

WGCIS(26)22
(Duplicated as WGC(26)06)

Report of the Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland Commission

By Video Conference

10 April 2026

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chair, Katrine Kaergaard (Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)), opened the meeting and welcomed participants. She thanked them for a constructive meeting in Nuuk in March and for their flexibility in meeting again online.
- 1.2 A list of participants is included as Annex 1.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 The Commission adopted its Agenda, WGCIS(26)20 (Annex 2).

3. Nomination of a Rapporteur

- 3.1 The Assistant Secretary was appointed Rapporteur for the meeting.

4. Consideration of a New Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure to apply to the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at West Greenland from 2026

- 4.1 The Chair reminded members of the West Greenland Commission that the aim of the meeting was to continue the discussion on a new multi-annual regulatory measure to apply from 2026, following the meeting of the Commission in March in Nuuk, [WGCIS\(26\)15](#). She further reminded the Commission that a document entitled a ‘Draft Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Atlantic Salmon at West Greenland tabled by Chair’, WGCIS(26)17, had been shared with members in advance of the meeting.
- 4.2 The Commission members reviewed the Draft Regulatory Measure tabled and discussed the preamble text and the Total Allowable Catch (TAC) referenced in the first point of the regulatory measure.
- 4.3 DFG noted that the TAC had been reduced over the years and it considered the TAC to be very low. It also outlined the nature of the fishery, which is a non-commercial subsistence fishery. It further noted that following internal discussions DFG could not support a further reduction in TAC from 27 metric tonnes.
- 4.4 The EU raised that a small reduction in advance of the Annual Meeting in June would be welcomed considering the long-running current scientific advice of zero catch.
- 4.5 The United States noted that it would not be able to support retaining the TAC at 27 tonnes, given the status of stocks which are critical in some areas and endangered in others. It further noted that the level of the TAC agreed would impact the discussion on other proposed provisions in the regulatory measure, such as levels of over- and under-harvesting, and the period during which the regulatory measure would be applicable.
- 4.6 Canada raised that it would not be able to accept a TAC that had not been reduced.
- 4.7 The UK agreed with the EU, United States and Canada that it would be looking for a

decrease in fishing pressure from DFG through a reduced TAC.

- 4.8 DFG noted that its fishery was very small and that pressures outside DFG, such as environmental pollution and hydropower plants were not being addressed. It further noted that it would aim to harvest as close to 27 tonnes as possible, while avoiding an overharvest. Should this occur DFG noted it could agree to a reduction in TAC in the season following any overharvest. It also noted that an underharvest of seven tonnes occurred in 2024. DFG raised that it had taken numerous actions to address harvesting above or below its TAC, several actions are planned for the coming season, including a focus on five fishermen who had the largest harvests over the last two years.
- 4.9 The United States noted that the inclusion of a clause related to an underharvest would be dependent on an agreement to reduce the TAC.
- 4.10 Canada indicated that any underharvest carried over should be capped and that limiting the carryover to 10% of the TAC seemed appropriate.
- 4.11 The Commission members discussed the reporting that would be expected against the potential regulatory measure and the timescale that the measure would be applicable for.
- 4.12 DFG raised that it would welcome a five-year duration for the regulatory measure, noting that frequent changes in the regulation of a fishery are confusing for the fishermen that the measure applies to.
- 4.13 Canada noted that in the interests of conservation, the regulatory measure should be reviewed more frequently than five years.
- 4.14 The Commission members further discussed the inclusion of provisions addressing overharvest and underharvest. Canada, the EU, the UK and the United States indicated that, in terms of principle, they supported the inclusion of such provisions, with the TAC carried forward limited to 10%. Some members raised the need to consider this, which would be subject to consultation with their scientists.
- 4.15 DFG noted that reporting from fishermen had improved, with more frequent reporting and a reduction in time lags from catch to the time of reporting. DFG also indicated that if an overharvest occurred, it would be open to an equal reduction in the following year's harvest. In consideration of carrying over TAC in the case of an underharvest, DFG indicated that 10% carryover of TAC seemed low and suggested 25% was more appropriate.
- 4.16 DFG further noted that it was consistently improving the control of this fishery and was increasing its outreach and communication, with a new social media page and dedicated social media staff.
- 4.17 The EU indicated that it would encourage DFG to reconsider some flexibility towards the final TAC. It noted that if the TAC remained the same for a further five years, it would have remained unchanged for a total of nine years, which did not seem to be the right approach when considering the status of salmon stocks.
- 4.18 The Chair noted that there seemed to be general agreement on the structure of the regulatory measure, with some editorial changes and further consideration required on the provisions around the TAC, overharvest and underharvest. She proposed a timetable for the provision of editorial changes to the Draft Regulatory Measure for further consideration at the Annual Meeting of the Commission in June.

5. Other Business

5.1 There was no other business.

6. Report of the Meeting

6.1 The Commission agreed that the report of the meeting would be completed by correspondence.

7. Close of the Meeting

7.1 The Chair thanked all for the constructive discussions and approach and closed the meeting.

*List of Participants – Inter-Sessional Meeting of the West Greenland
Commission – 10 April 2026*

Canada

*Nicole Bouchard
Dale Marsden
David Dunn
Carl McLean
William Harris

DFG

Katrine Kærgaard (Chair)
*Masaana Dorph
Binsheng Cao
Augusta Jerimiassen
Rebekka Nygård Bak
Rasmus Nygaard

EU

*Ignacio Granell

UK

*Ruth Allin
Charlotte Beardwell

US

*Shannon Dionne
Tim Sheehan
Rebecca Wintering
Dan Kircheis
Lisa Phelps

IPRI

Shelley Denny
Sharri Venno

NGO

Robert Otto (NGO-Co-Chair)
Aimee Hopton
Heinz Ackmann
Maria Ackmann
Ken Whelan

Secretariat

Cathal Gallagher
Clare Cavers

WGCIS(26)20

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Virtual meeting

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Agenda

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- 2. Adoption of the Agenda**
- 3. Nomination of a Rapporteur**
- 4. Consideration of a New Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure to apply to the Atlantic Salmon Fishery at West Greenland from 2026**
- 5. Other Business**
- 6. Report of the Meeting**
- 7. Close of the Meeting**