



West Greenland Commission

2021 Report on the Salmon Fishery in Greenland

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Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting

NAALAKKERSUISUT
GOVERNMENT OF GREENLAND



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MINISTRY OF FISHERIES AND HUNTING

Introduction

According to the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for fishing for salmon at West Greenland in 2021 (WGC(21)18) Greenland agrees to, in a timely manner, inform NASCO and, as appropriate, ICES, of improvements of the monitoring, management, control and surveillance or any modification to the management of the Atlantic salmon fishery and to provide an annual report on the outcome of the fishery.

This report outlines the outcome of the 2021 salmon fishery in Greenland, including East Greenland and the modifications that the Government of Greenland has made to the management and monitoring, control and surveillance.

Subsistence Fishery

It is important to have in mind that the salmon fishery in Greenland is a subsistence/internal-use fishery and not by any means a commercial fishery.

It is vital to Naalakkersuisut, the Government of Greenland, that all people have the right to provide for themselves and their families. This is an essential part of the life and culture in Greenland.

Management Plan and new Executive Order

In 2021, a Management Plan was for the first time introduced for the Salmon fishery and on the basis of the changes in the management plan, the executive order was revised. One of the new regulatory measures was that the time for reporting 0-catch was reduced from 30 days to 14 days. The executive order has been shared with the West Greenland Commission and will not be further outlined here.

The Management Plan has maintained the regulatory measures already in place for the fishery, but it has also introduced some new measures, including the establishment of 3 management areas with separate quotas and fishing seasons.

The Management Plan was fully implemented before the fishing season began. Therefore, fishers had to indicate in their application to get a license, which management area they wanted to fish in. This created a little confusion for some but in general people have received the management plan positively.

It is the view of the Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting that the real effect of the introduction of the management will not be seen until it has been in place for more fishing seasons but that in general it has improved the management of the salmon fishery.

Implementation of the Regulatory Measure 2021

(1) As a new and improved management measure, a management plan and new executive order was implemented in 2021.

(a) As according to the management plan the fishing season is as follows:

- Southwest: 1/8 – 30/9
- Northwest: 1/9 – 31/10
- East: 15/8 – 15/10

(b) Legal requirement in Executive Order to report every time the net is tended. Legal requirement to report 0-catch. An online reporting option was introduced in 2020 and continued in 2021. Data collected in GFLKs database for monitoring of quota-uptake. Continued radio campaign about reporting.

(c) Since 2018 it has been a legal requirement to have a license in order to participate in the salmon fishery.

(d) Since 2018 it has been illegal to fish without a license and if fishers do not report to GFLK, they will not be issued a license for the following year's fishery. This is ensured via the GFLK database. Legal requirement to report 0-catch with 14 day of closing of the fishery.

(e) According to the 1996 Fisheries Act only professional fishermen are allowed to sell their catch.

(2) Since 2015, it has been a condition of the license to allow samplers to sample their catch.

(3) (a) Since 1998, there has been an export ban on salmon in Greenland. (b) Since 2015, it has been prohibited to land salmon to the fish processing factories.

(4) The TAC for West Greenland was set at 27 tonnes in 2021. According to the management plan the 27 tonnes was divided into quota for the two management areas in West Greenland.

(5) GFLK collects and registers catch data on a daily basis. The quota uptake is published on GFLKs website every week. Greenland is reporting back to the West Greenland Commission with this report.

(6) Greenland has informed the West Greenland Commission on the new management plan and executive in a timely manner. Indeed, Greenland has shared drafts with the WGC and continuously informed about the progression of the work. Below an overview of the 2021 fishery is outlined.

The 2021 Fishing Season

In line with the *Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure*, the export ban continues to be in place and there were still no landings or sale of Atlantic salmon to fish processing factories allowed. An overview of opening and closure of the salmon fishery, the quota and quota uptake per management area and segment is summarized in table 1 and 2.

Table 1. Opening, closure, quota and quota uptake per management area and segment 2021.								
Management Area	Opening	Closure pr. segment		Quota per segment (tonnes)		Catch per segment (tonnes)		Total quota uptake (tonnes)
		Northwest	1/9	Professional	22/9	Professional	7.56	
Recreational	1/10			Recreational	3.24	Recreational	3.26	
Southwest	1/8	Professional	15/9	Professional	11.34	Professional	14.95	20.85
		Recreational	22/9	Recreational	4.86	Recreational	5.90	
East	15/8	Professional	15/10	Professional	1.5	Professional	0.45	1.01
		Recreational	15/10	Recreational	1.5	Recreational	0.56	

Table 2. Total quota uptake West Greenland 2021.	
Management Area	Quota Uptake (tonnes)
Northwest	19.11
Southwest	20.85
Total quota uptake	39.97

Catch reports during the fishing season

In 2020, GFLK introduced an online reporting system through the public citizen website; Sullissivk.gl, in order to improve the access for reporting for the fishermen. The solution has been enhanced during 2021 with personal login, to improve data quality.

In 2020 catch reports were received at GFLK with a delay of approximately 8 days from the catch of the fish until the reports was registered at GFLK. In 2021, this delay has significantly increased compared to 2020, with an average delay of approximately 12 days from catch till registration on reports with catches. Multiple factors may be due to this development such as the implementation of new management plan. The salmon fishery undertook several significant changes to comply with the new management plan and this could have affected the fishermen.

Figure 1 illustrates the quota uptake of salmon over time, after the opening of the fishery on August 1st.

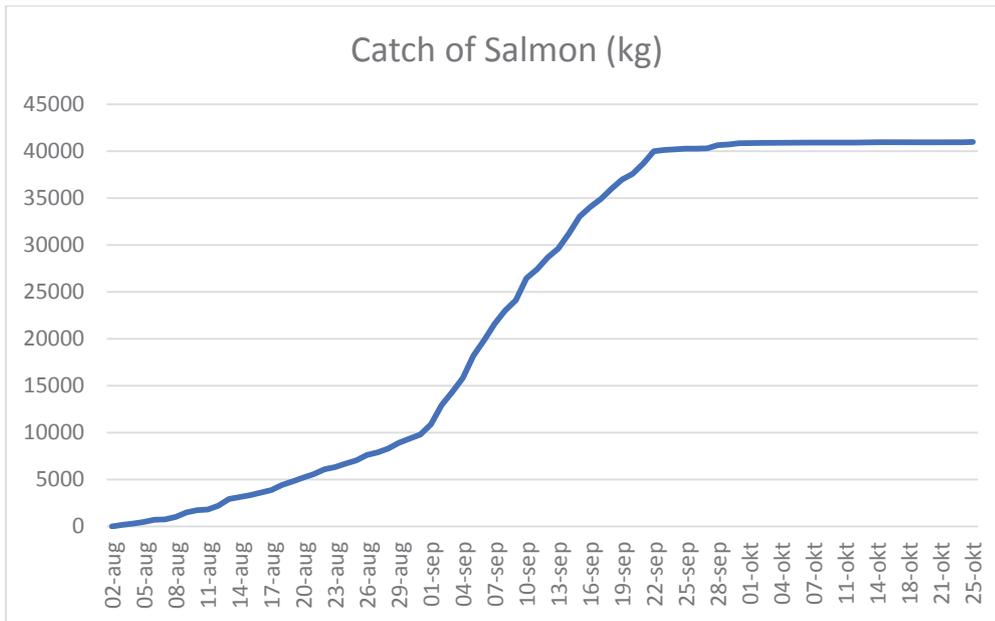


Figure 1. Catches of salmon (in kilograms) caught during the season.

Licenses and catch reports

In the following paragraph, a detailed description of the reporting behavior of licenses holders and catch reports will be provided. In order to have an overview of the catch reports, the results in table 1 are divided into three groups; (1) catch reports received within season, (2) catch reports received between time of closure and last date of reporting, and (3) catch reports received after last date of reporting. The same grouping is used in table 2, which describes the results on the level of license holders rather than catch reports.

A total of 1849 catch reports has been received by the GFLK (table 1), with the majority of reports received during the fishing season (61 %). 347 catch reports were 0-catch reports, *i.e.* a report of no caught salmon, corresponding to 19 % of the total reports received (table 3). 78 % of the 0-catch reports were received timely, and a smaller part of the 0-catch reports was received late (22 %).

8 % reports were received late however, it is important to note that the deadline for reporting in 2021 has been significant reduced compared to 2020. In 2020 the final date for reporting was 20th of October, but in 2021 the deadline is 14 days after closure of the individual management area. The increase in late reports is therefore expected.

Of the reports with catch 5 % was reported late which is in line with the overall development in late reports during 2021 and as well expected, taking into consideration the new reporting deadline. In 2020 2 % of reports with catch were reported late.

Table 3. Catch reports	Count	Percentage
Overview		
<i>Catch reports received within the season</i>	1126	61 %
<i>Catch reports received between time of closure and last date of reporting</i>	569	31 %
<i>Catch reports received after last date of reporting</i>	154	8 %
<i>Total number of catch reports received (incl. 0-catch reports)</i>	1849	100 %
Catch reports with > 0 catches		
<i>Catch reports received within the season</i>	999	67 %
<i>Catch reports received between time of closure and last date of reporting</i>	426	28 %
<i>Catch reports received after last date of reporting</i>	77	5 %
<i>Total number of catch reports</i>	1502	81 % ¹
Catch reports with 0-catches		
<i>Catch reports received within the season</i>	127	37 %
<i>Catch reports received between time of closure and last date of reporting</i>	143	41 %
<i>Catch reports received after last date of reporting</i>	77	22 %
<i>Total of number of 0-catch reports</i>	347	19 % ¹

¹percent of the total number of catch reports of 1849.

The tables represent the 6 different sub-groups; professional and private in Northwest, Southwest and East with the individual fishing seasons, all calculated respectively and summarized.

Table 4. Overview of licenses in the salmon fishery in 2020	Count	Percentage
Number of licenses issued in total		
- <i>Professional</i>	384	40 %
- <i>Private</i>	586	60 %
- <i>Total</i>	970	100 %
Overview:		
<i>Number of license holders reporting in total</i>	674	70 %
<i>License holders not reporting</i>	296	30 %
<i>License holders only reporting 0-catches</i>	249	26 %

<i>License holders reporting catches > 0 kg</i>	425	44 %
<i>License holders reporting within season</i>		
<i>Reports with catch > 0 kg</i>	269	40 % ²
<i>Reports with 0-catch</i>	65	10 % ²
<i>License holders reporting between time of closure and last date of reporting</i>		
<i>Reports with catch > 0 kg</i>	153	23 % ²
<i>Reports with 0-catch</i>	114	17 % ²
<i>License holders reporting after last date of reporting</i>		
<i>Reports with catch > 0 kg</i>	40	6 % ²
<i>Reports with 0-catch</i>	74	11 % ²
² Percentage of license holders that did report. Please note, that a license holder can send multiple catch reports. The same license holder can therefore be included in multiple buckets.		

Overall, the reporting has not been satisfying in 2021 with a reporting percentage of 70 % and the majority of license holders reporting within the season (50 %) (table 4). 154 catch reports were reported late, which is expected because the deadline has been changed to 14 days after fishery closure of the individual management area. However, the increase of delay in reporting as well as increase of license holders who did not report is not satisfactory. This might be contributed to the fact that a larger number of new license holders has receive a license this year and that they need to learn the system, which is different from other fisheries. As according to the regulation, they will not receive a license for 2022.

Summary of 2019-2021

A brief summary of the last three years is given in table 5, showing a decrease in reporting and increase in quota uptake.

Table 5. Summary of the fishery in 2019-2021			
<i>Year</i>	2019	2020	2021
<i>Reporting percentage</i>	81.6 %	81.4 %	69.5 %
<i>Quota uptake (tonnes)</i>	28.8	30.7	39.97

Please note that there is an uncertainty in the final quota uptake at approx. +-250 kg, due to changes in the calculations for the quota uptake. The Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting is currently working on verification of the numbers. The West Greenland Commission will be informed immediately if any changes to the here above reported numbers are made.