



Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission

Dalmahoy Hotel & Country Club, Edinburgh, Scotland

6 – 9 June 2022

Annotated Agenda

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

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

This Annotated Agenda references papers that the Secretariat is aware of, at the time of writing. If additional papers are issued, they will be posted on the website and delegates will be informed by email.

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

Timings of the Meeting (UK local time)

An Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission will take place on Saturday 4 June from 10:00 – 17:00 hrs.

The Commission will meet for its Annual Meeting on:

- Monday 6 June: 13:30 – 16:00 hrs
- Tuesday 7 June: 16:30 – 18:00 hrs
- Wednesday 8 June: 15:00 – 16:45 hrs

Order of Business

Business will be taken in the order on the Draft Agenda.

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.

- *no decision is required.*

2. Adoption of the Agenda

A Provisional Agenda, [WGC\(22\)01](#), was issued on 4 February 2022. No supplementary items have been proposed by the Parties and the Draft Agenda, [WGC\(22\)02](#), has been issued.

- *the Commission will be asked to adopt its Agenda.*

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- *the Commission may wish to nominate a Rapporteur.*

4. Election of Officers

Both the Commission Chair, Steve Gephard (USA) and Vice-Chair, Katrine Kærgaard

(DFG) will have served their first term in office at the close of the Meeting. Both are eligible to be re-elected in their respective roles.

No background papers are produced for this item. Work to seek candidates and support has been conducted by the Secretary.

- *the Commission may wish to elect / re-elect the Chair and Vice-Chair.*

5. ACOM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

On 4 March 2022 ICES informed NASCO that:

‘all Committee and Expert Group meetings, whether in-person, online or hybrid, scheduled between 7 March and 1 April 2022 will be cancelled or postponed. This will have implications for the timing and delivery of advice. This is in response to the crisis in Europe which is compromising the participation of experts and making collaboration across the network difficult or impossible’

Despite this, the ICES advice for North Atlantic Salmon Stocks was published on 6 May 2022 in response to the Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, [CNL\(21\)14](#). In a letter accompanying the advice, ICES states that:

‘The advice is based on the full ICES assessments that were conducted in 2021. The assessments are outlined in the [Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon 2021 report](#) along with the Frameworks of Indicators (which were provided in 2021 for use in 2022 and 2023). ICES states that the advice provided in 2022 conforms to the 10 principles that govern ICES advice, which include that the advice is based on the best available science and conforms to our data quality. The advice is suitable and a valid source of information for management actions scheduled in the relevant NASCO Salmon Commission areas...

The requests for advice on Atlantic salmon in the East Greenland area and the provision of an update on the distribution and abundance of pink salmon across the North Atlantic should be released in early September 2022, including underpinning report materials.’

The Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Dennis Ensing, will present the ICES advice relating to the Commission area. He will answer questions following his presentation.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(22\)09](#);
- the Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon is on the [ICES website](#).

6. Report of the Inter-Sessional Meetings of the West Greenland Commission

In 2021 the West Greenland Commission agreed a one year ‘Interim Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland in 2021’, [WGC\(21\)18](#). Therefore, discussions on a new regulatory measure to apply to the fishery from 2022 took place inter-sessionally. The West Greenland Commission held Inter-Sessional Meetings in December 2021 and April 2022. A further Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission will be held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting, on 4 June. A report

of that meeting will be circulated.

The Chair will present a brief summary of these meetings.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are (or will be) available:

- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission 4 June 2022;
- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission 21-22 April 2022, [WGC\(22\)04](#); and
- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission 14 - 15 December 2021, [WGC\(21\)22](#).

7. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission

This is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention. Additionally, under the Council's 'Action Plan for taking forward the recommendations of the External Performance Review and the review of the 'Next Steps' for NASCO', CNL(13)38, it was agreed that there should be an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for a focus on mixed-stock fisheries.

Each member of the Commission with mixed-stock fisheries (MSF) was requested to provide a short paper which includes a brief description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs. There are no directed wild Atlantic salmon fisheries in the United States, so no report will be provided under this Agenda item by the United States.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- Labrador Subsistence Food Fisheries – Mixed-Stock Fisheries Context (Tabled by Canada), [NAC\(22\)03](#); and
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the United Kingdom), [NEA\(22\)06](#).

8. Regulatory Measures

In 2021 the West Greenland Commission agreed a one year 'Interim Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland in 2021', [WGC\(21\)18](#). Therefore, discussions on a new regulatory measure to apply to the fishery from 2022 took place inter-sessionally. The West Greenland Commission held Inter-Sessional Meetings in December 2021 and April 2022. A further Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Commission will be held immediately prior to the Annual Meeting, on Saturday 4 June.

The Commission will consider a new regulatory measure.

- *the Commission may wish to adopt a new regulatory measure.*

The following papers are (or will be) available:

- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission 4 June 2022;
- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission 21-22 April 2022, [WGC\(22\)04](#);

- Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission 14 - 15 December 2021, [WGC\(21\)22](#);
- Amendment to 2021 Report on the Salmon fishery in Greenland, [WGC\(22\)03](#);
- 2021 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland, [WGC\(21\)21](#); and
- Interim Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland in 2021, [WGC\(21\)18](#).

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

9. Frequency of 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 reports it submits to the Commission each year. In a letter to the Commission, DFG states:

‘... one single report that covers all relevant issues would reduce not only the burden on Greenland but also on the West Greenland Commission and it would ensure stronger reporting for discussion at the West Greenland Commission meetings.’

- ***the Commission may wish to agree a response to 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](#).

10. 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.

- ***the Commission may wish to agree a statement of co-operation for the 2022 Sampling Programme.***

The following paper will be available:

- Draft Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme.

11. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

NASCO operates a Tag Return Incentive Scheme. External tags 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 and will be recorded in the Meeting Report.

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

12. 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.

In 1992, the Council established a Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) to assist the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. The SSC comprises two representatives from each Commission, ideally one scientist and one manager. Its work is co-ordinated by Livia Goodbrand (Canada). During the Annual Meeting, the SSC will meet to develop a Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES for consideration by the Commissions and the Council.

The Commission may wish to note that NASCO usually requests ‘full advice’ from ICES every three years. This is to coincide with the negotiation of a new regulatory measure in the West Greenland Commission and a new Decision in the North-East Atlantic Commission. Full advice was requested for 2021 to support such negotiations. However, whilst a three-year Decision was agreed in the North-East Atlantic Commission, only a one-year regulatory measure was agreed in the West Greenland Commission in 2021. Therefore, full advice was requested from ICES again in 2022, to support negotiation of another new regulatory measure in the West Greenland Commission 2022.

Depending on the outcome of the agreement on a regulatory measure in the West Greenland Commission, the Standing Scientific Committee, the Commission and the Council may need to consider the timing of the next request for full advice from ICES.

- *the Commission will be asked to consider 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:

- Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES.

13. Other Business

No other business is expected.

14. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Council is planned to be held during 6 – 9 June 2023. The venue has not yet been confirmed.

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

15. 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.*

16. Close of the Meeting

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

Secretariat
Edinburgh
27 May 2022

Summary of Commission Decisions

| Agenda Item | Decision | Paper No. |
|---|---|-----------------------------|
| 2. Adoption of the Agenda | Adopt the Agenda | WGC(22)02 |
| 3. Nomination of a Rapporteur | Nominate a Rapporteur | |
| 4. Election of Officers | Elect / re-elect the Chair and Vice-Chair | |
| 8. Regulatory Measures | Adopt a new multi-annual regulatory measure. | |
| 9. Frequency of Reporting on the West Greenland Salmon Fishery | Agree a response to DFG's proposal on reporting frequency | WGC(21)06 |
| 10. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery | Agree a statement of co-operation for the 2022 Sampling Programme | Paper issued at the meeting |
| 12. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice | Consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation or defer the decision to the Council. | Paper issued at the meeting |
| 14. Date and Place of the Next Meeting | Agree to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Council. | |
| 15. Report of the Meeting | Adopt the Report of the Meeting | Issued at meeting |