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Greenland Salmon Stressor Analysis

THE KAPISILLIT SALMON - ONLY KNOWN SPAWNING POPULATION IN GREENLAND



Photo: Rasmus Nygaard



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Kapisillit river flows into Nuup Kangerlua fiord – the stock is genetically distinct from other North Atlantic salmon.





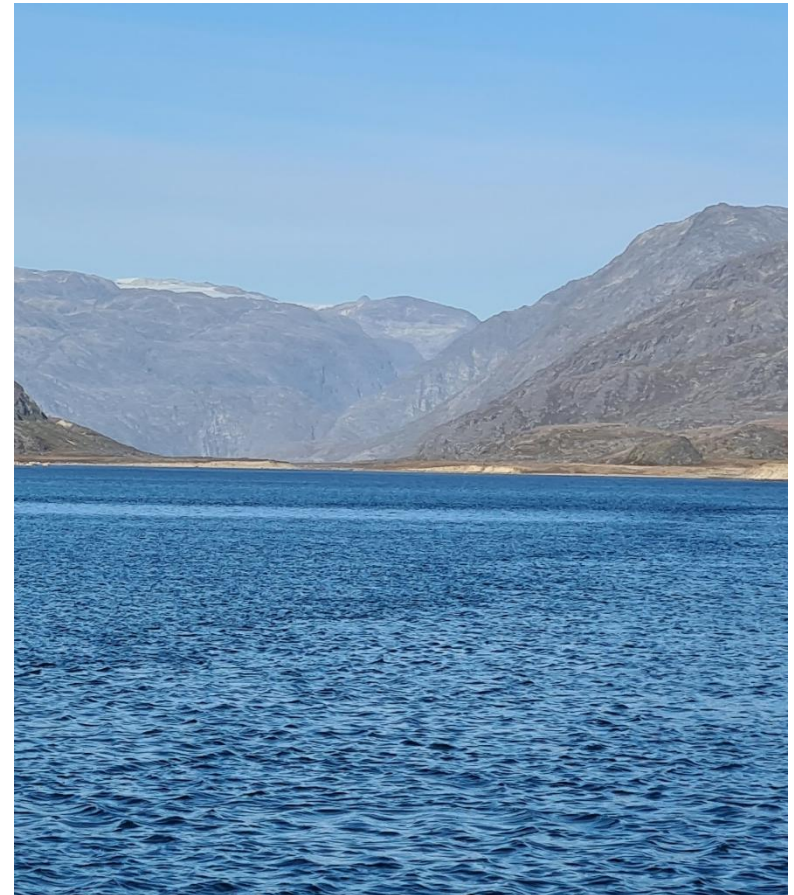
Key Threats

1. Fishing Pressure

- Unlicensed and underreported fishing.
- Shift in population structure (more grilse, fewer MSW salmon) suggests overfishing.
- Incomplete catch data and limited monitoring makes it difficult to understand the impact of current fishing practices.

2. Climate Change

- Warmer water temperatures.
- Droughts reducing river flow and spawning success.
- Climate change also affect fishery in Greenland varmer sea entails absence of salmon





Key Threats

3. Invasive Species

- Pink salmon (*Oncorhynchus gorbuscha*) detected in 2021, though not in 2023.
- Knowledge gaps remains on the registration of pink salmon in Greenland – and Kapisillit as well as on the impact of the river.



Foto Pink Salmon: Kunuk Abelsen from East Greenland



What did we learn?

➤ Strengths:

- No dams or aquaculture.
- High water quality due to potable water protection.
- No known widespread diseases.

➤ Needs:

- Improved scientific information and collection of data
- Improved data collection both catch statistics and on pink salmon
- More targeted regulation and monitoring of the fisheries in the River
- Exploring possibilities of mitigating effects of climate change
- User knowledge and stakeholder engagement



Foto: Knud Kirkensgaard vandkraftsdæmning i Buksefjorden