



**West Greenland Commission  
Inter-Sessional Meeting**

**WGCIS(18)04**

*Report on the Greenland Salmon Fishery in 2017*





## Members of West Greenland Commission NASCO

### Status on the Salmon fishery in Greenland 2017

According to the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for fishing for salmon at West Greenland in 2015, 2016 and 2017 (WGC(15)21) Greenland should report on its fisheries and changes to its management regime to the West Greenland Commission. Hence the Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting is forwarding this status report concerning the fishery in 2017 and the initiatives implemented from the Plan for implementation of monitoring and control measures in the salmon fishery in Greenland (WGCIS(15)5).

The management measures implemented before the 2015 fishery continued in the fishery in 2016 and in 2017.

The quota was set at 45 tonnes for the entire fishery in 2017, all segments included, in accordance with the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Salmon at West Greenland.

The Executive Order to include a shorter fishing season still stands. Thus, as in 2015 and 2016, the fishing season ran from 15 August – 31 October with the exemption that the quota would be exhausted earlier. This was not the case and the salmon fishery in Greenland (both East and West) closed on 31 October. The quota uptake, based on received reports, ended at 26,8 tonnes. By far most of it was taken in West Greenland.

As during the previous regulatory measures the export ban on salmon continued. The executive order on catch reporting, which was in force before the start of the last season, and which required salmon catches to be reported by count (number of fish) as well as weight was still in place. No factory landings were allowed in the fishery in 2017.

### Reporting from fishers

It is compulsory for all salmon fishers to report daily or every time the nets are mended. This can be done directly to The Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK) or indirectly through municipalities. GFLK continued its increased focus on the control of the salmon fishery in 2017, as they did in 2016 and 2015. The wild life officers and landing officers all brought reporting templates with them to hand out to fishers during their patrols and landing controls – thus, reminding people to report daily or every time they had mended their nets. It cannot be understated that the workload put on GFLK in connection with the regulatory measures for the salmon fishery is considered immense.

As in 2015 and 2016 the Ministry and GFLK ran an extensive information campaign, with infomercials in the newspapers, on TV and in the radio up to three times a week during the season reminding people to report and that everyone needs to report – including private fishers. Furthermore, the Ministry published a report every week stating how much of the quota had been fished and how much was left.

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This effort has sustained the relatively high number of reports received. GFLK received approximately 630 catch reports of which around 160 are from private, unlicensed fishers.

**Status on the implementation of the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measures and the Plan for implementation of monitoring and control measures in the salmon fishery in Greenland.**

The measures agreed to during the meetings in the West Greenland Commission in 2015 are very extensive and require great efforts from the Government and the people of Greenland to implement. Thus, the Government of Greenland had put a lot of efforts in implementing as many of the measures and initiatives as possible before the fishery season in 2015, 2016 and as well in 2017.

While not all the remaining initiatives and measures were implemented in 2016, the effort to ensure proper reporting was sustained and work on the remaining issues is ongoing, and the Government of Greenland is committed to continue this work.

Below is given a short status/overview of the implementation process.

The Multi-Annual Regulatory Measures entails that Greenland should implement the following measures:

- One quota for all segments of the fishery, which includes professional and private fishermen.
  - One quota for all fishers was introduced in 2015 – a quota of 45 tonnes was set. Again in 2017 one quota covering all segments was set.
- All salmon fishers will require a license and will be categorized as either licensed professional fisher or licensed non-professional/private fisher; only licensed professional fishers will be authorized to sell salmon.
  - Licensing of private/non-professional fishers is not implemented. Since the adoption of the multi-annual regulatory measures it has been found to be too comprehensive to implement this restriction at this stage, also taking into account the limited resources of the ministry and GFLK.
- Only designated fish factories will be authorized to accept landings of salmon, and fishers should be advised that landing of salmon at non-authorized factories is not permitted. Fish factories will report landings no less frequently than on a weekly basis;
  - Factory landings were not allowed in 2017.
- Supervisors at the large open air markets will report all salmon offered for sale on a weekly basis;
  - The effort to ensure proper reporting from open air markets continued, and a dialogue with responsible municipalities was maintained in 2017.

- Reports of all catches, including zero catch reports, will be required within 1 month of the end of the salmon fishing season at which time fishermen may apply for a license for the following season;
  - ✓ Most reports were received within the season.
  
- Failure to report catches will result in no license being issued for the following year(s), even in the case of zero catch;
  - This measure has not been implemented. Since the adoption of the multi-annual regulatory measures it has been reconsidered to be too controversial and too premature at this stage to deny a fisher a license.
  
- It will be a condition of the license that fishers should allow samplers to take samples of their catches upon request;
  - The license requirement was implemented before the 2015 season and remained in force in 2016 and 2017.
  
- Information will be provided to fishers and supervisors at open air markets about the sampling programme and the findings of the programme to date through the members' magazine of the Fishers and Hunters Organization (KNAPK) and press releases.
  - The NASCO brochure was issued with each license and forwarded to open air markets.

The Government of Greenland is pleased to present this report to our colleagues in the West Greenland Commission.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Best regards,



Emanuel Rosing