



Fortieth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission

Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada

5 – 8 June 2023

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 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.

As agreed in 2022, Parties / NGOs were invited to submit questions on Agenda items, in advance to the relevant Party. The Secretariat requested that it be copied into any questions asked, to allow the questions to be included in the Annotated Agenda. Therefore, questions submitted are included under the relevant Agenda item, below. Answers will be requested during the meeting and recorded in the Meeting Report.

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

Timings of the Meeting (New Brunswick local time)

The Commission will meet on:

- Monday 5 June: 16:00 – 18:00 hrs
- Wednesday 7 June: 17:00 – 18:00 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.

The opening of the meeting will not include verbal Opening Statements. Members of the Commission, Observers and NGOs may submit written Opening Statements. These written statements will be annexed to the report of the meeting. It would be helpful if these statements could be made available to the Secretariat prior to the Annual Meeting.

- *no decision is required.*

2. Adoption of the Agenda

A Provisional Agenda, [WGC\(23\)01](#), was issued on 10 February 2023. No supplementary items were proposed by the Parties. The Draft Agenda, [WGC\(23\)02](#), was issued on 3 April.

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

3. **Nomination of a Rapporteur**

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

4. **Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area**

In 2022 the Council agreed that full ICES Advice should be presented in Council only in future, [CNL\(22\)53](#). Therefore, there will be no presentation of ICES advice during the Commission meeting. However, Article 9 of the Convention states that ‘*In exercising the functions set out in articles 7 and 8, a Commission shall take into account: the best available information, including advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea and other appropriate scientific organizations...*’

This agenda item allows for questions and comment on the ICES Advice, if required. The Co-Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Martha Robertson (Canada), will be available to answer questions, if required.

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(23\)08](#);
- the [Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon](#) is on the ICES website.

5. **Review of the 2022 Fishery at West Greenland**

The Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland, [WGC\(22\)10](#), requires a number of elements to be reported to the Commission. Paragraph 9 states ‘*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.*’

This Agenda item allows Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) to present its review of the 2022 fishery at West Greenland to the Commission, and for questions to be asked.

Decisions on the regulatory measure for future years will take place under Agenda item 7.

In advance of the Annual Meeting, Canada submitted the following question. A response will be sought during the meeting and included in the Meeting Report:

‘Could DFG please provide clarification on the relatively low reporting rate of the West Greenland fishery in 2022? It would be worthwhile if Greenland could be ready to speak to this at the WGC meeting, explaining why harvest reporting decreased again in 2022, and what DFG’s plans are to improve this.’

- *no decision is required.*

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(23\)08](#);
- 2022 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland, [WGC\(23\)03rev.](#)

6. 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\(23\)04](#);
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the European Union) [NEA\(23\)08](#); and
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the United Kingdom), [NEA\(23\)06](#).

7. Regulatory Measures

In 2022, the Commission adopted the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland, [WGC\(22\)10](#).

Paragraph 5 of the regulatory measure states:

'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.'

Paragraph 11 of the regulatory measure states:

'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.'

The Commission may wish to:

- *determine whether any member of the Commission wishes to request the reconsideration of the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure;*
- *agree whether the percentage referenced in paragraph 5 will be adjusted, and if*

so, how.

And, therefore,

- *agree whether the Regulatory Measure, as set out in [WGC\(22\)10](#), will continue to apply in 2023.*

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(23\)08](#);
- 2022 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland, [WGC\(23\)03rev](#).

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

8. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery

This Agenda item allows consideration of a draft statement of co-operation for the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme, which facilitates the effective functioning of the 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 2023 Sampling Programme.*

The following paper will be available:

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

9. 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.*

10. 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.

Rebekka Jensen has been nominated as the substitute manager representative for the WGC on the SSC, to replace Sissel Fredsgaard for this year only.

- *the Commission may wish to appoint Rebekka Jensen to the SSC for this year*

only.

- *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.

11. Other Business

The Commission may wish to note and comment on recommendation 25 of The Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#):

'The Panel recommends that NASCO and its Parties strengthen their efforts to decrease unreported catches in all salmon fisheries conducted by NASCO Parties. NASCO could consider commissioning an external independent assessment of unreported catches.'

No additional other business is expected.

12. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

The Commission will be asked to confirm the date and venue for its next Annual Meeting. It is usual practice for the Commission to meet during the Annual Meeting of the Council of NASCO, and in the same location.

The Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Council will be held during 4 – 7 June 2024; the location will be considered during the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Council.

- *the Commission may wish to agree to hold its next Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Council.*

13. 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.*

14. Close of the Meeting

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

Secretariat
Edinburgh
29 May 2022

Summary of Commission Decisions

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	WGC(23)02
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur	Nominate a Rapporteur	
7. Regulatory Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • determine whether to request the reconsideration of the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure; • agree whether the percentage referenced in paragraph 5 will be adjusted, and if so, how; • agree whether the Regulatory Measure will continue to apply in 2023. 	WGC(22)10 CNL(23)08 WGC(23)03rev
8. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery	Agree a statement of co-operation for the 2023 Sampling Programme	Paper issued at the meeting
10. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • appoint Rebekka Jensen to the SSC; • consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation or defer the decision to the Council. 	Paper issued at the meeting
12. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Agree to hold its next Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Forty-first Annual Meeting of the Council.	
13. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report of the Meeting	Issued at meeting