

Sustainable Fisheries Policy

In Royal Greenland, it is important that all fisheries are carried out responsibly and sustainably, to ensure the natural resources and the marine biodiversity. This applies to the fisheries we are directly responsible for, the fisheries we indirectly influence via local landings to our factories as well as for external purchases.

Definition

In Royal Greenland, a fishery is sustainable, when the target specie is part of a healthy stock, which is fished according to a scientific based Total Allowable Catch (TAC). In addition, the fishery may not cause irreversible damage to the seabed, by-catch should be minimized, discards eliminated and the fishery should be well controlled and managed.

We acknowledge that a fishery can be sustainable without being approved by a third party, but we consider a third party certification to provide the greatest certainty for the sustainability of the fishery. When a fishery is MSC certified, the fishery is documented as sustainable.

Partnerships

Royal Greenland is an active partner to the fishing industry, fishermen, researchers and the authorities, where we wish to contribute with technical assistance and knowledge for the sustainable development of fisheries. We do this in Greenland through the Sustainable Fisheries Greenland (SFG) organization, working for MSC certification of the Greenlandic fisheries.

Royal Greenland's off shore fishery

Royal Greenland trawlers primarily fish in Greenlandic waters, but also in the Barents Sea. We see it as our duty to stay updated on the development of new requirements for fisheries, respond to scientific advice in stock changes and participate actively in the development of fisheries through new technology.

Targets for the off shore fishery:

- MSC certification of the off shore fisheries
- Encourage development of an ecosystem approach to Fishery management

Royal Greenland's coastal fishery and landings from local fishermen

In the coastal fishery, fishing takes place with smaller vessels and dinghies close to towns and settlements and Royal Greenland owns only a few of the vessels.

In Greenland, Royal Greenland is, like other operators, obliged by law to report all catches and by-catches to the authorities. This is important in terms of documenting the catch as well as the impact on the environment, and is thus a part of achieving MSC certification.

Targets for the coastal fishery:

- All major coastal fisheries to be MSC certified
- Initiate fishery improvement projects (FIP) for fish stocks with critical stock profiles or missing data
- Incorporate the fishermen's knowledge in the development of the fishery
- Simplify catch and by-catch reporting

Protection of ecosystems and habitats

To promote continuous sustainable development of the marine resources, we fish with selective tools so that by-catch and discarding is minimised. We wish to protect ecosystems and habitats as much as possible and where new vulnerable areas are observed, these are reported to authorities and researchers.

External purchase

When sourcing fish and seafood externally, we focus on purchasing sustainable raw materials and finished goods, and we deselect species and fisheries that do not meet this policy of sustainable fishery.

Traceability and IUU

Royal Greenland mainly fish and purchase wild-caught fish and shellfish from the North Atlantic, but also from other marine areas and aquaculture. In any fishery and purchase, traceability is important in order to be able to pass on information about the origin to the customers, but also in order to determine the sustainability of the fishery.

Through our traceability system and required documentation from authorities, we guarantee and ensure that illegal, unreported or unregulated (IUU) fishing does not take place.

New species and experimental fishery

Over time, species and stocks will fluctuate according to climate impact. Through planned initiatives, we wish to carry out experimental fisheries or farming, to continue the development of the marine resources for the benefit of the local communities.

The Sustainable Fisheries Policy is applicable to the entire Royal Greenland.

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