

## NEA(03)12

### *Decision Regarding the Salmon Fishery in Faroese Waters 2004*

The North-East Atlantic Commission,

RECOGNIZING the right of the Faroe Islands to fish for salmon in their area of fisheries jurisdiction;

ACKNOWLEDGING the restraint demonstrated by the Faroe Islands by not utilizing their agreed NASCO quotas for a number of years;

WORKING expeditiously with ICES to improve the estimation of a combined conservation limit and thus to enable catch advice for the Faroe Islands salmon fishery to be given on an effort or a quantitative basis;

AGREEING to continue to work together to establish an agreed mechanism to allocate any exploitable surplus between the Faroe Islands and homewater fisheries on a fair and equitable basis;

NOTING that the Faroe Islands will manage any salmon fishery on the basis of the advice from ICES regarding the stocks contributing to the Faroese salmon fishery in a precautionary manner and with a view to sustainability, taking into account relevant factors, such as socio-economic needs and other fisheries on mixed stocks;

MINDFUL of the desire of the members of the Commission, supported by repeated ICES recommendations, that a research fishery should take place in the Faroese area;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Faroe Islands will make management decisions with due consideration to the advice of ICES concerning the biological status of the stocks contributing to the fishery, and that if such fishing be decided upon, it will be limited in scope compared to the management measures agreed by NASCO in previous years, and that the fisheries shall be subject to close national surveillance and control;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that any fisheries will be organized in close cooperation between the fishermen and the authorities, taking due regard of the desire of the Parties, in conformity with ICES recommendations, to provide further scientific knowledge of the salmon resource;

NOTING that, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) will, in case of any decision to open the fishery, promptly inform the NASCO Secretariat and all members of the Commission of that decision and of the attached conditions. In that event, other members of the Commission could call for a Commission meeting in accordance with Article 10 (7) of the Convention. In such a case, it is agreed to derogate from the provisions of Rule 16 of the Rules of Procedure;

**decides not to set a quota for the Faroe Islands fishery for 2004.**