



**West Greenland Commission**

**WGC(19)05**

***Report to the West Greenland Commission on the Evaluation of the Salmon  
Fishery in Greenland in 2018 and Measures for the 2019 Salmon Fishery***





Members of West Greenland Commission  
North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organisation (NASCO)

## The Salmon fishery in Greenland

In WGC(19)04 - Status on the Salmon fishery in Greenland 2018, the Government of Greenland reported on its fisheries and changes to its management regime to the West Greenland Commission as required by the *Multi-annual Regulatory Measure for fishing for Salmon in West Greenland* (WGC(18)11).

As outlined in the above-mentioned report, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, the Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK), the Fishermen and Hunters' Association (KNAPK) and the fisheries clerks in the municipalities has evaluated on the first year of the new management regime agreed in the *Multi-annual Regulatory Measure for fishing for salmon in West Greenland* and on the reporting issues that emerged during the follow-up of the fishery.

The Government of Greenland has approved the initiatives responding to the issues arising in the evaluation and the measures for the 2019 fishery. This document will outline the results of the evaluation, the new initiatives as well as the measures that will apply to the 2019 fishery for salmon in Greenland.

### Background

The new *Multi-annual Measure for fishing for Salmon in West Greenland in 2018, 2019 and 2020* (WGC(18)11) was agreed at the 2018 NASCO Annual Meeting in June 2018. The new *Multi-annual Regulatory Measure for fishing for Salmon in West Greenland* required a number of new measures:

- All fishermen, including private fishermen require a license.
- All licensed fishermen is required to report on their fishing activity and harvest, including zero (0) catch.
- Licensed fishermen must report their fishing activities, including zero (0) catch reports, in order to receive a fishing license the following year.

These measures were implemented into the *Executive Order for fishery after salmon*, which came into force before the 2018 fishing season.

Thus, the 2018 fishing season was the first year of this new management regime. In this respect, it is important to underline that the salmon fishery is the only fishery that requires reporting by and licensing of private fishers in Greenland. For all other fisheries, private people have the right to fish for their own subsistence as living off the sea and the land is an essential part of living in Greenland. Especially, considering the accessibility to and isolation of large parts of the country. Thus, the right for subsistence

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fishery and hunting is an integrated part of the daily living of the population in Greenland.

### **2018 salmon fishery**

The Government of Greenland set a quota of 30 tonnes for the entire 2018 fishery, all segments included. As in previous years, no factory landings were allowed and the export ban on salmon continued. The fishery began on 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2018.

457 professional and 322 private fishermen received a license for salmon fishing in 2018. This is the first year that private fishers was required to apply for a license.

GFLK received reports throughout the fishing season as required (the fishermen, all segments included, is required to report every time that they have tended to their nets, which must be done on a regular basis) and the fishery was closed on 19<sup>th</sup> of October 2018 with a catch report of 29.8 tonnes (33.2 tonnes live weight).

As outlined in the *Multi-annual Regulatory Measure for fishing for Salmon in West Greenland*, the Government of Greenland carried-out a follow-up of the salmon fishery. This is especially important under the new regulatory measure because of the new requirements, which are specific to this fishery. Thus, it was agreed to send out letters to all license holders that had not reported on their salmon fishery and the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture also published a press-release reminding of the new requirements, including the 0-catch reporting and that non-reporting will have consequences for future licensing. This was in addition to the yearly radio-spot campaign on reporting that had run throughout the season.

The result of this follow-up was a) that more reports were received, including a large number of 0-catch reports and b) that a number of people came back to the Ministry uncomprehending as to why they had received a letter as they had reported on their fishing activity already. This led to an investigation into the reports received and the result was the following:

- A. Because the fishery for salmon is a subsistence fishery and not a commercial fishery, the reports are not entered directly into the fisheries control database as are the data from logbooks and factory reports in the commercial fisheries - but registered in a excel document. However, as GFLK investigated the registrations it was discovered that a number of reports had been wrongly registered in the filing system. This meant that these reports had not be counted into the full catch reporting and the fishery had not been closed in a timely manner.
- B. A number of reports had not been forwarded from the municipalities to GFLK. A number of fishers, mainly the ones without digital skills or access, reports in paper form to their local municipal office, which then should fax or mail the report to GFLK, however, this had not been done for all.

This resulted in an update of the final catch to 40.5 tonnes. However, the efforts also resulted in a reporting percentage of 70 %, which is a record high for the Salmon fishery. Please see below two tables outlining the reporting and catches in 2018.

**Tabel 1. Timeline over number of reports and catches of salmon from GFLK**

	19.10.2018	01.05.2019
<i>Number of reports, accumulated</i>	367	573
<i>Live weight, accumulated (k)</i>	33 152	40 513

**Tabel 2. Comparison of commercial fishery (licensed) vs. private fishery (licensed since 2018)<sup>1</sup> (table produced by Greenland Natural Institute for the ICES working group).**

Year	Commercial fishermen				Private				Total		Total catch
	# Licenses	# Reporting	#	Kg	# Licenses	# Reporting	#	Kg	Licenses	Reporting	
1987										579	
1988										516	
1989										393	
1990										362	
1991										410	
1992										212	
1993										-	
1994										-	
1995										145	
1996										163	
1997										80	
1998										69	
1999	424									102	
2000	179									43	
2001	451									76	
2002	480									41	
2003	150									42	
2004	157									66	
2005	185									75	
2006	166									141	
2007	261									132	
2008	262									143	
2009	293	100	34	21955	-	45	?	4324		145	26278
2010	309	110	36	<b>27332</b>	-	98	?	12363		208	39696
2011	242	61	25	21397	-	56	?	6126		117	27524
2012	276	79	27	29056	-	43	?	4115		122	33178
2013	<b>328</b>	66	20	45600	-	29	?	1361		95	46961
2014	320	98	30	56246	-	16	?	1590		114	57836
2015	310	114	36	50841	-	75	?	6006		189	56847
2016	263	71	26	19395	-	69	?	<b>7725</b>		143	27120
2017	282	93	<b>33</b>	24919	-	50	?	3123		143	28042
2018	329	235	71	32597	457	<b>322</b>	70	7268	786	<b>557</b>	39865

### Evaluation of the 2018 Salmon fishery

After these issues were identified and the catch reporting had been updated, it became clear that an evaluation of the fishery and new measures was necessary in order to

<sup>1</sup>Nygaard, Rasmus, The Salmon Fishery in Greenland 2018, ICES North Atlantic Salmon Working Group, Working document 2019/01, p. 14

ensure a better implementation of the regulatory measure and prepare for the 2019 fishing season.

Hence, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, GFLK, KNAPK and the fisheries clerks from the municipalities has held meetings evaluating the 2018 fishery and agreeing to a number of initiatives that should improve the implementation of the new regulatory measures and the reporting in the salmon fishery:

- A. GFLK will update the Fisheries Control Database, so that the fishing activity reports can be entered directly into the database - and thereby, avoiding excel documents and possible mis-registration. This should assist the GFLK in closing the fishery in a timely manner.
- B. Instructions to the municipalities concerning the dissemination of the reports to GFLK is underway and will be circulated. It is important that the municipalities only are a pit-stop and that the reports are forwarded to GFLK as soon as possible, therefore, close contact with the fisheries clerks in the municipalities throughout the season will be maintained.
- C. Information on the new regulatory measures and reporting requirements to be updated on Sullissivik.gl (public citizen website in Greenland).
- D. GFLK will ensure the possibility of telephone reporting for the fishermen with no digital skills or access, in order to increase the accessibility for reporting.
- E. **KNAPK** will meet with their local departments and the fisheries clerks in the municipalities in order to emphasize the importance of timely reporting.
- F. The radio spots that run throughout the fishing season reminding people to report will continue and possibly be supported by a TV spot. Press releases will also continue to be used to inform on the reporting requirements and the status of the fishery.
- G. The Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture and GFLK will have a season-start-up meeting ensuring optimal preparation before the fishing season starts.
- H. The Ministry, GFLK and KNAPK will have an evaluation meeting 1-2 weeks into the season in order to evaluate on the reporting and fishery and possibly make adjustments.
- I. Similarly to the follow-up of the 2018 fishery, a letter campaign targeting the fishers that have not reported when the fishery closes will continue.
- J. Evaluation meetings between the Ministry, GFLK, KNAPK and the municipalities after the season will also continue in order to ensure full implementation of the new management regime.
- K. GFLK will look into the possibility of - in the long term - introducing online reporting through e.g. Sullissivik.gl or a mobile app. This will be part of the IT-strategy that is under development.

## 2019 Salmon fishery

According to the *Multi-annual Regulatory Measure for fishing for salmon in West Greenland*, in case of any over-harvest in one year, an equal reduction in the Total Allowable Catch will be introduced in the following year. Hence, the Government of Greenland has set the quota for the 2019 salmon fishery to 19,5 tonnes for all segments of the fishery due to the over-harvest in 2018.

The salmon fishing season will begin on 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2019 and end on 31<sup>st</sup> of October or when the quota is utilized. There will be no factory landings and the export-ban remains in place.

All fishermen, both professional and private will require a license in order to fish for salmon and if the fisher has not reported in 2018, no license will be issued in 2019.

The criteria for the two segments of the salmon fishery remains the same as in 2018 and according to the *Executive Order for fishery after salmon*:

Criteria that you need to fulfil, in order to be eligible for a commercial license:

- Only fishermen with the majority of the income from fishery and hunting and a permanent association to Greenland<sup>2</sup> can obtain a commercial license.
- Full accounting of fishing activities and harvest, including zero (0) catch for the previous year must have been reported.
- Own salmon nets and a vessel not longer than 42 feet
- Information on number of salmon nets, type and brand must be reported in connection with the application for a license.
- Only hooks, fixed nets or up to 20 nets tied in a driftnet can be used.
- Nets must be marked with the owners/vessel name with external identification code
- Nets must be tended on a regular basis
- Full-time licensed fishermen can sell their catches at the local open air market or used for private consumption
- Sold catch must be reported separately.

For private fishermen, the following criteria and regulations apply;

- Permanent association to Greenland<sup>3</sup>
- If a license was available in the previous season, a full accounting of fishing activities and harvest, including zero (0) catches must have been provided.
- Private licensed fishermen can only use hooks or 1 anchored gillnet (2000 knot -60m).
- All nets must be marked with the owners name
- Nets must be tended on a regular basis.

GFLK will continue its intensive monitoring of the salmon fishery through their fishery inspectors that control both at sea, in the ports and at local open-air markets. The fishery inspectors has in recent years increased patrolling of known salmon fishing

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<sup>2</sup> Executive Order on Fisheries: *Landstingslov nr. 18 af 31. oktober 1996 om fiskeri*, §3, stk. 4: "'permanent association to Greenland' is understood in this law as persons that by purchase of a household, by renting or buying a home or by other arrangements indicates intention to have Greenland as a place of residence.

<sup>3</sup> Same

locations, talking with fishermen and distributing reporting templates, controlling licenses and removing gillnets, if they fail to apply with regulations or are not properly marked. The fisheries inspectors have also increased the frequency of visits at local markets and have meetings with local representatives of the fishermen's unions in cities and settlements.

### **Conclusion**

As mentioned in the above, the new regulatory measures that was introduced in 2018 are specific for the salmon fishery and it will require an intensive effort from the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture, GFLK and KNAPK as well as time to fully implement these measures. However, several new initiatives including the letter follow-up and the evaluation meetings has already provide improvements in the implementation of this new management and reporting regime such as a 70 % reporting percentage.

Hence, the implementation of the new measures has been successful in several ways, however, the follow-up and evaluation also revealed some shortcomings and issues that needs to be resolved in order to ensure full and better implementation. This document has outlined the initiatives agreed between the relevant parties in the salmon fishery and approved by the Government of Greenland. It is our strong belief that these initiatives will improve the management and control of the salmon fishery in the coming years.

The Government of Greenland stand ready to further clarify issues or respond to any questions from our colleagues in the West Greenland Commission in relations to the information put forward in this document.

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Yours sincerely,

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