

	<p style="text-align: center;">Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Review of the Implementation of the ‘Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland’, WGC(22)10</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">WGCIS(26)04</p>
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Review of the Implementation of the ‘Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland’, WGC(22)10

Purpose

The purpose of this paper is to provide a brief review of the implementation of the ‘Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland’, [WGC\(22\)10](#), in relation to the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 salmon fisheries at West Greenland.

Background

At its Thirty-Ninth Annual Meeting (held in 2022) the West Greenland Commission agreed a ‘Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland’, [WGC\(22\)10](#). This measure applied to the salmon fishery at West Greenland in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 and contained various measures to be implemented in relation to the fishery.

At its [2025](#) Annual Meeting, the Commission agreed to hold an Inter-Sessional Meeting prior to its 2026 Annual Meeting to begin discussions on a new regulatory measure to apply to the fishery from 2026.

To facilitate these discussions, a brief description of the progress made in respect of each paragraph of the measure, as reported by DFG and recorded in the reports of the 2023 (see [WGC\(23\)08](#)), 2024 (see [WGC\(24\)08](#)) and 2025 (see [WGC\(25\)08](#)) Annual Meetings of the Commission and the 2025 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland, [WGCIS\(26\)03](#), is provided below.

Implementation of the Regulatory Measure in 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025

- (1) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to maintain and further develop, where necessary, monitoring, management, control and surveillance measures for the West Greenland Atlantic salmon fishery. At a minimum, these shall include: (a) maintaining the fishing season within the period between August and November; (b) ensuring full and timely catch data collection and reporting to ensure effective in-season monitoring and quota management; (c) requiring all fishers for Atlantic salmon to have a licence to fish; (d) prohibiting fishing for Atlantic salmon without a licence; and (e) permitting only professional fishers to sell their catch and only to open-air markets and local institutions.**

The measures below were in place for the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons:

(a) The fishing season was maintained within the period between August and November;

(b) It is a legal requirement by Executive Order to report every time a net is tended and to report 0-catch. An online reporting option introduced in 2020 is used. Contact with the municipalities is made before and during the fishing season in relation to the importance of effective disclosure of salmon reports. Data is collected in GFLK’s¹ /

¹ GFLK: Greenland’s Fisheries License Control Authority

GFJK's² database for monitoring of quota-uptake. A radio campaign about reporting was continued and text messages were sent to license holders.

In 2024 and 2025 in addition the Government of Greenland collaborated with NASF and ASF to enhance catch reporting. As part of this initiative, fishers who submit their reports during the season have the chance to win prizes;

(c) It is a legal requirement to have a license to participate in the salmon fishery;

(d) It is illegal to fish without a license; and

(e) According to the 1996 Fisheries Act (until 2025) and the 2024 Fisheries Act (from 2025)³, only professional fishermen are allowed to sell their catch. The executive order only allows them to sell their catch at local markets and to institutions.

(2) As a condition of the licence, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to continue to require fishers to allow sampling of their catches on request, in support of the NASCO sampling programme.

The below measures were in place for the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons:

Since 2015 and continuing until 2025, it has been a condition of the license to allow samplers to sample their catch.

In 2023, a collaboration with NASF and ASF was launched to increase the number of samples received in the citizen sampling programme. A condition of the lottery to win prizes was to send in salmon samples to the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources as well as having reported their salmon catch. 40 samples were received from fishermen all along the Greenlandic coast. 5 winners were drawn, and the lottery was considered a success.

(3) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to continue (a) the ban on export of wild Atlantic salmon and its products from Greenland and (b) the prohibition of landings and sales of Atlantic salmon to fish processing factories.

The below measures were in place for the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons:

(a) Since 1998, there has been an export ban on salmon in Greenland;

(b) Since 2015, it has been prohibited to land salmon at the fish processing factories.

(4) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to restrict the total allowable catch (TAC) for all components of the Atlantic salmon fishery at West Greenland to 27 metric tonnes. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees not to carry forward any underharvest into a future year.

The measures below were in place for the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons:

The TAC for West Greenland was set at 27 tonnes from 2022 to 2025. According to the management plan the 27 tonnes were divided into quota for the two management areas in West Greenland.

(5) 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

² GFJK: Greenland's Fisheries and Hunting Control Authority, known as GFLK (Greenland's Fisheries License Control Authority) prior to 2024

³ A new Fisheries Act has been passed, with effectiveness from 1 January 2025. The 2022, 2023 and 2024 seasons were regulated by the act from 1996.

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.

The measures below were in place for the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons:

Since 2022, Greenland has agreed to close the fishery at West Greenland, when the registered catch has reached no more than 49% of the overall TAC. GFJK registers and collects data daily, and, based on numerous variables, decides when to close the fishery in the different management areas. These include previous years' uptake, the weather, days of delay in reporting, the oral reports from the local fisheries inspectors about the number of salmon they see coming in. Adding new features to the reporting system, which has reduced the reporting lag significantly, has changed the decision-making on when to close the fishery in 2024 and 2025. See '2022 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(23\)03rev](#), Section 3, '2023 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(24\)03](#), Section 4, '2024 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(25\)03](#), Section 4, and '2025 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGCIS\(26\)03](#), Section 4, for elaboration and evaluation of this measure.

- (6) In support of the efforts to enhance timely reporting and registration to ensure that the TAC is respected, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to compile and register catch data on a daily basis and to further strengthen the timely reporting by municipalities and fishers. Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to report back annually on the efforts of these actions to the West Greenland Commission.**

The below measures were in place for the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons:

GFJK collects and registers catch data daily. The quota uptake is published on GFJK's website every week. There is continuous contact with the municipalities before and during the fishing season in relation to the importance of effective disclosure of salmon reports.

Greenland reported back to the West Greenland Commission in 2023 with the '2022 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(23\)03rev](#), in 2024 with the '2023 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(24\)03](#), in 2025 with the '2024 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(25\)03](#), and in 2026 with the '2025 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGCIS\(26\)03](#).

In 2024, there was a more extensive effort to send out text-messages both during the season, and when a fishery was closing. Improving the reporting system has also reduced the reporting lag and given more reliable information about the fishery.

- (7) Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to continue to ensure that licence holders that do not report catch, including 0-catch, within the required time frame are not issued a licence for the salmon fishery in the following year.**

The below measures were in place for the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons:

If fishers do not report to GFJK, they will not be issued a license for the following year's fishery. This is automatically ensured via the GFJK database. It is a legal requirement to report 0-catch within 14 days of closing the fishery.

- (8) **Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agrees to take, at a minimum, the following additional actions to improve reporting by its fishers: (a) improving contact information on license holders; (b) sending out personal and public reminders on daily reporting requirements; (c) targeting reminders on daily reporting at the license holders with the highest catches; (d) implementing information campaigns during the fishing season; (e) carrying out an information campaign to fishers and fishing communities post-season on the results of the fishery and regulatory compliance; and (f) contacting non-reporters as soon as possible after the close of the fishery each year in order to improve reporting and catch data. Additional actions may be taken subject to feedback received from post-season interviews with license holders and implementation of initiatives.**

The below measures were in place for the 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons:

(a) To have the newest contact information, license holders are permitted to state their phone number and/or email when applying for a salmon license. Extra personnel resources were used before the 2023 season, to ensure that license holders who are already in the system, still have the correct information;

(b) During the salmon season, radio campaigns were transmitted daily, reminding people to report their catches. For the 2023, 2024 and 2025 seasons, an ad was made for both of the national newspapers with a link to the online reporting website (see example in the '2023 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(24\)03](#)), and a continuous ad on their website with direct links to the reporting site was showed throughout the season. For the 2023 and 2024 seasons, text-messages were sent to all license-holders both during the season with a reminder to report and when their area was closing with a reporting deadline. Around 3.800 text messages were sent during the 2023 season and around 4.420 text messages were sent during the 2024 season. In 2025, however, due to budget cuts, text messages were not sent;

(c) License holders with the highest catches in the previous season, were sent a text message to remind them to report. In 2024, GFJK also made phone calls to them, to make sure that they reported their catches throughout the season. No information was provided on this measure for the 2025 season;

(d) To provide information about reporting during the fishing season, a national radio speak was aired daily to remind license holders to report. A poster was made and distributed to all municipalities with information about reporting. The poster was also hung on bus stops in Nuuk. A new initiative in 2023, continued in 2024 and 2025, was having an ad on the national newspaper Sermitsiaq's online website, with a link to the reporting website (see photo of example in the '2023 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(24\)03](#), Section 2 (8)(d)). In 2025, the online ads were supplemented by ads in both national weekly papers, Sermitsiaq, AG and their MOTOORI magazine. MOTOORI is focusing on motorized transport and outdoor life in Greenland. It features articles, guides, and reports on boats, cars, ATVs, snowmobiles, equipment, and adventure activities, and appears in both print and digital formats.

When an area is closed, a press release is issued on the government's official website, and in 2025 on the Greenland Fisheries and Hunting Control Authorities website, and social media. The press releases also contain information about the reporting deadline;

(e) In 2022, to inform fishers and fishing communities of the fishery post season, an article was made for the national magazine for Fishers and Hunters which outlined the importance of reporting for managing the fishery as well as the provisional catches of the season. In 2023, an article in the national fisheries magazine Sineriassortoq was published. The article informed about the winners of the competition with NASF and ASF, along with information about the migration routes of salmon, and why salmon samples contain important information. A post-season information campaign of the 2024 fishing season had not been carried out at the time of writing the '2024 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(25\)03](#) and the '2025 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGCIS\(26\)03](#);

(f) Phone interviews with non-reporters were conducted:

- in February 2023, to review the reasons for non-reporting. Results from these interviews are mentioned in the '2022 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(23\)03rev](#), Section 2.3.;
- in October and November 2023, to review the reasons for non-reporting. Results from these interviews are mentioned in the '2023 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(24\)03](#), Section 3.3.;
- in February 2025, to review the reasons for non-reporting. Results from these interviews are mentioned in the '2024 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(25\)03](#), Section 3.3.;
- in January 2026, to review the reasons for non-reporting. Results from these interviews are mentioned in the '2025 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGCIS\(26\)03](#), Section 3.3.

(9) 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.

The below measures were in place for the 2022, 2023 and 2024 seasons:

Greenland had not introduced any significant changes on monitoring, control or surveillance for the 2022 and 2023 fishing seasons but had continued to fine tune the existing measures. The '2022 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(23\)03rev](#), and '2023 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(24\)03](#), outline the implementation of the outcome of the fishery and the measures on monitoring, control, and surveillance to the West Greenland Commission.

In 2024 Greenland introduced a small change in the reporting system, to include a report date and not only a date for when reports are entered into the system (loading date). This continued in 2025. Reporting lag was therefore, in 2024 and 2025, calculated between catch date and report date. Previously it was calculated between catch date and loading date. Other changes include the possibility of reporting bycatch of pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*), and an update to the online reporting option sullissivik.gl. The update included the user interface with clearer instructions and several more obligatory fields.

The '2024 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland', [WGC\(25\)03](#), outlines the implementation of the outcome of the fishery and the measures on monitoring, control, and surveillance to the West Greenland Commission.

(10) Commission members agree to share experiences on monitoring, management, control and surveillance in their salmon fisheries.

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).

In 2023, papers were submitted by Canada, [NAC\(23\)04](#), the European Union, [NEA\(23\)08](#), and the UK, [NEA\(23\)06](#), providing information on MSFs. In 2024, papers were submitted by Canada, [NAC\(24\)03](#), the European Union, [NEA\(24\)05](#), and the UK, [NEA\(24\)07](#). In 2025, papers were submitted by Canada, [NAC\(25\)05](#), the European Union, [NEA\(25\)07](#), and the UK, [NEA\(25\)05](#). These included 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. In 2025, the Chair noted that these papers had already been considered in the other Commissions but asked whether any members of the West Greenland Commission had any further questions, particularly in relation to the justification for the continued prosecution of MSFs.

(11) 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.

In 2023, 2024 and 2025 the Commission agreed not to request the reconsideration of this regulatory measure and therefore that the regulatory measure, as set out in [WGC\(22\)10](#), would continue to apply in 2023, 2024 and 2025 respectively.

In 2023, the Commission agreed to endorse the principle of an inter-sessional meeting in 2025, after February but before May, with the dates to be agreed through further discussion. In 2025, the Commission agreed to an inter-sessional meeting in 2026 and requested that the Secretariat add possible dates for a hybrid meeting in the 'NASCO Calendar of Inter sessional Meetings 2025 / 2026', [CNL\(25\)49](#). The 2026 Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission will be held on 3 and 4 March 2026 in Nuuk, Greenland.