

West Greenland Commission

WGC(07)4

*The 2006 Fishery at West Greenland
(tabled by Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland))*

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At the Annual Meeting of NASCO in June 2006, the West Greenland Commission agreed to restrict the catch of Atlantic salmon at West Greenland to that amount used for internal subsistence consumption in Greenland. Furthermore, no commercial export of salmon was allowed.

In accordance with the Regulatory Measure adopted by the West Greenland Commission, the Greenland Home Rule Government decided to set the national quota for commercial landings of Atlantic salmon to fishing plants to zero tonnes, and prohibited any export of salmon from Greenland in 2006. Only a subsistence fishery was allowed, i.e. a fishery for private consumption, and a fishery with the aim of supplying local open air markets, hotels, hospitals and restaurants. The latter was only allowed for professional fishermen with licences.

In 2006, the fishery was opened at the beginning of August and closed at the end of October. During this period a total catch of 22.8 tonnes of salmon was reported to the Greenland Fishery Licence Control (GFLK). Of this, 13.4 tonnes were reported by licensed fishermen as sold at open air markets, etc., and 9.4 tonnes were reported as used for private consumption.

The fishery is regulated in the Greenland Home Rule Executive Order No 21 of August 10 2002 on the Salmon Fishery. The Executive Order distinguishes between 1) the commercial fishery for Atlantic salmon to be landed at fish plants, 2) the subsistence fishery by residents of Greenland, and 3) the rod fishery by tourists/non-residents.

All fishermen who wish to sell Atlantic salmon must hold a licence issued by GFLK. In 2006, 165 licences were issued, but only 51 of these were utilized for selling, according to the reports to GFLK.

All catches of Atlantic salmon must be reported to GFLK. The catches were either sold at local open air markets or to local institutions, hotels, etc., or kept for private consumption.

The wildlife and fisheries officers of GFLK make random checks at local markets in towns and settlements along the west coast of Greenland, and in hotels, restaurants, shops, etc. in order to compare purchase of salmon with reported catches. In 2006, the wildlife and fisheries officers have once again put a lot of effort into handing out reporting forms to all fishermen whom they have observed fishing for salmon, and informing them that all catches must be reported to GFLK.

Greenland Home Rule is considering ways of improving the catch reports. First of all the Department of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture continue the work of reminding fishermen to report salmon catches. This will be done by transmitting TV spots during the salmon season to remind the fishermen about the gear allowed and to report catches.