



## ***Explanatory Memorandum on the Agenda***

The 2021 Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission will be held virtually due to the ongoing restrictions and uncertainty related to the Covid-19 pandemic. The video conference for the meeting will be held on 31 May – 3 June 2021.

Papers for the Commission meeting are posted on the [NASCO website](#).

A summary of the decisions before the Commission is contained in Annex 1.

### **Adoption of the Agenda**

In accordance with the Rules of Procedure and following consultation with the Chair, a Provisional Agenda, [WGC\(21\)01](#), was made available to all members of the Commission. The Draft Agenda is also available, WGC(21)03.

The Commission will adopt its Agenda on 30 April, by correspondence. The period of inter-sessional correspondence will take place from Monday 3 May until Friday 14 May. All inter-sessional correspondence will be included in the Annotated Agenda posted on the NASCO website before the start of the first video conference (VC).

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

The Chair, Stephen Gephard (USA) will open the meeting.

Members of the Commission, IGOs, and NGOs may make verbal Opening Statements, as is usual in years when new regulatory measures are negotiated in the West Greenland and North-East Atlantic Commissions.

- no decision is required.

*No correspondence is expected although written versions of Opening Statements will be requested, for annexation to the report of the meeting.*

### **2. ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

During a webinar on 28 May, the Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Dennis Ensing, will present the ICES advice relating to the North Atlantic area and the individual Commission areas. The presentation will be made available in advance of the webinar.

The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), CNL(21)11, will be posted on the website in early May. ICES will make the report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon available on its website after the scientific advice is released.

- no decision is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a Party or NGO Co-Chair. Discussion will take place during the webinar, and, at the Chair's discretion, during the VC.*

### **3. Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission**

The Chair of the Commission will present the report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission. This will inform discussions required for the negotiation of a new regulatory measure under Agenda item 6.

The review of the 2020 salmon fishery at West Greenland, [WGC\(21\)04](#), was considered at the March Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission and is included in the report, WGC(21)07. This report also includes the inter-sessional correspondence conducted

prior to that meeting.

A further Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission is scheduled for 29 – 30 May 2021.

- no decision is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a member of the Commission or NGO Co-Chair. A limited exchange on this issue may be possible during the VC, at the discretion of the Chair.*

#### **4. Progress in the Management of Salmon Fisheries, Habitat Protection and Restoration and Aquaculture and Related Activities in States of Origin**

This will inform discussions required for the negotiation of a new regulatory measure under Agenda item 6. It relates to the progress States of Origin have made in NASCO's three theme areas, over the period of the current regulatory measure, i.e. during 2018, 2019 and 2020.

A paper based on the information provided by members of the West Greenland Commission in their Annual Progress Reports on major new initiatives or achievements for salmon conservation and laws, regulations or programmes that have been adopted or repealed over the period of the current regulatory measure, will be available, WGC(21)08.

- no decision is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a member of the Commission or NGO Co-Chair. Discussion will take place during the VC.*

#### **5. Proposal from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) on Reporting on the West Greenland Salmon Fishery**

Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG) has requested that the West Greenland Commission considers their proposal for a reduction in the number of fishery reports it submits to the Commission each year. The proposal is contained in WGC(21)06.

- a decision on whether to accept DFG's proposal on reporting frequency is required.

*Correspondence is encouraged. Discussion and decisions will be taken during the VC.*

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

The 'Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland', [WGC\(18\)11](#), will no longer apply in 2021 and beyond. The Commission will consider a proposal for a new regulatory measure for the West Greenland Fishery.

Papers created or submitted by members of the Commission will be provided.

- a decision on the adoption of a new regulatory measure for the West Greenland Salmon Fishery is required.

*Discussion and decisions will be taken during the VC.*

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

Agreement on a statement of co-operation for the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme facilitates the effective functioning of the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme. The data collected under this programme provide critical inputs to the ICES WGNAS stock assessment.

Details of the 2020 sampling programme at West Greenland will be included in the ACOM advice for West Greenland.

- a decision to agree a statement of co-operation for the 2021 sampling programme is required.

*Correspondence will take place if required by a member of the Commission or NGO Co-Chair. A decision will be taken during the VC.*

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

The winner will be announced on the website and twitter and will be recorded in the Meeting Report.

- no decision is required.

*No action required by the Commission.*

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

This item 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.

The Standing Scientific Committee's (SSC) recommendations concerning the request to ICES for scientific advice will be available once its work is complete, usually carried out in the margins of the Annual Meeting, CNL(21)14.

- a decision to accept the relevant sections of the Draft Request for advice is required.

*A limited exchange on this issue may be possible during the VC, at the discretion of the Chair. If the SSC has not completed its work in time for the Commission to accept the relevant sections of the Draft Request, the Commission may wish to defer the decision to the Council.*

**10. Other Business**

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

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

NASCO's Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting in 2022 is being planned in Edinburgh.

- the Commission may wish to agree to hold its next meeting in Edinburgh in 2022.

*A decision will be taken during the VC.*

**12. Report of the Meeting**

A Draft Report of the Meeting will be circulated for review.

- 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.*

**13. Close of the Meeting**

The Chair will close the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
23 March 2021

*Summary of Commission Decisions*

| <b>Agenda Item</b>                                                                                                         | <b>Decision</b>                                                                   | <b>Paper No.</b>  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Adoption of the Agenda                                                                                                     | The Agenda will be adopted via correspondence by 30 April                         | WGC(21)03         |
| 5. Proposal from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) on Reporting on the West Greenland Salmon Fishery | Whether to accept DFG's proposal on reporting frequency                           | WGC(21)06         |
| 6. Regulatory Measures                                                                                                     | On the adoption of a new regulatory measure for the West Greenland Salmon Fishery |                   |
| 7. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery                                                                                  | To agree a statement of co-operation for the 2021 sampling programme              |                   |
| 9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice                                             | To accept the relevant sections of the Draft Request for advice                   | CNL(21)14         |
| 11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting                                                                                     | To hold its next meeting in Edinburgh in 2022                                     |                   |
| 12. Report of the Meeting                                                                                                  | Adopt the Report                                                                  | Issued at meeting |