



**West Greenland Commission  
Inter-Sessional Meeting**

**WGCIS(17)7**

***Report on the Greenland Salmon Fishery in 2016***





Members of West Greenland Commission  
NASCO

### **Status on the Salmon fishery in Greenland 2016**

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 2016 and the initiatives implemented from the Plan for implementation of monitoring and control measures in the salmon fishery in Greenland (WGCIS(15)5).

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Postboks 269  
3900 Nuuk  
Tlf. (+299) 34 50 00  
Fax (+299) 34 63 55  
E-mail: apnn@nanoq.gl  
www.naalakkersuisut.gl

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

Following overfishing in 2015, the quota was set at 32 tonnes for the entire fishery in 2016, all segments included.

The Executive Order to include a shorter fishing season still stands. Thus, as in 2015, the fishing season ran from 15 August – 31 October with the exemption that the quota would be exhausted earlier. This wasn't the case and the salmon fishery in Greenland (both East and West) was closed on 31 October. The quota uptake, based on received reports, ended at 27088 kg, of which roughly 95% was taken in West Greenland.

As during the previous regulatory measures the export ban on salmon continued. A new executive order on catch reporting was in force before the start of the season, which required salmon catches to be reported by count (number of fish) as well as weight. No factory landings were allowed in the fishery in 2016.

### **Reporting from fishermen**

It is compulsory for all salmon fishers to report daily or every time the nets are mended, which they can do directly to The Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK) or indirectly through municipalities. GFLK continued the increased focus on the control of the salmon fishery in 2016. 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.

As in 2015 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 fishermen. Furthermore, the Ministry published a report every week stating how much of the quota had been fished and how much was left.

This effort has sustained the relatively high number of reports received. GFLK received approximately 500 catch reports of which around 200 are from private, unlicensed fishermen. The problem of late reporting from one municipality in 2015 was not repeated in 2016.

### **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 as well as in 2016.

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 fishermen was introduced in 2015 – a quota of 45 tonnes was set. Again in 2016 one quota covering all segments was set.
  
- Unilateral catch limit, which ensures that any overharvest in one year is deduced in the following year.
  - ✓ A unilateral catch limit of 32 tonnes was decided in 2016 due to the overharvest in 2015 as a consequence of late incoming reports from one municipality.
  
- All salmon fishermen will require a license and will be categorized as either licensed professional fisherman or licensed non-professional/private fishermen; only licensed professional fishermen will be authorized to sell salmon.
  - Licensing of private/non-professional fishermen is not yet implemented. In 2016 a process of transferring the general task of issuing licenses to the inshore fishermen from the Government of Greenland to the municipalities commenced. This was due to a political demand and took a lot of effort which can be considered as one of the reasons why licenses for private salmon fishermen weren't implemented.
  
- Only designated fish factories will be authorized 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;
  - Factory landings were not allowed in 2016.

- 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 2016.
  
- In the 2015 status report it was announced that the Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting will work on better opportunities to report and along with that increasing information about the new reporting regime to the municipalities
  - GFLK has had a close dialogue with municipalities; however the standards of reporting from 2015 were carried over in 2016 and are now under evaluation.
  
- 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.
  
- It will be a condition of the license that fishermen 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.
  
- 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.
  - 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.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting and GFLK will continue the focus on salmon in 2017, and will work with municipalities to ensure that reporting is done in a timely manner.

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

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Esben Ehlers', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Esben Ehlers  
Acting Head of Delegation