approved principles behind the establishment of quotas and the distribution of quotas as well a description of how the fishery is monitored and the criteria for closure of the fishery and potential re-opening of the fishery.

3.5.5 Input Regulation: Fishing Capacity and Fishing Days

Through input regulation the fishery is managed through either capacity limitation (e.g. number of vessels) or through number of fishing days.

The section should describe the foundation and principles for the establishment and control of fishing capacity/effort and potential criteria for closure and re-opening of a fishery.

3.5.6 Area Regulation

In this section, it should be outlined whether the fishery is managed through a fishing season, and whether some areas are closed permanently or temporarily e.g. during the spawning period. Potentially, there could also be conditions on geographical spread of the fishery e.g. through management areas etc.

It can also be relevant to outlined any coordination with other management plans or management authorities e.g. if fisheries is forbidden in an area when other species spawn/breed. Reference with maps for overview.

3.5.7 Technical Conservation Measures

In case, there are specific conditions for gear it is specified in this section. E.g. trawl or long line. Minimum size for masks, bottom or pelagic trawl. Sorting grids or bag etc.

3.5.8 Management of By-catch

In some fishery, by-catch can be an issue and the general management of by-catch is outline in the Executive Order on By-catch. These rules are valid for all fishery, however for some fishery problems with by-catch of species not covered by the Executive Order can occur, such as by-catch of seas birds and marine mammals.

Thus, it is important to address such problems by establishing initiatives fir registering, reporting and potentially reducing the by-catch e.g. by forbidding the use of certain gear, closure of fishery in certain periods or areas (or both) due to breeding etc.

3.6 Reporting and Control

3.6.1 Reporting

Reporting criteria in the fishery is outlined. Here reference to relevant Executive Orders and legislation will occur.

3.6.2 Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS)

Procedure for how violation of the legislation and regulation in the management plan is dealt with as well as the potential penalty e.g. fine, stopping fishery, report to police etc.

4. Relevant Reference and Annexes which support the Management Plan

In order to support the management plan it is important to reference relevant data and information through comprehensive reference. The use of links, and/or annexes are encouraged.