

WGC(22)10

Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland

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 West Greenland Commission 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;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING the interim, one-year regulatory measure adopted by the West Greenland Commission in 2021; 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) maintaining the 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; 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 the first year of this regulatory measure, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to close the fishery at West Greenland when the registered catch has reached no more than 49% of the overall TAC. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) may close the West Greenland fishery before reaching this limit based on data collected during the current and previous fishing seasons, taking into account multiple variables that differ from year to year, such as catch data and weather conditions. In any subsequent year covered by this regulatory measure, the percentage referenced above may, in consultation with the Commission, be adjusted based on previous experience and the expected effect of new management measures.
- (6) In support of the efforts to enhance timely reporting and registration to ensure that the TAC is respected, Denmark (in respect of the 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 the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to report back annually on the efforts of these actions to the West Greenland Commission.
- (7) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to continue to ensure that licence holders that do not report catch, including 0-catch, within the required time frame are not issued a licence for the salmon fishery in the following year.
- (8) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to take, at a minimum, the following additional actions to improve reporting by its fishers: (a) improving contact information on license holders; (b) sending out personal and public reminders on daily reporting requirements; (c) targeting reminders on daily reporting at the license holders with the highest catches; (d) implementing information campaigns during the fishing season; (e) carrying out an information campaign to fishers and fishing communities post-season on the results of the fishery and regulatory compliance; and (f) contacting non-reporters as soon as possible after the close of the fishery each year in order to improve reporting and catch data. Additional actions may be taken subject to feedback received from post-season interviews with license holders and implementation of initiatives.
- (9) 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.
- (10) Commission members agree to share experiences on monitoring, management, control and surveillance in their salmon fisheries.
- (11) The Commission agrees to apply this regulatory measure to the fishery at West Greenland in 2022. The Commission also agrees to apply this measure in 2023, 2024 and 2025 unless any member of the Commission requests its reconsideration based on a review of the scientific advice provided by ICES and / or the review of the annual report pursuant to Paragraph 9 including in the event of an overharvest.