

West Greenland Commission

WGC(03)5

The 2002 Fishery at West Greenland

(Tabled by Denmark (in respect of Faroe Islands and Greenland))

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At the Annual Meeting of NASCO in June 2002 the West Greenland Commission agreed upon an *Ad hoc* Management Programme for the 2002 Fishery at West Greenland (WGC(02)13). In accordance with the 2002 *Ad hoc* Management Programme the quotas available would have been between 20 and 55 tonnes of commercial landings to fishing plants during up to two harvest periods, depending on the observed commercial CPUE during the first harvest period.

Shortly before the opening date of the 2002 fishing season, the Organisation for Fishermen and Hunters in Greenland (KNAPK) and the North Atlantic Salmon Fund (NASF) came to an agreement to suspend all commercial fishing for Atlantic salmon with the purpose of supplying fishing plants, factories, shops, grocers, smokehouses and marketing associations or exporting the catch.

Upon a clear request from KNAPK to suspend all commercial fishing for Atlantic salmon with the purpose of supplying fishing plants, the Greenland Home Rule Government decided to set the national quota for commercial landings to fishing plants of Atlantic salmon to 0 tonnes for 2002, and prohibited exports of Atlantic salmon from Greenland in 2002. However, it still allowed a fishery for local sales to the open markets, hospitals, restaurants, etc. and allowed a fishery for private consumption – the so-called subsistence fishery.

This subsistence fishery of Atlantic salmon was opened on Monday 12 August 2002, and the fishing season was open until the end of the year 2002.

During the 2002 fishery at West Greenland, 2.6 tonnes were reported caught for private consumption and 6.4 tonnes were reported sold at local markets, hotels, institutions etc.: in total a subsistence fishery of Atlantic salmon of approximately 9 metric tonnes in 2002.

The fishery for Atlantic salmon in 2002 at West Greenland was regulated in Greenland Home Rule Executive Order No. 21 of 10 August 2002 on Salmon Fishing. This Executive Order distinguishes between the fishery of Atlantic salmon in Greenland for commercial landings to fish plants, the subsistence fishery by residents of Greenland, and finally rod fishery by tourists (non-residents).

All fishermen who wish to sell Atlantic salmon at local markets, hotels, etc. must have a licence issued by the Greenland Fisheries Licence Control (GFLK). In total 93 licences for Atlantic salmon fishing were issued to professional fishermen, but only a total of 24 licences was reported active.

All catches of Atlantic salmon must be reported to GFLK.

Catches are landed to local markets, sold privately or kept for private consumption. Due to this, any unreported catches will go under the category of "sustainable fishery" and are thereby considered legal. However, in 2002 there were two incidents of professional fishermen reporting sale of Atlantic salmon without having any licence. These two cases are still under administrative inquiry. Due to the scattered nature of the fishery, recordings of landings are considered incomplete.

Wildlife and Fisheries Officers of GFLK make random checks at local markets in towns and settlements along the West coast of Greenland. GFLK officers have made random checks at hotels, restaurants, butchers shops, hospitals and schools in various towns in order to compare purchases of salmon with reported catches.

In 2002 neither the Wildlife and Fisheries Officers of GFLK nor the fisheries inspection vessels of the Royal Danish Navy have reported any incidents of illegal fishing for Atlantic salmon in Greenland.

To avoid the presumed underreporting of the catches for private consumption and for local open markets, more information on the rules and procedures of salmon fishing has been given to fishermen and the municipalities.