

WGC(21)18

Interim Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland in 2021

RECALLING the responsibilities that the Convention for the Conservation of Salmon in the North Atlantic Ocean confers on the West Greenland Commission (WGC), including Article 9;

FURTHER RECALLING the longstanding scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) that, in line with the management objectives agreed by the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization (NASCO) and consistent with the Maximum Sustainable Yield (MSY) approach, there are no mixed-stock fishery options at West Greenland;

RECOGNISING the dependence of Greenland on fisheries and that Greenland has been conducting an internal-use fishery that is important to the people of Greenland and that exploits many different Atlantic salmon stocks originating from the rivers of other Commission members, including populations that are at risk of extinction;

CONSIDERING the interest to balance, to the extent possible, both the scientific advice provided to NASCO by ICES and stock conservation needs – in particular, those related to minimising impacts on the weakest salmon stocks – with the prosecution of a fishery.

ACKNOWLEDGING the regulatory measure adopted by the WGC in 2018, which included, *inter alia*, important monitoring, control, and reporting provisions and noting Greenland's significant efforts to implement those and other provisions broadly to ensure a comprehensive and consistent approach to management; and

NOTING Greenland's national legislation for Atlantic salmon, its development of a new management plan for Atlantic salmon, and its commitment to their effective implementation;

Thus, the members of the Commission agree as follows:

- (1) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to maintain and further develop, where necessary, monitoring, management, control and surveillance measures for the West Greenland Atlantic salmon fishery. At a minimum, these shall include: (a) specifying a fishing season within the period between August and November; (b) ensuring full and timely catch data collection and reporting to ensure effective in-season monitoring and quota management; (c) requiring all fishers for Atlantic salmon to have a licence to fish; (d) prohibiting fishing for Atlantic salmon without a licence or after any failure by fishers to report catch data as required, including zero catches; and (e) permitting only professional fishers to sell their catch and only to open-air markets and local institutions.
- (2) As a condition of the licence, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to continue to require fishers to allow sampling of their catches on request, in support of the NASCO sampling programme.
- (3) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to continue (a) the ban on export of wild Atlantic salmon and its products from Greenland and (b) the prohibition of landings and sales of Atlantic salmon to fish processing factories.
- (4) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to restrict the total allowable catch (TAC) for all components of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West

Greenland to 27 metric tonnes. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees not to carry forward any underharvest into a future year.

- (5) In support of the efforts to enhance timely reporting and registration to ensure that the TAC is respected, Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to compile and register catch data on a daily basis and to further strengthen the timely reporting by municipalities and fishers. Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to report back on the efforts of these actions to the West Greenland Commission.
- (6) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to, in a timely manner, inform NASCO and, as appropriate, ICES, of any significant changes in the monitoring, management, control and surveillance of the West Greenland Atlantic salmon fishery and to provide an annual report on the implementation of this measure and the outcome of the fishery.
- (7) Commission members agree to share experiences on monitoring, management, control and surveillance in their salmon fisheries through knowledge sharing, such as management plans, conservation strategies, or other relevant information, as appropriate.
- (8) The Commission shall meet inter-sessionally, beginning in 2021 and concluding before the 2022 Annual Meeting, to explore additional measures to be implemented by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) with the objective of, *inter-alia*, improving the monitoring of the TAC uptake to prevent overfishing.
- (9) This interim regulatory measure shall apply to the fishery at West Greenland in 2021.