

West Greenland Commission

WGC(03)8

West Greenland Fishery Sampling Agreement, 2003

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Each of the Parties in the West Greenland Commission recognizes the important contribution of sound biological data to science-based management decisions for fisheries prosecuted in the West Greenland Commission area. The Parties in the West Greenland Commission have worked cooperatively over the past three decades to collect biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland. These data provide critical inputs to the stock assessment completed by the ICES North Atlantic Salmon Working Group annually.

The objectives of the sampling programme in 2003 are to:

- Continue the time series of data (1969-2002) on continent of origin and biological characteristics of the salmon in the West Greenland Fishery.
- Provide data on mean weight and length and continent of origin for input into the North American and European run-reconstruction models.
- Collect information on fish diseases, and recovery of micro-tags and external tags.

To this end the sampling programme in 2003 will collect :

- Meristic 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
- Tissue samples to be used for disease sampling for the detection of ISA, BKD and other disease and parasite organisms
- Other biological data requested by the ICES scientists and NASCO cooperators

External Staffing Inputs:

Parties external to Greenland with interests in the mixed stock fishery at West Greenland, including Canada, the European Union, and the United States, have historically provided personnel and analytical inputs into the cooperative sampling programmes. The NASCO Parties agree to provide the following inputs to the cooperative sampling programme at West Greenland during the 2003 fishing season:

- The European Union¹ agrees to provide a minimum of 6 person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2003 fishing season.
- The United States agrees to provide a minimum of 4 person weeks² to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2003 fishing season.
- Canada, in partnership with the Atlantic Salmon Federation, agrees to provide a minimum of 3 person weeks to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2003 fishing season.

¹ The Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

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

- The United States agrees to co-ordinate the sampling programme for 2003.

In addition, external NASCO Parties agree to provide the following technical analysis inputs to analyze samples and data collected at West Greenland:

- The United States of America agrees to provide microsatellite DNA analysis of tissue samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland.
- Canada agrees to provide ageing and other analyses of scale samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland.
- The United States of America agrees to provide disease analysis of tissue samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested by West Greenland.
- The European Union (UK, England & Wales) agrees to act as a clearing house for coded wire tags recovered from the fishery.

Greenland Home Rule Government Coordination Efforts:

The Home Rule Government of Greenland agrees to provide 15 person weeks³ annually to facilitate sampling of Atlantic salmon by samplers from other NASCO Parties. In addition, the Home Rule Government of Greenland agrees to identify a mechanism to provide sampling access to landed Atlantic salmon before grading/culling and before fish are subject to health regulations that would restrict or prohibit activities associated with sampling.

The Home Rule Government of Greenland agrees to inform persons designated by cooperating NASCO Parties 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 Home Rule Government of Greenland agrees to provide necessary waivers to the regulation that Atlantic salmon must be landed in a gutted condition to allow for the collection of biological samples (up to 120 salmon) required to complete disease sampling. To facilitate land-based collection of tissue samples required for disease sampling, the Home Rule Government of Greenland agrees to provide samplers with written permits that allow for landing of a total of 120 salmon.

The allocation of available scientific sampling personnel will be determined annually by ICES scientists to provide spatial and temporal coverage to characterize both the fishery and the Atlantic salmon populations along the West Greenland coast. Data and analyses of collected biological samples will be reported through the ICES North Atlantic Salmon Working Group in the year following data collection. Parties participating in the cooperative sampling programme will share access to resulting data and work cooperatively in the publication of information.

³ For the purposes of this agreement, a person week of sampling is defined as an individual who is capable of communicating with external samplers in English and fishers, and others in either Danish, Greenlandic, or preferably both, for a period of 7 days.