



**Annotated Agenda**

The purpose of this paper is to provide the background, decisions and links to papers and the inter-sessional correspondence for each item on the Agenda for the Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission.

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

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

**Timings of the Video Conference (all timings are British Summer Time)**

The West Greenland Commission will meet by video conference on:

- Monday 31 May: 15:15 – 16:45 hrs
- Tuesday 1 June: 16:30 – 17:45 hrs
- Wednesday 2 June: 14:45 – 17:00 hrs
- Thursday 3 June: 17:00 – 18:00 hrs

**Main Table Participants**

<b>Chair</b>	Stephen Gephard
<b>Canada</b>	Doug Bliss David Dunn Carl McLean
<b>Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)</b>	Katrine Kærgaard Maria Strandgård Rasmussen Magnus Thunn Hansen
<b>European Union</b>	Arnaud Peyronnet Clemens Fieseler Ignacio Granell
<b>United Kingdom</b>	Ruth Allin Antje Branding Seamus Connor
<b>United States</b>	Kim Damon-Randall Pat Keliher Tim Sheehan
<b>NGOs</b>	David Meerburg
<b>IGOs</b>	Cathal Gallagher – EIFAAC Ghislain Chouinard – ICES Laura Poinot – ICPR Darius Campbell – NEAFC Vladimir Radchenko – NPAFC Mark Saunders – NPAFC
<b>State not Party to the Convention</b>	Camille Servetto

<i>France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon)</i>	
<b>Secretariat</b>	Emma Hatfield Louise Forero Wendy Kenyon

## Order of Business

Agenda items will be taken in the following order:

1.	Opening of the Meeting
3.	Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission
8.	Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
2.	ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
4.	Progress in the Management of Salmon Fisheries, Habitat Protection and Restoration and Aquaculture and Related Activities in States of Origin
6.	Regulatory Measures
5.	Proposal from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) on Reporting on the West Greenland Salmon Fishery
7.	Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery
9.	Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
10.	Other Business
11.	Date and Place of the Next Meeting
<i>Adjourn to Consider Report Text</i>	
12.	Report of the Meeting
13.	Close of the Meeting

## Adoption of the Agenda

The Agenda, [WGC\(21\)09](#), was adopted by correspondence on 30 April, prior to the inter-sessional correspondence period that ran from 3 – 21 May.

### 1. Opening of the Meeting

The Chair, Stephen Gephard (USA), will open the meeting and set out the procedures. Members of the Commission 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.*

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

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. There will be time for questions and discussion after the presentation, therefore, further discussion may not be needed under this Agenda item.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are (or will be) available:

- The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(21\)11](#);
- The [Report](#) of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon is on the ICES website;
- Presentation from the Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon.

*No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.*

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

The West Greenland Commission held an Inter-Sessional Meeting in March 2021 to commence discussions on a new regulatory measure to apply to the fishery from 2021. The review of the 2020 salmon fishery at West Greenland was also conducted at that meeting. The Report of the March Inter-Sessional Meeting includes both the discussions held through the inter-sessional correspondence period preceding that meeting and at the meeting itself.

A further Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission will be held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting, during 29 – 30 May. A report of that meeting will be made available to the Commission prior to the Annual Meeting.

The Chair will give a brief summary of these meetings under this Agenda item.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are (or will be) available:

- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission 8 – 12 March 2021, [WGC\(21\)07](#);
- Report of the May Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission.

*No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.*

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

This item replaces the usual item ‘Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission’ this year, in order to inform the 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.

- *no decision is required.*

The following paper is available:

- Compilation of Responses Submitted by West Greenland Commission members / jurisdictions in Relation to Questions 1.2 and 4.1 of the Annual Progress Reports for the Calendar Years 2018, 2019 and 2020, [WGC\(21\)08](#).

## Inter-Sessional Correspondence

### ***Q1. DFG asked the United States (6 May):***

In section 1.2 of the APR from the calendar year 2020 from the United States, conservational measures are listed as having implemented regulatory requirements for hydroelectric dams at Ellsworth in Union river and Weldon in Penobscot river. Furthermore, a draft regulatory requirement for a hydroelectric dam built in 2007 in Kennebec river is listed as conservational efforts. However, it is only reported that Penobscot is habitat for salmon.

#### ***o A1. The United States responded (13 May)***

Given that salmon habitat exists in areas other than the Penobscot River, we did not report in our APR or elsewhere that the only habitat for salmon is in the Penobscot River. It also appears that our statement in Section 1.2 of our APR about the pending requirement for new fishway improvements on the Kennebec River was not understood. That draft regulatory requirement was filed in 2020 as part of the relicensing of the Shawmut Hydroelectric Project. The Shawmut Dam was built in 1924 not 2007. The Kennebec River has substantial habitat for Atlantic salmon, which is acknowledged in the critical habitat designation that affords protection of habitats for salmon that are considered essential for their recovery (see 74 FR 39903 cited below).

*'74 FR 39903. (August 10, 2009, August 10). Endangered and Threatened species; Designation of critical habitat for Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) Gulf of Maine Distinct Population Segment; Final Rule.'*

### ***Q2. DFG asked the United States (6 May):***

Has there been reportings of salmon currently present as a spawning stock in Union or Kennebec river and is there any artificial stocking to support the salmon recovery in these rivers?

#### ***o A2. The United States responded (13 May)***

The U.S. recovery plan for Atlantic salmon focuses on restoring Atlantic salmon in a number of rivers (identified as three Salmon Habitat Recovery Units - Downeast, Merrymeeting Bay, and Penobscot). Significant efforts to recover salmon in all three areas are ongoing. A link to the Recovery Plan is included in Section 1.2 of our APR.

A small number of pre-spawn salmon (generally, less than 3 fish) stray to the Union River annually from nearby rivers. In recent years, no, or very limited, stocking in the Union River has occurred because of juvenile mortality associated with the hydroelectric dam in Ellsworth. A new license for the Ellsworth project is pending, which will require significant improvements to upstream and downstream passage. We expect that stocking will resume once these fishway improvements are in place.

The Kennebec River has a recently established small, naturally-reared salmon run (less than 100 fish) supported by stocking in the Sandy River, a large tributary located above four mainstem dams. Work is underway to make significant fishway

improvements at all four of these dams with the goal of improving upstream and downstream passage throughout the Kennebec River.

**Q3. DFG asked the United States (6 May):**

If these rivers have already lost their local stock, how will such regulatory requirement actions benefit the recovery of Atlantic Salmon in the United States in general?

○ **A3. The United States responded (13 May)**

The river-specific genetic stocks from the Union and Kennebec rivers have been extirpated, but both rivers are located within the range of the Gulf of Maine population, both rivers contain an abundance of high quality habitat that can support populations of wild Atlantic salmon, and both rivers are considered within the scope of the U.S. restoration program. Restoring connectivity to these rivers will allow for salmon to recolonize and will help support the recovery of wild Atlantic salmon in the United States. This habitat has been designated as critical for the survival and recovery of the species; restoring it will help achieve our recovery goals.

**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 Commission may wish to agree:

- ***whether to accept DFG's proposal on reporting frequency.***

The following paper is available:

- Request from Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) for a Supplementary Item for the West Greenland Commission Agenda, [WGC\(21\)06](#)

**Inter-Sessional Correspondence**

**Q4. Canada asked DFG (13 May):**

Canada understands the burden that comes with preparing several reports for similar purposes. Understanding that the mid-February timeframe for submitting Greenland's report on its previous year's fishery is most useful in years when the regulatory measure needs to be renewed, could DFG suggest an appropriate timeframe for submitting a single comprehensive/up-to-date report ahead of the Annual Meeting?

○ **A4. DFG responded (18 May)**

If your inquiry is when the best time of the year for report submission is, then I can answer that the timing is not the issue. The issue is more focused on the increased amounts of reports required by Greenland that essentially serve similar purposes. The purpose of this agenda point is whether we could come to some sort of agreement that perhaps it is not necessary for Greenland to submit extra reports.

However, I am a little in doubt if you are asking whether it would be possible to make comprehensive reports about the fishery on a multi-annual basis (perhaps following the 5 year proposal for regulatory measure reviews), if that is the case that is something we have not yet discussed internally. I cannot at this point make a statement about that, but we can definitely review this prior to the meeting.

## 6. Regulatory Measures

In 2018, the Commission adopted a Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure to apply to the salmon fishery at West Greenland in the years 2018, 2019 and 2020 ([WGC\(18\)11](#)).

Discussions on a new regulatory measure, to apply from 2021, were held at the Commission's March Inter-Sessional Meeting and will continue at the Commission's next Inter-Sessional Meeting, to be held during 29 – 30 May. The Chair will give a summary of these discussions under Agenda item 3 above.

The Commission will consider a new regulatory measure under this Agenda item.

Details of previous regulatory measures can be found [here](#).

The ICES Advice for 2021, [CNL\(21\)11](#) (pg 88), states that:

*'in line with the management objectives agreed by the North Atlantic Salmon Organization (NASCO) and consistent with the MSY approach, the catch at West Greenland in 2021, 2022, and 2023 should be zero.'*

Members of the West Greenland Commission were invited to use the inter-sessional correspondence period preceding the Annual Meeting to propose amendments to the 'Working Group Proposal for a 'West Greenland Commission Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure'', WGCIS(21)10, which had been developed during the March Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission. The United States proposed amendments (see Qs6 – 8 below) and these are incorporated in 'United States Edits on the Revised Working Group Proposal for a Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure', WGCIS(21)14, for consideration at the May Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission. Following the discussions held at the May Inter-Sessional Meeting, a further draft of a regulatory measure will be produced for consideration at the Annual Meeting.

DFG has also indicated that the Final Management Plan and English translation of the Executive Order will be submitted to the WGC after the Draft Management Plan has been submitted to the Government for approval (due to take place by Thursday 3 June).

In the case of a further multi-annual regulatory measure being agreed by the Commission, an updated Framework of Indicators (FWI) will need to be adopted. The FWI is used in the intermediate years of a multi-year catch agreement to determine whether a full re-assessment of stock status and new catch advice might be required. ICES has updated the FWI which can be applied at the beginning of 2022, with the returns or return rate data for 2021, to evaluate the appropriateness of the advice for 2022, and again at the beginning of 2023, with the returns or return rate data for 2022, to evaluate the appropriateness of the advice for 2023 (pg 88 of [CNL\(21\)11](#)).

In previous years, a FWI Working Group has been established, comprising one representative from each member of the Commission. The Working Group has worked by correspondence, in years where no new regulatory measure is negotiated, to coordinate the data collection and apply the FWI. The Group has completed its work in January so that ICES could be advised by the end of January as to whether a re-assessment of the catch advice is required. The Commission will discuss whether a FWI Working Group should again be established for this purpose.

The Commission may wish:

- *to adopt a new Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure;*
- *to use the same procedure as used during the previous regulatory measure for*

*applying the FWI;*

- *to agree, given that the 2021 ICES ACOM Report states that the catch in West Greenland in 2021, 2022 and 2023 should be zero, that a full re-assessment of the ICES advice will only be requested, in relation to the application of the FWI, if the indicators show an increase in abundance compared to the forecast contained in the 2021 management advice.*

The following papers are (or will be) available:

- The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(21\)11](#)
- United States Edits on the Revised Working Group Proposal for a Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure, WGCIS(21)14 (emailed separately to Commission members)
- Report of the March Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission, [WGC\(21\)07](#)
- Report of the May Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission
- Draft Regulatory Measure
- Final Management Plan
- English Translation of the Executive Order

#### **Inter-Sessional Correspondence**

##### ***Q5. Canada asked DFG (13 May):***

Canada would like to congratulate Greenland on electing a new Government April 6. At the March 8-12 inter-sessional meeting of the WGC, DFG indicated that its draft Management Plan would likely be available for approval by mid-May, unless the new Government was not formed by then. Could DFG please provide an update on the status of the draft Management Plan, and whether it will be made available to WGC members before the May 29-30 inter-sessional meeting.

##### ***A5. DFG responded (18 May):***

We have already made the translated management plan available to NASCO and it can be found in the meeting document [WGCIS\(21\)06](#) 'Draft Management Plan for the Salmon Fishery in Greenland'. This management plan has now been in public consultation and we are currently working on that small potential revisions, though nothing major will be changed. We will then submit it to our fisheries minister by the 27th of May, and it will then be submitted for governmental approval by the 3rd of June.

This is our current timeframe. If any changes are submitted due to the public consultation, we will of course edit the English version as well. It would be no trouble to submit the newest version to NASCO should there be any alterations. Prior to the salmon fishing season the finished products will be available online as well.

##### ***Q6. Comment from the United States on its proposed amendments to document WGCIS(21)10 (13 May)***

Many of our edits are grammatical in nature and/or intended to improve the clarity, flow, and overall readability of the text without changing its meaning, including efforts to streamline where possible by co-locating related concepts and making a few structural adjustments.

***Q7. Comment from the United States on its proposed amendments to document WGCIS(21)10 (13 May)***

Several of our edits are related to the scope of the proposal. The United States undertook a legal review of the draft proposal after the close of the March intersessional meeting. The proposed removal of references to the West Greenland fishery from the proposal would expand its scope to fisheries for which the WGC does not have regulatory authority. The United States is unable to agree to a measure that is inconsistent with the authority provided to the WGC under the Convention. Toward that end, we have suggested reinserting or retaining references to “West” and “West Greenland” throughout the document and in the case of paragraph 1, removing that paragraph altogether. If paragraph 1 were to be retained, it would need to be rephrased to reference the West Greenland fishery, but, in that case, it would be duplicative of the chapeau text of paragraph 10 (new 9 in the attached<sup>1</sup>). Given that, we do not think paragraph 1 is needed.

***Q8. Comment from the United States on its proposed amendments to document WGCIS(21)10 (13 May)***

Some of our edits are intended to address the relationship between NASCO’s regulatory authority and Greenland’s domestic management authorities and practices. In particular, we have suggested text at the end of the 4th preambular paragraph (Acknowledging...) that notes the important steps taken by Greenland to implement NASCO’s regulatory measure as well as its longstanding domestic policy and practice of applying the rules applicable to the West Greenland fishery broadly in Greenland, including to its small fishery off East Greenland. In addition, we tried to improve the clarity of the final preambular paragraph, which highlights both Greenland’s national legislation and its pending salmon fishery management plan and notes Greenland’s commitment to their implementation. We have also suggested deleting the references to NASCO obligations and Greenland’s national legislation at the end of operative paragraph 1 (formerly 2). These references did not seem to us necessary or relevant to include in the operative portion of the proposal. We consider these aspects are adequately and appropriately covered in the preamble.

## **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 have been included in the ACOM advice for West Greenland. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the sampling programme had been revised in 2020. Sampling kits were provided to wildlife officers and the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources to collect samples. Additionally, a citizen-science programme was developed, where small kits were provided to license holders to allow them to take samples voluntarily. All samples were sent to the United States for analysis. However, the programme was not as successful as hoped, with only around 100 samples collected. Discussions have been held since the March Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission on how best to proceed with the sampling

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<sup>1</sup> Please note, ‘attached’ refers to the attachment to the original communication from the United States. This comment is now incorporated in document WGCIS(21)14.



programme in 2021.

The Commission may wish to:

- ***agree a statement of co-operation for the 2021 sampling programme.***

The following papers are (or will be) available:

- The Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(21\)11](#);
- Draft Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme.

*No inter-sessional correspondence has taken place under this item.*

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

NASCO operates a Tag Return Incentive Scheme. Individually identifiable, external tags (or all tags returned from the West Greenland Commission area) that are returned to the appropriate authorities in the country of capture are eligible for inclusion in the draw. Each year a Grand Prize of £1,500 is awarded together with three prizes of £1,000, one in each of NASCO's three Commission areas.

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

- ***no decision is required.***

*No action is 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.

At its 1992 Annual Meeting, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. The Co-ordinator of the SSC, Paddy Gargan, will be asked to present the Draft Request if it is ready. If the draft request is not ready, the Commission may wish to defer the decision to the Council.

The Commission may wish:

- ***to accept the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation, although it may wish to defer the decision to the Council.***

The Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations will be available once its work is complete:

- A Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

## **10. Other Business**

No other business is expected.

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

The Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council is to be held during 7 – 10 June 2022 in Edinburgh.

- *the Commission may wish to agree to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council.*

## **12. Report of the Meeting**

Rule 28 of the Rules of Procedure for the WGC requires that ‘A draft report shall be considered by the Commission before the end of the meeting.’

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

- *the Commission may wish to adopt the Report of its Meeting.*

## **13. Close of the Meeting**

The Chair will close the Thirty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission.

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
24 May 2021

*Summary of Commission Decisions*

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
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	<a href="#">WGC(21)06</a>
6. Regulatory Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• whether to adopt a new Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure;</li> <li>• whether to use the same procedure as used during the previous regulatory measure for applying the FWI;</li> <li>• to agree that a full re-assessment of the ICES advice will only be requested, in relation to the application of the FWI, if the indicators show an increase in abundance compared to the forecast contained in the 2021 management advice.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">CNL(21)11</a> WGCIS(21)14 <a href="#">WGC(21)07</a> Various papers to be issued in advance of, or at, the meeting: <i>Report of the May Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission</i> <i>Draft Regulatory Measure</i> <i>Final Management Plan</i> <i>English Translation of the Executive Order</i>
7. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery	To agree a statement of co-operation for the 2021 sampling programme	<a href="#">CNL(21)11</a> Issued at Meeting: <i>Draft Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme</i>

9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	To accept the relevant section of the Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES	Issued at Meeting
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	To hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the Council	
12. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report	Issued at meeting