

Update

10 March 2025

 SALMON WATCH IRELAND
"Dedicated to the restoration of salmon abundance in Ireland"

Latest Podcast

"Ireland on the Fly"

Salmon Watch Ireland



John Murphy tells us what can be done to counter the increasing threat of salmon farms to the environment and our wild fish.

Salmon Watch Ireland

Report on Greenland Fishery 2024

A summary of the 2024 salmon fishery in Greenland and a look at the scientific report of the sampling program in 2022 (Latest). It is obvious that the proportion of European fish is certainly in decline and is reflected in very poor spring salmon returns to Ireland over recent years. It will be interesting to note this year's spring fishery in Ireland and UK to see if the low catch in Greenland is reflective of a continued decline in both countries.

2024 Salmon Fishing Season Overview

The 2024 salmon fishing season in Greenland, managed by the Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting in Greenland, has concluded with notable developments in monitoring, management, and compliance with regulatory measures. This year's fishery was characterized by a lower-than-usual catch volume, with the total quota uptake reaching 20.79 tons, a significant decrease from previous years.

Key Highlights from the 2024 Season:

Quota and Catch Reports:

The total salmon quota for West Greenland was set at 27 tons.

The total recorded catch was 20.79 tons, with 6.96 tons from the Northwest region and 12.88 tons from the Southwest.

The fishery experienced a slower season, with reports of lower water purity, increased jellyfish presence, and salmon staying further offshore.

The average weight of salmon caught varied but was recorded between 2-5 kg per fish, depending on the region.

Catch data indicated a balanced mix of male and female salmon, with no significant skew in sex distribution observed during the season.

Regulatory Measures and Compliance:

The 2024 season followed the regulatory measure (WGC (22)10), ensuring strict monitoring and compliance.

The fishery was closed when registered catches reached 49% of the total allowable catch (TAC), preventing overfishing.

Illegal Fishing Scandal on the East Coast Rivers

We have been alerted to serious issues regarding illegal fisheries, by an anonymous source, taking place on a number of important sea trout and salmon rivers in the East of the country.

The perpetrators appear to be able to intimidate local communities and work somewhat unhindered by fishery authorities or Gardai.

Our information suggests that these individuals are highly organized and have been illegally fishing over a considerable period.

This cannot continue and we will be making strong representations to Inland Fisheries Ireland on the matter to have the issue investigated and verified.

We have photographic evidence which we will turn over to Inland Fisheries Ireland

The reporting system was improved, introducing a 'reporting date' to minimize delays, reducing the reporting lag to just 5 days from 14 days in 2023.

Licenses and Reporting Improvements:

808 fishing licenses were issued in 2024, a slight increase from the previous year.

79% of license holders submitted reports, a slight decrease from 82.3% in 2023.

Significant improvements in in-season reporting: 82% of reports were submitted within the season compared to only 44.6% in 2023.

A total of 4,420 text reminders were sent to license holders, contributing to better compliance.

Interviews with non-reporters:

A post-season survey of non-reporters found that:

36% were unaware that non-reporting would affect their ability to obtain a license the following year.

37% had simply forgotten to submit their reports.

88% of non-reporters had not caught any salmon.

Insights from the NOAA 2022 Salmon Fishery Report

To provide additional context for the salmon fishery in Greenland, the NOAA Report on the 2022 Salmon Fishery in West Greenland offers insights into historical trends and biological characteristics:

Total reported landings in 2022: 29.8 metric tons, with 93.7% of salmon from North American origin and 6.3% from European origin.

Average weight and length:

North American 1SW salmon: 2.79 kg, 63.9 cm.

European 1SW salmon: 2.73 kg, 62.4 cm.



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Ireland**



Sex Distribution:

The 2022 study found a near equal distribution of male and female salmon, with no significant deviation in sex ratios across different regions.

Fishery Management & Sampling:

The International Sampling Program collected biological samples from five communities along Greenland’s coast.

1,170 salmon were observed, and 672 fish were sampled for genetic stock identification.

Key Observations & Trends:

A historical decline in salmon size from 1969-1995, but recent stabilization.

Majority of North American-origin salmon came from Gaspé Peninsula, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Labrador South.

The study also analyzed sea lice prevalence and pollutants affecting salmon health.

Read both reports here:

**[Read the Full Report NOAA Here](#)
Sampling 2022**

**[Ministry of Fisheries and Hunting](#)
Fishing Report 2024**