



**REPORT OF THE
FORTIETH
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION**

**Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton,
New Brunswick, Canada**

5 – 8 June 2023

Chair: Stephen Gephard (United States)
Vice-Chair: Katrine Kærsgaard (Denmark (in respect
of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))
Secretary: Emma Hatfield

WGC(23)08

WGC(23)08

Report of the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization

Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada

5 – 8 June 2023

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair, Stephen Gephard (USA), opened the meeting and welcomed delegates.
- 1.2 Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG) and the United States provided written Opening Statements (Annex 1).
- 1.3 A list of participants at the Fortieth Annual Meetings of the Council and Commissions of NASCO is included as Annex 2.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda, [WGC\(23\)05](#) (Annex 3).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 Alan Walker (UK) was appointed as Rapporteur.

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

- 4.1 The Chair reminded delegates that the ICES Advice for North Atlantic salmon stocks was published on 4 May 2023, [CNL\(23\)08](#). He noted that in 2022 the Council had agreed that the full ICES Advice should be presented in Council only in future. The Co-Chairs of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Martha Robertson (Canada) and Alan Walker (UK), had, therefore, previously presented the report of the Advisory Committee (ACOM) to Council. Dr Robertson attended the West Greenland Commission Meeting to answer any questions relevant to the Commission.
- 4.2 The NGO representative noted that the 2023 WGNAS Report provided information regarding catch sampling from the Citizen Science Programme of the East Greenland fishery in 2021 that might be of interest to the Commission. Specifically, he noted that genetic screening of the 14 salmon sampled from the fishery revealed that 71 % were of North American origin whereas 29 % originated from European rivers.

5. Review of the 2022 Fishery at West Greenland

- 5.1 The Chair noted that the ‘Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland’, [WGC\(22\)10](#), required 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.’

- 5.2 He thanked DFG for the timely submission of its ‘2022 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland’, [WGC\(23\)03rev](#).
- 5.3 DFG summarised the report, noting that the final declared catch across the four fishery segments (two management areas (north and south) and two fishery segments (professional and recreational)) was 28.8 tonnes. It noted that, whereas the regulatory measure called for the announcement of the fishery closure when the overall catch had reached 49 % of the quota, several factors affected the process for managing the closure of fishery segments. For example, the professional fishery in the southwest was closed when it reached 40 % uptake because this was a relatively large fishery where catch accumulated quickly.
- 5.4 In advance of the Annual Meeting, Canada had submitted the following question:
‘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.’
- 5.5 In its presentation, DFG had stated that the level of catch reporting was about 68 %, which was lower than in 2021. DFG stated that the cause of this decline in reporting rate was not fully understood; however, phone interviews indicated that some fishers had not caught salmon so did not report and others who had caught salmon forgot to report. DFG acknowledged that this indicated the need for even greater outreach efforts, and this year it would use more text messages and possibly advertise on TV. In addition, DFG hoped to conduct the phone interviews towards the end of the season in 2023, rather than after the season had closed. This would be dependent on securing resources for this work. DFG noted that the 244 licence holders who did not report from the 2022 fishing season would not be issued a licence for the 2023 fishing season. It acknowledged that, while it was difficult to fully estimate the effect of this on the 2023 fishery, it can be assumed that there will be fewer licence holders in 2023 compared to 2022 and that the catch accumulation could be slower, although this is always weather dependent.
- 5.6 The United States, EU and UK thanked DFG for the report, welcoming the success of the management of the fishery in 2022. They were concerned about the decline in the reporting rate but were pleased to learn of the actions that DFG was planning to implement in 2023.
- 5.7 Canada asked whether the additional catch reports generated by the phone surveys had been included in the revised catch statistics. DFG confirmed that these extra catches were reflected in the revised data reported to the Commission.
- 5.8 The NGO representative was pleased with the results of the 2022 fisheries management. However, he noted that the description of the process to close the fishery in a segment-specific manner differed from the process set out in the regulatory measure, whereby the fishery was to be closed when the overall catch had reached 49 % of the quota. He asked for clarification. DFG confirmed that although the regulatory measure had set out this 49 % ‘tool’, the different fishery segments were managed separately. No further explanation could be provided because a representative of the agency that manages the fishery was not available.

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

- 6.1 The Chair noted that 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 (MSFs).
- 6.2 The Chair referred the Commission to the papers submitted by Canada, [NAC\(23\)04](#), the European Union, [NEA\(23\)08](#), and the UK, [NEA\(23\)06](#). These include a brief description of any MSFs still operating, the most recent catch data and any changes or developments in the management of MSFs. The United States did not report as there are no directed wild Atlantic salmon fisheries in the United States. The Commission welcomed these reports.
- 6.3 The Chair invited questions or comments on these papers. No comments were received.

7. Regulatory Measures

- 7.1 The Chair noted that in 2022, the Commission had 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.'

- 7.2 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.'

- 7.3 The Chair referred the Commission to the '2022 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(23\)03rev](#), and the discussion under Agenda item 5, and invited the Commission to provide comments or questions.
- 7.4 DFG proposed that the 49 % 'tool' be retained for the 2023 fishing season, noting that this is a new tool, and it would be useful to continue the *status quo* for at least another year to gather more data on its effectiveness, before considering any change.
- 7.5 The United States supported DFG's proposal. However, it noted that there had been an expectation that the analysis deriving the 49 % 'tool' would be rerun this year incorporating the data from the 2022 fishery. The United States recognised that there were no resources available to complete this analysis at present and understood that it needed to be postponed. It asked for a commitment from DFG that the analysis of 2022 and 2023 fishery data would take place by the Data Working Group before the 2024

Annual Meeting. This would allow the analysis to be run, the results and implications reviewed, and, if necessary, an inter-sessional meeting to be convened to consider the results. Canada supported this suggestion. DFG noted that, while it could not fully commit to this, because it would be someone from another agency that would conduct this analysis, it hoped that resources would be available for this work to be achievable.

- 7.6 The Commission agreed not to request the reconsideration of the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure (paragraph 11 of [WGC\(22\)10](#)), and not to request that the percentage referenced in paragraph 5 of [WGC\(22\)10](#) be adjusted.
- 7.7 The Commission, therefore, agreed that the regulatory measure, as set out in [WGC\(22\)10](#), would continue to apply in 2023.

8. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery

- 8.1 The Chair noted that the Commission had worked co-operatively over the past five decades to collect biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland. These data provide critical inputs to the stock assessments conducted annually by the WGNAS.
- 8.2 The Co-ordinator of the West Greenland Commission Sampling Programme, Tim Sheehan (USA), introduced a ‘Draft Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme for 2023’, WGC(23)04.
- 8.3 DFG thanked him for his work co-ordinating the Sampling Programme. It noted that the Citizen Science Programme, which was a component of the Sampling Programme, had had a good evaluation meeting with representatives from the Government of Greenland, the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator. Plans were being developed to support the Citizen Science Programme, with support from the Atlantic Salmon Federation (ASF) and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF), including raffle prizes to incentivise increased participation.
- 8.4 The Commission discussed the availability of reports from the West Greenland Commission Sampling Programme. The Co-ordinator explained that the programme results are initially provided to the ICES WGNAS as an internal Working Paper, but subsequently are published in a NOAA Technical Document and are available on the NOAA website. The Co-ordinator agreed to work with the Secretariat to make those reports available for reference on the NASCO website.
- 8.5 The Commission agreed to adopt a ‘Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme for 2023’, [WGC\(23\)07](#) (Annex 4).

9. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 9.1 NASCO operates a Tag Return Incentive Scheme. Eligible tags that are returned to the appropriate authorities in the country of capture may be included in the draws. 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.
- 9.2 The Chair announced that the winner of the West Greenland Commission £1,000 prize in the NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme was Svend Johansen, Greenland.
- 9.3 The tag was recaptured in Ikertoq, south of Sisimiut on 5 September 2021. The salmon was eaten before a sample could be taken and no further information was available.
- 9.4 The United States noted that, given the relatively low number of tags returned in recent years, it would like to propose that the scheme be repurposed to provide additional

support to the Citizen Science Programme that DFG had referred to earlier.

9.5 The Secretary notified the Commission that the Finance and Administration Committee (FAC) had this week agreed to ask Parties to confirm the numbers of tagged fish released in their jurisdictions. This information would inform further consideration of whether to continue the Incentive Scheme. The United States noted that ICES may already collect this information.

9.6 The NGO representative asked for further information on the origin of the tagged fish that had won the prize. The United States was able to explain that the two tags submitted to the scheme were electronic tags (one a passive integrated transponder (PIT) and the other an acoustic tag) but source information was not available for either. It also clarified that while the scheme had originally been for external tags, it had been expanded some years ago to include internal tags.

10. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice

10.1 The Convention requires NASCO to take into account the best scientific evidence and establish working arrangements with ICES. The Standing Scientific Committee (SSC) assists the Council and Commissions in formulating their questions to ICES. During the Annual Meeting, the SSC meets to develop a Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES for consideration by the Commissions and the Council.

10.2 For this year only, Rebekka Jensen (DFG) was nominated as substitute for Sissel Fredsgaard (DFG), as the manager representative for the Commission on the SSC.

10.3 The Commission agreed to defer consideration of the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice in relation to the West Greenland Commission to the Council. The request to ICES, as agreed by Council, is contained in document [CNL\(23\)11rev](#) (Annex 5).

11. Other Business

11.1 The Chair asked the Commission if it wished to comment on Recommendation 25 of the Report of the Third NASCO Performance Review, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#), which states:

‘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.’

11.2 The Commission did not comment on this.

12. Date and Place of the Next Meeting

12.1 The Commission agreed to hold its next Annual Meeting at the same time and place as the Forty-First Annual Meeting of the Council.

12.2 The United States noted that while an inter-sessional meeting ahead of the Annual Meeting in 2024 was not foreseen, the possibility should be retained. The Commission agreed.

13. Report of the Meeting

13.1 The Commission agreed a report of the Meeting.

14. Close of the Meeting

14.1 The Chair thanked the participants for their contributions and closed the Meeting.

WGC(23)08

Compte rendu de la quarantième session annuelle de la Commission du Groenland Occidental de l'Organisation pour la Conservation du Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord

Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton, Nouveau-Brunswick, Canada

5 – 8 juin 2023

1. Ouverture de la session

- 1.1 Le Président, Stephen Gephard (USA), a ouvert la session et accueilli les délégués.
- 1.2 Le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) (DFG) et les États-Unis ont fourni des déclarations écrites d'ouverture (Annexe 1).
- 1.3 Une liste des participants aux quarantièmes sessions annuelles du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN se trouve en Annexe 2.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

- 2.1 La Commission a adopté son ordre du jour, [WGC\(23\)05](#) (Annexe 3).

3. Nomination d'un rapporteur

- 3.1 Alan Walker (RU) a été désigné comme rapporteur.

4. Rapport du Comité d'Avis du CIEM (ACOM) sur les stocks de saumons dans la zone de la Commission

- 4.1 Le Président a rappelé aux délégués que l'Avis du CIEM pour les stocks de saumon de l'Atlantique nord a été publié le 4 Mai 2023, [CNL\(23\)08](#). Il a indiqué qu'en 2022 le Conseil avait décidé que l'Avis complet du CIEM ne serait à l'avenir plus présenté qu'au Conseil. Les co-présidents du Groupe de travail sur le saumon de l'Atlantique nord (WGNAS), Martha Robertson (Canada) et Alan Walker (RU), avaient par conséquent présenté auparavant le rapport du Comité d'Avis (ACOM) au Conseil. Le Dr Robertson a assisté à la session de la Commission du Groenland Occidental afin de répondre à toutes questions pertinentes pour la Commission.
- 4.2 Le représentant des ONGs a indiqué que le Rapport 2023 du WGNAS fournissait des informations sur l'échantillonnage de captures du Programme de science citoyenne de la pêche de Groenland oriental en 2021 qui pourraient présenter de l'intérêt pour la Commission. Spécifiquement, il a noté que le dépistage génétique des 14 saumons échantillonnés dans la pêche révélait que 71 % étaient d'origine nord-américaine tandis que 29 % provenaient de rivières européennes.

5. Examen de la pêche de 2022 au Groenland occidental

- 5.1 Le Président a indiqué que la 'Mesure de réglementation pluriannuelle pour la pêche du saumon de l'Atlantique au Groenland occidental', [WGC\(22\)10](#), exigeait qu'il soit rendu compte d'un certain nombre d'éléments à la Commission. Le paragraphe 9 stipule que:

‘Le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) convient d’informer en temps utile l’OCSAN et, le cas échéant, le CIEM, de tout changement significatif dans le suivi, la gestion, le contrôle et la surveillance de la pêcherie du saumon atlantique du Groenland occidental et de fournir un rapport annuel sur la mise en œuvre de cette mesure et sur les résultats de la pêcherie.’

- 5.2 Il a remercié DFG d’avoir soumis en temps voulu son ‘Rapport 2022 sur la pêcherie du saumon au Groenland’, [WGC\(23\)03rev](#).
- 5.3 DFG a résumé le rapport, indiquant que les captures finales déclarées pour les quatre segments confondus (deux zones de gestion (nord et sud) et deux segments de pêche (professionnelle et récréative)) s’élevaient à 28,8 tonnes. Elle a déclaré que, bien que la mesure de réglementation appelle à annoncer la fermeture de la pêche lorsque les captures globales ont atteint 49 % du quota, plusieurs facteurs gênent le déroulement du processus de gestion de la fermeture de segments de pêche. Par exemple, la pêche professionnelle dans le sud-ouest a été fermée lorsqu’elle a atteint 40 % des prélèvements parce qu’il s’agit d’une pêcherie relativement importante où les captures s’additionnent rapidement.
- 5.4 En amont de la session annuelle, le Canada avait soumis la question suivante:
- ‘DFG pourrait-il apporter une clarification concernant le taux relativement faible de reporting de la pêcherie au Groenland occidental en 2022? Il vaudrait la peine que le Groenland puisse être prêt à s’exprimer sur ce point lors de la session de la Commission du Groenland occidental pour expliquer pourquoi le reporting de captures a diminué de nouveau en 2022, et quels sont les projets de DFG pour y remédier.’*
- 5.5 Dans sa présentation, DFG avait déclaré que le taux de reporting des captures avoisinait 68 %, ce qui était inférieur à celui de 2021. DFG a déclaré que la cause du déclin du reporting n’était pas totalement comprise; néanmoins, les interviews téléphoniques montraient que certains pêcheurs n’avaient pas pris de saumons et n’avaient donc pas déclaré et que d’autres qui en avaient pris avaient oublié de déclarer. DFG a reconnu que ceci révélait un besoin d’efforts encore plus importants de sensibilisation, et que cette année il serait davantage fait appel aux messages texte et peut-être à la publicité télévisée. De plus, DFG espérait mener les interviews téléphoniques vers la fin de la campagne en 2023, plutôt qu’après la clôture de la campagne. Ceci dépendrait de la sécurisation de ressources pour ce travail. DFG a indiqué que les 244 détenteurs de permis qui n’ont pas déclaré pour la campagne de pêche 2022 n’obtiendraient pas de permis pour la campagne de pêche 2023. DFG a reconnu que, bien qu’il soit difficile d’estimer complètement l’effet que cela aurait sur la pêcherie en 2023, on pouvait présumer qu’il y aurait moins de détenteurs de permis en 2023 comparativement à 2022 et que l’addition des captures pourrait être plus lente, bien qu’elle soit toujours dépendante des conditions météorologiques.
- 5.6 Les États-Unis, l’UE et le RU ont remercié DFG pour le rapport, se réjouissant du succès de la gestion de la pêcherie en 2022. Ils se sont montrés préoccupés par le déclin du taux de reporting mais satisfaits d’apprendre quelles actions DFG comptait mettre en œuvre en 2023.
- 5.7 Le Canada a demandé si les déclarations supplémentaires de captures générées par les enquêtes téléphoniques avaient été incluses dans les statistiques révisées de captures. DFG a confirmé que ces captures supplémentaires étaient bien prises en compte dans les données révisées transmises à la Commission.

5.8 Le représentant des ONGs a fait part de sa satisfaction quant aux résultats de la gestion de la pêche en 2022. Il a cependant relevé que la description de la procédure de fermeture de la pêche de manière spécifique par segment était différente de la procédure fixée dans la mesure de réglementation, selon laquelle la pêche devait être fermée lorsque les captures globales avaient atteint 49 % du quota. Il a demandé une clarification. DFG a confirmé que bien que la mesure réglementaire ait fixé cet ‘outil’ de 49 %, les différents segments de la pêche étaient gérés séparément. Il n’était pas possible d’apporter davantage d’explications, en l’absence d’un représentant de l’agence qui gère la pêche.

6. Pêcheries de stocks mixtes menées par des Membres de la Commission

6.1 Le Président a noté que dans le cadre du ‘Plan d’action pour mettre en œuvre les conseils de l’étude externe des performances et la révision des ‘Prochaines Etapes’ pour l’OCSAN’, [CNL\(13\)38](#), du Conseil il a été décidé qu’il y aurait un point à l’ordre du jour de chacune des Commissions pour permettre de se concentrer sur les pêcheries sur stocks mixtes (PSMs).

6.2 Le Président a renvoyé la Commission aux documents soumis par le Canada, [NAC\(23\)04](#), l’Union européenne, [NEA\(23\)08](#), et le RU, [NEA\(23\)06](#). Ceux-ci incluent une brève description de chaque PSM encore en opération, les données les plus récentes de captures et tout changement ou développement dans la gestion des PSMs. Les États-Unis n’ont pas rendu compte puisqu’il n’y a pas de pêche ciblée du saumon atlantique sauvage aux États-Unis. La Commission s’est félicitée de ces rapports.

6.3 Le Président a invité à poser des questions ou à faire des commentaires sur ces documents. Il n’y a eu aucun commentaire.

7. Mesures de réglementation

7.1 Le Président a indiqué qu’en 2022, la Commission avait adopté la ‘Mesure de réglementation pluriannuelle pour la pêche du saumon de l’Atlantique au Groenland occidental’, [WGC\(22\)10](#). Le paragraphe 5 de la mesure de réglementation énonce que:

‘La première année de cette mesure de réglementation, le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) convient de fermer la pêche au Groenland occidental lorsque les captures enregistrées ont atteint au maximum 49 % du TAC global. Le Danemark (pour les Iles Féroé et le Groenland) peut fermer la pêche du Groenland occidental avant d’atteindre cette limite sur la base de données recueillies pendant la campagne en cours et des campagnes antérieures, en prenant en compte de multiples variables, différentes d’une année à l’autre, telles que données de captures et conditions météorologiques. Pour toute année ultérieure couverte par cette mesure de réglementation, le pourcentage mentionné ci-dessus peut, en consultation avec la Commission, être ajusté sur la base de l’expérience existante et de l’effet attendu de nouvelles mesures de gestion.’

7.2 Le paragraphe 11 de la mesure de réglementation stipule que:

‘La Commission décide d’appliquer cette mesure réglementaire à la pêche au Groenland occidental en 2022. La Commission décide également d’appliquer cette mesure en 2023, 2024 et 2025 à moins qu’un membre de la Commission ne demande sa révision sur la base d’un examen de l’avis scientifique fourni

par le CIEM et / ou de l'examen du rapport annuel découlant du paragraphe 9, y compris en cas de dépassement du quota.'

- 7.3 Le Président a renvoyé la Commission au 'Rapport 2022 sur la pêche du saumon au Groenland', [WGC\(23\)03rev](#), et à la discussion au point 5 de l'ordre du jour, et a invité la Commission à apporter des commentaires ou des questions.
- 7.4 DFG a proposé que l'outil 49 % soit maintenu pour la campagne de pêche 2023, soulignant qu'il s'agit d'un instrument nouveau, et qu'il serait utile de maintenir le *statu quo* pour au moins une autre année afin de collecter davantage de données quant à son efficacité, avant d'envisager un quelconque changement.
- 7.5 Les États-Unis ont soutenu la proposition de DFG. Néanmoins, ils ont indiqué qu'il y avait eu une attente pour que l'analyse d'où provenait l'outil 49 % soit menée à nouveau cette année en intégrant les données de la pêche en 2022. Les États-Unis ont reconnu qu'il n'y avait pas de ressources disponibles pour mener à bien cette analyse aujourd'hui, comprenant qu'elle devait être reportée à une date ultérieure. Ils ont requis un engagement de la part de DFG pour que l'analyse des données de pêche de 2022 et 2023 soit faite par le Groupe de travail données avant la session annuelle 2024. Ceci permettrait la reconduite de l'analyse, l'examen des résultats et de leurs implications, et, si nécessaire, l'organisation d'une réunion intersessionnelle pour tenir compte des résultats. Le Canada a soutenu cette proposition. DFG a indiqué que bien qu'il ne lui soit pas possible de s'engager complètement sur ce point, parce que ce serait une personne d'une autre agence qui mènerait cette analyse, elle espérait que des ressources seraient disponibles pour la réalisation de ce travail.
- 7.6 La Commission a décidé de ne pas requérir le ré-examen de la Mesure pluriannuelle de réglementation (paragraphe 11 du document [WGC\(22\)10](#)), et de ne pas demander l'ajustement du pourcentage mentionné au paragraphe 5 du document [WGC\(22\)10](#).
- 7.7 La Commission a, par conséquent, décidé que la Mesure de réglementation, telle qu'énoncée dans le document [WGC\(22\)10](#), continuerait de s'appliquer en 2023.

8. Échantillonnage dans la pêche du Groenland Occidental

- 8.1 Le Président a indiqué que la Commission avait travaillé en coopération pendant les cinq décennies précédentes à la collecte de données biologiques sur le saumon de l'Atlantique capturé au Groenland occidental. Ces données apportent une contribution essentielle aux évaluations de stocks menées annuellement par le WGNAS.
- 8.2 Le coordinateur du Programme d'échantillonnage de la Commission du Groenland occidental, Tim Sheehan (USA), a présenté une 'Déclaration projet de coopération sur le Programme d'échantillonnage dans la pêche du Groenland occidental pour 2023', [WGC\(23\)04](#).
- 8.3 DFG l'a remercié pour son travail de coordination du Programme d'échantillonnage et a indiqué que le Programme de science citoyenne, qui est une composante du Programme d'échantillonnage, avait fait l'objet d'une bonne session d'évaluation avec des représentants du gouvernement du Groenland, l'Institut des Ressources Naturelles du Groenland et le coordinateur du Programme d'échantillonnage. Des projets étaient en cours de développement pour soutenir le Programme de science citoyenne, avec un soutien de la part de la Fédération du Saumon Atlantique (ASF) et du Fonds pour le Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord (NASF), incluant des prix de tombola afin d'encourager une participation accrue.
- 8.4 La Commission a débattu de la disponibilité des rapports issus du Programme

d'échantillonnage de la Commission du Groenland occidental. Le coordinateur a expliqué que les résultats du programme sont dans un premier temps transmis au WGNAS du CIEM en tant que document de travail interne, mais qu'ils sont ensuite publiés dans un document technique de la NOAA et qu'ils sont disponibles sur le site web de la NOAA. Le coordinateur a accepté de travailler avec le Secrétariat afin de rendre ces rapports disponibles pour qu'ils soient référencés sur le site web de l'OCSAN.

- 8.5 La Commission a décidé d'adopter une 'Déclaration de coopération sur le Programme d'échantillonnage dans la pêcherie du Groenland occidental pour 2023', [WGC\(23\)07](#) (Annexe 4).

9. Annonce du gagnant du prix du Programme incitatif au renvoi des marques

- 9.1 L'OCSAN a instauré un Programme d'incitation au renvoi des marques. Les marques éligibles qui sont renvoyées aux autorités compétentes du pays de capture peuvent être incluses dans les tirages au sort. Chaque année un Grand Prix de £1,500 est décerné ainsi que trois prix de £1,000, un dans chacune des zones des trois Commissions de l'OCSAN.
- 9.2 Le Président a annoncé que le gagnant du prix de £1,000 de la Commission du Groenland occidental dans le Programme incitatif au renvoi des marques de l'OCSAN était Svend Johansen, Groenland.
- 9.3 La marque a été recapturée à Ikertoq, au sud de Sisimiut, le 5 septembre 2021. Le saumon ayant été consommé avant qu'un prélèvement puisse être réalisé, aucune autre information n'était disponible.
- 9.4 Les États-Unis ont indiqué qu'étant donné le nombre relativement faible de marques renvoyées au cours des années les plus récentes, ils souhaiteraient proposer que le programme soit réaffecté pour fournir un soutien complémentaire au Programme de science citoyenne mentionné précédemment par DFG.
- 9.5 La Secrétaire a informé la Commission de la décision prise cette semaine par le Comité financier et administratif (CFA) de demander aux Parties de confirmer les nombres de poissons marqués dans leurs juridictions. Cette information orientera un examen ultérieur du maintien du Programme d'incitation. Les États-Unis ont fait remarquer que le CIEM pourrait déjà recueillir ces informations.
- 9.6 Le représentant des ONGs a demandé des informations complémentaires sur l'origine du poisson marqué gagnant du prix. Les États-Unis ont pu expliquer que les deux marques envoyées au programme étaient des marques électroniques (l'une un transpondeur électronique passif intégré (PIT) et l'autre une balise acoustique) mais que l'information source n'était disponible ni pour l'une ni pour l'autre. Ils ont aussi explicité que bien qu'au départ le programme ait été créé pour des marques externes, il avait été étendu il y a quelques années aux marques internes.

10. Recommandations au Conseil concernant la demande de conseils scientifiques au CIEM

- 10.1 La Convention impose à l'OCSAN de tenir compte des meilleures informations scientifiques et d'établir des modalités de collaboration avec le CIEM. Le Comité scientifique permanent (CSP) assiste le Conseil et les Commissions pour formuler leurs

questions au CIEM. Pendant la session annuelle, le CSP se réunit pour préparer une Demande projet de conseils scientifiques au CIEM pour examen par les Commissions et le Conseil.

- 10.2 Pour cette année uniquement, Rebekka Jensen (DFG) a été nommée comme suppléante de Sissel Fredsgaard (DFG), en tant que représentante gestionnaire pour la Commission au CSP.
- 10.3 La Commission a décidé de renvoyer au Conseil l'examen de la demande de conseils scientifiques au CIEM concernant la Commission du Groenland occidental. La demande au CIEM, telle qu'adoptée par le Conseil, se trouve dans le document [CNL\(23\)11rev](#) (Annexe 5).

11. Divers

- 11.1 Le Président a demandé à la Commission si elle souhaitait faire des commentaires sur la Recommandation 25 du Rapport de la troisième évaluation des performances de l'OCSAN, [CNL\(23\)17rev](#), qui énonce que:

'Le Panel recommande que l'OCSAN et ses Parties renforcent leurs efforts pour réduire les captures non déclarées dans toutes les pêcheries de saumon menées par les Parties à l'OCSAN. L'OCSAN pourrait envisager de commander une évaluation externe indépendante des captures non déclarées.'

- 11.2 La Commission n'a pas fait de commentaires sur ce sujet.

12. Date et lieu de la prochaine session

- 12.1 La Commission a décidé de tenir sa prochaine session aux mêmes lieu et place que la quarante-et-unième session annuelle du Conseil.
- 12.2 Les États-Unis ont indiqué que bien qu'une réunion inter-sessionnelle avant la session annuelle ne soit pas prévue, cette possibilité devrait être maintenue. La Commission a donné son accord.

13. Compte rendu de la session

- 13.1 La Commission a adopté un compte rendu de la session.

14. Clôture de la session

- 14.1 Le Président a remercié les participants pour leurs contributions et a clos la session.

List of Annexes

- Annex 1 Opening Statements Submitted by Members of the Commission
- Annex 2 List of Participants
- Annex 3 Agenda, WGC(23)05
- Annex 4 Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme for 2023, WGC(23)07
- Annex 5 Request for Scientific Advice from ICES, CNL(23)11rev

*Opening Statements to the West Greenland Commission Submitted by
Members of the Commission*

*Opening Statement to the West Greenland Commission Submitted by the
United States*

Mr. Chairman, Madam Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen:

The United States would like to express its appreciation to Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland) (DFG) for its implementation of the multi-annual regulatory measure as agreed upon during the 2022 NASCO annual meeting. We also very much appreciate the detailed and transparent report DFG provided on the outcome of fishery.

With an estimated harvest of 29 mt for 2022, we are cautiously optimistic that the novel modelling approach developed by the Data Working Group last year that informed the fishery closure provisions of the West Greenland regulatory measure was an effective tool for reducing the risk of a significant over harvest, as seen in recent years. This week, we look forward to discussing what the process will be for incorporating two additional years of catch data (2022 and 2023) into the model that will increase its robustness. We recognize that many different factors contribute to the dynamics of the quota uptake in the fishery. However, we strongly support the conclusion of the Data Working Group that adding additional years of data to the single year that is currently considered, will significantly improve the retrospective analysis of the model in informing when the fishery should be closed to help prevent future over harvests. With that in mind, we hope the needed data can be provided well in advance of the 2024 Annual Meeting as this will facilitate the work of both the Data Working Group and the WGC next year.

While the harvest estimates vis a vis the 2022 TAC are encouraging, we do note with concern that the level of reporting in the West Greenland fishery has shown a significant downward trend from nearly 82% in 2019 to only 68% in 2022. Additionally, this despite the continued outreach campaign by GLFK and the no license penalty imposed on those that do not report. We remain concerned about the level of harvest that may be occurring, but that is not being reported. During this year's annual meeting, we look forward to hearing from DFG on possible causes behind the continued decline in reporting and the actions being taken to improve reporting. In addition, since nearly 32% of the licensed fishers in 2022 will not be issued a fishing license in 2023 because they did not report their catch, we would appreciate hearing from DFG on how this may impact the 2023 fishery.

Finally, we would like to emphasize that continuation of the longstanding scientific sampling program in West Greenland is essential. We are especially interested in the continued development of the Citizen Science program as it could prove to be a potential sampling platform for the future which involves the users of the resource in providing the scientific information needed for its sustainable use. We appreciate very much the cooperation and collaboration from our international partners over the years to make the program a success.

Thank you.

***Opening Statement to the West Greenland Commission submitted by
Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)***

Mr. Chairman, Ms. Secretary, Distinguished Delegates, Observers, Ladies and Gentlemen, Greenland would like to thank Canada for hosting this year's Annual Meeting. We also want to thank the Secretariat for making the meeting in the West Greenland Commission possible, and to provide the best conditions for cooperation between Parties.

Greenland is pleased to report on the successful outcome of the salmon season in 2022 and the continuous effort to manage our fishery better every year. The salmon fishery in Greenland is looking into a period of stability since we were able to agree on a multi-annual regulatory measure last year. Large changes in the management of the fishery bring uncertainty to our subsistence fishermen, which are already getting to know a system much different from all our other coastal fisheries, in terms of management and reporting. Stability is of great importance to the Greenlandic salmon fishery as it allows both the fishers and the administration to be able to adapt to the rules and regulations.

The new closure mechanism which was agreed upon last year has assisted in the Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority's ability to close the fishery so close to the quota. We are looking forward to developing this mechanism further. Another positive tendency is that a higher percentage of the fishers' report within the season, which makes it easier to close our small-scale fishery timely.

Unfortunately, Greenland also saw a drop in the overall reporting of the subsistence fishers. This is being taken very seriously, and Greenland is investigating possible causes for the decline, as well as making new initiatives to mitigate this in the future.

The latest advice from ICES emphasises that non-fisheries related anthropogenic mortalities should be minimized, while quality and quantity of salmon habitats should undergo comprehensive restoration. It is our hope that with more stability and control of the salmon fishery in Greenland, we can finally concentrate our resources on the most urgent conservation challenges.

Greenland furthermore continues to develop our Citizen Sampling Programme and we are very excited about its potential. We have already started the planning of this year's programme and it is our intension to increase the participation in the coming years.

Mr. Chairman, Greenland looks forward to a productive week in Moncton, where we hope to engage in constructive discussions and collectively contribute to a successful outcome of the meeting in the West Greenland Commission.

Thank you.

2023 List of Participants

* Denotes Head of Delegation

CANADA		
*Mr Doug Bliss – Representative	<i>doug.bliss@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Moncton, New Brunswick
Mr Carl McLean – Representative	<i>mcleanc351@gmail.com</i>	Canadian Commissioner, North West River, Newfoundland and Labrador
Dr Blair Adams (Virtual Participant)	<i>BlairAdams@gov.nl.ca</i>	Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
Dr Julien April	<i>julien.april@mffp.gouv.qc.ca</i>	Ministère des Forêts de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec, Québec
Ms Cindy Breau	<i>cindy.breau@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Moncton, New Brunswick
Mr Todd Broomfield	<i>todd.broomfield@nunatsiavut.com</i>	Government of Nunatsiavut, Newfoundland and Labrador
Mr Stephen A. Chase	<i>chasesa@salmonconservation.ca</i>	Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Ms Kathryn Ann Collet	<i>kathryn.collet@gnb.ca</i>	Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development, New Brunswick
Mr Levi Denny	<i>levi@uinr.ca</i>	Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Nova Scotia
Dr Shelley Denny	<i>shelley.denny@uinr.ca</i>	Unama'ki Institute of Natural Resources, Eskasoni, Nova Scotia
Ms Susan A. Farquharson	<i>s.farquharson@atlanticfishfarmers.com</i>	Atlantic Canada Fish Farmers Association, Letang, New Brunswick
Ms Livia Goodbrand	<i>Livia.Goodbrand@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa
Ms Nadia Hamoui (Virtual Participant)	<i>nadia.hamoui@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa
Mr Matthew Hardy	<i>matthew.hardy@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada

Mr Ross Hinks	<i>rhinks@mfn.gov.ca</i>	Indigenous First Nation, Miawpukek First Nation, Newfoundland and Labrador
Ms Keely Hunter (Virtual Participant)	<i>Keely.hunter@international.gc.ca</i>	Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa
Mr Steve Sanghwun Hwang	<i>steve.hwang@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa
Ms Quinna Laver	<i>quinna.laver@torngat.com</i>	Torngat Secretariat, Newfoundland and Labrador
Mr Barry LaBillois (Virtual Participant)	<i>b_labillois@hotmail.com</i>	Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council, Nova Scotia
Mr Jason LeBlanc	<i>jason.leblanc@ovascotia.ca</i>	Department of Fisheries and Aquaculture, Nova Scotia
Ms Marie-Pier Lévesque	<i>marie-pier.levesque@justice.gc.ca</i>	Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Legal Services, Ottawa
Ms Kayli McGarrigle	<i>naturalresources@nbapc.org</i>	New Brunswick Aboriginal Peoples Council, Fredericton, New Brunswick
Ms Charline McCoy	<i>charline@salmonconservation.ca</i>	The Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation, New Brunswick
Mr Dale Marsden	<i>Dale.Marsden@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Mr Charles Marshall	<i>charlie.marshall~apcfn.ca</i>	Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nations Chiefs Secretariat, Nova Scotia
Ms Isabelle Morisset	<i>isabelle.morisset@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Ottawa, Ontario
Ms Melissa Nevin	<i>melissa.nevin@apcfn.ca</i>	Atlantic Policy Congress of First Nation Chiefs Secretariat, Nova Scotia
Mr Robert Otto	<i>rotto@asf.ca</i>	Atlantic Salmon Federation, New Brunswick
Dr Martha Robertson	<i>martha.robertson@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	Fisheries and Oceans Canada, St. Johns, Newfoundland and Labrador
President Todd Russell	<i>trussell@nunatukavut.ca</i>	NunatuKavut Community Council, Newfoundland and Labrador
George Russell Jr.	<i>grussell@nunatukavut.ca</i>	NunatuKavut Community Council, Newfoundland and Labrador

Mr Bill Taylor	<i>rwtaylor@asf.ca</i>	Atlantic Salmon Federation, St Andrews, New Brunswick
DENMARK (In respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)		
*Ms Katrine Kærsgaard	<i>katk@nanoq.gl</i>	Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting, Nuuk, Greenland
Ms Rebekka Jensen	<i>rjen@nanoq.gl</i>	Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting, Nuuk, Greenland
EUROPEAN UNION		
Dr Arnaud Peyronnet – President	<i>arnaud.peyronnet@ec.europa.eu</i>	European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
*Mr Ignacio Granell – Representative (Virtual Participant)	<i>ignacio.granell@ec.europa.eu</i>	European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
*Mr Seamus Howard	<i>seamus.howard@ec.europa.eu</i>	European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
Mr Magnus Andersson	<i>Magnus.andersson@gov.se</i>	Swedish Ministry of Rural Affairs and Infrastructure, Stockholm, Sweden
Dr Ida Ahlbeck Bergendahl (Virtual Participant)	<i>ida.ahlbeck.bergendahl@slu.se</i>	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Drottningholm, Sweden
Ms Anjelina Bengyuzova	<i>anjelina.bengyuzova@consilium.europa.eu</i>	General Secretariat, Council of the European Union, Brussels, Belgium
Mr Clemens Fieseler	<i>clemens.fieseler@ble.de</i>	Federal Office for Agriculture and Food, Bonn, Germany
Mr Barry Fulham	<i>barry.fulham@decc.gov.ie</i>	Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, Co. Cavan, Ireland
Mr Håkan Carlstrand	<i>hakan.carlstrand@havochvatten.se</i>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Gothenburg, Sweden
Ms Lynda Connor	<i>lynda.connor@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Co. Tipperary, Ireland
Dr Jaakko Erkinaro	<i>jaakko.erkinaro@luke.fi</i>	Natural Resources Institute, Finland
Ms Isabel Figueira (Virtual Participant)	<i>ifigueira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt</i>	General-Directorate for Natural Resources, Security and Maritime Services, Lisbon, Portugal
Dr Cathal Gallagher	<i>cathal.gallagher@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland

Mr Julián García Baena	<i>jgbaena@mapa.es</i>	Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, Madrid, Spain
Mr Tapio Hakaste	<i>tapio.hakaste@mmm.fi</i>	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Helsinki, Finland
*Mr Seamus Howard	<i>seamus.howard@ec.europa.eu</i>	European Commission, Brussels, Belgium
Dr Seán Kelly	<i>sean.kelly@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Denis Maher	<i>denis.maher@dccae.gov.ie</i>	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, Co. Cavan, Ireland
Dr Sarah McLean	<i>sarah.mclean@loughs-agency.org</i>	Loughs Agency, Derry, Northern Ireland
Dr Michael Millane	<i>michael.millane@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Mr Francis O'Donnell	<i>Francis.O'Donnell@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	Inland Fisheries Ireland, Dublin, Ireland
Dr Niall Ó Maoiléidigh	<i>niall.omaoleidigh@marine.ie</i>	Marine Institute, Newport, Ireland
Mr Jens Persson	<i>jens.persson@havochvatten.se</i>	Swedish Agency for Marine and Water Management, Gothenburg, Sweden
Ms Christiane Pilz	<i>christiane.pilz@bmel.bund.de</i>	Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Berlin, Germany
Mr Neil Ruane (Virtual Participant)	<i>neil.ruane@marine.ie</i>	Marine Institute, Rinville, Oranmore, Co. Galway, Ireland
Dr Thomas Staveley (Virtual Participant)	<i>tom.staveley@slu.se</i>	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Drottningholm, Sweden
Mrs Isabel Teixeira (Virtual Participant)	<i>iteixeira@dgrm.mm.gov.pt</i>	General-Directorate for Natural Resources, Security and Maritime Services, Lisbon, Portugal
Ms Bénédicte Valadou	<i>benedicte.valadou@ofb.gouv.fr</i>	OFB (Office français de la Biodiversité), Direction Générale, Montpellier, France
Mr Ultan Waldron (Virtual Participant)	<i>ultan.waldron@agriculture.gov.ie</i>	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Clonakilty, Co. Cork, Ireland

NORWAY		
*Mr Raoul Bierach – Representative	<i>raoul.bierach@miljodir.no</i>	Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim
Mr Helge Dyrendal	<i>helge.axel.dyrendal@miljodir.no</i>	Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim
Ms Heidi Ekstrøm (Virtual Participant)	<i>heidi.ekstrom@kld.dep.no</i>	Ministry of Climate and Environment, Oslo
Dr Peder Fiske	<i>peder.fiske@nina.no</i>	Norwegian Institute for Nature Research, Trondheim
Ms Heidi Hansen	<i>heidi.hansen@miljodir.no</i>	Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim
Ms Guro Mathieson (Virtual Participant)	<i>guro.mathiesen@nfd.dep.no</i>	Norwegian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries, Oslo
Ms Lovise Marie Vaarhus (Virtual Participant)	<i>lovise.marie.varhus@miljodir.no</i>	Norwegian Environment Agency, Trondheim
Mr Håvard Vedeler Nilsen	<i>harvard-vedeler.nilsen@kld.dep.no</i>	Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment, Oslo
RUSSIAN FEDERATION		
*Dr Alexander Khatuntsov Representative (Virtual Participant)	<i>Khatuntsov.a@tsuren.ru</i>	Federal State Budgetary Establishment “Central Department of Fisheries Examination and Review and Protection and Acclimatization Standards”, Moscow
Ms Ekaterina Kazantseva (Virtual Participant)	<i>kazanceva_EO@fishcom.ru</i>	Federal Agency for Fisheries, Moscow
Ms Maria Amelina (Virtual Participant)	<i>a.mariya@tsuren.ru</i>	Federal State Budgetary Establishment “Central Department of Fisheries Examination and Review and Protection and Acclimatization Standards”, Moscow
Mr Victor Rozhnov (Virtual Participant)	<i>rozhnov@sevtu.ru</i>	Severomorskoe Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, Murmansk
Ms Elena Basova (Virtual Participant)	<i>basova@sevtu.ru</i>	Severomorskoe Territorial Department of the Federal Agency for Fisheries, Murmansk
Mr Alexander Lizogub (Virtual Participant)	<i>lizogub@sevtu.ru</i>	Severomorskoe Territorial Department of the Federal

		Agency for Fisheries, Murmansk
Ms Nina Pantileeva (Virtual Participant)	<i>pantileeva@pinro.ru</i>	Polar Branch of VNIRO (PINRO named after N.M.Knipovich), Murmansk
Dr Sergey Prusov (Virtual Participant)	<i>prusov@pinro.ru</i>	Polar Branch of VNIRO (PINRO named after N.M.Knipovich), Murmansk
Ms Daria Ursu (Virtual Participant)	<i>ursu@tsuren.ru</i>	Federal State Budgetary Establishment “Central Department of Fisheries Examination and Review and Protection and Acclimatization Standards”, Moscow
UNITED KINGDOM		
*Ms Ruth Allin – Representative	<i>Ruth.Allin@defra.gov.uk</i>	Defra, Bristol, England
Dr Gemma Cripps	<i>Gemma.Cripps@defra.gov.uk</i>	Defra, London, England
Mr Seamus Connor – Representative	<i>Seamus.Connor@daera-ni.gov.uk</i>	Inland Fisheries, Marine and Fisheries, Belfast, Northern Ireland
Miss Charlotte Gildersleve	<i>Charlotte.Gildersleve@defra.gov.uk</i>	Defra, London, England
Dr Katie St John Glew	<i>katie.stjohnblew@defra.gov.uk</i>	Defra, London, England
Dr Jonathan Gillson (Virtual Participant)	<i>jonathan.gillson@cefas.co.uk</i>	Cefas, Lowestoft, England
Dr Faye Jackson (Virtual Participant)	<i>faye.jackson@gov.scot</i>	Marine Scotland Science, Pitlochry, Scotland
Mr Alexander Kinninmonth	<i>alexander.kinninmonth@gov.scot</i>	Marine Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland
Mr Robert Floyd	<i>robert.floyd@gov.wales</i>	Cardiff, Wales
Professor Iain Malcolm (Virtual Participant)	<i>iain.malcolm@gov.scot</i>	Marine Scotland, Pitlochry, Scotland
Dr Stuart Middlemas (Virtual Participant)	<i>stuart.middlemas@gov.scot</i>	Marine Scotland, Pitlochry, Scotland
Mr Lawrence Talks	<i>lawrence.talks@environment-agency.gov.uk</i>	Environment Agency, Hampshire, England
Mr Simon Toms	<i>simon.toms@environment-agency.gov.uk</i>	Environment Agency, Hampshire, England
Dr Alan Walker	<i>alan.walker@cefas.co.uk</i>	Cefas, Lowestoft, England
Dr Ben Wilson	<i>ben.wilson@cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk</i>	Natural Resources , Llandarcy, Neath, Wales

UNITED STATES		
*Ms Kimberly Damon-Randall – Representative	<i>kimberly.damon-randall@noaa.gov</i>	National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland
Mr Stephen Gephard – Representative	<i>sgephard@gmail.com</i>	Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Inland Fisheries Division, Old Lyme, Connecticut
Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker	<i>kimberly.blankenbeker@noaa.gov</i>	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Silver Spring, Maryland
Mr John Burrows	<i>jburrows@asfmaine.org</i>	Atlantic Salmon Federation, Brunswick, Maine
Ms Callan Yanoff	<i>yanoffcj@state.gov</i>	US Department of State, Washington DC
Mr Dan Kircheis	<i>dan.kircheis@noaa.gov</i>	NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Orono, Maine
Ms Mahvish Madad (Virtual Participant)	<i>MadadMZ@state.gov</i>	US Department of State, Washington DC
Mr Tim Sheehan	<i>tim.sheehan@noaa.gov</i>	National Marine Fisheries Service, Woods Hole, Massachusetts
Ms Rebecca Wintering	<i>WinteringRJ@state.gov</i>	US Department of State, Washington DC
STATES NOT PARTY TO THE CONVENTION		
France (in respect of St Pierre and Miquelon)		
Ms Heloïse Le Bougeant	<i>heloise.le-bougeant@equipement-agriculture.gouv.fr</i>	Maritime Affairs, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, France
Ms Constance Couston (Virtual Participant)	<i>constance.couston@equipement-agriculture.gouv.fr</i>	Maritime Affairs, Saint-Pierre and Miquelon, France
Iceland		
Dr Guðni Magnús Eiríksson	<i>gudni.m.eiriksson@fiskistofa.is</i>	Directorate of Fisheries, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland
Mr Guðni Guðbergsson	<i>gudni.gudbergsson@hafogvatn.is</i>	Marine and Freshwater Research Institute in Iceland, Hafnarfjörður, Iceland

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Dr Cathal Gallagher	<i>cathal.gallagher@fisheriesireland.ie</i>	European Inland Fisheries and Aquaculture Advisory Commission
Dr Joanne Morgan (Virtual Participant)	<i>Joanne.morgan@ices.dk</i>	International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, Copenhagen, Denmark

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

****Denotes NGO Co-Chairs**

Atlantic Salmon Conservation Foundation

Mr Stephen A Chase	<i>chasesa@salmonconservation.ca</i>
--------------------	--------------------------------------

Atlantic Salmon Federation, Canada

Dr Stephen Sutton**	<i>ssutton@asf.ca</i>
---------------------	-----------------------

Mr Dave Meerburg	<i>dmeerburg@asf.ca</i>
------------------	-------------------------

Atlantic Salmon Federation, US

Mr Nathan Wilbur	<i>nwilbur@asf.ca</i>
------------------	-----------------------

Ms Deirdre C. Green	<i>dgreen@asf.ca</i>
---------------------	----------------------

Atlantic Salmon Trust, UK

Professor Ken Whelan (Virtual Participant)	<i>Ken.whelan@hotmail.com</i>
---	-------------------------------

Professor Melanie Smith (Virtual Participant)	<i>melanie@atlanticsalmontrust.org</i>
--	--

Connecticut River Salmon Association

Mr Thomas Chrosniak	<i>president@ctriversalmon.org</i>
---------------------	------------------------------------

Der Atlantische Lachs

Mr Heinz Ackmann	<i>team@lachsverein.de</i>
------------------	----------------------------

Mrs Maria Ackmann	<i>maria.ackmann@gmx.de</i>
-------------------	-----------------------------

Downeast Salmon Federation

Mr Dwayne Shaw (Virtual Participant)	<i>dwayne@mainesalmonrivers.org</i>
---	-------------------------------------

European Angler's Alliance

Mr Bob Seward	<i>bobseward08@yahoo.com</i>
---------------	------------------------------

Mr Andrew Morgan	<i>morganandrew005@gmail.com</i>
------------------	----------------------------------

Federation of Irish Salmon and Sea-Trout Anglers

Mr Noel Carr	<i>fissta2017@gmail.com</i>
--------------	-----------------------------

Fédération québécoise pour le saumon Atlantique

Ms Myriam Bergeron	<i>secretariat@fqsa.ca</i>
Fisheries Management Scotland	
Dr Alan Wells (Virtual Participant)	<i>Alan@fms.org</i>
Ms Charlotte Middleton (Virtual Participant)	<i>charlotte@fms.org</i>
Institute of Fisheries Management, UK	
Dr Nigel Milner	<i>n.milner@apemltd.co.uk</i>
Maritime Aboriginal Peoples Council	
Ms Vanessa Mitchell	<i>vmitchell@mapcorg.ca</i>
Mr Gavin Scott	<i>vmitchell@mapcorg.ca</i>
Norske Lakseelver, Norway	
Mr Nils Olav Gjone (Virtual Participant)	<i>nogjone@online.no</i>
Mr Paal Mugaas (Virtual Participant)	<i>paal@lakseelver.no</i>
North Atlantic Salmon Fund Iceland	
Mr Elvar Örn Fridriksson (Virtual Participant)	<i>elvar@nasf.is</i>
Mr Fridleifur Gudmundsson	<i>fridleifur@icloud.com</i>
North Atlantic Salmon Fund US	
Mrs Kateryna Rakowsky	<i>kateryna@northatlanticsalmonfund.org</i>
Norwegian Association of Hunters & Anglers	
Øyvind Fjeldseth	<i>o.f@njff.no</i>
Salmon Watch Ireland	
Mr Niall Greene	<i>niall.b.greene@gmail.com</i>
Scottish Anglers national Association (SANA)	
Dr Andy Walker (Virtual Participant)	<i>andywalker231@aol.com</i>
WildFish	
Mr Paul Knight **	<i>paul@wildfish.org</i>
Wildfish, Scotland	
Ms Rachel Mulrenan (Virtual Participant)	<i>rachel@wildfish.org</i>

INVITED SPEAKERS / PARTICIPANTS		
Dr Øystein Skagseth (Virtual Participant)	<i>oystein.skagseth@hi.no</i>	
Dr André St-Hilaire	<i>andre.st-hilaire@inrs.ca</i>	
Dr Torbjørn Forseth (Virtual Participant)	<i>Torbjorn.Forseth@nina.no</i>	
Dr Marie Nevoux (Virtual Participant)	<i>marie.nevoux@inrae.fr</i>	
Dr Erik J Molenaar	<i>E.J.Molenaar@uu.nl</i>	
Dr Paddy Gargan (Virtual Participant)	<i>paddyggargan@gmail.com</i>	
Eirik Frøiland	<i>fmfieifr@fylkesmannen.no</i>	
Ms Anne Nuorgam (Virtual Participant)	<i>anuorgam@gmail.com</i>	
Chief Clarissa Sabattis	<i>csabattis@maliseets.com</i>	
Keptin Stephen Augustine	<i>c/o celia_oshea@cbu.ca</i>	
Chief Terry Richardson	<i>Terrence4209@hotmail.com</i>	
Patricia Saulis	<i>psaulis2@yahoo.ca</i>	
Wenona LaBillois	<i>Wenona.Labillois@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	
SUPPORT STAFF		
Ms Susan LeBlanc Robichaud	<i>Susan.LeblancRobichaud@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	
Mr Luc Thériault	<i>Luc.Theriault@dfo-mpo.gc.ca</i>	
SECRETARIAT		
Dr Emma Hatfield	Secretary	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Dr Wendy Kenyon	Assistant Secretary	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Ms Louise Forero Segovia	Information and Publications Officer	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Ms Vicky Newton	Office Manager	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>
Ms Martha Swan	Administration Assistant	<i>hq@nasco.int</i>

WGC(23)05

Fortieth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission

Delta Beausejour Hotel, Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada

5 – 8 June 2023

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
5. Review of the 2022 Fishery at West Greenland
6. Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
7. Regulatory Measures
8. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery
9. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
10. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
11. Other Business
12. Date and Place of the Next Meeting
13. Report of the Meeting
14. Close of the Meeting

WGC(23)07

Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme for 2023

The West Greenland Commission recognises the important contribution of sound biological data to science-based management decisions for fisheries prosecuted in the West Greenland Commission area. The members of the West Greenland Commission have worked co-operatively over the past five decades to collect biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland. These data provide critical inputs to the stock assessments completed by the International Council for the Exploration of the Seas (ICES) Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon annually.

The objectives of the sampling programme in 2023 are to:

- continue the time series of data (1969-2022) on continent of origin and biological characteristics of the Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland fishery;
- provide data on mean weight, length, age, and continent of origin for use in the North American and European Atlantic salmon run-reconstruction models;
- collect information on the recovery of internal and external tags.

To this end, members participating in the sampling programme in 2023 plan to collect:

- biological characteristics data including lengths and weights of landed fish;
- information on tags, fin clips, and other marks;
- scale samples to be used for age and growth analyses;
- tissue samples to be used for genetic analyses;
- other biological data requested by ICES scientists and NASCO co-operators.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following staff inputs to the co-operative sampling programme at West Greenland during the 2023 fishing season:

- the European Union¹: provide a minimum of 2 person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- the United Kingdom³: provide a minimum of 4 person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- the United States: provide a minimum of 2 person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources: sample Atlantic salmon from the city of Nuuk over the course of the fishing season;

¹ Ireland (1 sampler).

² For the purposes of this statement of co-operation, a person week of sampling is defined as a trained individual who works on site in West Greenland to collect samples of Atlantic salmon for a period of 7 days.

³ England and Wales (1 sampler) and Scotland (1 sampler).

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources: implement a Citizen Science sampling programme for the sampling of Atlantic salmon;
- the United States: provide a Sampling Programme Co-ordinator to co-ordinate the sampling programme; and
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator: provide support for the sampling programme by facilitating the sampling of Atlantic salmon by the samplers identified above.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following technical support for sample analysis and data collected at West Greenland during the 2023 fishing season:

- the United States: provide oversight for the processing of all collected biological samples;
- the United States: report the sampling programme results to the ICES Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon in support of the stock assessment completed by this group;
- the United States: co-ordinate the publishing of a report that details the results of the sampling programme in co-operation with institutes participating in the sampling programme via a participating institution's official report series;
- Canada: provide single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis of tissue samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland;
- Canada: provide ageing of scale samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland;
- Canada: maintain the historical West Greenland sampling database; and
- the United Kingdom (England & Wales): act as a clearing house for coded wire tags recovered from the fishery.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following co-ordination activities in support of the co-operative sampling programme at West Greenland during the 2023 fishing season:

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland): inform persons designated by participating members of the West Greenland Commission of important developments in the management of the West Greenland fishery, including planned openings and closures of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland;
- the United States: the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator is expected to determine the allocation of available scientific sampling personnel to ensure spatial and temporal coverage to characterize both the fishery and the Atlantic salmon populations along the West Greenland coast;
- the United States: the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator will work with participating samplers to provide fishers and market supervisors with information explaining the rationale for the sampling programme; and
- all members of the West Greenland Commission participating in the sampling programme are expected to share access to resulting data and work co-operatively in the publication of information and to disseminate the findings of the sampling programme through appropriate venues.

Performance of activities set forth in this Statement of Co-operation are subject to the availability of appropriated funds under domestic law. Each member should make reasonable and good faith efforts to secure the necessary funds to implement fully its intended activities identified in this Statement of Co-operation. If compliance with domestic law and / or the lack of sufficient funds or other legitimate circumstances prevailing at the time impairs a participating member's ability to implement this Statement of Co-operation, the participating member should notify the other members as soon as possible

CNL(23)11rev*

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

- 1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:**
 - 1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings by country, including unreported catches and catch and release, and production of farmed and ranched Atlantic salmon in 2023¹;
 - 1.2 report on significant new or emerging threats to, or opportunities for, salmon conservation and management²;
 - 1.3 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2023; and
 - 1.4 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.
- 2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:**
 - 2.1 describe the key events of the 2023 fisheries³;
 - 2.2 review and report on the development of age-specific stock conservation limits, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
 - 2.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction; and
 - 2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for the 2024 / 2025 – 2026 / 2027 fishing seasons, with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁴.
- 3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:**
 - 3.1 describe the key events of the 2023 fisheries (including the fishery at St Pierre and Miquelon)³;
 - 3.2 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available, including updating the time-series of the number of river stocks with established CLs by jurisdiction;
 - 3.3 describe the status of the stocks, including updating the time-series of trends in the number of river stocks meeting CLs by jurisdiction; and
 - 3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2024-2027 with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁴.

*Grammatical errors corrected 15 June 2023

4. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:

- 4.1 describe the key events of the 2023 fisheries³;
- 4.2 describe the status of the stocks⁵; and
- 4.3 provide catch options or alternative management advice for 2024-2026 with an assessment of risk relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits, or pre-defined NASCO Management Objectives, and advise on the implications of these options for stock rebuilding⁴

Notes:

1. *With regard to question 1.1, for the estimates of unreported catch the information provided should, where possible, indicate the location of the unreported catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Numbers of salmon caught and released in recreational fisheries should be provided.*
2. *With regard to question 1.2, ICES is requested to include reports on any significant advances in understanding of the biology of Atlantic salmon that is pertinent to NASCO.*
3. *In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1, ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Information on any other sources of fishing mortality for salmon is also requested. For 4.1, if any new surveys are conducted and reported to ICES, ICES should review the results and advise on the appropriateness of incorporating resulting estimates into the assessment process.*
4. *In response to question 2.4, 3.4 and 4.3, provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the models used to provide catch advice and report on any developments in relation to incorporating environmental variables in these models. Also provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any concerns with salmon data collected in 2023 which may affect the catch advice considering the restrictions on data collection programmes and fisheries due to the COVID 19 pandemic.*
5. *In response to question 4.2, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.3 and 3.3.*

Attendees:

Sergey Prusov (NEAC, manager representative)

Peder Fiske (NEAC, scientist representative)

Dale Marsden (NAC, manager representative)

Tim Sheehan (NAC, scientist representative)

Rebekka Jensen (WGC, manager representative)

Niall Ó Maoiléidigh (WGC, scientist representative)

Martha Robertson / Alan Walker (ICES representative, Observer)

Livia Goodbrand (Co-ordinator)