Statement of Co-operation on the West Greenland Fishery Sampling Programme for 2026

The West Greenland Commission recognises the important contribution of sound biological data to science-based management decisions for fisheries prosecuted in the West Greenland Commission area. The members of the West Greenland Commission have worked co-operatively over the past five decades to collect biological data on Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland. These data provide critical inputs to the stock assessments annually.

The objectives of the sampling programme in 2026 are to:

- Continue the time series of data (1969-2025) on continent of origin and biological characteristics of the Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland fishery;
- Provide data on mean weight, length, age, and continent of origin for use in stock assessment models;
- Collect information on the recovery of internal and external tags.

To this end, members participating in the sampling programme in 2026 plan to collect:

- Biological characteristics data including lengths and weights of landed fish;
- Scale samples to be used for age and growth analyses;
- Tissue samples to be used for genetic analyses;
- Information on tags, fin clips, and other marks;
- Other biological data requested by NASCO co-operators.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following staff inputs to the co-operative sampling programme at West Greenland during the 2026 fishing season:

- The European Union[1]: provide a minimum of 2 person weeks[2] to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- The United Kingdom[3]: provide a minimum of 4 person weeks[2] to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- The United States: provide a minimum of 2 person weeks[2] to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- The Indigenous People's representatives and institutions: provide a minimum of 2 person weeks[2] to sample Atlantic salmon at West Greenland;
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources: sample Atlantic salmon from the city of Nuuk over the course of the fishing season;

[1] Ireland.
[2] For the purposes of this statement of co-operation, a person week of sampling is defined as a trained individual who works on site in West Greenland to collect samples of Atlantic salmon for a period of 7 days.
[3] England and Wales (2 samplers).

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources: implement a Citizen Science sampling programme for the sampling of Atlantic salmon;
- The United States: provide a Sampling Programme Co-ordinator to co-ordinate the sampling programme; and
- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland), in co-operation with the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources and the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator: provide support for the sampling programme by facilitating the sampling of Atlantic salmon by the samplers identified above.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following technical support for sample analysis and data collected at West Greenland during the 2026 fishing season:

- The United States: provide oversight for the processing of all collected biological samples;
- The United States: report the sampling programme results to relevant stock assessment efforts;
- The United States: co-ordinate the publishing of a report that details the results of the sampling programme in co-operation with institutes participating in the sampling programme via a participating institution's official report series;
- Canada: provide single-nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) analysis of tissue samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland;
- Canada: provide ageing of scale samples collected from Atlantic salmon harvested at West Greenland;
- Canada: maintain the historical West Greenland sampling database and the archive scale and tissue sample collections resulting from this programme; and
- The United Kingdom (England & Wales): act as a clearing house for coded wire tags recovered from the fishery.

Members of the West Greenland Commission plan to provide the following co-ordination activities in support of the co-operative sampling programme at West Greenland during the 2026 fishing season:

- Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland): inform persons designated by participating members of the West Greenland Commission 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 United States: the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator is expected to determine the allocation of available scientific sampling personnel to ensure spatial and temporal coverage to characterize both the fishery and the Atlantic salmon populations along the West Greenland coast;
- The United States: the Sampling Programme Co-ordinator plans to work with participating samplers to provide fishers and market supervisors with information explaining the rationale for the sampling programme; and
- All members of the West Greenland Commission participating in the sampling programme are expected to share access to resulting data and work co-operatively in the

publication of information and to disseminate the findings of the sampling programme through appropriate venues.

Performance of activities set forth in this Statement of Co-operation is subject to the availability of appropriated funds under domestic law. Each member should make reasonable and good faith efforts to secure the necessary funds to implement fully its intended activities identified in this Statement of Co-operation. If compliance with domestic law and/or the lack of sufficient funds or other legitimate circumstances prevailing at the time impairs a participating member's ability to implement this Statement of Co-operation, the participating member should notify the other members as soon as possible.