



***Forty-Second Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission***

***Cardiff Holland House Hotel & Spa by Sunday, Cardiff, Wales***

***3 – 6 June 2025***

***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 Commission member. The Secretariat requested that it be copied into any questions asked, to allow the questions to be included in the Annotated Agenda. There were questions in relation to Agenda item 5. These will be addressed under that Agenda item.

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

**Timings of the Meeting**

The Commission will meet on:

- Tuesday 3 June: 16:30 – 18:00 hrs
- Thursday 5 June: 16:15 – 17:45 hrs

**Order of Business**

Business will be taken in the following order:

1.	Opening of the Meeting
2.	Adoption of the Agenda
3.	Nomination of a Rapporteur
5.	Review of the 2024 Fishery at West Greenland
7.	Regulatory Measures
4.	Report of the ICES Advisory Committee on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
6.	Mixed-Stock Fisheries Conducted by Members of the Commission
8.	Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery
9.	Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
10.	Other Business
11.	Date and Place of the Next Meeting
<i>Adjourn to Consider Report Text</i>	
12.	Report of the Meeting
13.	Close of the Meeting

## **1. Opening of the Meeting**

The Chair, Katrine Kærgaard (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), will open the meeting.

In 2025, no new Regulatory Measures are being negotiated. Given this, members of the Commission and Observers 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\(25\)01](#), was issued on 5 February 2025. No supplementary items were proposed by the Parties. The Draft Agenda, [WGC\(25\)02](#), was issued on 10 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\(22\)53rev](#), paragraph 4.34. 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 Chair of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon (WGNAS), Alan Walker (UK), 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\(25\)06](#);
- the [Report of the Working Group on North Atlantic Salmon](#) is on the ICES website.

## **5. Review of the 2024 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 2024 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, the NGO Co-Chairs, Robert Otto and Nils Olav Gjone, put forward the following questions / comments from NGOs accredited as observers of NASCO. A response will be sought during the meeting and included in the Meeting Report.

- ‘1. Agenda Item WGC 5. To what does Greenland attribute the increase in reporting for the 2024 salmon fishing season beside the prize raffle? The NGOs note that a prize raffle was also offered during the 2023 salmon season.*
- 2. Agenda Item WGC 5. We note that a change was made to how reporting date was handled. The date the report was made by the fisher is now the date used, when previously it was the date the reported catch was entered into the quota system. Questions:*
  - 1. Why was the change made?*
  - 2. The regulatory measure uses a 49% level for closing the fishery, which cannot be calculated until the reported catch is entered into the system. So there appears to be no advantage to the change helping to keep the harvest within the quota. Is there something we are not considering?’*

- ***no decision is required.***

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(25\)06](#);
- 2024 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland, [WGC\(25\)03](#).

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

This is essential business under Articles 7 and 15 of the Convention. Additionally, in 2024, the Council agreed, [CNL\(24\)88rev](#), paragraph 6.12, to include an agenda item in each of the Commissions to allow for an annual update on coastal, estuarine and in-river mixed-stock fisheries and the justification for their continued prosecution. Each member of the Commission with mixed-stock fisheries (MSF) was requested to provide papers in 2025 with a brief description of any mixed-stock fisheries still operating, the most recent catch data for these fisheries, any changes or developments in their management **and the justification for their continued prosecution.**

- ***no decision is required.***

The following papers are available:

- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by United Kingdom), [NEA\(25\)05](#); and
- Mixed-Stock Fisheries (Tabled by the European Union), [NEA\(25\)07](#).

The following paper is expected to be available:

- Labrador Mixed Food Fisheries – Mixed-Stock Fisheries Context (Tabled by Canada), [NAC\(25\)04](#).

## 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 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 2025.***

The following papers are available:

- the Report of the ICES Advisory Committee (ACOM), [CNL\(25\)06](#);
- 2024 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland, [WGC\(25\)03](#).

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 2025 Sampling Programme.***

The following paper will be available:

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

## **9. 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. 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. The SSC representatives for the Greenland Commission are Michael Millane and Rebekka Nygård Bak.

The Standing Scientific Committee's recommendations will be available once its work is complete:

- *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 following paper may be available:

- Draft Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

## **10. Other Business**

Since the Draft Agenda was issued it has become apparent that the current Vice-Chair, Cathal Gallagher (EU), is unable to continue in this role after the 2025 Annual Meeting. Under Rule 10 of the Rules of Procedure for the WGC a new Vice-Chair will need to be elected. Work to seek candidates and Parties' support has been conducted by the Secretary.

No background papers are produced for this item.

The Secretary will introduce the election item and will ask for nominations and seconds for the Vice Chair.

- *the Commission may wish to elect a Vice-Chair.*

## **11. 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 dates and location for the Forty-Third Annual Meeting of the Council will be considered during the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Council.

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

## **12. 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.*

### **13. Close of the Meeting**

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

Secretariat  
Edinburgh  
23 May 2025

*Summary of Commission Decisions*

Agenda Item	Decision	Paper No.
2. Adoption of the Agenda	Adopt the Agenda	<a href="#">WGC(25)02</a>
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur	Nominate a Rapporteur	
7. Regulatory Measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>determine whether to request the reconsideration of the regulatory measure;</li> <li>agree whether the percentage referenced in paragraph 5 will be adjusted, and if so, how; and</li> <li>agree whether the regulatory measure, as set out in <a href="#">WGC(22)10</a>, will continue to apply in 2025.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">WGC(22)10</a> <a href="#">CNL(25)06</a> <a href="#">WGC(25)03</a>
8. Sampling in the West Greenland Fishery	Agree a statement of co-operation for the 2025 Sampling Programme	Paper issued at the meeting
9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice	Consider the relevant section of the SSC's recommendation or defer the decision to the Council.	Paper issued at the meeting
10. Other Business	Elect a Vice-Chair	
11. Date and Place of the Next Meeting	Agree to hold its next Annual Meeting in conjunction with the Forty-Third Annual Meeting of the Council.	
12. Report of the Meeting	Adopt the Report of the Meeting	Issued at the meeting