



**West Greenland Commission  
Inter-Sessional Meeting**

**WGCIS(16)4**

***Report on the Greenland Salmon Fishery in 2015***

Under the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Salmon at West Greenland for 2015, 2016 and 2017, WGC(15)21, Denmark (in respect of the Faroe Islands and Greenland) agreed to inform NASCO and, as appropriate, ICES in a timely manner of any modifications to the management of the West Greenland salmon fishery, of the outcome of the 2015, 2016 and 2017 fisheries and of progress with the implementation and effectiveness of its Updated Plan for Implementation of Monitoring and Control Measures in the Salmon Fishery at West Greenland, WGC(15)20, for annual review by the Commission.

Details of the proposed management measures for the 2015 fishery were issued to all delegates on 12 August and 14 October 2015. Attached is a report on the fishery and further information on progress in implementing the agreed monitoring and control measures in 2015 and details of plans for new measures in 2016.





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### **Status on the Salmon fishery in Greenland 2015**

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

### **Management measures implemented before the 2015 fishery**

As agreed at the Annual Meeting in Happy Valley, Greenland implemented as many of the measures agreed in the Plan for implementation of monitoring and control measures in the salmon fishery in Greenland as possible before the beginning of the fishery in 2015.

As during the previous regulatory measures the export ban on salmon continues.

The very first thing to be completed after the return from the Annual Meeting was an update of the Executive Order to include a shorter fishing season, a quota of 45 tonnes for the entire fishery, all segments included and to change the demand for reporting to in season, daily reporting or reporting every time the nets were mended. This entailed that the fishing season now runs from 15. August - 31. October or until the quota is exhausted.

Initially, the Government of Greenland decided to not to allow landings as they found it very important to ensure that private fishermen had a fair chance of fishing what they needed to sustain themselves. However, during the season they opened up for factory landings as they had a better view of the development of the fishery. This is the first time in Greenland that the private fishermen is restricted in their fishery and thus, the impact of this is something that have to be observed in order to ensure that people do not lose their ability to sustain themselves and their families.

The NASCO brochure on sampling which was approved by the West Greenland Commission at the Annual Meeting was issued together with the salmon licenses, forwarded to the open air markets and the samplers themselves had the brochures to hand out during the sampling. Furthermore, as agreed the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture made an authority approval letter for the samplers to prevent any trouble. A new condition in the licenses stating that fishermen should allow samplers to take samples of their catch was also implemented.

The Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK) increased their focus on the control of the salmon fishery and the wild life officers and landing officers all brought reporting templates with them to hand out to fishermen during their patrols and landing controls - thus, reminding people to report daily or every time they had mended their nets.

In addition, the Ministry and GFLK ran an extensive information campaign 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 fishermen. Furthermore, the Ministry published Press Releases every week stating how much of the quota had been fished, how much was left and reminding people to report.

This effort has increased the number of reports, especially from private fishermen which is very positive. GFLK has received 1161 catch reports of which 211 are from private, unlicensed fishermen. In addition, factory landing stations reported 66 landings of catches on a salmon license. Due to the efforts to increase reporting some catches were reported two times and GFLK has estimated that 80 of the daily catch reports of licensed fishermen were double counts.

The salmon fishery in Greenland (including East Greenland) was closed on October 23 after the quota was exhausted. However, unfortunately approximately three weeks after the closure of the fishery a municipality sent further reports received from fishermen. This meant that the quota uptake ended on 56,3 tonnes. 55,4 tonnes in West Greenland and 0,9 tonnes in East Greenland. (In Greenland it is one quota for both West and East Greenland).

However, a phone survey targeting holders of salmon licenses who had not reported any catches was conducted in February-March 2016. Out of a total of 158 persons, 105 were possible to interview, and 22 reported that they had caught salmon in 2015. The survey is currently in the process of being analysed by the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources. The phone survey resulted in additional reports of 1606 kg salmon catches, and 150 salmon (reported in numbers not in weight), which GFLK at an average fish weight of 3kg estimates to 450kg.

The corrected total quota uptake in 2015 after the phone survey is thus a total of 58,4 tonnes; 57,5 tonnes in West Greenland and 0,9 tonnes in East Greenland.

The fishermen is not to blame for this late reporting as their reports was made timely and within the season, however as they did not have emails they handed in their reports to the municipality. The municipality did not send the reports to GFLK before the end of the season. This was an unforeseen problem, which GFLK had not taken account for due to the extensive information campaign, it had not been anticipated that a municipality would not have sent the reports immediately.

However, this is a new initiative and everybody from fishermen to municipalities must get use to the new measures. This is not something that occurs in other fisheries, which are commercial

and thus, the factories report for the fishermen. It is a learning process for all involved. However, in the coming years the Ministry and GFLK will be focusing on ensuring that the municipalities report in a timely manner when reporting for the fishermen.

The phone survey, has shown an improvement in reporting and this is expected to continue in the coming years as the new initiatives is implemented and as licensing for all segments will enter into force. The Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture will continue to evaluate on the effect of the new initiatives and adjust them accordingly. However, it is also important to give the system and the fishermen time to get use to all these new regulations and management measures.

### **Management Measures to be Implemented before the 2016 fishery**

Thus, this first year of the new regulatory measure has given the GFLK and the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture many valuable lessons. Which also affect the measures and initiatives to be implemented in the spring of 2016.

- Implementation of licenses for all fishermen, including private
- Implementation of a unilateral catch limits, which will entail that any overharvest in one year will be reduced in the quota for the coming year. (This will entails that the quota for 2016 will be 31, 6 tonnes.)
- Implementation of better possibilities to report
- Increased information about the new reporting regime to the municipalities.
- A new Executive Order on reporting is being prepared and in the new order there will be a requirement to report on salmon by-catch on a number of fish- basis.

Most of these measures will require an update of the Executive Order and thus, a hearing of the stakeholders. Therefore, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture will begin this process in the coming months. However, the implementation of licenses to private fishermen will in addition to a change of the Executive Order also require an addition to the licenses system as Greenland has not issued licenses to private fishermen before. GFLK has already begun the work to develop new templates and segments for private fishermen in the fisheries database LULI.

### **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 Government of Greenland has worked very hard to implement as many of the measures and initiatives as possible before the fishery season in 2015 and have already made plans to implement the last initiatives before the 2016 fishery. It is very important to the Government of Greenland to live up to its obligations in NASCO and to continue its work during more than 20 years to rebuild the North Atlantic Salmon stock. The measures agreed to during the Intersessional Meeting and the Annual Meeting in the West Greenland Commission is very extensive and will for the first time limit the people of Greenland's right to fish for their own survival. It will require great efforts from the Government and the people of Greenland to implement these measures and to act by them. However, the Government of Greenland is committed to continue the 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.
- Unilateral catch limit, which ensures that any overharvest in one year is deduced in the following year.
- ✓ One quota for all fishermen was introduced in 2015- a quota of 45 tonnes was set.
- A unilateral catch limit is planned to be implemented in the spring of 2016.

The plan lays out the following measures to be implemented:

- All salmon fishermen will require a license and will be categorised as either licensed professional fisherman or licensed non-professional fishermen; only licensed professional fishermen will be authorised to sell salmon;
  - Only designated fish factories will be authorised to accept landings of salmon, and fishermen 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;
  - Supervisors at the large open air markets will report all salmon offered for sale on a weekly basis;
  - 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;
  - Failure to report catches as specified in (4) will result in no license being issued for the following year(s) even in the case of zero catch;
  - It will be a condition of the license that fishermen should allow samplers to take samples of their catches upon request; and
  - Information will be provided to fishermen and supervisors at open air markets about the sampling programme and the findings of the programme to date through the members' magazine of the Fishermen and Hunters Organization (KNAPK) and press releases.
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- The introduction of a license for all fishermen is planned to be introduced during the spring of 2016.
  - Only designated fish factories will be authorized to accept landings of salmon. The factories must report on a daily-basis according to the new Executive Order.
  - A process to agree this with the municipalities, who are responsible for the open air markets is underway.
  - A reporting requirement of no reporting equals no license in the following year will be implemented in 2016 - this includes the requirement of all catches to be reported within 1 month of the end of the season and at this time apply for a new license.
  - ✓ The license condition was implemented before the 2015 season.
  - ✓ The NASCO brochure was issued with each license and forwarded to open air markets.

The Government of Greenland is very pleased to present this progress to the other members of the West Greenland Commission and continues its work to improve the monitoring, control and management of the salmon fishery in Greenland even further.

In addition to the measures in the plan the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture changed the fishing season to 15. August - 31. October - a shortening of the season with 2 weeks.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff for additional information.

Best regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Emanuel Rosing', written in a cursive style.

Emanuel Rosing  
Director-general