



WGCIS(26)11

# The 2025 salmon fishing season

West Greenland Commission Inter sessional





# Implementation of the Regulatory Measure WGC(22)10

- For the 2025 salmon season, Greenland has maintained the management plan for Atlantic Salmon, as well as the already existing measures for monitoring, management, control and surveillance.
- 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
- The 2025 fishing season was kept within the period between August and November, but one segment: NW closed 16/11.



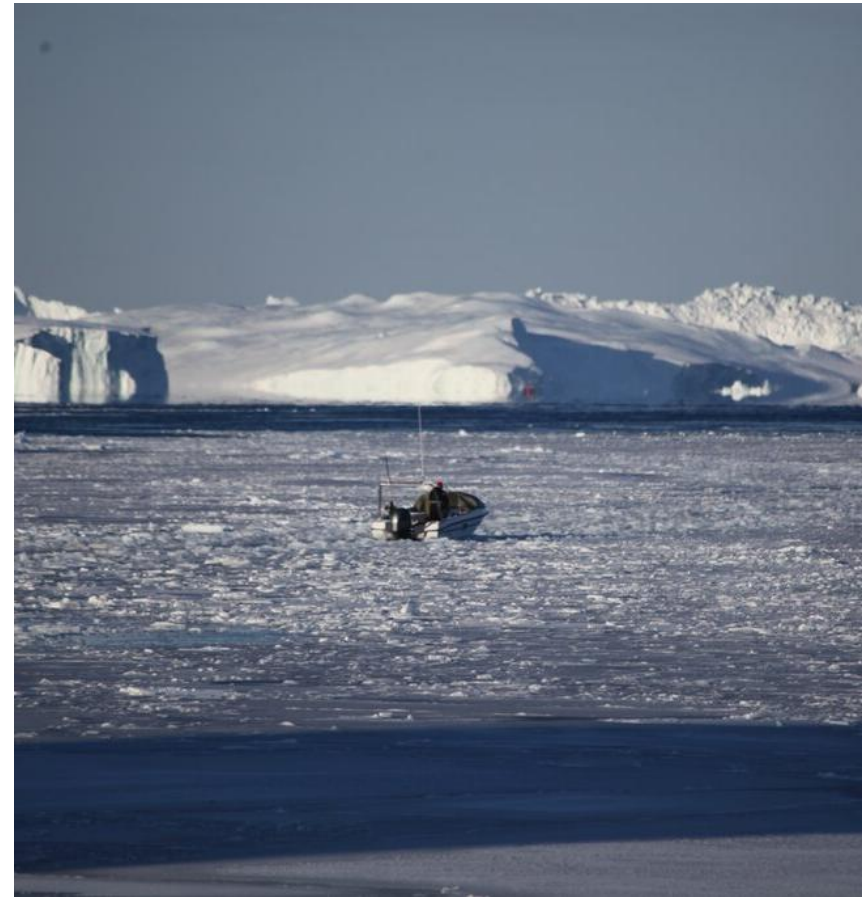
## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- Legal requirement in the 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 has been used since then.
- Contact with the municipalities before and during the fishing season in relation to the importance of effective disclosure of salmon reports.
- Data collected in GFJKs database for monitoring of quota-uptake.
- Radio speak spots about reporting were aired.
- Collaboration with NASF and ASF to enhance catch reporting. Fishers who submit their reports during the season have the chance to win prizes.
  - Winners for the prizes were found last week.



## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- Since 2018 it has been a legal requirement to have a license to participate in the salmon fishery.
- Since 2018 it has been illegal to fish without a license.
- Only professional fishermen are allowed to sell their catch.





## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- Since 1998, there has been an export ban on salmon in Greenland.
- Since 2015, it has been prohibited to land salmon to the fish processing factories.
- The TAC for West Greenland was set at 27 tons in 2025. According to the management plan the 27 tonnes were divided into quota for the two management areas in West Greenland.





## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- GFJK collects and registers catch data daily.
- The quota uptake is published on GFJK's website every week.
- If fishers do not report to GFJK, they will not be issued a license for the following year's fishery. This is automatically ensured via the GFJK database. It is a legal requirement to report 0-catch within 14 days of closing the fishery.





## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- Greenland has continued to use initiatives to increase reporting of license holders.
- To have the newest contact information, license holders are permitted to state their phone number and/or email when applying for a salmon license.
- During the salmon season, radio campaigns were transmitted daily, reminding people to report their catches.
- Ads was made for both national newspapers with a link to the online reporting website and a continuous ad on their website with direct links to the reporting site was shown throughout the season.
- Text messages were not sent to license-holders as in previous years.



## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- To provide information about reporting during the fishing season, a national radio speak was aired daily to remind license holders to report.
- Ads on the national newspaper Sermitsiaq.AG's online website, with a link to the reporting website continued in 2025.
- The online ads were supplemented by ads in both national weekly papers, Sermitsiaq, AG and their MOTOORI magazine.



# Sermitsiaq.AG national website

## Screen image 11th of August



https://www.sermitsiaq.ag

KL / DK 🔍

**SERMITSIAQ** [Køb abonnement](#) [Log ind](#) ☰

### KAPSIINNIARNERIT NALUNAARUTIGISSAVAT

Qassusiareemivit kingorna tamatigut nalunaaruteqartassaait. Pisaqarsimanngikkaluaruit aamma nalunaaruteqassaait kapisilinnisimanginnerilluunniit aamma nalunaarutigisussaavat. Nalunaaruteqanngikkuit 2026-mi kapisilinniarnissamat akuersissummik pisinnaangilatit. Kapisilittatit nalunaarutigikkit (sullissivik.gl)

### RAPPORTER DIN LAKSEFANGST

Du skal rapportere hver gang du røgter dit garn. Rapportere også hvis du ikke fanger noget eller ikke har fisket efter laks. Hvis du ikke rapporterer, kan du ikke få licens til laks i 2026. Rapportere din laksefangst her: Rapportere din laksefangst (sullissivik.gl)

### suluk

Timmisartumi ilaasunut nittarsaasinissamik ukioq manna periarfissaq kingulleq

Årets sidste chance for at lande i stolelommen

annoncer@sermitsiaq.gl

**Naalakkersuisut vil**

**Trafiksituationen kritisk i**



# Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

When an area is closed, a press release is issued on the government's official and the Greenland Fisheries and Hunting Control Authorities website and social media. The press releases also contain information about the reporting deadline.



Phone interviews with non-reporters were conducted in January 2026, to review the reasons for non-reporting.



The changes implemented in 2023 and 2024 continued in 2025 with inclusion of report date and not only a date for when reports are entered into the system (loading date).



## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- The GFJK will now present:
- Catch report during the season.
- Licenses and catch reports.





## Interviews with non-reporters

- In January 2026, 30 individuals were interviewed.
- The results showed that 10% of respondents were unaware that failing to report would prevent them from obtaining a new license the following year.
- 50% stated that they had simply forgotten to submit their reports, while 10% cited a lack of time as the reason. The remaining 30% provided other explanations.
- 80% of respondents reported that they had not caught any salmon, which is common among those who do not submit reports. Mostly they had not any fishing.
- 43% had seen or heard media announcements regarding the closure of the fishing season.
- Overall, most participants were satisfied with the current system of reminding them to report catches.



## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- In 2024, we regulated NW-P, SW-P fishery well based on % quota uptake and reporting lag monitoring. We continued the action in 2025. As we mentioned last year the tasks are arduous as the monitoring ran continuously until the closure decision and it includes many telephone calls to the fishermen. Those efforts are done upon our daily operation as usual which includes finishing reports loading every workday.
- We unfortunately did not have the capacity to send out SMS this year due to budget limitations.
- We still made telephone calls to fisherman when we received unsatisfied or suspicious reports
- No capacity to call those 'biggest fishermen' due to understaffing during the season. Those two can be big factors explaining why we experienced larger reporting lag this year than 2024.



## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- In 2024 the reporting lag was around 15% across the season.
- In 2025 NW-P reporting lag is around 15-25%.
- This is largely because some reports (especially with big catches) are reported too late and we have no chance to acknowledge them.
- According to our monitoring, we closed the NW-P fishery when the quota uptake % reached around 80%, however, due to the unpredicted reporting delay, the overfishing is around 20%. We used the similar method to SW-P and SW-R and it worked pretty well.
- From our statistics, we can still see very large numbers reported within one single report, which we assume some of them contain several catches from several gears, probably from several days.
- This is of course contrary to what the executive orders demand: one needs to report one's catch every time one tends gear. However, such requirements is not easy to carry out in reality, and many times fishermen continue to report as they were used to.



## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- In conclusion, in 2025 there was minor overfishing in NW-P while the NW-R was not exhausted.
- The other quotas have been consumed as much as possible with reasonable regulatory methods. We have continued large parts of our technical and administrative measures before and during the fishery season, except for sending text messages. We might consider automatic loading again in 2026 fishery, that saved time and energy can be used to, among others, the further communication with the fishermen. However, we should also be aware of the cost of such IT development.





# Summary of 2025 season

- The 2025 salmon fishery in Greenland was conducted in accordance with the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure WGC(22)10 and continued to operate exclusively as a subsistence and internal-use fishery. The Government of Greenland maintained the established management framework, including licensing requirements, monitoring procedures, and quota-based regulation across the three management areas.
- A total of 753 licenses were issued in 2025, representing a 6.8% increase compared to the previous year. Of these, 70.9% of license holders submitted reports, indicating a slight decline from the reporting level observed in 2024. In total, 1,065 catch reports were received compared to 1,477 catch reports the previous season. The proportion of reports received within the fishing season decreased to 68%, compared to 82% in 2024. The average reporting delay increased to 10 days, a change attributed partly to the discontinuation of text-message reminders owing to administrative constraints.



## Implementation of the Regulatory Measure

- Interviews conducted with non-reporting license holders in January 2026 revealed that the majority had not caught any salmon, while others cited forgetfulness and lack of time for failing to report.
- The total quota uptake for West Greenland reached 28.62 tonnes, slightly exceeding the established Total Allowable Catch (TAC) of 27 tonnes. This overrun was primarily the result of late reporting in the Northwest professional segment, where a number of catches were submitted after the fishery had been closed. Despite this, the Northwest recreational segment remained well below its allocated quota, partially offsetting the overharvest. Management actions in the Southwest segments were implemented effectively, with uptake remaining within acceptable bounds.



- Throughout the season, the Greenland Fisheries and Hunting Control Authority (GFJK) continued daily monitoring of reporting data, maintained contact with municipalities, and applied the regulatory principle of closing fisheries when registered catches approached 49% of the TAC.
- Operational challenges persisted due to the continued prevalence of combined or “batch” reports that encompass multiple fishing events, despite legal requirements to report each tending of gear individually.
- In summary, the 2025 season was characterized by reduced reporting performance, increased reporting delays, and limited administrative capacity for outreach and follow-up due to understaffing during the season. These factors contributed to reduced predictability in quota uptake, particularly in the Northwest professional fishery. The effect of the text messages showed clearly in the 2025 fishing season and therefore, it will be reinstated in 2026. Consideration may also be given to invest in improving automated reporting tools to support timely reporting and strengthening quota management in future seasons.



# Qujanaq

