

REPORT OF THE

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

WEST GREENLAND COMMISSION

5-9 JUNE 2000
MIRAMICHI, CANADA

Chairman: Mr Andrew Thomson (European Union)

Vice-Chairman: Mr Mike Calcutt (Canada)

Rapporteur: Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker (USA)

Secretary: Dr Malcolm Windsor

WGC(00)10

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WGC(00)10

Report of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission of the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization 5-9 June 2000, Miramichi, Canada

1. Opening of the Meeting

- 1.1 The Chairman, Mr Andrew Thomson (European Union), opened the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission (WGC) and welcomed the delegates to Miramichi, New Brunswick, Canada.
- 1.2 A list of participants at the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the Council and Commissions of NASCO is included on page 305 of this document.

2. Adoption of the Agenda

- 2.1 In light of recent Council discussions, the Commission altered its agenda to include an item on the application of the decision structure for precautionary management developed at the April meeting of the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach, to be added as new agenda item 7.
- 2.2 The Commission also agreed that two other issues, namely St. Pierre and Miquelon and research sampling off West Greenland, should be discussed under agenda item 10 (Other Business).
- 2.3 With these changes, the Commission adopted its agenda, WGC(00)11 (Annex 1).

3. Nomination of Rapporteur

- 3.1 Ms Kimberly Blankenkemper (USA) served as Rapporteur for the meeting.

4. Election of Officers

- 4.1 Mr Andrew Thomson (European Union) and Mr Michael Calcutt (Canada) were unanimously re-elected to the positions of Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the West Greenland Commission, respectively.

5. Review of the 1999 Fishery and ACFM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area

- 5.1 The representative of the European Union drew the Commission's attention to a paper on the exploitation of salmon in the UK and Ireland presented to the North-East Atlantic Commission and, for information purposes, noted its intent to circulate it to the West Greenland Commission Parties. Paper WGC(00)8 is attached as Annex 2.

- 5.2 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) presented paper WGC(00)7 (Annex 3), which reviewed implementation of the regulatory measure for the 1999 Greenland internal consumption fishery agreed by the West Greenland Commission at its 1999 Annual Meeting.
- 5.3 Mr Tore Jakobsen, Chairman of the ICES Advisory Committee on Fishery Management (ACFM), presented the scientific advice relevant to the West Greenland Commission area, CNL(00)12. The overheads from his presentation, WGC(00)5, are appended as Annex 4. The ACFM Report from ICES, which contains the scientific advice relevant to all Commissions, is included on page 229 of this document.
- 5.4 The Commission discussed the current condition of the stocks and commended the efforts to improve monitoring in West Greenland. All Parties expressed concern about the very poor condition of the stocks. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) remarked, however, that the situation for 2000 appeared to be some improvement over that of 1999. He pointed out that, contrary to 1999, a surplus was available for harvest in 2000, using the parameters in the agreement.
- 5.5 The representative of the United States disagreed that a surplus was necessarily available under these conditions since there was a significant probability that the pre-fishery abundance forecast was less than the spawner reserve.
- 5.6 The ACFM Chairman stressed that risk levels other than 50 percent should also be considered by the Commission when developing regulatory measures. The representative of the United States expressed agreement with this statement.
- 5.7 The Commission took note of the significant changes in 1999 that occurred in the relative proportion of salmon stocks from North America (91 percent) and Europe (9 percent) contributing to the West Greenland fishery. The 1982-1992 proportion averaged 54 percent North American and 46 percent European. Canada and the United States indicated their extreme concern over this shift.
- 5.8 Several factors were discussed that could be contributing to the shift in relative proportions, including strong management actions in place for North American stocks, the severe decline of European stocks, and changes in migration patterns. The representative of Canada suggested that putting stronger conservation measures in place for the European stocks could assist in reversing the current shift.
- 5.9 The ACFM Chairman indicated that research on marine survival could help to clarify the issue, although he noted that such research would be difficult and costly. The representative of the United States suggested that separating the lag spawner information into North American and European components could shed light on the question of the shift in proportion of stocks contributing to the West Greenland fishery by demonstrating whether there are different rates in decline for the two stocks. The ACFM Chairman noted that there were insufficient data from the European Community to produce quantitative estimates of European origin fish available for harvest in West Greenland.

- 5.10 The Commission agreed that the reasons for the shift in proportion of the stocks contributing to the West Greenland fishery were not clear but needed to be understood. Canada requested that ICES investigate the reasons for the increase in the proportion of North American origin salmon at West Greenland. Further scientific research and analysis on the issue was supported.
- 5.11 The West Greenland Commission Chairman thanked the ACFM Chairman for his presentation.
- 5.12 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) introduced a working paper (WGC(00)6) reviewing the catches of multi-sea-winter (MSW) salmon.
- 5.13 Several Parties thanked the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) for developing this paper. During discussions, it became evident that certain elements of the paper needed to be revised. The updated version of document WCG(00)6 is attached as Annex 5. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) asked all Parties to consider the figures presented in the document.
- 5.14 The representatives of Canada and the United States questioned the consistency of statements by the representative of the European Union that the majority of its MSW salmon were harvested by rod fisheries in-river. The representative of the European Union reported that its estuarine and coastal net fisheries primarily take grilse. River fishing by rod and line harvest is responsible for the majority (up to 70 percent) of the European Union harvest of MSW salmon.
- 5.15 The representative of the United States stated that revised document WGC(00)6 was useful background and indicative of certain harvesting patterns; however, he stressed that his delegation had not thoroughly reviewed the figures presented and therefore could not accept the paper as complete and accurate. The representative of the European Union noted disagreement with the way harvests of MSW salmon made by European Union Member States were calculated in the document.
- 5.16 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) commented that he felt the figures presented in the document were useful and that they would be used in Greenland to explain the actions of the Commission. He asked that any errors be brought to the attention of his delegation.
- 5.17 The representative of the United States commented that information was needed on the proportion of European Union catch taken from rivers that were above their spawning requirement. The representative of the European Union stated that his delegation would provide more information next year.

6. Regulatory Measures

- 6.1 The Chair reviewed the regulatory measure WGC(99)8 (Annex 6), agreed at the Commission's 1999 meeting, for the 1999 and 2000 fishery seasons at West Greenland.

- 6.2 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) stated that Greenland would stick to last year's agreement for 2000 although the pre-fishery abundance estimate has increased by a factor of 2.2 compared to last year.
- 6.3 The Commission agreed that the measure adopted last year should be endorsed and maintained for the 2000 season. While the improvement in the forecasted pre-fishery abundance was noted, some delegations stressed that improvement in the status of all North American stocks was not taking place. The representative of the United States noted that maintaining the agreement established last year was appropriate, particularly given that catch options in table 4.6.3.1 of the ICES ACFM report (CNL(00)12) indicated a surplus of 14 tons at the 50 percent probability level. This surplus is approximately equal to the internal consumption fishery at West Greenland.
- 6.4 The Commission considered the need to develop a harvest agreement for 2001 and beyond. There was disagreement regarding whether the current arrangement should be extended to the 2001 fishery. All Parties agreed that additional discussions were necessary on this issue in advance of next year's meeting.

7. Application of the Precautionary Approach Decision Structure to the West Greenland Commission

- 7.1 All Parties agreed to apply the decision structure developed by the Standing Committee on the Precautionary Approach at its March 2000 meeting to various single stock and/or mixed stock salmon fisheries under their purview. Such applications will allow the decision structure to be critiqued so that adjustments can be made to it in the future, as appropriate.
- 7.2 In light of the Precautionary Approach, the representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) drew attention to the statement made at the 1999 meeting regarding his vote on the regulatory measures adopted for West Greenland last year. Specifically, he noted that his vote to accept the said regulatory measure was predicated on the understanding that the European Union would decrease the relevant catch figures considerably (i.e. on the southern European component MSW fish). In his view, the European Union had yet to do this and additional reductions in the harvest of salmon by European Union Member States would be necessary to conserve MSW salmon from the southern European component. He commented, however, that the agreement to apply the precautionary approach decision structure to European mixed and single stock fisheries was a positive development.
- 7.3 The representative of the European Union asserted that it had substantially reduced salmon harvests and pointed out that from 1996 to 1999 a 46 percent reduction in the harvest of MSW salmon had been achieved and from 1997 to 1999 a 23 percent reduction was achieved. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) considered that the reductions in catch, expressed as a percentage of the estimated number of the MSW spawners, between 1997 (24.8%) and 1999 (21.7%), was not substantial.
- 7.4 The Commission discussed the need to develop a framework for the development of future harvesting agreements in line with the precautionary approach. This might be

done by applying the provisional precautionary approach decision structure to past West Greenland Commission regulatory agreements.

- 7.5 In support of this objective, the Chairman introduced a Resolution (WGC(00)9) that had been developed regarding the fishing of salmon at West Greenland. The Commission agreed to adopt this Resolution, WGC(00)12, and it is attached as Annex 7. The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) expressed appreciation for the spirit of cooperation among the Parties in developing the Resolution.
- 7.6 The Parties discussed the need to hold an informal session immediately prior to the 2001 NASCO annual meeting to initiate discussions regarding regulatory measures for West Greenland. These measures would need to be adopted during the June 2001 meeting. It was agreed that it would not be necessary to meet unless there was significant improvement in the condition of the stocks available to the West Greenland fishery. The Secretary was asked to liaise with the Parties in May 2001 once the ICES scientific advice is available to determine the need for an informal session.

8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize

- 8.1 The Chairman announced that the winner of the 2000 NASCO Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize for the West Greenland Commission area was Mr Rikka Absalonsen of Sisimiut, West Greenland. The winning tag was of Canadian origin and was applied to a hatchery smolt in April 1998, which was released in the LaHave River, Nova Scotia, Canada, in April 1998. It was recovered at West Greenland, south of Amerloq, on 18 August 1999. The winner will receive a prize of US\$1500. The Commission offered its congratulations to the winner.

9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice

- 9.1 On behalf of the Chairman of the Standing Scientific Committee, the Secretary presented document SSC(00)3, which contained the draft recommendations to the Council on the request to ICES for scientific advice.
- 9.2 The representative of Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted his understanding that the questions, as currently formulated, would be responded to in a way that would allow comparison between forecast models if the model used next year differs from that used in 2000. The representative of ICES confirmed this interpretation.
- 9.3 The representative of the European Union asked if the advice being requested was covered by the current NASCO-ICES Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and, thus, not subject to additional charges. The representative of ICES confirmed his understanding that the questions were within the scope of the MoU.
- 9.4 The Commission agreed to recommend the relevant sections of document SSC(00)3 to the Council as part of the annual request to ICES for scientific advice. The request to ICES, as agreed by the Council, CNL(00)60, is contained in Annex 8.

10. Other Business

- 10.1 The representative of the United States introduced a resolution, NAC(00)9, presented to and adopted by the North American Commission regarding St. Pierre and Miquelon. He suggested that the West Greenland Commission might wish to join the North American Commission in recommending to the Council that it adopt this resolution. There was general agreement that efforts should be made to encourage increased cooperation by St. Pierre and Miquelon with NASCO. The Parties recognized that the issue of St. Pierre and Miquelon was on the Council agenda and that the resolution should be broadened for consideration by the Council. The Parties also discussed inviting France (in respect of St. Pierre and Miquelon) to join NASCO. Pursuant to the terms of Article 17.3 of the NASCO Convention, there is no legal impediment to such accession; however, it was agreed that this issue should be taken up by the Council.
- 10.2 The Commission discussed the need for a robust sampling program at West Greenland. There was general agreement that the sampling of catch at West Greenland is essential to the scientific work of the Commission. Reference was made to a two-year bilateral agreement between Canada and Denmark concerning a sampling program to cover the years 1999 and 2000. It was noted that the United States contributed substantially to this effort although they were not a party to the agreement.
- 10.3 The representatives of the United States, Canada and Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) noted their commitment to continue sampling efforts in West Greenland in 2000. The representative of the European Union expressed support for sampling at West Greenland but noted that, although for some years the European Union had not contributed to sampling effort in West Greenland, he would investigate the possibilities of participation in the program and report back at the 2001 meeting.
- 10.4 The members of the Commission thanked the Chairman for his excellent leadership.

11. Date and Place of Next Meeting

- 11.1 The next meeting of the West Greenland Commission will be held during the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Council, 4-8 June 2001 in Galicia, Spain.

12. Consideration of the Draft Report of the Meeting

- 12.1 The Commission agreed a draft report of the meeting, WGC(00)4.

NOTE: The Annexes mentioned above begin on page 183, following the French translation of the report of the meeting.

WGC(00)10

Compte rendu de la Dix-septième réunion annuelle de la Commission du Groenland Occidental de l'Organisation pour la Conservation du Saumon de l'Atlantique Nord 5-9 juin 2000, Miramichi, Canada

1. Ouverture de la réunion

- 1.1 Le Président, M. Andrew Thomson (Union Européenne), a ouvert la Dix-septième réunion annuelle de la Commission du Groenland Occidental (CGO) et a souhaité la bienvenue aux délégués à Miramichi, Nouveau Brunswick, Canada.
- 1.2 Une liste des participants à la Dix-septième réunion annuelle du Conseil et des Commissions de l'OCSAN figure à la page 305 de ce document.

2. Adoption de l'ordre du jour

- 2.1 Compte tenu des derniers débats au sein du Conseil, la Commission a modifié son ordre du jour afin d'y inclure un article sur l'application de la Structure de décisions pour une gestion préventive, telle qu'elle avait été élaborée lors de la réunion d'avril du Comité permanent chargé de l'approche préventive (nouvel article 7).
- 2.2 La Commission a aussi convenu que deux autres questions, à savoir Saint- Pierre et Miquelon et l'échantillonnage prélevé à titre de recherche au large du Groenland occidental, seraient débattues sous l'article 10 de l'ordre du jour (Divers).
- 2.3 Ayant apporté ces modifications, la Commission a adopté son ordre du jour, WGC(00)11 (annexe 1).

3. Nomination d'un Rapporteur

- 3.1 Ms Kimberly Blankenbeker (Etats-Unis) a rempli le rôle de Rapporteur pour la réunion.

4. Election des responsables

- 4.1 M. Andrew Thomson (Union européenne) et M. Michael Calcutt (Canada) ont été réélus, respectivement, Président et Vice-Président de la Commission du Groenland Occidental, à l'unanimité.

5. Examen de la pêche en 1999 et rapport du CCGP du CIEM sur les stocks de saumons dans la zone de la Commission

- 5.1 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a attiré l'attention de la Commission sur un document qui traitait de l'exploitation du saumon au Royaume-Uni et en Irlande et qui avait été présenté à la Commission de l'Atlantique du Nord-Est. Il a indiqué, à titre

d'information, qu'il avait l'intention de le distribuer aux Parties de la Commission du Groenland Occidental. Le document, WGC(00)8, est joint en tant qu'annexe 2.

- 5.2 Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a présenté le document WGC(00)7 (annexe 3), qui passait en revue la mise en application de la mesure de réglementation, établie pour la pêche destinée à la consommation interne au Groenland en 1999. Cette mesure avait été adoptée par la Commission du Groenland Occidental lors de sa réunion annuelle de 1999.
- 5.3 M. Tore Jakobsen, Président du Comité Consultatif sur la Gestion des Pêcheries (CCGP) du CIEM, a présenté les recommandations scientifiques pertinentes à la zone de la Commission du Groenland occidental, CNL(00)12. Les diapos illustrant sa présentation, WGC(00)5, sont jointes en tant qu'annexe 4. Le rapport du CCGP du CIEM contenant les recommandations scientifiques pour l'ensemble des Commissions figure à la page 229 du présent document.
- 5.4 La Commission a débattu la condition actuelle des stocks and a loué les efforts qui ont été déployés pour en améliorer le contrôle au Groenland Occidental. Les Parties ont, toutes, fait part de leur inquiétude à propos du triste état des stocks. Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a cependant fait remarquer que, par rapport à celle de 1999, la situation de l'an 2000 semblait meilleure. Il a souligné que, contrairement à 1999, un surplus était disponible pour la récolte de l'an 2000, si l'on utilisait les paramètres de l'accord.
- 5.5 Le représentant des Etats-Unis ne pensait pas qu'un surplus était nécessairement disponible dans ces conditions puisqu'il était fort probable que la prévision d'abondance pré-pêche soit inférieure à la réserve de géniteurs.
- 5.6 Le Président du CCGP a souligné que des niveaux de risques autres que 50 pour cent devaient également être envisagés par la Commission lors de la formulation des mesures de réglementation. Le représentant des Etats-Unis a appuyé cette déclaration.
- 5.7 La Commission a pris note des changements notables qui se sont produits en 1999 dans les proportions relatives des stocks de saumons d'origine Nord-américaine (91 pour cent) et d'origine européenne (9 pour cent) qui alimentent la pêche du Groenland Occidental. Les proportions entre 1982 et 1992 étaient d'environ 54 pour cent de saumons Nord-américains et 46 pour cent de saumons européens. Le Canada et les Etats-Unis ont exprimé une très grande inquiétude à propos de cette évolution.
- 5.8 Plusieurs facteurs ont été abordés qui pourraient contribuer à cette modification des proportions relatives, notamment les fortes mesures de gestion en place pour les stocks nord-américains, la baisse nette des stocks européens et les modifications des itinéraires de migration. Le représentant du Canada a émis la suggestion que la mise en place de mesures de conservation plus fortes pour les stocks d'Europe pourrait concourir à renverser la tendance actuelle.
- 5.9 Le Président du CCGP a indiqué que la recherche sur la survie en mer pourrait également contribuer à clarifier la question, même s'il admettait qu'un tel exercice s'avérerait difficile et coûteux. Le représentant des Etats-Unis a suggéré que la

séparation des informations concernant les « lagged spawner »¹, l'élément nord-américain d'une part et européen d'autre part, pourrait éclaircir la question du glissement des proportions de stocks alimentant la pêcherie du Groenland Occidental. Ceci permettrait en effet de démontrer si le déclin progressait selon différents taux pour les deux stocks. Le Président du CCGP a noté qu'il n'y avait pas assez de données provenant de la Communauté européenne pour pouvoir effectuer des estimations quantitatives des poissons d'origine européenne disponibles à la récolte du Groenland Occidental.

- 5.10 La Commission a convenu que les raisons de la modification des proportions de stocks alimentant la pêcherie du Groenland Occidental n'étaient pas claires mais qu'il importait de les comprendre. Le Canada a demandé que le CIEM étudie les raisons expliquant l'augmentation de la proportion du saumon d'origine nord-américaine au Groenland occidental. La nécessité d'une plus grande recherche et analyse sur cette question a été reconnue.
- 5.11 Le Président de la Commission du Groenland Occidental a remercié le Président du CCGP pour sa présentation.
- 5.12 Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a présenté un document de travail (WGC(00)6) qui examinait les captures de saumons « plusieurs-hivers-en mer » (PHM).
- 5.13 Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a reçu les remerciements de plusieurs Parties pour la rédaction de ce document. Au cours du débat, il est cependant devenu clair que certains éléments du document nécessitaient d'être revus. La version mise à jour du document, WGC(00)6, figure à l'annexe 5. Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a invité chaque Partie à étudier les chiffres qui y sont présentés.
- 5.14 Les représentants du Canada et des Etats-Unis ont mis en doute la cohérence des déclarations faites par le représentant de l'Union européenne affirmant que la majorité de ses saumons PHM étaient récoltés au cours de la pêche à la canne à pêche en eaux territoriales. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a indiqué que les pêcheries d'estuaire et côtière utilisant le filet récoltaient surtout le grilse et que la pêche à la canne à pêche en rivière représentait la majorité (jusqu'à 70 pour cent) de la récolte des saumons PHM en Union européenne.
- 5.15 Le représentant des Etats-Unis a déclaré que le document révisé, WGC(00)6, donnait un contexte utile et démontrait l'existence de certaines tendances de récoltes ; à ceci, il a cependant ajouté que sa délégation n'avait pas correctement étudié les chiffres donnés et ne pouvait donc pas accepter le document comme complet et exact. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a indiqué son désaccord quant à la façon dont les récoltes de saumons PHM effectuées par les Etats membres de l'Union européenne avaient été calculées dans le document.

¹ Le concept de géniteurs « en décalage » (lagged spawners) se rapporte à une technique permettant d'améliorer la prévision de l'abondance pré-pêche. Cette technique repose sur un indice de production de smolts, lui-même obtenu à partir du nombre de géniteurs des années précédentes ayant contribué à la migration de smolts au cours d'une année particulière.

- 5.16 Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a exprimé l'opinion qu'il trouvait les chiffres offerts dans le document utiles. Il a aussi indiqué que l'on pourrait se servir de ces statistiques au Groenland pour illustrer les actions de la Commission. Il a demandé que dans l'éventualité d'erreurs, celles-ci soient portées à l'attention de sa délégation.
- 5.17 Le représentant des Etats-Unis a fait remarquer qu'il était nécessaire d'obtenir des informations sur la proportion des captures effectuées par l'Union européenne dans les cours d'eau qui avaient dépassé leurs besoins en géniteurs. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a déclaré que sa délégation fournirait de plus amples renseignements l'année prochaine.

6. Mesures de réglementation

- 6.1 Le Président a passé en revue la mesure de réglementation, WGC(99)8 (annexe 6), acceptée lors de la réunion de la Commission de 1999, pour les saisons de pêche de 1999 et de 2000 au Groenland occidental.
- 6.2 Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a déclaré que le Groenland se fierait à l'accord convenu l'année précédente pour l'an 2000, même si l'estimation de l'abondance pré-pêche avait été multipliée par 2,2 par rapport à l'année d'avant.
- 6.3 La Commission a convenu de donner son aval à la mesure adoptée l'année précédente et de la maintenir pour la saison 2000. Bien qu'elles aient pris note de l'amélioration de la prévision de l'abondance pré-pêche, plusieurs délégations ont souligné que les stocks d'Amérique du Nord ne s'étaient pas tous améliorés. Le représentant des Etats-Unis a fait remarquer que le maintien de l'accord tel qu'il avait été établi l'année dernière était approprié, surtout puisque les options de captures fournies au tableau 4.6.3.1 du rapport du CCGP du CIEM (CNL(00)12) indiquaient, pour un niveau de probabilité de 50 pour cent, un surplus de 14 tonnes. Ce surplus équivalait approximativement à la pêche de consommation interne du Groenland occidental.
- 6.4 La Commission a pesé la nécessité d'élaborer un accord de récolte pour 2001 et au-delà. Les avis divergeaient quant à la question d'étendre les dispositions actuelles à la pêcherie de 2001. Les Parties ont toutes convenu que cette question nécessitait d'être débattue plus profondément avant la réunion de l'année prochaine.

7. Application par la Commission du Groenland Occidental de la Structure de décisions dans le cadre de l'approche préventive

- 7.1 Les Parties ont toutes accepté d'appliquer la Structure de décisions, élaborée par le Comité permanent chargé de l'approche préventive lors de sa réunion de mars 2000, à un ensemble de pêcheries au saumon à stock unique et/ou à stock mixte de leur ressort. De telles applications permettraient d'examiner la Structure de décisions d'une façon critique, afin d'y apporter plus tard les ajustements nécessaires.

- 7.2 Dans le contexte de l'approche préventive, le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a attiré l'attention sur la déclaration faite lors de la réunion de 1999 à propos de son vote sur les mesures de réglementation adoptées l'année précédente pour le Groenland occidental. Plus spécifiquement, il a rappelé que son vote d'accepter ladite mesure de réglementation reposait sur la compréhension que l'Union européenne réduirait considérablement les nombres appropriés de captures (soit, ceux concernant les PHM de la composante d'Europe méridionale). A son avis, l'Union européenne n'avait pas encore effectué cette réduction et les Etats membres de l'Union Européenne auraient maintenant à appliquer des restrictions supplémentaires au niveau de la récolte de saumons afin de conserver le saumon PHM de la composante d'Europe méridionale. Il a remarqué, toutefois, que l'engagement à appliquer la Structure de décisions, dans le cadre d'une approche préventive, aux pêcheries européennes à stock unique et mixte représentait un développement positif.
- 7.3 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a soutenu qu'elle avait considérablement réduit les récoltes de saumons et a souligné qu'entre 1996 et 1999 ils avaient réussi à réduire la récolte de saumons PHM de 46 pour cent et entre 1997 et 1999 de 23 pour cent. Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a considéré que les réductions de captures, exprimées en tant que pourcentage du nombre estimé de géniteurs PHM, entre 1997 (24,8%) et 1999 (21,7%), n'étaient pas considérables.
- 7.4 La Commission a examiné la nécessité d'établir une base pour l'élaboration d'accords futurs sur les récoltes, qui respecteraient l'approche préventive. Ceci pourrait se faire en appliquant la Structure de décisions provisoire pour une approche préventive aux anciens accords de réglementation de la Commission du Groenland Occidental.
- 7.5 Pour appuyer cet argument, le Président a présenté une Résolution (WGC(00)9) qui avait été rédigée pour la pêche au saumon au Groenland occidental. La Commission a convenu d'adopter cette Résolution, WGC(00)12, jointe en tant qu'annexe 7. Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a exprimé son appréciation pour l'esprit de coopération que les Parties avaient montré lors de la rédaction de la Résolution.
- 7.6 Les Parties ont examiné la nécessité de tenir une séance informelle juste avant la réunion annuelle de l'OCSAN de 2001 afin d'initier le débat concernant les mesures de réglementation destinées au Groenland occidental. Il était envisagé que ces mesures soient adoptées au cours de la réunion de juin 2001. Il a été décidé qu'une rencontre ne serait pas nécessaire à moins qu'on ne note une amélioration significative du niveau des stocks disponibles à la pêcherie du Groenland occidental. Le Secrétaire a été prié de se mettre en contact avec les Parties en mai 2001, une fois que les recommandations scientifiques seraient disponibles, pour déterminer si une séance informelle était nécessaire.

8. Annonce du prix du Programme d'encouragement au retour des marques

- 8.1 Le Président a annoncé que M. Rikka Absalonsen de Sisimiut, au Groenland occidental, avait remporté le prix du Programme d'encouragement au retour des marques de la Commission du Groenland Occidental. La marque gagnante provenait

du Canada et avait été posée sur un smolt d'écloserie en avril 1998 avant qu'il n'ait été relâché le même mois dans la Rivière LaHave, en Nouvelle Ecosse, au Canada. La marque avait été retrouvée au Groenland occidental, au sud d'Amerloq, le 18 Août 1999. Le gagnant recevra un prix de 1 500 \$ américains. La Commission a félicité le gagnant.

9. Recommandations au Conseil en matière de recherches scientifiques dans le cadre de la demande adressée au CIEM

- 9.1 Au nom du Président du Comité scientifique permanent, le Secrétaire a présenté le document SSC(00)3 qui contenait les recommandations préliminaires au Conseil en matière de recherches scientifiques dans le cadre de la demande adressée au CIEM.
- 9.2 Le représentant du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) a indiqué que, d'après ce qu'il comprenait, on répondrait aux questions, telles qu'elles étaient posées pour le moment, de façon à permettre une comparaison entre les modèles de prévision au cas où le modèle de l'année prochaine différerait de celui qui a été utilisé en l'an 2000. Le représentant du CIEM a confirmé la justesse de cette interprétation.
- 9.3 Le représentant de l'Union européenne a demandé si les recommandations recherchées étaient couvertes par le Protocole d'accord (PdA) de l'OCSAN et du CIEM et n'entraîneraient par conséquent aucun frais supplémentaires. Le représentant du CIEM a confirmé que les questions seraient couvertes par le PdA.
- 9.4 La Commission a convenu de recommander les sections pertinentes du document SSC(00)3 au Conseil dans le cadre de la demande annuelle de recommandations scientifiques adressée au CIEM. La demande de recommandations scientifiques adressée au CIEM et convenue par le Conseil, CNL(00)60, se trouve à l'annexe 8.

10. Divers

- 10.1 Le représentant des Etats-Unis a présenté une résolution, NAC(00)9, suggérée à et adoptée par la Commission Nord-Américaine. Cette résolution concernait Saint-Pierre et Miquelon. Le représentant des Etats-Unis a suggéré à la Commission du Groenland Occidental de se joindre à la Commission Nord-Américaine pour recommander au Conseil d'adopter ce document. Il était dans l'ensemble reconnu que l'on devrait encourager plus activement une coopération plus étroite de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon avec l'OCSAN. Les Parties ont reconnu que la question de Saint-Pierre et Miquelon figurait à l'ordre du jour du Conseil et que la résolution devrait être élargie de façon à ce qu'elle puisse être considérée par le Conseil. Les Parties se sont également penchées sur la question d'inviter la France (pour Saint-Pierre et Miquelon) à joindre l'OCSAN. Conformément aux termes de l'Article 17.3 de la Convention de l'OCSAN, aucun obstacle juridique n'existe à cette accession ; il a été décidé, cependant, que cette question devait être résolue par le Conseil.
- 10.2 La Commission a examiné la nécessité d'un programme d'échantillonnage étendu au Groenland occidental. Dans l'ensemble, il a été reconnu que l'échantillonnage des captures au Groenland occidental était essentiel au travail scientifique de la Commission. Une allusion a été faite concernant l'accord bilatéral de deux ans entre le Canada et le Danemark concernant un programme d'échantillonnage pour 1999 et

2000. Il a été noté que les Etats-Unis contribuaient grandement à cet effort bien qu'ils ne fassent pas partie de l'accord.

- 10.3 Les représentants des Etats-Unis, du Canada et du Danemark (pour les Îles Féroé et le Groenland) se sont engagés à continuer en l'an 2000 leurs activités d'échantillonnage au Groenland occidental. Le représentant de l'Union européenne a donné son soutien à cet exercice et a fait remarquer que, bien que l'Union européenne n'ait pas contribué à l'activité d'échantillonnage au Groenland occidental depuis plusieurs années, il étudierait les possibilités de participation au programme et en rendrait compte à la réunion de 2001.
- 10.4 Les membres de la Commission ont remercié le Président pour son excellente direction.

11. Date et lieu de la prochaine réunion

- 11.1 La prochaine réunion de la Commission du Groenland Occidental se tiendra au cours de la Dix-huitième réunion annuelle du Conseil, du 4 au 8 juin 2001, en Galice en Espagne.

12. Examen du compte rendu préliminaire de la réunion

- 12.1 La Commission a approuvé le compte rendu préliminaire de la réunion, WGC(00)4.

WGC(00)11

**Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the
West Greenland Commission
Rodd Miramichi River Signature Hotel, Miramichi, Canada
5-9 June 2000**

Agenda

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Adoption of the Agenda
3. Nomination of a Rapporteur
4. Election of Officers
5. Review of the 1999 Fishery and ACFM Report from ICES on Salmon Stocks in the Commission Area
6. Regulatory Measures
7. Application of the Precautionary Approach Decision Structure to the West Greenland Commission
8. Announcement of the Tag Return Incentive Scheme Prize
9. Recommendations to the Council on the Request to ICES for Scientific Advice
10. Other Business
11. Date and Place of Next Meeting
12. Consideration of the Draft Report of the Meeting

West Greenland Commission

WGC(00)8

Exploitation of Salmon in the United Kingdom and Ireland

(Tabled by the European Union)

WGC(00)8

Exploitation of Salmon in the United Kingdom and Ireland

(Tabled by the European Union)

Introduction

1. Levels of exploitation in salmon fisheries can be controlled either by limiting catches directly through quotas or by restricting fishing effort. In the UK and Ireland the second of these options has traditionally been used. This is principally because of the large number of salmon fisheries - there are over six hundred significant salmon rivers in the UK and Ireland, some with several distinct stocks - and the lack of the data needed to set quotas for individual river fisheries. Quotas may also be more difficult to enforce than effort controls in a large number of widely distributed fisheries.
2. Given the difficulty of setting quotas for so many fisheries, effort controls are likely to remain the principal means of controlling exploitation of salmon for the foreseeable future in both the UK and in Ireland, although Ireland is introducing global quotas for rod and net fisheries as a supplementary measure.
3. Effort controls work by limiting the time that fishermen can operate and the efficiency of their gear. They can take a number of forms: close seasons, close times and closed areas are used in both rod and net fisheries; in net fisheries there are limits on numbers of nets; there are also restrictions on the design and use of nets and on method and lures used by anglers. In addition, catch and release is an increasingly common practice among anglers and in England and Wales it is compulsory to release all salmon caught before 15 June.
4. There is no doubt that effort controls can be an effective way of controlling exploitation. Unlike quotas, they tend to operate on the level of exploitation, not on the level of the catch. As a result, catches tend to vary in line with stock abundance. This is an advantage where fisheries are largely exploiting individual or local stocks, because salmon abundance in different rivers may vary independently from year to year. With fixed quota systems, levels of exploitation tend to rise when stocks are low and fall when they are high; there is therefore a need to adjust quotas annually and this is impractical for over 600 stocks. Effort controls avoid these problems; although they still tend to result in increased exploitation when stocks are low, the effect is not as great as with quotas.
5. Because with effort controls catches tend to fluctuate in line with stock abundance, additional restrictions on effort do not have an entirely predictable effect on catches, although they will, all things being equal, reduce levels of exploitation. In this they differ from quotas, since a reduction in a quota should mean a commensurate reduction in the catch. Over time, however, extra restrictions on effort are likely to reduce average catch levels, assuming that average stock abundance remains unchanged.
6. Reductions in effort, of course, are not always the result of increased legal restrictions. Economic factors, such as declining profitability in net fisheries, are a

major factor. In Scotland, for example, economic and social factors have reduced netting effort by over 80% between 1975 and 1999, a reduction encouraged by the fact that under Scottish law net fisheries are privately owned and can be bought out by angling interests. Effort reductions on this scale may well make extra legal restrictions on effort in net fisheries unnecessary.

7. The combined effect of effort controls and voluntary restrictions on effort have led to very substantial reductions in the fishing effort in the UK and Ireland over the past 30 years. Table 1 and Figure 1 show the fall in number of legal instruments in these countries over this period, and Table 2 and Figure 2 show the changes in catch levels. These data are discussed below in relation to the management of salmon in the different parts of the UK and Ireland.

England and Wales

8. There is a public right to net or trap salmon in coastal waters and estuaries in England and Wales, but all salmon fishermen are required to hold licences and the number of licences in each net fishery is limited by law. There are currently some sixty separate salmon and sea trout net and trap fisheries, employing a wide range of methods, from coastal drift nets to hand held haaf nets. In all fisheries there are rules regulating the design and use of the gear. Average catches per licence in individual net fisheries vary from less than 5 fish a year to over 150.
9. In the past 25 years the total number of licences issued for salmon netting has been reduced from 923 to 437, a 53% decrease (Table 1 and Figure 1). Most fisheries exploit salmon from a single river or a small number of rivers flowing into a common estuary, and reductions in the number of licences have mainly been targeted at those where there has been a need to protect individual river stocks. A small number of fisheries, including the major North East coast salmon drift net fishery, operate in coastal waters and exploit stocks from more than one river; it is Government policy to phase these fisheries out. In the North East coast fishery, the number of net licences has fallen from 142 in 1992 to 72 in 1999, a reduction of 49%.
10. All net and trap fisheries are subject to an annual close season, and most have a minimum weekly close time of at least 42 hours (a few licensed trap fisheries are subject to close seasons but no close times). Increases in both annual and weekly closure periods have been used in many fisheries to reduce the level of exploitation on particular stock components. In 1999, for example, the close season for all salmon net fisheries was extended until 1 June; for the great majority of fisheries it starts on 1 September. This has further reduced the potential fishing effort; thus, for example, although the number of licensed nets has declined by 38% since 1991, additional measures to limit the length of the season in different fisheries have reduced the number of net days available for fishing by 48%.
11. The right to fish for salmon in freshwater in England and Wales is a private one, and the great majority of salmon rod fisheries are privately owned. All salmon anglers must hold a salmon rod licence, but these are issued on demand. Salmon exploitation by anglers is limited by close seasons and by restrictions on methods and gear. The opening and closing dates of the close season vary widely between rivers. The close season must by law be at least 92 days. Restrictions on methods and gear can take

various forms: on some rivers only fly fishing is permitted during certain parts of the season and on others the use of baits is banned for all or part of the season. Since 1999 anglers in England and Wales have been required to release unharmed all salmon caught before 16 June. Many angling clubs have also introduced their own measures to reduce the numbers of salmon that are killed, including voluntary catch and release. In 1999, 44% of all rod caught fish were released.

12. Catches of salmon in England and Wales have shown a similar pattern of decline to the fishing effort (Table 2 and Figure 2). Overall the declared catch has fallen by 45% between the late 1970s (1975-79) and the late 1990s (1995-99). It is believed that the actual decline in catches has been even greater than this because catch reporting has improved considerably in this period.

Scotland

13. Salmon fishery management in Scotland has been devolved to District Salmon Fishery Boards which operate within a legislative framework set up by Parliament. There are 83 salmon fishery districts, of which 51, including all the major rivers, have Boards in place; in the remainder management is undertaken by owners. This management structure therefore operates on a river-by-river basis, and is funded by the owners of the salmon fishing rights. These rights, whether for fishing in fresh water or in the sea, are private, heritable titles, which may be held separate from any land. No fishing licences are required in Scotland, but it is an offence to fish for salmon without the legal right or without written permission from a person having such a right. The methods that may be used are also defined by law, and the main methods employed in different areas are: rod and line in freshwater, in estuaries and on the coast; net and coble (seine nets) in freshwater, in estuaries and on the coast, and fixed engines (various types of trap nets) on the coast outside estuary limits. Drift netting was banned in 1962.
14. There have been progressive moves to reduce the exploitation of salmon by nets in Scotland over the past 50 years. This has been achieved, in part, by buying-out private netting rights, and many fisheries have been completely closed. This has contributed to the 83% reduction in the netting effort (expressed as the number of crew (net and coble) or trap (fixed engine) months fished) between 1975 and 1999 (Table 1 and Figure 1). These figures give a more complete picture of the reduction in netting effort over this period than the number of nets used because they take account of changes in the fishing pressure at different times of year, in particular the marked reduction in fishing effort on spring-running multi-sea-winter salmon.
15. The method of operation and the construction of nets and traps are also prescribed by law. No net or part of a net may be designed or constructed for the purpose of catching fish by enmeshing them, and the use of monofilament netting for salmon fishing is prohibited. In addition no part of any trap net, except mooring ropes and anchors, may extend more than 1300 metres from the shore.
16. Net fisheries are further regulated by weekly and annual close times. The weekly close time was increased by 43% in 1988 and now extends for a continuous period of 60 hours over the week-end. The annual close time varies between salmon fishery districts but must be a continuous period of not less than 168 days (153 days on the

River Tweed). Angling is also controlled by close periods; the weekly close time for angling is Sunday, and the annual close season varies between salmon fishery districts, ranging from 60 to more than 130 days, with most districts having close times between 100 and 110 days. Angling is further restricted in 18 salmon fishery districts by regulations which ban variously the use of natural baits and lures with more than one set of hooks.

17. The management structure for salmon fisheries in Scotland also favours the widespread use of non-statutory rules to restrict fishing activities. Thus, for example, the owners of fisheries may restrict fishing to fly only for all or part of the season, a number have chosen not to start fishing until a month or more after the official starting date of the season and catch and release is being practised very widely. On the River Dee, for example, in recent years, most proprietors have volunteered to delay the start of their fishing seasons until the beginning of March, instead of 1 February, and rod fishermen released almost all spring fish in 1999 and an estimated 75% of fish over the season. Many other Boards are putting in place tough spring salmon conservation policies for the 2000 season. These measures even extend to net fisheries; for example, the River Tweed nets will not be operated in the spring until 2003. Members of the Salmon Net Fishing Association of Scotland deferred voluntarily the start of their fishing operations by six weeks at the start of the 2000 fishing season.
18. The widespread reductions in fishing effort have been matched by a 70% decrease in the total catch (including rod fisheries) between 1975-9 and 1995-9. Data for the River North Esk for the latter part of this period show that the exploitation of 1SW salmon has been reduced from 30% in the late 1980s to 17% in last five years; the exploitation rate of 2SW salmon from this river have declined from 33% to 13% in the same periods.

Northern Ireland

19. In Northern Ireland the exploitation of salmon fisheries is strictly controlled through regulations made under the provisions of the Fisheries Act (NI) 1966 and the Foyle Fisheries Act 1952. The main exploitation occurs in the Foyle estuary and seaward and the regulations applying in the Foyle area are arguably the most restrictive in the EU.
20. The two main commercial methods of salmon exploitation in Northern Ireland are drift net fishing and fixed bag and draft net fishing. All commercial salmon netmen are required to hold licences. The number of gear units licensed in Northern Ireland has fallen by over 50% since 1975 (table 1 and figure 1). This reduction reflects a policy of not increasing the number of licences issued in any year above the previous year's level combined with natural wastage, ie lapsed licences not being reapplied for. Commencing in 2001 the number of drift net licences available for issue in the Foyle area will be capped at 55. Furthermore it is clear that a considerable number of licensees, perhaps 50%, are not actively fishing. Overall the nominal catch in Northern Ireland Irish net fisheries has declined by 35% since 1975.
21. The commercial season in the Foyle and Carlingford areas is restricted to 6 weeks (15 June to 31 July). Fishing is restricted to 4 days per week and additionally drift net

fishermen are only permitted to fish 12 hours per day. There are also restrictions on the length and depth of nets, on boat size and the use of monofilament net is prohibited. The commercial season in the rest of Northern Ireland, which is regulated by the Fisheries Conservancy Board (FCB), is from 18 March to 15 September although the timing of the main salmon runs effectively curtails the season to around late May to the end of August. Restrictions also apply to the length of the fishing week, and to the length and depth of nets and boat lengths. The use of monofilament nets is also prohibited.

22. Salmon fishing rights in freshwater are mainly in private ownership or leased by angling clubs. All salmon anglers must hold a game rod licence and these are issued on demand. Salmon angling exploitation is regulated through close seasons, restrictions on the type of fishing methods and in some areas bag limits are imposed.
23. A management system based on estimated spawning requirements has been operating in the River Foyle fishery area for many years. Stock reference levels have been set based on a scientific study of stock/recruitment relationships for the system. If, at certain dates during the season, target numbers of fish have not been counted upstream at three sites in the system, then specified closures of the angling and/or net fisheries take place. New regulations, The Foyle Area (Control of Fishing) Regulations 1999, introduced in 1999 have refined and formalized this mechanism.
24. A Salmon Management Plan is also being drawn up for the FCB area. The objective of the plan is to establish salmon conservation limits at a river, regional and national level. The central aim of management will be to ensure that, in most rivers in most years, sufficient adult salmon are spawning to ensure compliance with conservation limits. A Salmon Carcase Tagging Scheme is currently under consideration and should be in operation through the island of Ireland by 2001.

Ireland

25. There are seven designated salmon fishing regions in the Republic of Ireland. Statistics are collected by staff of the Regional Fisheries Boards and collated into a national data set by the Marine Institute. The Foyle Fisheries Area which is managed by a Commission representing both the Department of the Marine and Natural Resources in the south of Ireland and the Department of Agriculture for Northern Ireland.
25. The principal commercial salmon fisheries in the Republic of Ireland are: surface gill nets fished at sea; draft nets and traps operated in estuaries; and a range of local traditional methods (snap, loop bag and pole nets) operated mainly in inshore areas. Effort in these fisheries is controlled by a combination of restrictions on the gear and where and how it may be used, plus closed periods and closed times.
26. Major changes to the management of these fisheries were introduced in response to the 1996 report of the Salmon Management Task Force. The main recommendations of the Task Force are summarised at **Appendix 1**. The principal conservation measures it recommended were implemented in 1997. These involved a cap on the number of commercial licences, deferring the start of the draft net season till mid-May and of the drift net season to 1 June, reducing the fishing week from 5 days to 4,

restrictions on night-time fishing and limiting fishing at sea to within 6 (rather than 12) nautical miles of the coast. These measures have reduced effort in commercial fisheries by at least 20%. As a result of the later opening of the season, fishing effort on spring salmon stocks (mainly due to the inshore draft and snap nets) has also been reduced in recent years.

27. The maximum number of public drift net and draft net licences allowed under the Control of Fishing for Salmon Orders (1980 and 1982) was 847 and 604 respectively. Following the Task Force recommendations, a 'cap' was placed on the number of commercial fishing licences to be issued at the 1995 level of 775 drift nets and 464 draft nets, a 15% overall reduction on the early 1980s. Half this reduction (7%) had been achieved by 1999. Restrictions have also been placed on the other commercial fishing methods - excluding private or special local area licences.
28. Rod fisheries in Ireland may be privately owned, state owned or public, but all anglers require a rod licence, which are issued on demand. Catch and release is encouraged nationally and is compulsory, for wild salmon, on the Burrishoole and Delphi systems. The release of coloured, fly-caught, salmon in the autumn is fast becoming standard practice in Ireland. Angling effort is limited by close seasons and by restrictions on methods and gear. A total of 30,954 rod licences were issued to anglers in 1999. Although the number of licences increased after 1992, this was due to the introduction of special *one day* and *21 day* licences.
29. Considerable efforts have been made to increase marine surveillance by the Navy and Regional Fisheries Boards in recent years, and this has contributed to a marked reduction in the use of illegal gear, illegal fishing and under-reporting of catches. Low prices of wild salmon, coupled with fewer people entering the fishery, have also contributed to the reduction in fishing effort in the past three seasons.
30. The mean catches in the period following the introduction of new regulatory measures (i.e. 1997 to 1999) have been significantly lower than the preceding seven years in all areas except the Western Region, where catches may have included significant numbers of hatchery reared fish. Similarly, the national draft net catch (excluding the North Western Region where the Moy River draft net was suspended in 1994) has also been significantly lower in the most recent three years.

Appendix 1: *Principal Recommendations of Irish Salmon Management Task Force (1996)*

The Salmon Management Task Force (1996) was commissioned at a time when statistics for the North Atlantic as a whole were showing an absolute decline in catch for all methods of capture. The report of the Task Force recommended a radical approach to the management of Irish salmon stocks which includes a shorter season, a shorter fishing week, the introduction of carcass tagging and the imposition of quotas on the commercial salmon catch. Implicit in the report's findings is an assumption that there is a future for the tradition of salmon drift netting, provided that the number of licences is controlled and stocks are enhanced through strict conservation measures. The report also accepts that inevitably:

“the balance of advantage on conservation, environmental and economic grounds should lie increasingly with redirecting salmon stocks from interceptory commercial exploitation towards recreational fishing”.

The Task Force recognised that additional technical research was required to underpin their detailed proposals, particularly in relation to the targeting of the recreational salmon fishery as a principal source of future game angling revenue. They identified the following areas:

- Stock recruitment relationships, in particular quantifying the effect of additional escapement on smolt production and spawning stock levels
- The value of catch and release as a salmon conservation and management tool
- Relative effectiveness of angling under varying levels of total allowable catch
- Development of catchment management technology
- Selective enhancement of multi-sea-winter stocks

Following consideration of the Task Force report by the Minister for the Marine, the Department of the Marine and the Dáil Committee on Economic Strategy and Enterprise, it was decided to implement its principal conservation measures for the 1997 season.

The new management system envisages:

- setting *spawning escapement targets* for rivers, which can be achieved in the short term;
- determining *optimum spawning escapement targets* which could be achieved, if all factors limiting production were removed;
- determining compliance with such *spawning escapement targets* by providing spawning estimates (*population estimates of the number of spawning salmon*);
- setting *quotas* to ensure compliance;
- providing a legislative and scientific framework to allow the management system to operate (*carcass tags and logbooks*)
- using *fishery management plans* (catchment management plans) to move from spawning targets to optimum spawning numbers and to assist in the allocation of the resource by the beneficial users.

Progress towards these aims has been made with the recent establishment (March'00) of the National Salmon Commission. It is envisaged that the full implementation of the carcass tagging and logbook scheme will occur in 2001.

Figure 1

Table 1

Figure 2

Table 2

West Greenland Commission

WGC(00)7

The 1999 Fishery in West Greenland

WGC(00)7

The 1999 fishery in West Greenland

Quota 1999

At the 16th annual meeting of NASCO, the West Greenland Commission agreed on a multi-year approach, according to which the catch at West Greenland for 1999 and 2000 should be restricted to that amount used for internal consumption in Greenland, which in the past has been estimated at 20 tonnes.

In keeping with this agreement the Greenland Home Rule Government subsequently set the internal consumption quota at West Greenland at 20 tonnes.

The salmon fishery started on 18 August 1999 and was closed on 14 October 1999 when reportings to the Greenland Fishing Licence Control Authority had passed 18 tonnes. The total reportings in West Greenland amounted to 19046 kg. 418 kg were caught in East Greenland.

412 licences were issued in West Greenland in 1999. As in 1998 15-20 licences were issued in East Greenland.

13 towns where licences have been issued have reported catches.

3 towns in Northern Greenland, where a total of 80 licences were issued although salmon rarely occur, did not report any catches.

103 persons have reported catches in 1999 (1 person landed salmon at two sites), including catches both sold and kept for private consumption.

Reported catches for sale totalled 15422 kg and reported catches for private consumption totalled 3623 kg.

Unreported catches are estimated to be approximately 10-15 tonnes.

Control/Monitoring

The system for reporting catches was changed in 1999 as the system used in 1998 made double reportings possible. Official game keepers and inspectors from the Greenland Fishing Licence Control Authority make random checks at local open air markets in towns and settlements in West Greenland. Random checks have also been made at hotels, restaurants, shops, hospitals and schools.

According to the Greenland Home Rule Executive Order No. 13 of 12 August 1999 on Salmon Fishery:

- All commercial catches of salmon must be reported to the Greenland Fishing Licence Control Authority (GFLK) on a daily basis by the fisherman. Catches from the recreational fishery must be reported the day after the fishery or for non-residents as soon as possible.

- Only persons licensed for salmon fishing can sell their catches.
- The catches from the salmon fishery can only be sold at local markets and local shops, to hotels, restaurants, schools, hospitals and other public eating places.

The majority of the reportings were obtained from the open air markets.

- Catches from the Greenlandic salmon fishery may not be exported outside of Greenland.

West Greenland Commission

WGC(00)5

Presentation to the West Greenland Commission by ICES

West Greenland Commission

**WGC(00)6
(REVISED VERSION)**

Catches of MSW Salmon (Number of Fish)

(Tabled by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))

West Greenland Commission

WGC(99)8

***Multi-Year Regulatory Measure for the
Fishing of Salmon at West Greenland***

Having regard to the advice from ICES that:

- stocks originating in the southern component of the North-East Atlantic are considered to be outside safe biological limits, and that extreme caution should be exercised in the management of mixed stock fisheries exploiting these stocks.
- stocks originating in North America are outside safe biological limits. Fishing mortality of multi-sea-winter fish should be minimised, except for in-river harvests from those stocks which are above biologically-based escapement requirements.

Taking into account these very serious circumstances, a multi-year approach has been agreed and therefore for 1999 and 2000 the catch at West Greenland in each of these years will be restricted to that amount used for internal consumption in Greenland, which in the past has been estimated at 20 tonnes. There will be no commercial export of salmon.

The Parties note, and commend Greenland for the continued improvement in its monitoring and reporting procedures, in order to respect the aforementioned amount.

West Greenland Commission

WGC(00)12

Resolution Regarding the Fishing of Salmon at West Greenland

WGC(00)12

Resolution Regarding the Fishing of Salmon at West Greenland

RECALLING that the Parties to the West Greenland Commission have previously worked cooperatively to utilize scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES) in establishing regulatory measures for the fishing of salmon at West Greenland as contained in WGC(93)9, WGC(97)10 and WGC(99)3 which, in some years, include a provision for a reserve quota;

NOTING that ICES has provided a forecast of pre-fishery abundance of North American non-maturing 1SW salmon at West Greenland for 2000 of 179,897 fish;

RECOGNIZING that ICES advises that there is a 50% probability that the pre-fishery abundance will be lower than this estimate;

CONSIDERING that ICES has established conservation limits for all North American stocks occurring in the West Greenland Commission area and that these summed conservation limits, expressed as pre-fishery fish in Greenland waters, is 170,286;

FURTHER RECOGNIZING that, considering the status of the stocks at West Greenland, ICES advises a risk-averse approach to managing both the North American and West Greenland salmon fisheries;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that ICES has advised that the North American stock complex at West Greenland is outside safe biological limits and has advised that there should be no exploitation of the 1999 cohort as non-maturing 1SW fish in North America or at Greenland in 2000, and also recommends that the cohort should not be exploited as mature 2SW fish in North America in 2001;

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT NASCO's commitment to implementation of the Precautionary Approach;

THE PARTIES:

- resolve to maintain the spirit embodied in previous agreements within the West Greenland Commission and agree that unless a significant improvement is demonstrated in the condition of stocks available to the West Greenland fishery, the catch at West Greenland in 2001 will be restricted to the lowest possible level.
- note, and compliment Denmark (in respect of Greenland) for the continued improvement in monitoring and reporting procedures as described in WGC(00)7 and agree to cooperate to provide a comprehensive sampling of the West Greenland fishery.

CNL(00)60

Request for Scientific Advice from ICES

1. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North Atlantic area:
 - 1.1 provide an overview of salmon catches and landings, including unreported catches by country and catch and release, and worldwide production of farmed and ranched salmon in 2000;
 - 1.2 report on significant developments which might assist NASCO with the management of salmon stocks;
 - 1.3 use case studies to illustrate options for taking account of risk in the provision of catch advice and comment on the relative merits of each option;
 - 1.4 assess the possible reasons for the differences in occurrence of escaped farmed salmon in fisheries and stocks in different areas;
 - 1.5 advise on potential biases in the catch advice resulting from the inclusion of fish farm escapes in the assessment models;
 - 1.6 provide a compilation of tag releases by country in 2000.

2. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North-East Atlantic Commission area:
 - 2.1 describe the events of the 2000 fisheries and the status of the stocks;
 - 2.2 update the evaluation of the effects on stocks and homewater fisheries of significant management measures introduced since 1991;
 - 2.3 further develop the age-specific stock conservation limits where possible based upon individual river stocks;
 - 2.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits;
 - 2.5 update information on by-catch of salmon post-smolts in pelagic fisheries;
 - 2.6 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

3. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the North American Commission area:
 - 3.1 describe the events of the 2000 fisheries and the status of the stocks;
 - 3.2 update the evaluation of the effects on US and Canadian stocks and fisheries of management measures implemented after 1991 in the Canadian commercial salmon fisheries;
 - 3.3 update age-specific stock conservation limits based on new information as available;
 - 3.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits;
 - 3.5 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

4. With respect to Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland Commission area:

- 4.1 describe the events of the 2000 fisheries and the status of the stocks;
- 4.2 update the evaluation of the effects on European and North American stocks of the Greenlandic quota management measures and compensation arrangements since 1993;
- 4.3 provide a detailed explanation and critical examination of any changes to the model used to provide catch advice and of the impacts of any changes to the model on the calculated quota;
- 4.4 provide catch options or alternative management advice with an assessment of risks relative to the objective of exceeding stock conservation limits;
- 4.5 evaluate potential causes for changes in the Continent of origin of salmon captured in the West Greenland fishery, including potential changes in marine migration patterns;
- 4.6 identify relevant data deficiencies, monitoring needs and research requirements.

Notes:

1. *With regard to question 1.3, ICES is requested to provide information that will assist with the implementation of and evaluation by NASCO and its Contracting Parties of the decision structure (Annex 4 of document CNL(00)18) provisionally adopted by the Council.*
2. *In the responses to questions 2.1, 3.1 and 4.1 ICES is asked to provide details of catch, gear, effort, composition and origin of the catch and rates of exploitation. For homewater fisheries, the information provided should indicate the location of the catch in the following categories: in-river; estuarine; and coastal. Any new information on non-catch fishing mortality of the salmon gear used and on the by-catch of other species in salmon gear and of salmon in any new fisheries for other species is also requested.*
3. *In response to question 4.1, ICES is requested to provide a brief summary of the status of North American and North-East Atlantic salmon stocks. The detailed information on the status of these stocks should be provided in response to questions 2.1 and 3.1.*
4. *With regard to question 4.3, “changes to the model” would include the development of any new model.*

List of West Greenland Commission Papers

<u>Paper No.</u>	<u>Title</u>
WGC(00)1	Provisional Agenda
WGC(00)2	Draft Agenda
WGC(00)3	Election of Officers
WGC(00)4	Draft Report of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission
WGC(00)5	Presentation to the West Greenland Commission by ICES
WGC(00)6	Catches of MSW Salmon (Number of Fish) (Tabled by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))
WGC(00)6	Revised Version: Catches of MSW Salmon (Number of Fish) (Tabled by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland))
WGC(00)7	The 1999 Fishery in West Greenland
WGC(00)8	Exploitation of Salmon in the United Kingdom and Ireland (Tabled by the European Union)
WGC(00)9	Chairman's Draft Resolution Regarding the Fishing of Salmon at West Greenland
WGC(00)10	Report of the Seventeenth Annual Meeting of the West Greenland Commission
WGC(00)11	Agenda
WGC(00)12	Resolution Regarding the Fishing of Salmon at West Greenland

NOTE: This is a listing of all the Commission papers. Some, but not all, of these papers are included in this report as annexes.

**REPORT OF THE ICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ON FISHERY MANAGEMENT**

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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