



West Greenland Commission

WGC(19)04

Report on the Greenland Salmon Fishery in 2018



Members of West Greenland Commission
NASCO

Status on the Salmon fishery in Greenland 2018

According to the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for fishing for salmon at West Greenland in 2018, 2019 and 2020 (WGC(18)11) Greenland should report on its fisheries and changes to its management regime to the West Greenland Commission. Hence the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture is forwarding this status report concerning the fishery in 2018 and the initiatives implemented from the Plan for implementation of monitoring and control measures in the salmon fishery in Greenland (WGCIS(15)5).

The quota was set at 30 tonnes for the entire fishery in 2018, all segments included, in accordance with the Multi-Annual Regulatory Measure for Fishing for Salmon at West Greenland. No factory landings were allowed in the fishery in 2018.

A new Executive Order for fishery after salmon came into force in 2018 in order to implement the agreed regulatory measures (WGC(18)11) such as the requirement for all segments to hold licenses, 0-catch reporting requirements and the requirement for reporting in order to get a license the following year. As in 2015-2017, the fishing season ran from 15 August – 31 October with the exemption that the quota would be exhausted earlier. This was not the case and the salmon fishery in Greenland (both East and West) closed on 31 October. The quota uptake, based on received reports, ended at 26,8 tonnes at the time of closure on 31 October.

As during the previous regulatory measures the export ban on salmon continued. The executive order on catch reporting, which was in force before the start of the last season, and which required salmon catches to be reported by count (number of fish) as well as weight was still in place.

Reporting from fishers

It is compulsory for all salmon fishers to report daily or every time the nets are mended. This can be done directly to the Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority (GFLK) or indirectly through municipalities. GFLK continued its increased focus on the control of the salmon fishery in 2018, as they did 2015-2017. The wildlife officers and landing officers all brought reporting templates with them to hand out to fishers during their patrols and landing controls – thus, reminding people to report daily or every time they had mended their nets. It cannot be understated that the workload put on GFLK in connection with the regulatory measures for the salmon fishery is considered immense.

As in 2015-2017, 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 fishers. 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 together with a new initiative undertaken by the Ministry and GFLK.

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Sags nr. 2019-862
Akt nr.

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

The new initiative has been undertaken as part of the implementation of the new Executive Order, where a letter was forwarded to fishers that held a license in 2018, but had not reported by the acquired timeline. The letter outlines the legal requirement to report ones catches as well as the new requirements of 0-catch reporting and that none-reporting will affect the issuance of licenses. The reporting template and means of reporting was outlined together with the address, mail and fax of GFLK. In addition, a Press Release Minister on the importance of reporting and the consequence of non-reporting was publish after the letters had been send out. This resulted in a number of reports being submitted after the end of the fishery – as well as a number of fishermen informing that they had reported but still received a letter. The issue turned out to be a number of factors: a) a number of fishermen without digital skills or tools had reported in paper form to their municipal office, but the municipalities had not forwarded the reports to GFLK and b) a number of reports were wrongly registered in GFLK.

The final quota uptake thus ended up being 40,3 tonnes.

With this in mind, GFLK, the Ministry of Fisheries, Hunting and Agriculture and the fisheries clerks in the municipalities will evaluate and follow up on this first year of the new regime in order improve the regime and ensure better reporting in the 2019 fishing season.

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 effort 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, 2016, 2017 and 2018.

It is a pleasure for the Government of Greenland to inform the West Greenland Commission that all measures and initiatives now has been introduced and implemented. With the adoption of the 2018 Executive Order on Salmon fishery, the Government of Greenland has, after intensive and immense effort, implemented the final measures as agreed in the Plan for implementation of monitoring and control measures in the salmon fishery in Greenland (WGCIS(15)5). The Government continues its commitment to ensure the full implementation and follow-up of these measures.

Below is given a status 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 fishers, professional and private alike was introduced in 2015 – in 2018, a collective quota of 30 tonnes was set.

- All salmon fishers will require a license and will be categorized as either licensed professional fisher or licensed non-professional/private fisher; only licensed professional fishers will be authorized to sell salmon.
 - ✓ After an immense work by the Ministry and GFLK, licensing for private fishermen was introduced in 2018. This entails that both professional and private fishermen now have to be licensed in order to fish for salmon.

- Only designated fish factories will be authorized to accept landings of salmon, and fishers 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 has not been allowed since 2015.

- 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 2018.

- 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. GFLK and the Ministry forwarded letters to the fishermen who did not report, reminding them to report, even 0-catches, as according to the new Executive Order and attached the reporting schedule with a pre-paid reply-envelope.

- 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 was implemented with the 2018 Executive Order, which entails that non-reporting in 2018 will result in no license being issued in 2019.

- It will be a condition of the license that fishers should allow samplers to take samples of their catches upon request;
 - ✓ The license requirement was implemented before the 2015 season and remains in force.

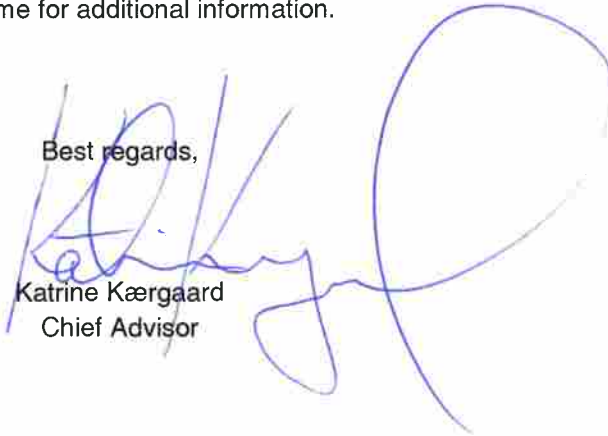
- Information will be provided to fishers and supervisors at open air markets about the sampling programme and the findings of the programme to date through the members' magazine of the Fishers and Hunters Organization (KNAPK) and press releases.
 - ✓ The NASCO brochure is issued with each license and forwarded to open air markets.

The Government of Greenland is pleased to present this report to our colleagues in the West Greenland Commission. As in previous years, we continue to improve our management, reporting, monitoring, control and surveillance – and we continue to evaluate our initiatives in order to improve and developed them.

Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information.

Best regards,

Katrine Kærgaard
Chief Advisor

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned to the right of the typed name and title.