# The International Sampling Program: Continent of Origin and Biological Characteristics of Atlantic Salmon Collected at West Greenland in 2015 

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#### Abstract

An Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) mixed-stock fishery operating from August through October exists off the western coast of Greenland and primarily harvests 1 sea-winter (1SW) North American and European origin salmon destined to return to natal waters as 2 sea-winter spawning adults. To collect data on the biological characteristics and origin of the harvest necessary for international stock assessment efforts, parties to the North Atlantic Salmon Conservation Organization's (NASCO) West Greenland Commission agreed to participate in an international sampling program for the 2015 fishery. The sampling program was coordinated by the USA (NOAA Fisheries Service) and involved 7 samplers from 6 countries, deployed among 4 communities (Sisimiut, Maniitsoq, Paamiut, and Qaqortoq) located on the west coast of Greenland. Reported landings in 2015 were 56.8 metric tons ( t ). Data on length, weight, freshwater and marine age from scale samples, and continent of origin from genetic analysis of tissue samples were collected. Since 2002 (with the exception of 2006 and 2011), unreported landings were identified by comparing the reported landings to the weight of the sampled harvest for each community. Unreported landings were not detected in 2015. In total, 1,964 salmon were observed by the sampling teams, and 1,708 of these were sampled for biological characteristics. Approximately $12 \%$ by weight of the reported landings were observed by the sampling teams. No samples were collected from factory landed fish. As seen since the mid-1990s, a high proportion of the harvested stock was of North American origin (79.9\%) with the balance being European origin (20.1\%). North American origin fish were primarily freshwater age 2 or 3 years ( $31.6 \%$ and $40.6 \%$ respectively), and 1SW (97.0\%). European origin fish were primarily freshwater age 2 ( $54.9 \%$ ) and 1SW (98.2\%). The mean length of North American 1SW salmon was 65.6 cm , and the mean whole weight was 3.36 kg ; the mean length of European 1SW salmon was 64.4 cm , and the mean whole weight was 3.13 kg . Approximately 13,500 North American (44.6 t) and 3,900 European salmon (11.2 t) were harvested, not taking into account any unreported catch. The sampling program was successful in adequately sampling the Greenland catch, both temporally and spatially, and provided essential input data to international stock assessment efforts, which provide stock status and catch options for subsequent fishery management.


## Introduction

An important mixed-stock Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) fishery exists off the western coast of Greenland. This fishery takes primarily 1 sea-winter (1SW, fish that have spent one winter at sea) North American and European origin salmon that would potentially return to natal waters as mature 2 sea-winter (2SW) spawning adults or older. Effective management of the resource on both continents requires annual collection of accurate landings data, continent of origin assignments, and biological characteristics data to assess the impact of the fishery on the contributing stock complexes. Data collected from the fishery are also required for use in assessment models which predict prefishery abundance of North American and European stocks to provide fishery managers with catch options required for setting harvest regulations.

Atlantic salmon were first documented off the coast of Greenland in 1780 and were targeted by a small local inshore gillnet fishery (Jensen 1990). During the early 1960s, the fishery developed an international presence; in 1965, vessels from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, and the Faroe Islands arrived and introduced an offshore drift-gillnet fishery (ibid.). Reported
catches increased to a high of 2,689 t in 1971 (Figure 1). Mark-recapture studies conducted during this period indicated that the Atlantic salmon caught in this fishery were of North American and European origin and were not uniformly distributed along the coast (Reddin et al. 2012). Because of the concerns that this fishery would have deleterious impacts on the contributing stock complexes, a quota system was agreed upon and implemented in 1976 (Colligan et al. 2008), and since 1984, catch regulations have been established by NASCO.

Since 1969, a coordinated international sampling program has been conducted to obtain biological samples from the Greenland salmon fishery. From 1969-1981, research vessels were used to obtain samples. Since 1982, international teams of samplers have been deployed throughout West Greenland to obtain samples from fish processing plants (when a commercial fishery is allowed), local markets, and other vendors from individual communities where Atlantic salmon are being landed. The focus of this sampling program is to collect biological data and samples. Historically, length, weight, and scale samples were collected, and individual salmon were scanned for fin clips or external/internal tags. Beginning in 2002, tissue samples have been collected from fish for genetic stock identification.

The purpose of this paper is to:

- Describe the international sampling program;
- Present the results from the continent of origin analysis; and
- Summarize the biological characteristics of the catch from West Greenland during the internal-use-only fishery of 2015.


## International Sampling Program

The West Greenland Commission (WGC) of NASCO has agreed to regulatory measures for the West Greenland fishery for all years from 1984 onward (with the exception of 1985, 1991, 1992, and 1996). Since 2006, these regulations have been applied as multi-year measures. The latest measure was established for the period 2015 to 2017 (NASCO 2015; see WGC(15)21), and these regulations would also apply in 2016 and 2017 if the Framework of Indicators (FWI) developed and updated by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES 2007, 2015) indicate no significant change, implying that a reassessment of the catch advice would not be required.

From 2002 to 2011 the quota for commercial landings of Atlantic salmon for export was set to 0 tons by the Government of Greenland, but the internal-use-only fishery for personal and local consumption was unaffected. Selling of salmon to hotels, institutions, and local markets by licensed fishermen and an unlicensed fishery for private consumption were allowed. The internal-use-only fishery was without a quota limit, but in the past has been estimated at 20 t annually. The fishery generally operates during the months of August, September, and October, and since 2005 the fishery has opened on 1 August and closed on 31 October. The fishery is regulated according to the Government of Greenland Executive Order No. 12 of 1 August 2012, an update to the previous order (Government of Greenland Executive Order No. 21 of 10 August 2002). In 2015, the Government of Greenland delayed the opening of the fishery until 15 August with a closing date of 31 October.

From 2012-2014, the Government of Greenland set the national quota for commercial landings of Atlantic salmon for export to 0 tons. No export of salmon from Greenland was allowed. However, in 2012 the Government of Greenland set a 35 t national quota for landing at fishing processing factories to provide a year-round supply of locally harvested Atlantic salmon within Greenland. The internal-use-only fishery for personal and local consumption remained
unaffected and unrestricted by the quota for factory landings. A factory landings only quota was again set to 35 t in 2013 but was then reduced to 30 t in 2014. In 2015 the Government of Greenland unilaterally set a quota of 45 t for all components of its fishery, as a quota could not be agreed to by all parties of the WGC of NASCO (NASCO 2015; see WGC(15)21).

Under NASCO’s West Greenland Sampling Agreement (NASCO 2015; see WGC(15)22), parties to NASCO’s WGC agreed to provide staff to sample Atlantic salmon catches from the West Greenland internal-use-only fishery during the 2015 season.

The objectives of the sampling program were to:

- Continue the time series of data (1969-2014) on continent of origin and biological characteristics of the Atlantic salmon in the West Greenland fishery;
- Provide data on mean weight, length, age, and continent of origin for use in the North American and European Atlantic salmon-run reconstruction models; and
- Collect information on the recovery of internal and external tags.

As outlined in the sampling agreement, the European Union agreed to provide staff to sample the fishery for a minimum of 8 person-weeks (which would amount to 8 weeks of sampling); the United States agreed for a minimum of 2 person-weeks; and Canada for a minimum of 2 person-weeks. Samplers from various countries involved in the program were as follows:

| Country | Sampler | Institute | Period | Community <br> (NAFO <br> Division) |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| USA | Paul Music | NOAA Fisheries Service | 1 Sep - 13 Sep | Paamuit (1E) |
| UK (Scotland) | Tom Morgan | Marine Scotland | 3 Sep - 22 Sep | Paqortoq <br> (1F) |
| Canada | Denise Deschamps | Ministère des Forêts, de la <br> Faune et des Parcs <br> Inland Fisheries Ireland | 4 Sep - 25 Sep | Maniitsoq <br> (1C) |
| Ireland | Michael Milane | Sep - 29 Sep | Sisimiut (1B) |  |

The coordination of this effort was handled by the USA (NOAA Fisheries Service) with assistance from the Greenland Institute of Natural Resources (GINR). Individual samplers were deployed during the course of the fishing season to provide the best possible spatial and temporal coverage of the fishery. Samplers were stationed in 4 communities that are located within 4 Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) divisions (Figure 2): Sisimiut (1B), Maniitsoq (1C), Paamiut (1E) and Qaqortoq (1F). Samplers were not deployed to Nuuk (1D) because of the continued uncertainty of access to landed Atlantic salmon in this community (ICES 2012).

In addition, arrangements were made to collect biological characteristics data and samples from 3 of the 5 factories registered to receive Atlantic salmon. The factories were located in the communities of Kangaamiut (NAFO division 1C), Atammik (1C), and Qeqertarsuatsiaat (1D). Sampling instructions and supplies for sampling 300 salmon were provided to GINR, and these packages were forwarded to the individual factories at the beginning of the fishery. The expectation was for factory staff to collect a maximum of 25 samples per day to spread the sample collection over the fishing season. Unfortunately, because of miscommunication and the opening of factory landings being delayed until 9 October, a small tonnage ( 3.5 t ) of landings spread across 5 factories, and no factories samples were collected in 2015.

Reported landings in 2015 were 56.85 t (55.88 t for West Greenland and 0.97 t for East Greenland ICES Statistical Area XIV). In the past, nonreporting of harvest was identified by comparing the reported landings to the sample data. From 2002-2014 (with the exception of 2006 and 2011), the sampling team documented more fish than reported in at least 1 division (ICES 2015). A documented salmon could be one that was either sampled, checked for an adipose clip only, or not sampled but seen. When this type of discrepancy occurs, the reported landings are adjusted to include the total weight of the fish documented as being landed during the sampling period, and the adjusted landings are included in all subsequent assessments. Considering that samplers are not stationed within a community throughout the entire fishing season and that there are numerous communities without samplers present, these adjusted landings should be considered minimum estimates.

In 2015 no discrepancies were identified (Table 1). The reported landings and adjusted landings for 2002-2015 are presented in Table 2. To provide the most reliable estimate of catch, which is necessary for estimating the potential fishery impacts on contributing stocks, it is important to continually improve the catch reporting procedure and the quality of the catch statistics. Factory landings and samples are not considered within this process since these landings are strictly regulated by the Government of Greenland (e.g., only licensed commercial fishers can land at designated factories) and are accounted for and reported by the factory managers to the Greenland Fisheries License Control Authority on a daily to weekly basis.

Landed fish were sampled at random, and when possible, the total catch was sampled. Individual fish were measured (fork length, mm) and weighed (gutted weight (GW) or whole weight (WW), kg). Scales were taken for age determination, and adipose fins were taken for DNA analysis for stock identification. Fish were also examined for fin clips, external marks, external tags, and internal tags. Adipose-clipped fish were sampled for microtags (coded wire tags).

Sampling teams observed 1,964 salmon. Of this total, 1,708 were sampled for biological characteristics, and 0 salmon were sampled by the factory staff (representing $\sim 12 \%$ by weight of the reported landings). A total of 163 fish were only checked for an adipose clip, and 93 were documented as being landed but were not sampled or examined further. Biological characteristics data were collected as follows:

- 1,708 fork lengths;
- 1,619 gutted weights;
- 99 whole weights;
- 1,704 scale samples; and
- 1,674 genetic samples.

A total of 30 adipose-clipped fish was documented. Of all the fish examined by the samplers, none had an external or an internal tag. A total of 6 tags were provided directly by a fisher or consumer to a sampler or the GINR, many of the tags were from historic releases across the North Atlantic. The tag breakdown was as follows (Table 3):

- 6 Carlin tags

Nonfactory sampling often occurs at a local market which is a centralized location where harvested salmon are present and available. Prior to any sampling, the sampler always obtains permission from the market manager. This arrangement has generally been successful for all samplers, although there have been issues in some years in Nuuk (Sheehan et al. 2013). Because of concerns that proper arrangements had not been made to allow sampling of fish in Nuuk in 2015, no sampling occurred in that community. In 2014 some minor problems were encountered when samplers were not allowed access to fish. Further communication from the Program Coordinator and GINR helped rectify the situation. These issues were restricted to Maniitsoq and Qaqortoq. No such issues were identified in 2015.

The limitation of the fishery to internal-use-only caused some practical problems for the sampling teams; however, the sampling program provided adequate representation of the Greenland catch, both temporally and spatially. There continued to be no sampling in Nuuk, which results in a potential for bias when describing the biological characteristics of the harvest, stock assessment results, and catch advice. However, this potential bias is expected to be minimized given that sampling occurred both to the north and south of Nuuk.

## Continent of Origin

Fin tissue samples were collected and preserved in RNAlater ${ }^{\text {TM }}$, an aqueous, nontoxic tissue and cell storage reagent that stabilizes and protects cellular RNA. A total of 1,674 usable samples were collected from 4 communities in 4 NAFO divisions: Sisimiut in 1B ( $\mathrm{n}=497$ ), Maniitsoq in 1C ( $\mathrm{n}=890$ ), Paamiut in 1E ( $\mathrm{n}=169$ ), and Qaqortoq in 1F $(\mathrm{n}=118)$. A small number of tissue samples ( $\mathrm{n}=8$ ) were collected, but not processed due to poor sample quality and were therefore removed from the database.

DNA isolation and the subsequent microsatellite analyses were performed according to standardized protocols (King et al. 2001; Sheehan et al. 2010). A database of approximately 5,000 Atlantic salmon genotypes of known origin was used as a baseline to assign the samples to continent of origin. In total, $79.9 \%$ of the salmon sampled were of North American origin and 20.1\% were of European origin. The NAFO division-specific continent of origin assignments are presented in Table 4.

These findings show that high proportions of fish from the North American stock complex continue to contribute to the fishery (Figure 3). The variability in the recent stock complex contributions between divisions and the deviation from past trends (Figure 4) underscore the need to annually sample multiple NAFO divisions to achieve accurate estimates of continental contributions to the harvest.

Variations in the estimated weighted proportions and number of North American and European salmon harvested in the fishery during 1987-2015 are shown in Table 5 and Figure 5. The 2015 North American weighted contribution (79\%) to the fishery was higher than the longterm mean (1982-2014, 69\%) but approximately equal to the recent 10-year mean (2005-2014, 80\%). The European weighted contribution (21\%) to the 2015 fishery was lower than the long-
term mean (1982-2014, 31\%) but approximately equal to the 10-year mean (2005-2014, 20\%). In terms of numbers of fish, the 2015 fishery caught approximately 13,500 North American salmon ( $\sim 44.6 \mathrm{t}$ ) and 3,900 European fish ( $\sim 11.2 \mathrm{t}$ ). The 2015 total number of fish harvested $(17,400)$ is lower than in $2014(18,200)$. It is the 2nd highest total since $1997(21,300)$, the $16^{\text {th }}$ highest total in the 32 year time series (1982-2015 with no harvest estimates in 1993 and 1994), but only $5.2 \%$ of the maximum estimate of 336,000 fish harvested in 1982.

## Biological Characteristics of the Catches

Biological characteristics (length, weight, and age) were recorded for all sampled fish. Overall across all sea ages, the mean sampled fork length was 65.7 cm , and the mean gutted weight was 3.02 kg .

An overall decrease in mean whole weight of both European and North American 1SW salmon occurred between 1969 and 1995 (Table 6 and Figure 6). This trend was reversed in 1996 when mean weights began to increase, although evidence suggests that these trends may be partially explained by annual variation in the timing of the sampling program (ICES 2011; ICES 2015). In 2015, the mean length of North American 1SW salmon was 65.6 cm , and the mean whole weight was 3.36 kg ; the mean length of European 1SW salmon was 64.4 cm , and the mean whole weight was 3.13 kg . The North American 1SW fork length estimate was equal to the 2014 value ( 65.6 cm ) and approximately equal to the previous 10-year average ( 65.4 cm , 20052014). The European 1SW mean fork length was slightly higher than the 2014 value ( 63.6 cm ) and approximately equal to the previous 10 -year average ( $64.7 \mathrm{~cm}, 2005-2014$ ). The North American 1SW whole weight was slightly higher than the 2014 value ( 3.25 kg ) and previous 10year average ( 3.22 kg , 2005-2014). The European 1SW whole weight was higher than both the 2014 value ( 3.02 kg ) and previous 10-year average ( $3.19 \mathrm{~kg}, 2005-2014$ ). A summary of the mean fork lengths and whole weights in the 2015 fishery by sea age, continent of origin, and NAFO division is presented in Table 7. Note that the weight data have not been adjusted for date of capture, and hence may not represent an actual change in mean weight over the time series because fish sampled later in the fishing season have had additional time to grow compared to fish sampled early in the season (ICES 2011).

The smolt age distribution of the sampled catch by continent of origin and NAFO division is presented in Table 8. The smolt age distributions by origin for all North American and European origin salmon caught (1968-2014) are provided in Table 9.

In 2014, the percentages of fish by smolt age within continent of origin were:

| Continent of origin | Percent of continent of origin by smolt age (years) |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | $\mathbf{1}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{6}$ |
| North American | $0.1 \%$ | $31.6 \%$ | $40.6 \%$ | $21.6 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ | $0.2 \%$ |
| European | $9.2 \%$ | $54.9 \%$ | $28.8 \%$ | $5.8 \%$ | $1.2 \%$ | $0.0 \%$ |

The mean smolt age of the 2015 North American origin samples was 3.0 years. Although age 1 smolts historically represent a small proportion of the catch (previous 10-year mean of $1.2 \%, 2005-2014)$, the 2015 value ( $0.1 \%$ ) is 1 of the lowest. There has been a consistent trend
over the past 2 decades of decreasing contributions of age 1 smolts. This is indicative of the relatively minor contributions of the more southerly North American populations as age 1 smolt production is restricted to the southern end of the range (ICES 2004). The percentage of smolt age 2 salmon of North American origin in the 2015 fishery (31.6\%) is higher than in 2014 (26.0\%) and the previous 10-year mean ( $26.5 \%$, 2005-2014). Age 3 and older smolts accounted for $68.3 \%$ of the 2015 harvest of North American fish, which is slightly lower than the previous 10 -year mean ( $72.4 \%, 2005-2014$ ) and the overall mean for the 42 -year time series ( $66.0 \%$, 1968-2015 excluding data gaps in 1977 and 1993-1994).

The mean smolt age of the European salmon in 2015 was 2.3 years. The percentage of smolt age 1 ( $9.2 \%$ ) is higher than 2014 value but below the previous 10 -year mean of $11.4 \%$ (2005-2014). The percentage of smolt age 2 (54.9\%) in the 2015 fishery is lower than in 2013 ( $60.7 \%$ ) and the previous 10 -year mean ( $59.6 \%$, 2005-2014). The contribution of age 3 and older European origin smolts (35.9\%) is greater than the previous 10-year mean (29.0\%, 2005-2014). In 2014, the proportions by sea age by continent of origin were:

| Continent of origin | Percent of continent of origin by sea age (years) |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | 1SW | 2SW | Repeat Spawners |
| North American | $97.0 \%$ | $0.7 \%$ | $2.3 \%$ |
| European | $98.2 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ | $1.9 \%$ |

As expected, the 1SW age group was dominant (97.3\%) in the 2014 fishery (Table 10). This value is higher than the 2014 value (92.6\%). Concerns have been raised over recent difficulty with discerning winter annuli from apparent "checks" in the marine zone of Atlantic salmon multi-sea winter scales. Care should be taken to properly discern true marine annuli from growth checks, and further study of this phenomenon is warranted.

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Table 1. Evaluation of underreporting in sampled communities during the 2015 Greenland Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) fishery by community/Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) division. The total number of salmon documented by the sampling teams (salmon that have been sampled, seen but not sampled, and seen and checked for an adipose fin clip only) is converted to a total whole weight (WW) based on a conversion factor of 1.11 and compared to the reported landings for each community. Gutted weight is denoted as GW.

| Community (NAFO Division) | Number sampled | Additional Number seen | Avg. sampled GW (kg) | Avg. converted WW (kg) |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Sisimiut (1B) | 515 | 53 | 3.33 | 3.70 |  |
| Maniitsoq (1C) | 904 | 147 | 2.99 | 3.31 |  |
| Paamiut (1E) | 169 | 15 | 2.55 | 2.82 |  |
| Qaqortoq (1F) | 120 | 41 | 2.53 | 2.81 |  |
| Total | 1,708 | 256 | 3.02 | 3.35 |  |
| Community | Est. WW sampled/seen $(k g)$ | Reported landings (kg) | Adjusted landings (kg) | Difference (kg) | Difference as \% of reported landings |
| Sisimiut (1B) | 2,099 | 8,798 | 8,798 | 0 | 0\% |
| Maniitsoq (1C) | 3,483 | 6,266 | 6,266 | 0 | 0\% |
| Paamiut (1E) | 520 | 3,209 | 3,209 | 0 | 0\% |
| Qaqortoq (1F) | 452 | 7,962 | 7,962 | 0 | 0\% |
| Total | 6,555 | 26,235 | 26,235 | 0 | 0\% |

Table 2. Reported landings (kg) for the Greenland Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) fishery (2002-2015) by Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) division as reported by the Home Rule Government and the division-specific adjusted landings where the sampling teams observed more fish landed than were reported. Landings from International Council for the Exploration of the Seas Statistical Area XIV (East Greenland) are not included in the assessment but amounted to 1 t in 2015. Shaded cells indicate that sampling took place in that year and division.

| Year |  | NAFO Division |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1A | 1B | 1C | 1D | 1E | 1F | Total |
| 2002 | Reported | 14 | 78 | 2,100 | 3,752 | 1,417 | 1,661 | 9,022 |
|  | Adjusted |  |  |  |  |  | 2,408 | 9,769 |
| 2003 | Reported | 619 | 17 | 1,621 | 648 | 1,274 | 4,516 | 8,694 |
|  | Adjusted |  |  | 1,782 | 2,709 |  | 5,912 | 12,312 |
| 2004 | Reported | 3,476 | 611 | 3,516 | 2,433 | 2,609 | 2,068 | 14,712 |
|  | Adjusted |  |  |  | 4,929 |  |  | 17,209 |
| 2005 | Reported | 1,294 | 3,120 | 2,240 | 756 | 2,937 | 4,956 | 15,303 |
|  | Adjusted |  |  |  | 2,730 |  |  | 17,276 |
| 2006 | Reported Adjusted | 5,427 | 2,611 | 3,424 | 4,731 | 2,636 | 4,192 | 23,021 |
| 2007 | Reported | 2,019 | 5,089 | 6,148 | 4,470 | 4,828 | 2,093 | 24,647 |
|  | Adjusted |  |  |  |  |  | 2,252 | 24,806 |
| 2008 | Reported | 4,882 | 2,210 | 10,024 | 1,595 | 2,457 | 4,979 | 26,147 |
|  | Adjusted |  |  |  | 3,577 |  | 5,478 | 28,627 |
| 2009 | Reported <br> Adjusted | 195 | 6,151 | 7,090 | 2,988 | 4,296 | 4,777 | 25,496 |


| 2010 |  | 17,263 |  |  | 5,466 | 6,766 | 4,252 | $\begin{aligned} & 27,975 \\ & 37,949 \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Reported |  | 4,558 | 2,363 | 2,747 |  |  |  |
|  | Adjusted |  | 4,824 |  | 6,566 |  | 5,274 | 43,056 |
| 2011 | Reported <br> Adjusted | 1,858 | 3,662 | 5,274 | 7,977 | 4,021 | 4,613 | 27,407 |
| 2012 | Reported | 5,353 | 784 | 14,991 | 4,564 | 3,993 | 2,951 | 32,636 |
|  | Adjusted |  | 2,001 |  |  |  | 3,694 | 34,596 |

Table 2, continued. Reported landings (kg) for the Greenland Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) fishery (2002-2015) by North Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) division as reported by the home rule government and the division-specific adjusted landings where the sampling teams observed more fish landed than were reported. Landings from International Council for the Exploration of the Seas Statistical Area XIV (East Greenland) are not included in the assessment but amounted to 1 t in 2015. Shaded cells indicate that sampling took place in that year and division.

|  |  | NAFO Division |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Year |  | 1A | 1B | 1C | 1D | 1E | 1F | Total |
| 2013 | Reported | 3,052 | 2,359 | 17,950 | 13,356 | 6,442 | 3,774 | 46,933 |
|  | Adjusted |  | 2,461 |  |  | 4,408 | 47,669 |  |
| 2014 | Reported | 3,626 | 2,756 | 13,762 | 19,123 | 14,979 | 3,416 | 57,662 |
|  | Adjusted |  |  |  |  | 4,036 | 58,282 |  |
| 2015 | Reported | 751 | 8,801 | 10,055 | 17,966 | 4,170 | 14,134 | 55,877 |
|  | Adjusted |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 3. Reported tag recaptures $(\mathrm{n}=6$ ) from the 2015 Greenland Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) fishery. NAFO division refers to Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization statistical areas. Empty cells identify incomplete recapture or released information.

| Tag <br> type | Tag code (Seq. code) | Release <br> country | River <br> released | Release <br> year | Recapture Community <br> (NAFO Division) | Recapture <br> year |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| carlin | 322,343 (green) | USA | Penobscot | 1986 | Paamuit (1E) |  |
| carlin | 846,920 (green) | USA | Penobscot | 1991 | Paamuit (1E) |  |
| carlin | 42501 (green) | Canada |  |  | Paamuit (1E) | Nanortalik (1F) |
| carlin | AA 26325 (light green) | Canada | Musquodoboit | 1985 | Qaqortoq (1F) | 2015 |
| carlin | R 799099 S (light green) | Sweden | Nissan | 2014 | Paamuit (1E) | 2015 |
| carlin | MSA 01,153 (blue) | Canada | Miramichi | 2014 |  |  |

Table 4. The continental proportions of North American (NA) and European (E) Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) caught in West Greenland 2015 by Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) Division. There were 34 fish without origin, which are not included here.

| NAFO <br> Division | Fishing dates | Number |  |  | Percentages |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | NA | E | Totals | NA | E |
| 1B | Sep 14 - Oct 11 | 410 | 87 | 497 | 82.5 | 17.5 |
| 1C | Sep 07 - Sep 28 | 754 | 136 | 890 | 84.7 | 15.3 |
| 1E | Sep $02-$ Oct 01 | 83 | 86 | 169 | 49.1 | 50.9 |
| 1F | Sep 04 - Sep 17 | 90 | 28 | 118 | 76.3 | 23.7 |
| Total |  | 1337 | 337 | 1674 | 79.9 | 20.1 |

Table 5. The catch weighted numbers of North American (NA) and European (E) Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) caught at West Greenland from 1971-2014 and the proportion of the catch by weight. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred fish. Continent of origin assignments were based on scale characteristics until 1995, scale characteristics and DNA based assignments until 2001, and DNA based assignments only from 2002 onwards.

|  | Proportion weighted by catch |  | Numbers of Salmon caught |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | NA | E | NA | E |
| 1982 | 57 | 43 | 192,200 | 143,800 |
| 1983 | 40 | 60 | 39,500 | 60,500 |
| 1984 | 54 | 46 | 48,800 | 41,200 |
| 1985 | 47 | 53 | 143,500 | 161,500 |
| 1986 | 59 | 41 | 188,300 | 131,900 |
| 1987 | 59 | 41 | 171,900 | 126,400 |
| 1988 | 43 | 57 | 125,500 | 168,800 |
| 1989 | 55 | 45 | 65,000 | 52,700 |
| 1990 | 74 | 26 | 62,400 | 21,700 |
| 1991 | 63 | 37 | 111,700 | 65,400 |
| 1992 | 45 | 55 | 46,900 | 38,500 |
| 1993 | - | - | - | - |
| 1994 | - | - | - | - |
| 1995 | 67 | 33 | 21,400 | 10,700 |
| 1996 | 70 | 30 | 22,400 | 9,700 |
| 1997 | 85 | 15 | 18,000 | 3,300 |
| 1998 | 79 | 21 | 3,100 | 900 |
| 1999 | 91 | 9 | 5,700 | 600 |
| 2000 | 65 | 35 | 5,100 | 2,700 |
| 2001 | 67 | 33 | 9,400 | 4,700 |
| 2002 | 69 | 31 | 2,300 | 1,000 |

Table 5, continued. The catch weighted numbers of North American (NA) and European (E) Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) caught at West Greenland from 1971-2014 and the proportion of the catch by weight. Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred fish. Continent of origin assignments were based on scale characteristics until 1995, scale characteristics and DNA based assignments until 2001, and DNA based assignments only from 2002 onwards.

|  | Proportion weighted by catch |  | Numbers of Salmon caught |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | NA | E | NA | E |
| 2003 | 64 | 36 | 2,600 | 1,400 |
| 2004 | 72 | 28 | 3,900 | 1,500 |
| 2005 | 74 | 26 | 3,500 | 1,200 |
| 2006 | 69 | 31 | 4,000 | 1,800 |
| 2007 | 76 | 24 | 6,100 | 1,900 |
| 2008 | 86 | 14 | 8,000 | 1,300 |
| 2009 | 89 | 11 | 7,000 | 800 |
| 2010 | 80 | 20 | 10,000 | 2,600 |
| 2011 | 93 | 7 | 7,500 | 600 |
| 2012 | 79 | 21 | 7,800 | 2,100 |
| 2013 | 82 | 18 | 11,500 | 2,700 |
| 2014 | 72 | 28 | 12,800 | 5,400 |
| 2015 | 79 | 21 | 13,500 | 3,900 |

Table 6. Annual mean fork lengths and whole weights by continent of origin (NA - North American and E - European) and sea age (1SW - 1 sea-winter, 2SW - 2 sea-winter and PS - previous spawner) of Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) caught at West Greenland, 1969-2015.

|  | Whole weight (kg) Seaage \& origin |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Fork length (cm) Sea age \& origin |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 1SW |  | 2SW |  | PS |  | All seaag |  | TOTAL | 1SW |  | 2SW |  | PS |  |
|  | NA | E | NA | E | NA | E | NA | E |  | NA | E | NA | E | NA | E |
| 1969 | 3.12 | 3.76 | 5.48 | 5.80 | - | 5.13 | 3.25 | 3.86 | 3.58 | 65.0 | 68.7 | 77.0 | 80.3 | - | 75.3 |
| 1970 | 2.85 | 3.46 | 5.65 | 5.50 | 4.85 | 3.80 | 3.06 | 3.53 | 3.28 | 64.7 | 68.6 | 81.5 | 82.0 | 78.0 | 75.0 |
| 1971 | 2.65 | 3.38 | 4.30 | - | - | - | 2.68 | 3.38 | 3.14 | 62.8 | 67.7 | 72.0 | - | - | - |
| 1972 | 2.96 | 3.46 | 5.85 | 6.13 | 265 | 4.00 | 3.25 | 3.55 | 3.44 | 64.2 | 67.9 | 80.7 | 82.4 | 61.5 | 69.0 |
| 1973 | 3.28 | 4.54 | 9.47 | 10.00 | - | - | 3.83 | 4.66 | 4.18 | 64.5 | 70.4 | 88.0 | 96.0 | 61.5 | - |
| 1974 | 3.12 | 3.81 | 7.06 | 8.06 | 3.42 | - | 3.22 | 3.86 | 3.58 | 64.1 | 68.1 | 82.8 | 87.4 | 66.0 | - |
| 1975 | 2.58 | 3.42 | 6.12 | 6.23 | 2.60 | 4.80 | 2.65 | 3.48 | 3.12 | 61.7 | 67.5 | 80.6 | 82.2 | 66.0 | 75.0 |
| 1976 | 2.55 | 3.21 | 6.16 | 7.20 | 3.55 | 3.57 | 2.75 | 3.24 | 3.04 | 61.3 | 65.9 | 80.7 | 87.5 | 72.0 | 70.7 |
| 1977 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1978 | 2.96 | 3.50 | 7.00 | 7.90 | 2.45 | 6.60 | 3.04 | 3.53 | 3.35 | 63.7 | 67.3 | 83.6 | - | 60.8 | 85.0 |
| 1979 | 2.98 | 3.50 | 7.06 | 7.60 | 3.92 | 6.33 | 3.12 | 3.56 | 3.34 | 63.4 | 66.7 | 81.6 | 85.3 | 61.9 | 82.0 |
| 1980 | 2.98 | 3.33 | 6.82 | 6.73 | 3.55 | 3.90 | 3.07 | 3.38 | 3.22 | 64.0 | 66.3 | 82.9 | 83.0 | 67.0 | 70.9 |
| 1981 | 2.77 | 3.48 | 6.93 | 7.42 | 4.12 | 3.65 | 2.89 | 3.58 | 3.17 | 62.3 | 66.7 | 82.8 | 84.5 | 72.5 | - |
| 1982 | 2.79 | 3.21 | 5.59 | 5.59 | 3.96 | 5.66 | 2.92 | 3.43 | 3.11 | 62.7 | 66.2 | 78.4 | 77.8 | 71.4 | 80.9 |
| 1983 | 2.54 | 3.01 | 5.79 | 5.86 | 3.37 | 3.55 | 3.02 | 3.14 | 3.10 | 61.5 | 65.4 | 81.1 | 81.5 | 68.2 | 70.5 |
| 1984 | 264 | 2.84 | 5.84 | 5.77 | 3.62 | 5.78 | 3.20 | 3.03 | 3.11 | 62.3 | 63.9 | 80.7 | 80.0 | 69.8 | 79.5 |
| 1985 | 2.50 | 2.89 | 5.42 | 5.45 | 5.20 | 4.97 | 2.72 | 3.01 | 2.87 | 61.2 | 64.3 | 78.9 | 78.6 | 79.1 | 77.0 |
| 1986 | 275 | 3.13 | 6.44 | 6.08 | 3.32 | 4.37 | 2.89 | 3.19 | 3.03 | 62.8 | 65.1 | 80.7 | 79.8 | 66.5 | 73.4 |
| 1987 | 3.00 | 3.20 | 6.36 | 5.96 | 4.69 | 4.70 | 3.10 | 3.26 | 3.16 | 64.2 | 65.6 | 81.2 | 79.6 | 74.8 | 74.8 |
| 1988 | 2.83 | 3.36 | 6.77 | 6.78 | 4.75 | 4.64 | 2.93 | 3.41 | 3.18 | 63.0 | 66.6 | 82.1 | 82.4 | 74.7 | 73.8 |
| 1989 | 2.56 | 2.86 | 5.87 | 5.77 | 4.23 | 5.83 | 2.77 | 2.99 | 2.87 | 62.3 | 64.5 | 80.8 | 81.0 | 73.8 | 82.2 |
| 1990 | 2.53 | 2.61 | 6.47 | 5.78 | 3.90 | 5.09 | 2.67 | 2.72 | 2.69 | 623 | 62.7 | 83.4 | 81.1 | 72.6 | 78.6 |
| 1991 | 2.42 | 2.54 | 5.82 | 6.23 | 5.15 | 5.09 | 2.57 | 2.79 | 2.65 | 61.6 | 62.7 | 80.6 | 82.2 | 81.7 | 80.0 |
| 1992 | 2.54 | 2.66 | 6.49 | 6.01 | 4.09 | 5.28 | 2.86 | 2.74 | 2.81 | 62.3 | 63.2 | 83.4 | 81.1 | 77.4 | 82.7 |
| 1995 | 2.37 | 2.67 | 6.09 | 5.88 | 3.71 | 4.98 | 2.45 | 2.75 | 2.56 | 61.0 | 63.2 | 81.3 | 81.0 | 70.9 | 81.3 |
| 1996 | 2.63 | 286 | 6.50 | 6.30 | 4.98 | 5.44 | 2.83 | 2.90 | 2.88 | 62.8 | 64.0 | 81.4 | 81.1 | 77.1 | 79.4 |
| 1997 | 2.57 | 2.82 | 7.95 | 6.11 | 4.82 | 6.9 | 2.63 | 2.84 | 2.71 | 62.3 | 63.6 | 85.7 | 84.0 | 79.4 | 87.0 |
| 1998 | 2.72 | 2.83 | 6.44 | - | 3.28 | 4.77 | 2.76 | 284 | 2.78 | 62.0 | 62.7 | 84.0 | - | 66.3 | 76.0 |
| 1999 | 3.02 | 3.03 | 7.59 | - | 4.20 | - | 3.09 | 3.03 | 3.08 | 63.8 | 63.5 | 86.6 | - | 70.9 | - |
| 2000 | 2.47 | 2.81 | - | - | 2.58 | - | 2.47 | 2.81 | 2.57 | 60.7 | 63.2 | - | - | 64.7 | - |
| 2001 | 289 | 3.03 | 6.76 | 5.96 | 4.41 | 4.06 | 2.95 | 3.09 | 3.00 | 63.1 | 63.7 | 81.7 | 79.1 | 75.3 | 72.1 |
| 2002 | 2.84 | 292 | 7.12 | - | 5.00 | - | 2.89 | 2.92 | 2.90 | 62.6 | 62.1 | 83.0 | - | 75.8 | - |
| 2003 | 2.94 | 3.08 | 8.82 | 5.58 | 4.04 | - | 3.02 | 3.10 | 3.04 | 63 | 64.4 | 86.1 | 78.3 | 71.4 | - |
| 2004 | 3.11 | 2.95 | 7.33 | 5.22 | 4.71 | 6.48 | 3.17 | 3.22 | 3.18 | 64.7 | 65.0 | 86.2 | 76.4 | 77.6 | 88.0 |
| 2005 | 3.19 | 3.33 | 7.05 | 4.19 | 4.31 | 2.89 | 3.31 | 3.33 | 3.31 | 65.9 | 66.4 | 83.3 | 75.5 | 73.7 | 62.3 |
| 2006 | 3.10 | 3.25 | 9.72 |  | 5.05 | 3.67 | 3.25 | 3.26 | 3.24 | 65.3 | 65.3 | 90.0 |  | 76.8 | 69.5 |
| 2007 | 2.89 | 2.87 | 6.19 | 6.47 | 4.94 | 3.57 | 2.98 | 2.99 | 2.98 | 63.5 | 63.3 | 80.9 | 80.6 | 76.7 | 71.3 |
| 2008 | 3.04 | 3.03 | 6.35 | 7.47 | 3.82 | 3.39 | 3.08 | 3.07 | 3.08 | 64.6 | 63.9 | 80.1 | 85.5 | 71.1 | 73.0 |
| 2009 | 3.28 | 3.40 | 7.59 | 6.54 | 5.25 | 4.28 | 3.48 | 3.67 | 3.50 | 64.9 | 65.5 | 84.6 | 81.7 | 75.9 | 73.5 |
| 2010 | 3.44 | 3.24 | 6.40 | 5.45 | 4.17 | 3.92 | 3.47 | 3.28 | 3.42 | 66.7 | 65.2 | 80.0 | 75.0 | 72.4 | 70.0 |
| 2011 | 3.30 | 3.18 | 5.69 | 4.94 | 4.46 | 5.11 | 3.39 | 3.49 | 3.40 | 65.8 | 64.7 | 78.6 | 75.0 | 73.7 | 76.3 |
| 2012 | 3.34 | 3.38 | 6.00 | 4.51 | 4.65 | 3.65 | 3.44 | 3.40 | 3.44 | 65.4 | 64.9 | 75.9 | 70.4 | 72.8 | 68.9 |
| 2013 | 3.33 | 3.16 | 6.43 | 4.51 | 3.64 | 5.38 | 3.39 | 3.20 | 3.35 | 66.2 | 64.6 | 81.0 | 72.8 | 69.9 | 73.6 |
| 2014 | 3.25 | 3.02 | 7.60 | 6.00 | 4.47 | 5.42 | 3.39 | 3.13 | 3.32 | 65.6 | 63.6 | 86.0 | 78.7 | 73.6 | 83.5 |
| 2015 | 3.36 | 3.13 | 7.52 | 7.10 | 4.53 | 3.81 | 3.42 | 3.18 | 3.37 | 65.6 | 64.4 | 84.1 | 82.5 | 74.2 | 67.2 |

Table 7. Mean fork lengths (cm) and whole weight (kg) by sea age (1SW - 1 sea-winter and 2SW 2 sea-winter), continent of origin and Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) division for Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) caught at West Greenland in 2015 with corresponding standard deviation (S.D.). Table does not include salmon of unknown age, origin, fork length, or weight.

| NAFO Div. | 1SW |  | 2SW |  | Previous spawners |  | All sea ages |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Fork } \\ & \text { length (cm) } \\ & \text { (S.D.) } \end{aligned}$ | Whole weight (kg) (S.D.) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Fork } \\ & \text { length (cm) } \\ & \text { (S.D.) } \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | Whole weight (kg) (S.D.) | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Fork } \\ & \text { length (cm) } \\ & \text { (S.D.) } \end{aligned}$ | Whole weight (kg) (S.D.) | $\begin{gathered} \text { Fork } \\ \text { length }(\mathrm{cm}) \\ \text { (S.D.) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  | Whole weight (kg) (S.D.) | No. |
| North American and European |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1B | $\begin{aligned} & 66.4 \\ & (3.4) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.56 \\ (0.64) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 85.7 \\ & (3.0) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.01 \\ (1.34) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80.2 \\ & (8.2) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.57 \\ (1.86) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 67.2 \\ & (4.9) \end{aligned}$ | 489 | $\begin{gathered} 3.7 \\ (0.99) \end{gathered}$ | 487 |
| 1 C | $\begin{aligned} & 65.4 \\ & (3.2) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.34 \\ (0.58) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 78.9 \\ & (2.2) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.99 \\ (1.15) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 69.6 \\ & (8.0) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.79 \\ (1.43) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 65.5 \\ & \text { (3.5) } \end{aligned}$ | 876 | $\begin{gathered} 3.36 \\ (0.64) \end{gathered}$ | 876 |
| 1E | $\begin{aligned} & 63.9 \\ & (3.9) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.83 \\ (0.54) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $66.0$ | $2.79$ | $\begin{aligned} & 63.9 \\ & (3.9) \end{aligned}$ | 164 | $\begin{gathered} 2.83 \\ (0.54) \end{gathered}$ | 164 |
| 1F | $\begin{aligned} & 63.2 \\ & (3.5) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.83 \\ (0.50) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 64.2 \\ & (0.8) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.90 \\ (0.01) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 63.2 \\ & (3.4) \end{aligned}$ | 117 | $\begin{gathered} 2.83 \\ (0.50) \end{gathered}$ | 117 |
| All A reas | $\begin{aligned} & 65.4 \\ & (3.5) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.31 \\ (0.64) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 83.6 \\ & (4.2) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.39 \\ (1.57) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 73.8 \\ & \text { (9.6) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.48 \\ (1.84) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 65.7 \\ & (4.2) \end{aligned}$ | 1646 | $\begin{gathered} 3.37 \\ (0.80) \end{gathered}$ | 1644 |

North American

| 1B | $\begin{aligned} & 66.4 \\ & (3.2) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.56 \\ (0.61) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 86.4 \\ & (3.0) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 8.22 \\ (1.53) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 80.9 \\ & (8.0) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5.64 \\ (1.92) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 67.2 \\ & (4.9) \end{aligned}$ | 402 | $\begin{gathered} 3.69 \\ (0.97) \end{gathered}$ | 401 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1 C | $\begin{aligned} & 65.6 \\ & (3.1) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.37 \\ (0.58) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 79.5 \\ (2.15) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 6.10 \\ (1.38) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 69.6 \\ & (8.0) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.79 \\ (1.43) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 65.7 \\ & (3.4) \end{aligned}$ | 742 | $\begin{gathered} 3.39 \\ (0.64) \end{gathered}$ | 742 |
| 1E | $\begin{aligned} & 64.6 \\ & (3.9) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.90 \\ (0.59) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $66.0$ | $2.79$ | $\begin{aligned} & 64.7 \\ & (3.9) \end{aligned}$ | 81 | $\begin{gathered} 2.88 \\ (0.59) \end{gathered}$ | 81 |
| 1F | $\begin{aligned} & 63.5 \\ & (3.4) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.88 \\ (0.49) \end{gathered}$ |  |  | $64.7$ | $2.89$ | $\begin{aligned} & 63.5 \\ & (3.5) \end{aligned}$ | 89 | $\begin{gathered} 2.88 \\ (0.48) \end{gathered}$ | 89 |
| All A reas | $\begin{aligned} & 65.6 \\ & (3.3) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.36 \\ (0.62) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 84.1 \\ & (4.3) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.52 \\ (1.75) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 74.2 \\ & (9.7) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 4.53 \\ (1.88) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 65.9 \\ & (4.1) \end{aligned}$ | 1314 | $\begin{gathered} 3.42 \\ (0.78) \end{gathered}$ | 1313 |
| European |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1B | $\begin{aligned} & 66.3 \\ & (3.9) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.59 \\ (0.74) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 84.3 \\ (2.97) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.57 \\ (0.94) \end{gathered}$ | $70.8$ | $4.71$ | $\begin{aligned} & 67.0 \\ & (5.1) \end{aligned}$ | 87 | $\begin{gathered} 3.74 \\ (1.05) \end{gathered}$ | 86 |
| 1 C | $\begin{aligned} & 64.3 \\ & \text { (3.4) } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.16 \\ (0.57) \end{gathered}$ | $77.0$ | $5.66$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 64.4 \\ & (3.5) \end{aligned}$ | 134 | $\begin{gathered} 3.18 \\ (0.61) \end{gathered}$ | 134 |
| 1E | $\begin{aligned} & 63.2 \\ & (3.8) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.78 \\ (0.49) \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & 63.2 \\ & (3.8) \end{aligned}$ | 83 | $\begin{gathered} 2.78 \\ (0.49) \end{gathered}$ | 83 |
| 1F | $\begin{aligned} & 62.2 \\ & (3.6) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 2.67 \\ (0.53) \end{gathered}$ | - | - | 63.6 | 2.91 | $\begin{aligned} & 62.2 \\ & (3.5) \end{aligned}$ | 28 | $\begin{gathered} 2.68 \\ (0.53) \end{gathered}$ | 28 |
| All A reas | $\begin{aligned} & 64.4 \\ & (3.9) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.13 \\ (0.68) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 82.5 \\ & (4.4) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 7.10 \\ (1.23) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 67.2 \\ & (5.1) \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} 3.81 \\ (1.28) \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 64.6 \\ & (4.3) \end{aligned}$ | 332 | $\begin{gathered} 3.18 \\ (0.81) \end{gathered}$ | 331 |

Table 8. The smolt-age (river age) composition (\%) of Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) by continent of origin (NA - North American and E - European) and Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) division caught in 2015 at West Greenland. Table does not include salmon of unknown age or origin $(n=73)$.

|  |  | River age (\%) |  |  |  |  |  | Total No. |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Division | Origin | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |  |
| 1B | NA | 0.0 | 35.8 | 37.5 | 22.5 | 4.0 | 0.3 | 400 |
|  | E | 7.0 | 46.5 | 36.0 | 7.0 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 86 |
|  |  | 1.2 | 37.7 | 37.2 | 19.8 | 3.9 | 0.2 | 486 |
| 1C | NA | 0.1 | 31.5 | 41.8 | 20.4 | 6.2 | 0.0 | 740 |
|  | E | 8.3 | 57.9 | 27.8 | 5.3 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 133 |
|  |  | 1.4 | 35.5 | 39.6 | 18.1 | 5.4 | 0.0 | 873 |
| 1E | NA | 0.0 | 18.5 | 44.4 | 23.5 | 12.3 | 1.2 | 81 |
|  | E | 10.1 | 58.2 | 26.6 | 5.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 79 |
|  |  | 5.0 | 38.1 | 35.6 | 14.4 | 6.3 | 0.6 | 160 |
| 1F | NA | 0.0 | 26.1 | 40.9 | 26.1 | 6.8 | 0.0 | 88 |
|  | E | 17.9 | 57.1 | 17.9 | 7.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 28 |
|  |  | 4.3 | 33.6 | 35.3 | 21.6 | 5.2 | 0.0 | 116 |
| All A reas | NA | 0.1 | 31.6 | 40.6 | 21.6 | 6.0 | 0.2 | 1309 |
|  | E | 9.2 | 54.9 | 28.8 | 5.8 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 326 |
|  |  | 1.9 | 36.3 | 38.2 | 18.5 | 5.0 | 0.1 | 1635 |

Table 9. River age distribution (\%) for North American and European origin Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) caught at West Greenland, 1968-2015. Table does not include salmon of unknown age or origin. Not all rows add to 1.0 because of rounding errors.

| YEAR | North American |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 1968 | 0.3 | 19.6 | 40.4 | 21.3 | 16.2 | 2.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1969 | 0.0 | 27.1 | 45.8 | 19.6 | 6.5 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1970 | 0.0 | 58.1 | 25.6 | 11.6 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1971 | 1.2 | 32.9 | 36.5 | 16.5 | 9.4 | 3.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1972 | 0.8 | 31.9 | 51.4 | 10.6 | 3.9 | 1.2 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| 1973 | 2.0 | 40.8 | 34.7 | 18.4 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1974 | 0.9 | 36.0 | 36.6 | 12.0 | 11.7 | 2.6 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| 1975 | 0.4 | 17.3 | 47.6 | 24.4 | 6.2 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1976 | 0.7 | 42.6 | 30.6 | 14.6 | 10.9 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.0 |
| 1978 | 2.7 | 31.9 | 43.0 | 13.6 | 6.0 | 2.0 | 0.9 | 0.0 |
| 1979 | 4.2 | 39.9 | 40.6 | 11.3 | 2.8 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1980 | 5.9 | 36.3 | 32.9 | 16.3 | 7.9 | 0.7 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1981 | 3.5 | 31.6 | 37.5 | 19.0 | 6.6 | 1.6 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| 1982 | 1.4 | 37.7 | 38.3 | 15.9 | 5.8 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.2 |
| 1983 | 3.1 | 47.0 | 32.6 | 12.7 | 3.7 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1984 | 4.8 | 51.7 | 28.9 | 9.0 | 4.6 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.0 |
| 1985 | 5.1 | 41.0 | 35.7 | 12.1 | 4.9 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1986 | 2.0 | 39.9 | 33.4 | 20.0 | 4.0 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1987 | 3.9 | 41.4 | 31.8 | 16.7 | 5.8 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1988 | 5.2 | 31.3 | 30.8 | 20.9 | 10.7 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1989 | 7.9 | 39.0 | 30.1 | 15.9 | 5.9 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1990 | 8.8 | 45.3 | 30.7 | 12.1 | 2.4 | 0.5 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1991 | 5.2 | 33.6 | 43.5 | 12.8 | 3.9 | 0.8 | 0.3 | 0.0 |
| 1992 | 6.7 | 36.7 | 34.1 | 19.1 | 3.2 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1995 | 2.4 | 19.0 | 45.4 | 22.6 | 8.8 | 1.8 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1996 | 1.7 | 18.7 | 46.0 | 23.8 | 8.8 | 0.8 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1997 | 1.3 | 16.4 | 48.4 | 17.6 | 15.1 | 1.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1998 | 4.0 | 35.1 | 37.0 | 16.5 | 6.1 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1999 | 2.7 | 23.5 | 50.6 | 20.3 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2000 | 3.2 | 26.6 | 38.6 | 23.4 | 7.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2001 | 1.9 | 15.2 | 39.4 | 32.0 | 10.8 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2002 | 1.5 | 27.4 | 46.5 | 14.2 | 9.5 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2003 | 2.6 | 28.8 | 38.9 | 21.0 | 7.6 | 1.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2004 | 1.9 | 19.1 | 51.9 | 22.9 | 3.7 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2005 | 2.7 | 21.4 | 36.3 | 30.5 | 8.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2006 | 0.6 | 13.9 | 44.6 | 27.6 | 12.3 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2007 | 1.6 | 27.7 | 34.5 | 26.2 | 9.2 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2008 | 0.9 | 25.1 | 51.9 | 16.8 | 4.7 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2009 | 2.6 | 30.7 | 47.3 | 15.4 | 3.7 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2010 | 1.6 | 21.7 | 47.9 | 21.7 | 6.3 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2011 | 1.0 | 35.9 | 45.9 | 14.4 | 2.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2012 | 0.3 | 29.8 | 39.4 | 23.3 | 6.5 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2013 | 0.1 | 32.6 | 37.3 | 20.8 | 8.6 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2014 | 0.4 | 26.0 | 44.5 | 21.9 | 6.9 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2015 | 0.1 | 31.6 | 40.6 | 21.6 | 6.0 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 10 yr mean <br> (2006-2015) | 0.9 | 27.5 | 43.4 | 21.0 | 6.7 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Overall Mean | 2.5 | 31.5 | 39.7 | 18.5 | 6.7 | 1.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |

Table 9, continued. River age distribution (\%) for North American and European origin Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) caught at West Greenland, 1968-2015. Table does not include salmon of unknown age or origin. Not all rows add to 1.0 because of rounding errors.

| YEAR | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| European |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1968 | 21.6 | 60.3 | 15.2 | 2.7 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1969 | 0.0 | 83.8 | 16.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1970 | 0.0 | 90.4 | 9.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1971 | 9.3 | 66.5 | 19.9 | 3.1 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1972 | 11.0 | 71.2 | 16.7 | 1.0 | 0.1 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1973 | 26.0 | 58.0 | 14.0 | 2.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1974 | 22.9 | 68.2 | 8.5 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1975 | 26.0 | 53.4 | 18.2 | 2.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1976 | 23.5 | 67.2 | 8.4 | 0.6 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1978 | 26.2 | 65.4 | 8.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1979 | 23.6 | 64.8 | 11.0 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1980 | 25.8 | 56.9 | 14.7 | 2.5 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1981 | 15.4 | 67.3 | 15.7 | 1.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1982 | 15.6 | 56.1 | 23.5 | 4.2 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1983 | 34.7 | 50.2 | 12.3 | 2.4 | 0.3 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.0 |
| 1984 | 22.7 | 56.9 | 15.2 | 4.2 | 0.9 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1985 | 20.2 | 61.6 | 14.9 | 2.7 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1986 | 19.5 | 62.5 | 15.1 | 2.7 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1987 | 19.2 | 62.5 | 14.8 | 3.3 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1988 | 18.4 | 61.6 | 17.3 | 2.3 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1989 | 18.0 | 61.7 | 17.4 | 2.7 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1990 | 15.9 | 56.3 | 23.0 | 4.4 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1991 | 20.9 | 47.4 | 26.3 | 4.2 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1992 | 11.8 | 38.2 | 42.8 | 6.5 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1995 | 14.8 | 67.3 | 17.2 | 0.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1996 | 15.8 | 71.1 | 12.2 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1997 | 4.1 | 58.1 | 37.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1998 | 28.6 | 60.0 | 7.6 | 2.9 | 0.0 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 1999 | 27.7 | 65.1 | 7.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2000 | 36.5 | 46.7 | 13.1 | 2.9 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2001 | 16.0 | 51.2 | 27.3 | 4.9 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2002 | 9.4 | 62.9 | 20.1 | 7.6 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2003 | 16.2 | 58.0 | 22.1 | 3.0 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2004 | 18.3 | 57.7 | 20.5 | 3.2 | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2005 | 19.2 | 60.5 | 15.0 | 5.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2006 | 17.7 | 54.0 | 23.6 | 3.7 | 0.9 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2007 | 7.0 | 48.5 | 33.0 | 10.5 | 1.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2008 | 7.0 | 72.8 | 19.3 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2009 | 14.3 | 59.5 | 23.8 | 2.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2010 | 11.3 | 57.1 | 27.3 | 3.4 | 0.8 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2011 | 19.0 | 51.7 | 27.6 | 1.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2012 | 9.3 | 63.0 | 24.0 | 3.7 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2013 | 4.5 | 68.2 | 24.4 | 2.5 | 0.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2014 | 4.5 | 60.7 | 30.8 | 4.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 2015 | 9.2 | 54.9 | 28.8 | 5.8 | 1.2 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| 10 yr mean |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| (2006-2015) | 10.4 | 59.0 | 26.3 | 3.8 | 0.4 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Overall Mean | 16.9 | 60.8 | 19.1 | 2.8 | 0.3 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |

Table 10. The sea-age (1SW - 1 sea-winter, 2SW - 2 sea-winter, and Previous Spawners) composition of Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) by continent of origin (NA - North American and EEuropean) and Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization (NAFO) division caught at West Greenland in 2015. Table does not include salmon with unknown age or origin ( $\mathrm{n}=62$ ). Not all rows add to 100 because of rounding errors.

| NAFO | Origin | Sea-age composition (\%) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 1SW | 2SW | Previous Spawners | Total No. |
| 1B | NA | 95.3 | 1.5 | 3.2 | 402 |
|  | E | 95.4 | 3.4 | 1.1 | 87 |
|  |  | 95.3 | 1.8 | 2.9 | 489 |
| 1 C | NA | 97.6 | 0.4 | 2.0 | 742 |
|  | E | 99.3 | 0.7 | 0.0 | 134 |
|  |  | 97.8 | 0.5 | 1.7 | 876 |
| 1E | NA | 98.8 | 0.0 | 1.2 | 81 |
|  | E | 100.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 83 |
|  |  | 99.4 | 0.0 | 0.6 | 164 |
| 1F | NA | 98.9 | 0.0 | 1.1 | 89 |
|  | E | 96.4 | 0.0 | 3.6 | 28 |
|  |  | 98.3 | 0.0 | 1.7 | 117 |
| All areas | NA | 97.0 | 0.7 | 2.3 | 1314 |
|  | E | 98.2 | 1.2 | 0.6 | 332 |
|  |  | 97.3 | 0.8 | 1.9 | 1646 |



Figure 1. Nominal catches and commercial quotas (metric tons, round fresh weight) of Atlantic salmon (Salmon salar) at West Greenland for 1960-2015 (top panel) and 2006-2015 (bottom panel). Total reported landings from 2006-2015 are displayed by landings type. From 2009 to the present, Private landings are reported as coming from licensed or nonlicensed fishers. No quotas were set from 2003-2011, but from 2012-2014 an annual quota was set and applied to factory landings only, and in 2015 a quota was set for the entire fishery.

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Figure 2. Map of southwest Greenland showing communities to which Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) have historically been landed. Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization Division (NAFO) divisions (1A-1F) are also shown.


Figure 3. The weighted proportions of North American and European Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) caught at West Greenland from 1982-2015. Proportions were weighted by the estimated numbers of salmon, by origin, for each division according to the adjusted landings.


Figure 4. Proportions of unsampled adjusted landings and North American origin and European origin Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar, left panels) and of sampled adjusted landings and North American origin and European origin Atlantic salmon (right panels) at West Greenland from 20052015. Rows represent Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Organization divisions (NAFO, top row represents division 1A and bottom row represents division 1F). Year-division combinations with data identify when and where sampling occurred. Division 1A 2005 value is from 1 sample.


Figure 5. The weighted numbers of North American and European Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) caught at West Greenland from 1982-2015 (top) and 2006-2015 (bottom). Numbers are rounded to the nearest hundred fish. In 2015, it is estimated that approximately 13,500 and 3,900 North American and European origin fish were harvested, respectively.


Figure 6. Mean uncorrected whole weight (kg) of European and North American 1 sea-winter (fish that have spent one winter at sea) Atlantic salmon (Salmo salar) sampled in West Greenland from 1969-2015.

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[^1]
[^0]:    Sheehan TF, Davison P, Deschamps D, Drumm A, Millane M, Morgan T, Music P, Niven A, Nygaard R, King TL, Robertson MJ, Maoiléidigh NO 2017. The international sampling program: Continent of origin and biological characteristics of Atlantic salmon collected at West Greenland in 2015. US Dept Commer, Northeast Fish Sci Cent Ref Doc. 17-13; 28 p. Available from: http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/publications/

[^1]:    TO OBTAIN A COPY of a NOAA Technical Memorandum NMFS-NE or a Northeast Fisheries Science Center Reference Document, either contact the NEFSC Editorial Office ( 166 Water St., Woods Hole, MA 02543-1026; 508-495-2350) or consult the NEFSC webpage on "Reports and Publications" (http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/nefsc/publications/). To access Resource Survey Report, consult the Ecosystem Surveys Branch webpage (http://www.nefsc.noaa.gov/femad/ecosurvey/mainpage/).

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