

Council

CNL(07)49

*Special Session on Unreported Catches
Tabled by Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland)*

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Faroe Islands

- It is estimated that 1 ton of Atlantic salmon is taken each year as unreported catch.
- The catches arise from a legal, limited recreational fishery in Faroese rivers.
- The fishery is managed by a licensing system, in which fishing licences are sold by the Faroese Sportfishing Association in cooperation with the landowners.
- The estimate of the unreported catch is based on reports to the Faroese Sportfishing Association which then informs the Ministry of Fisheries.
- No fishing takes place in marine waters.

Greenland

After all reports from the fishery were received, a total of 22.8 tons of salmon were reported in 2006. Catches of 13.4 tons were reported by licensed fishermen as being sold on the open markets and to hotels, restaurants or institutions, while 9.4 tons were reported as being kept for private consumption

Due to the character of this fishery, especially that part for own consumption, some unreported fishery seems unavoidable, also when quota limits do not restrict the fishery. There is a lack of possibility for control and observation of the salmon fishery and there is presently no way of estimating the magnitude of it. However, for recent years ICES has estimated it to be around 10 tons.

Due to the low number of controlling authorities and the scattered character of this fishery and catches are limited to subsistence only, effective control is not made a priority by the available authorities due to the amount of effort considered necessary to undertake this reasonably. Presently it is not possible to estimate the entire magnitude of the unreported part of the fishery. Considering that a greater number of salmon has been sampled compared with the numbers of

salmon reported in some areas over the past 3 years indicate that the current estimated level for the unreported fishery of around 10 tons may be underestimated.

However the Greenlandic Home Rule has put a lot of effort to make the fishermen aware that catch reports are demanded also for private consumption. In 2007 there will be TV spots during the salmon season. The same was done in 2006 and it resulted in a significant increase in catch reports turned in of more than 60 percent. Still the total utilization of licenses amounted is too low (about 31 %) even though we think some fishermen might issue a license not for the purpose of fishing salmon but to maintain the right for having a license.

In our point of view an improved reporting from the fishermen will be essential to get as accurate catch statistics as possibly. Therefore Greenland will continue to get as accurate data as possible on salmon catches.