



West Greenland Commission

WGC(02)9

West Greenland Fishery Sampling Agreement, 2002

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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 NASCO fishery agreement for the 2002 fishery at West Greenland establishes guidelines and responsibilities for the collection of biological data on Atlantic salmon captured at West Greenland including:

- Meristic data including lengths and weights of landed fish
- Examination of fish for 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 Personnel 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. These NASCO Parties agree to provide the following inputs to the cooperative sampling programme at West Greenland during the 2002 fishing season:

- Canada agrees to provide a minimum of 3 person weeks¹ annually to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2002 fishing season.
- The European Union² agrees to provide a minimum of 6 person weeks¹ annually to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2002 fishing season.
- The United States agrees to provide a minimum of 4 person weeks¹ annually to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland during the 2002 fishing season.

¹ 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.

² The Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Minimum sampling inputs apply if the fishery at West Greenland operates during all harvest periods outlined in the regulatory measure for 2001. Actual personnel inputs may be less if the fishery does not operate through all harvest periods.

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.

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 and adaptive openings and closures of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland
- In-season adjustments to the quota levels associated with given harvest periods
- Names and contact information for purchasing companies given permission to purchase Atlantic salmon in West Greenland
- Landing and purchasing locations designated by purchasing companies
- Changes to health or other regulations which affect the ability to sample landed Atlantic salmon

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 annually) required to complete disease sampling. To facilitate land-based collection of tissue samples required for

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, purchasing company officials, and others in either Danish, Greenlandic, or preferably both, for a period of 7 days.

disease sampling, the Home Rule Government of Greenland agrees to provide samplers with 12 written permits that each allow for landing of up to 10 Atlantic salmon (total 120 salmon) annually.

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.

