

Fisheries inspection 2014

*Commercial and recreational
Inspection and infringements*

Colophone

Fisheries inspection 2014

Commercial and recreational

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1. Introduction

1.1 Foreword

The report describes the most important fisheries inspection results for the Danish AgriFish Agency's peripheral units (inspectorates, Inspection vessels and FMC¹) in relation to fishing in 2014. It also describes the infringement discovered along with the effect of fisheries inspection efforts.

The statements are compared with corresponding statements for 2013. It should be noted that several of the numbers in this report are not completely identical with corresponding statements in "Fiskerikontrol 2013" (Fisheries Inspection 2013). This is primarily due to the fact that the figures in "Fiskerikontrol 2013" were compiled in the middle of January 2014 and subsequently some additional numbers were recorded for 2013, which are now included in the statements. Moreover the Danish AgriFish Agency has implemented new IT systems, which can also result in statements not being completely identical with corresponding statements in "Fiskerikontrol 2013".

The report was drawn up in March 2015 by the FMC in collaboration with the agency's Fisheries Inspection planning team.

1.2 Summary and overall assessment

The Danish AgriFish Agency's largest inspection subject in 2014 was, as in previous years, the inspection of commercial fishing. In addition, the Agency also inspects recreational fishing in salt and fresh water.

The inspection of commercial fishing is carried out according to a risk-based inspection strategy, which, among other things, comprises inspection plans for special fisheries and focused action areas and campaigns. Inspection is carried out as physical checks at sea, upon landing in harbour, relative to purchasers of fish and by administrative cross-checks² and systematic monitoring.

The total number of inspected fishing trips has increased a little compared with 2013.

Certain fisheries are covered by inspection plans. This applies to cod, plaice, sole, salmon, herring and sprat. 2014 was the first year these inspection plans were implemented and tentative inspection results were established. The ambitious inspection aims were partly achieved. Experiences from the new impact-based inspection targets in 2014 are included in the setting of inspection targets for 2015.

¹ Fisheries Monitoring Centre

² Cross-checking is administrative comparison of information from logbook, sales note, VMS and hail.

Inspection of pelagic fishing³ was performed according to plan and inspection results were achieved.

Inspection of industrial fishing⁴ was carried out as planned and inspection results were achieved in the most important action areas.

In 2014, the Danish AgriFish Agency also participated in joint international inspection campaigns (Joint Deployment Plans), including in the coordination of these campaigns. The campaigns were especially focused on fishing for cod, plaice and sole in the North Sea, cod in the Skagerrak /Kattegat and cod, herring, salmon and sprat in the Baltic Sea.

The number of alarms recorded for fishing activities in areas with fishing restrictions (closed areas) was halved. It has been assessed that this halving is due to focused efforts relative to vessels sailing in or sailing into the closed areas.

In connection with the administrative and physical inspection actions, the Danish AgriFish Agency found almost the same number of infringements as in 2013. However, there was some shifting within the individual categories. The shifting is due to a number of circumstances, including changed inspection pressure on the different types of fishery, increased administrative cross-checks and a trial scheme with landing obligations (prohibition of discards) in industrial fishing.

In 2014, the Danish AgriFish Agency assessed that the increased focus on risk-based inspections, and thus also increased attention on vessels that had previously failed to obey the regulations, had a positive effect relative to compliance with the regulations.

Recreational fishing is also controlled in accordance with a risk-based inspection strategy. More fishing gears were checked in 2014 than in 2013. Of the gears checked less illegal gears were found than in 2013.

Besides inspection and supervision, the Danish AgriFish Agency's efforts relative to commercial fishing and recreational fishing also comprise close collaboration with unions and stakeholders, including other authorities, among them the Danish Tax Agency (SKAT) and the Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. Finally, they provide guidance and information for citizens and interested stakeholders, and also contacts with the press.

³ Pelagic fishing is fishing for herring, mackerel and horse mackerel.

⁴ Industrial fishing is fishing for such species as sandeel, sprat, Norwegian pout and blue whiting. The catches are used for the production of fishmeal and oil.

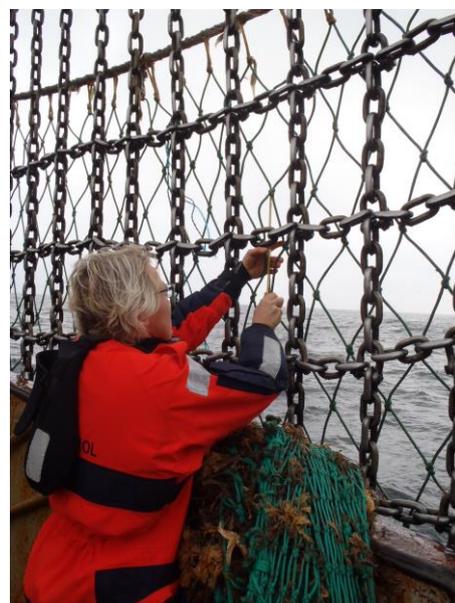
2. Inspection of commercial fishing

The inspection of commercial fishing especially includes inspection of vessels at sea while they are fishing, inspection in harbours during landing and inspection of batches of fish acquired by purchasers. After carrying out an inspection, the inspectors issue an inspection report with information about individual inspection elements. Information from the inspection reports make up the basic documentation for the inspection work. Administrative cross-checks of information's from vessels and from purchasers of fish are also carried out.

In 2014, the inspection base for landing inspections was approx. 81,125 landings of fish, which was 3 % fewer than in 2013. The quantity of fish landed in 2014 was approx. 989,397 tons, which is a rise of 17 % compared with 2013.

In 2014, 3907 fishing trips were inspected, which was 28 more than in 2013, equivalent to an increase of one percent in inspections made.

3,140 inspections were performed when landing at the quayside, while 767 were carried out at sea. Moreover, 872 observations without boarding were made of fishing vessels at sea.



Measuring the mesh size on a beamtrawler in the North Sea.

		2012	2013	2014	Change 2013 - 2014
Inspection	Inspections in harbours	3,219	3,071	3,140	2 %
	Inspections at sea	592	808	767	-5 %
	Total vessel inspections	3,811	3,879	3,907	1 %

There was an overall shift in the distribution of inspections with more inspections of industrial fisheries and fewer inspections of fish for human consumption. The conditions are described in greater detail in paragraphs 2.2 and 2.4.

2.1 Effect-based fisheries inspection

From 2014, the Danish AgriFish Agency changed the inspection model for a number of fisheries. Previously, inspection of, for example cod fishing, followed a performance-based model where targets were set for the number of inspections carried out in various fisheries segments. The new model is based on a number of indicators, which show the degree of compliance with the regulations.

Targets are expressed as degrees of compliance of the regulations, and targets are set as maintenance targets for areas with high degrees of compliance. This means that inspection efforts must ensure that compliance remains high.

Targets are set as reduction targets for areas with a lesser degree of compliance of the regulations. This means that inspection efforts must ensure that compliance improves. Inspection efforts should be a means of persuading fishermen to change behaviour, and not a target in itself.

The new inspection model is used for the following fisheries:

- Cod in the North Sea, the Skagerrak and the Kattegat
- Plaice in the North Sea
- Sole in the North Sea
- Cod in the Baltic Sea
- Herring and sprat in the Baltic Sea
- Salmon in the Baltic Sea

All the above mentioned fisheries are covered by a so-called "**S**pecific **C**ontrol and **I**nspection **P**rogramme", hereinafter abbreviated to SCIP. The detailed rules for SCIP are established in two EU regulations (one for the North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and one for the Baltic Sea).

In 2014, 91 regulation areas were chosen where effect targets were set relative to compliance with regulations. Each regulation area consists of a combination of a rule, a fish species, an area and a type of gear. The following regulations were selected:

- Reporting changes of fishing waters
- Tolerance of reporting quantities in logbook
- Fishing without permission (license)
- Highgrading⁵
- Fishing areas with fisheries restrictions (closed areas)
- Misreporting of fishing areas in logbook
- Reporting arrivals and landing
- Incorrect catch composition (illegal bycatches etc.)
- Illegal fishing equipment
- Landing of undersized fish
- VMS-failure⁶

⁵ Catch optimization by the illegal discarding of less valuable fish.

⁶ Vessel Monitoring System, satellite based system, which send information about position, speed and course from a fishing vessel

In 2013, 77 regulation areas showed a high degree of compliance. For the same areas in 2014, at least 64 regulation areas continued to show a high degree of compliance at the end of the year.

In 2013, 14 regulation areas showed a lower degree of compliance. For these areas in 2014, at least 10 regulation areas showed a higher degree of compliance at the end of the year.

The next section describes the inspection results for the respective regulation areas in greater detail.

Regulation areas with indications of a high degree of compliance

At the end of 2014, indicators showed that risk assessment for irregularities continued to be "low" or "very low" in 75 of the regulation areas. Just two areas had changed for the worse relative to compliance with regulations. These were:

- Reporting of changing of area when fishing for plaice in the North Sea with towed gears
- VMS-failure at sea when fishing for sole in the North Sea, towed gears

Both cases involve a slight rise in the degree of noncompliances.

The Danish AgriFish Agency assesses that the small rise is primarily due to statistical variations in the calculation basis and does not reflect generally poorer compliance with the regulations.

Regulation areas with indications of a low degree of compliance

At the end of 2014, indicators showed that risk assessment for irregularities had declined in eight of the regulation areas. These were:

- Reporting of changing of area when fishing for cod in the North Sea with towed gears
- Reporting of changing of area when fishing for cod in the Baltic Sea with towed gears
- Reporting of changing of area when fishing for herring in the Baltic Sea with towed gears
- Deviation in reporting of arrivals and landings when fishing for cod in the North Sea with towed gears
- Deviation in reporting of arrivals and landings when fishing for cod in the North Sea with passive gears
- Deviation in reporting of arrivals and landings when fishing for cod in the Baltic Sea with towed gears
- Deviation in reporting of arrivals and landings when fishing for cod in the Baltic Sea with passive gears
- High grading of cod from the North Sea with towed gears

Six areas were unchanged or changed for the worse relative to compliance with regulations. These were:

- Reporting of changing of area when fishing for sole in the North Sea with towed gears
- Tolerance in logbook for plaice from the North Sea, towed gears
- Tolerance in logbook for sole from the North Sea, towed gears
- Tolerance in in logbook for sole from the North Sea, passive gears
- Reporting of changing of area when fishing for sprat in the Baltic Sea with towed gears
- High grading of cod from the Skagerrak with towed gears.

Overall inspection efforts in 2014 consisted of a broad range of inspection means intended to ensure a higher degree of compliance with regulations. Physical inspections were carried out at sea and upon landing with the appurtenant guidance, dialogue and possible sanctions. Administrative cross-checks were performed of reported fishing information with subsequent dialog, guidance and possible sanctions. In addition, there were discussions and meetings with the industry interest groups. It is not possible to give a complete quantitative compilation of all the inspection means.

Below is a compilation of the number of physical inspections carried out in the selected action areas.

Action Area	Number of inspections
Reports of changes of fishing areas	354
Estimated error tolerance of quantities in logbook	926
Fishing without permission (license)	636
High grading of cod	238
Fishing in closed areas	1,073
Misreporting of fishing areas in logbook	304
Reporting arrivals and landing	690
Incorrect catch composition	1,335
Illegal fishing gears	158
Landing of undersized fish	1,298
VMS-failure	1,079

The total number of physical inspections carried out does not reflect the overall number of inspection visits made, in that a single inspection may also cover several action areas.

The inspection frequency in action areas was 7.4 % - the overall inspection frequency for all landings was 3.9 %.

In 2014, the Danish AgriFish Agency's target was to carry out inspections of at least 5 % foreign vessels' landings of SCIP species in Denmark. This target was achieved for both SCIP areas (North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and Baltic Sea).

SCIP area	Inspection frequency
North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat	6.9 %
Baltic Sea	5.2 %

2.2 Inspection of cod fishing

In 2014, there were 39,901 landings of cod in Danish harbours, equivalent to a decline of 3 % compared with 2013. Of these, 1,151 landings were inspected, equivalent to an inspection frequency of 3 %.

		2012	2013	2014	Change 2013 - 2014
Cod	Number of cod landings	45,694	41,235	39,901	-3 %
	Quantities of cod landed in tons (gutted weight)	23,528	18,443	20,848	13 %
	Inspection of cod landings	1,776	1,531	1,151	-25 %
	Quantity of cod inspected in tons	2,079	1,275	1,153	-10 %
	Inspection frequency (quantity)	9 %	7 %	6 %	
	Inspection frequency (number in harbour)	4 %	4 %	3 %	
	Percentage of cod inspections compared with total inspections	55 %	50 %	37 %	
	Inspections at sea	266	268	356	

In 2014, the Danish AgriFish Agency inspected 6 % of the quantity of cod landed compared with 7 % in 2013. The inspection of landings in which cod is included accounts for the greatest part (37 %) of all landing inspections. The percentage of cod inspections compared with total inspections has declined. This is due to the Danish AgriFish Agency using more inspection resources on the inspection of industrial fisheries in 2014, cf. paragraph 2.4, and the carrying out of more inspections of the other SCIP species (plaice, sole, sprat, herring and salmon). The inspection of these species is included in the statement for industrial and other species.

2.3 Inspection of Pelagic fishing

Inspections of pelagic landings of herring, mackerel or horse mackerel of more than ten tons from the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat consist of a large number of inspection items, among other thing including inspectors monitoring landings from start to finish. Physical inspections are carried out of selected vessels and administrative cross-checks are performed for all landings. The EU requirement is physical inspection of at least 10 % of the number of landings and at least 15 % of the quantities.

In 2014, physical inspections of 36 landings were performed, equivalent to 12 % of the number of pelagic landings and 15 % of the quantities landed. Thus the target inspections were complied with.

		2012	2013	2014	Change 2013 -2014
Pelagic	Number of pelagic landings	323	318	311	-2 %
	Landed pelagic amounts in tons	120,257	112,713	99,398	-12 %
	Inspections in harbours (number)	52	54	36	-33 %
	Inspection frequency (number in harbour)	16 %	17 %	12 %	
	Inspection frequency (quantity)	18 %	22 %	15 %	

2.4 Inspection of industrial fishing

In 2014, the inspection of landings of industrial fish was managed with the help an inspection plan, which in collaboration with DTU Aqua determined various inspection frequencies for the chosen industrial fisheries. Inspection frequency is a reflection of risk assessment by type and area. For example, the inspection frequency for sprat from the North Sea was 20 %, whilst the frequency for the Skagerrak was 33 %. Inspection frequencies have been set for 15 segments and the inspection target was achieved in 14 segments.

In the "Blue whiting from areas 5B, 6A and 7C" segment (west of the British Isles) the Agency failed to reach the target. 26% of landings were inspected and the target was 50 %. The failure to comply with targets was among other things due to catch information from a number of Norwegian landings of blue whiting was difficult to obtain – the reports of landings did not immediately reveal which fishing areas catches came from.

In industrial fishing, the number of landings rose by one percent compared with 2013. In 2014, 909 landings of industrial fish were inspected. The overall inspection frequency rose from 15 % in 2013 to 28 % in 2014. The reason for the large rise in the number of inspected landings was a trial scheme in the second half of 2014. The trial scheme resulted in landing obligations for all species and, among other things, led to more inspections of sprat landings. Moreover, more inspections were carried out in connection with the real-time monitoring⁷ of sandeel fishing.

		2012	2013	2014	Change 2013 - 2014
Industrial	Number of industrial landings (selected)	2,543	3,223	3,245	1 %
	Industrial quantities (tons)	288,881	425,418	448,417	5 %
	Inspection of industrial landings (number)	457	478	909	90 %
	Inspection frequency (number in harbour)	18 %	15 %	28 %	13 %
	Inspections at sea	37	27	25	-7 %

⁷ Real-time monitoring refers to fishermen and the Danish AgriFish Agency's inspectors gathering samples of sandeel. The samples were used to assess the stocks of sandeel and adjust fishing to the size of stocks the same year.

2.5 Inspection of other species or other inspections

Inspections were carried out of a number of other fish species, including plaice, sole, salmon, eel, prawns and shrimps, lobster and two shelled molluscs (oysters and mussels), in cases where catches do not also contain cod, pelagic species or industrial species. Inspections are performed at sea during fishing and upon landing of the species concerned. There were also inspections of aspects of fishing other than for prescribed species. These may involve changes of hard disks to CCTV surveillance, guidance, inspections where there has been no catch etc. In 2014, 1,044 landing inspections were carried out and 364 inspections at sea of other species or other inspections. In 2013, the corresponding figures were 1,008 upon landing and 511 at sea.

2.6 Inspection in the sale phase

In 2014, fish at purchasers were inspected in accordance with a different inspection model to that previously used. In 2014, the Danish AgriFish Agency set a target of 5 % of the amounts of the consumer fish species cod, plaice, sole and salmon (species comprised by SCIP).

Below is a list of the quantities inspected:

Species of fish	Purchased quantity (tons)	Inspected quantity (tons)	Inspection frequency
Cod	18,610	1142	6.1 %
Plaice	10,570	488	4.6 %
Sole	65	4.3	6.6 %
Salmon	25	0.8	3.2 %
Total	29,270	1,635	5.6 %

Hygiene inspections are made when inspecting landings and during inspection of receivers and purchasers. Hygiene inspections consist of an evaluation of whether fish are fit for human consumption as stipulated by the Danish Food Act, including whether the hygienic conditions relating to handling, transport and storage are satisfactory.

2.7 Inspection of IUU fishing⁸

The Danish AgriFish Agency must carry out inspections that comply with the EU's IUU regulations. These tasks comprise inspection of landings from third-country vessels in Danish harbours and the validation of catch certificates when Danish vessels land in certain third countries and Danish companies' exports of fish and fisheries products to certain third countries.

The Danish AgriFish Agency must carry out administrative checks of all direct landings carried out by third country vessels and physical inspection of at least 5 % of the same landings.

⁸ **I**llegal, **U**nreported and **U**nregulated fishing

Moreover, the agency must validate catch certificates for Danish vessels, if the catches are exported to third countries or are landed directly in third countries.

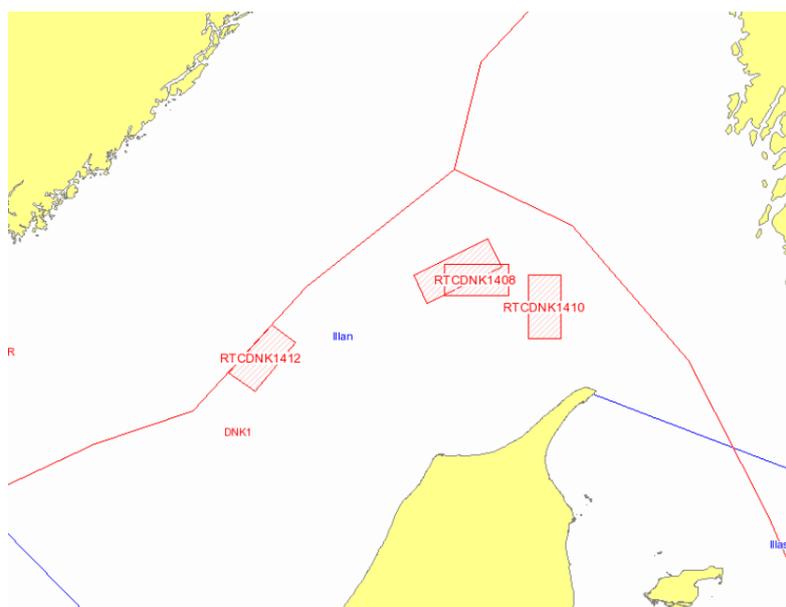
In 2014, administrative inspections of 1,233 certificates from 744 landings from third country vessels were conducted as well as physical inspections of 37 landings, equivalent to 5 %. There were 2,338 validations of certificates for Danish batches for export. Thus the target inspections were complied with.

2.8 Inspections of RTC⁹

During the course of 2014, inspection vessels carried out 13 RTC inspections in the North Sea and the Skagerrak, of which four resulted in area closures due to the presence of a large proportion of juvenile fish from the species, cod, haddock, whiting and pollack. Besides the normal inspection elements, RTC inspections consist of the weighing and counting of the specified species. Moreover, the inspection results are used to assess possible highgrading.

		2012	2013	2014	Change 2013 - 2014
RTC	Number of RTC inspections	33	16	13	-19 %
	If which number of area closures	9	3	4	+33 %

The four areas were closed for fishing for a period of 21 days. The diagramme shows the position of the closed areas.



⁹ **Real Time Closure**, Closing of limited areas due to the presence of a large number of juvenile fish.

2.9 Administrative cross-checks

The Danish AgriFish Agency has drawn up automatic lists of information about fishing trips, which are subsequently manually cross-checked. The lists are prepared based on VMS data, observations at sea, logbook data, invoice data, reporting data and license data. The list was drawn up for 11 specific problems within the areas: Tolerance in logbook, overfishing, reporting failures, incorrect specification of fishing areas and non-existent or incorrect licenses.

In 2014 there were 1,163 circumstances which subsequently required manual cross-checking. Of these, 158 incidents resulted in further case processing, including consultative proceedings and possible legal action.

Cross checks		2013	2014	Change 2013 – 2014
	Manual post checks	897	1,163	30 %
	Cases which with further action	115	158	37 %

Among the reasons for the increase in the number of cross-checking circumstances was that the regulations for fishermen submitting reports changed in January 2013. In the January – September 2013, fishermen were allowed a running in period, during which no administrative cross checks were carried out due to the scarcity of reports. Throughout 2014 cross-checks were carried out on the missing reports.

2.10 inspection of fishing areas with fisheries restrictions (closed areas)

The Danish AgriFish Agency systematically monitors fishing activities in a number of fishing waters with fishing restrictions. In 2014, 12 areas were monitored.

Monitoring is performed through the use of vessels' VMS information about position, course and speed. If a vessel is active in a closed area, an automatic alarm is sent to FMC. Then a procedure is initiated whereby an inspection officer undertakes a more detailed administrative investigation of the vessel's activity, including possible contact with the vessel. Should there still be doubts about the vessel's activity in the closed area, if possible a physical inspection is made.

In 2014, 1,227 alarms were recorded, ref. the list. All the alarms were investigated and assessed for further action. A police report was submitted on one occasion when a vessel was fishing in the K3 area in the Kattegat. Otherwise, the circumstances either related to legal activities or were of a minor case (for example, one-off VMS signals right on the border of a closed area).

Monitoring area	Number recorded alarms	Number recorded alarms	Change 2013 - 2014
	2013	2014	
Kattegat, K1	871	135	-85 %
Kattegat, K2	188	129	-31 %
Kattegat, K3	349	113	-68 %
Baltic Sea, Bornholm Deep	97	90	-7 %
Baltic Sea, Gotland deep	1	2	100 %
Western Baltic Sea, zone A	90	72	-20 %
Eastern Baltic Sea, zone B	147	125	-15 %
Øresund	449	249	-45 %
North Sea, sprat box	116	6	-95 %
North Sea, sandeel area 4	232	199	-14 %
RTC areas	40	53	33 %
Natura2000	22	54	145 %
Total	2,602	1,227	-53 %

The number of recorded alarms more than halved in 2014 compared with 2013. The number fell particularly in the three Kattegat K areas. The Danish AgriFish Agency assesses that the decline is due to focused action against vessels with a one speed, which indicates fishing activities in closed areas. The action consisted of direct telephone contacts with the vessel captains and physical checks of selected vessels.

2.11 Inspection of mussel fishing

Besides physical inspections (see para. 2.5) of mussel fishing, the activities of vessels used for mussel fishing are checked systematically. As a result of a change in the executive order on regulation of mussel fishing in 2014, now all vessels with licenses to fish for blue mussels must be equipped with an electronic Black Box, which records and gathers data on vessels' positions, courses, speeds and fishing activities. Implementation of this surveillance initiative has, among other things, influenced the EU Commission to authorise Denmark's fishing of blue mussels in specially protected Natura 2000 areas. Moreover, a requirement was placed in 2014 for all vessels fishing for oysters in Limfjorden to be fitted with an electronic surveillance Black Box from the start of the season in the autumn of 2014.

A total of 56 mussel and oyster vessels in three different fishing waters are fitted with Black Boxes. The systematic monitoring of these vessels' activities is undertaken by the Danish AgriFish Agency's departments in Nykøbing Mors and Fredericia. Among other things, inspections consist of checking that there is no fishing in prohibited areas, and only in areas that are open for fishing, as well as checking that there is no fishing within established depth limits. Moreover, administrative cross-checks are carried out on selected fishing trips where logbooks, yield documents, reports and invoices are inspected.

Finally, the data received is used by DTU Aqua when drawing up stock estimates and for the preparation of environmental appraisals, which must be drawn up before the Danish AgriFish Agency can assess whether fishing could have a negative impact on the specially protected areas. This Black Box data is already now showing it has made impact assessments even more accurate relative to the area impact of the Natura 2000 areas.

2.12 JDP campaigns

In the course of 2014, inspectorates and ships participate in a number of joint international inspection campaigns, Joint Deployment Plans (JDP). The purpose is to ensure uniform and efficient implementation of conservation and inspection arrangements for the stocks involved, which, among other things is done by pooling inspection resources, exchanging fisheries inspectors and coordinating joint action across fisheries territories and national borders.

Inspections were carried out both at sea and in harbours and were aimed at fisheries and landings of cod, plaice and sole in the North Sea, cod in the Skagerrak/Kattegat and cod, herring, salmon and sprat in the Baltic Sea and pelagic species from waters west of the British Isles. Danish inspectors were assigned to foreign inspection vessels and harbours, and foreign inspectors were on board Danish inspection vessels and carried out landing inspections together with Danish fisheries inspectors in Danish harbours.

During the campaign period, for eight weeks in the Baltic Sea and for six weeks in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat, Denmark was responsible for coordination.

The vessels inspected by Danish inspection vessels and the inspection of vessels in harbours were included in the list of the overall inspection results. It should be noted that both when Denmark was responsible for coordination, but also during foreign managed coordination campaigns, special risk lists of vessels that could be potential targets for inspection were also compiled.

2.13 NEAFC¹⁰ Campaign

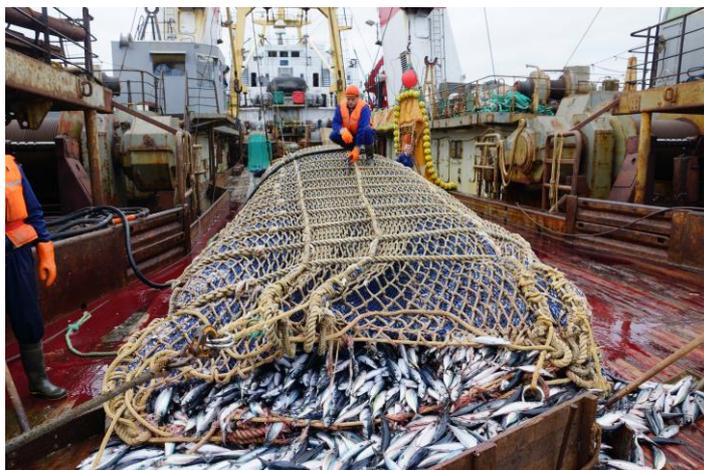
The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) is an international commission made up of five parties: the EU, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Denmark on behalf of the Faeroe Islands and Greenland.

The NEAFC regulates fisheries in the North East Atlantic Ocean, from Cape Farewell to the Barents Sea and south to Portugal – outside the coastal nations' territorial limits, which is the 200 sea mile limit. The main species subject to regulation by NEAFC are redfish, Atlanto-Scandic herring, mackerel, blue whiting along with deep-sea species. Under the convention, the Commission shall participate in the conservation and long-term exploitation of fisheries resources by means of a joint set of rules.

¹⁰ North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission

Denmark shall provide an inspection platform for 15 days a year to ensure that fisheries are complying with the joint rules and to ensure that no other countries besides the contracting parties are fishing in the area. Thus the Danish AgriFish Agency sends the fisheries inspection vessel "Vestkysten" north into the international waters in the Norwegian Sea, which lies between Greenland and Norway.

In 2014, 11 Russian, 8 Faeroese and one vessel from the country of Saint Kitts and Nevis were inspected. In three of the cases violation was found within the categories of lack of license and violation of reporting rules.



Inspection of a vessel fishing for mackerel in NEAFC.

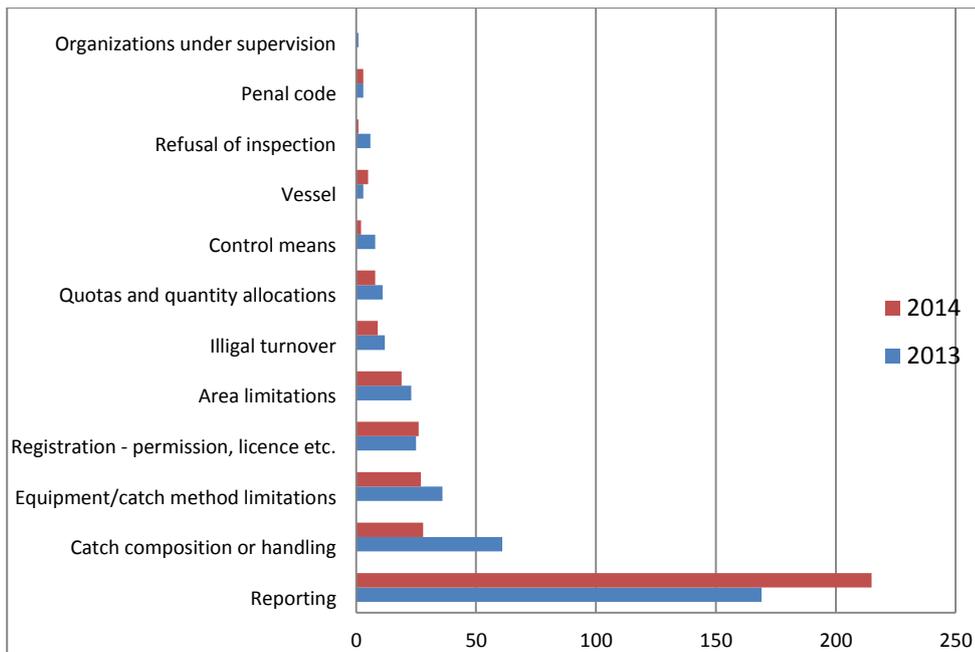
NEAFC areas are marked with orange color.

2.14 Infringements, commercial fisheries

The physical and administrative inspection in 2014 registered 304 violations, of which 134 cases related to cod fisheries. In 2013 the corresponding figures were 303 violations, of which 11 cases relating to cod fisheries. Therefore the total number of cases was the same in 2013, whilst the number of cases relating to cod rose by 21 %.

The increase in the number of violations in cod fishing stemmed from the fact that cross-checks of reports were made for the whole of 2014 in contrast to 2013, when there was a transition scheme, ref. Paragraph 2.9.

The violations were divided into different types and sub-groups. A single violation may consist of several types (and sub-groups) of infringements.



It is still infringement of reporting regulations (logbooks, reports and invoices), which account for the major part, equivalent to 63 %.

In the following groups there has been substantial growth from 2013 to 2014:

- Increase in infringements of the reporting regulations (169 to 215)
 - Of which a decline in cases of logbook infringements (137 to 120)
 - Along with a rise in cases of reports (28 to 83)
- Decline in infringements concerning illegal catch composition or handling (61 to 28)
 - Of which fewer cases with under-sized lobster (14 to 5)
 - Of which fewer cases with industrial species (19 to 10)
- Decline in equipment/catch method limitations (36 to 27)
- Decline in illegal turnover etc. (12 to 9)
- Decline in infringements relating to quotas and quantity allocations (11 to 8)

Changes in the number of infringements should be viewed in light of the following:

- There was less inspection pressure on consumer species, including cod.
- There was an increase in the number of industrial inspections in connection with trial fisheries relating to the introduction of discarding prohibitions. Among other things, this has resulted in participating vessels in trial fisheries being released from the normal bycatch rules.
- In November, there was a special inspection campaign relating to illegal recreational fishing, which consumed a fair number of inspection resources.
- More administrative cross-checks were made of landings of cod, which resulted in an increase in cases relating to reporting.

2.15 Point allocation for serious violations

From 1 December 2012, the Danish AgriFish Agency implemented EU regulations on point allocations for a number of serious infringements.

If in one and the same inspection there proves to be one or more serious infringements, points can be allocated for each violation, although no more than 12 points per inspection.

After a total of at least 18 points have been allocated to a license holder and/or vessel captain, the fishing license / the rights to be master of a fishing vessel are suspended for a period of at least two months. If the fishing license / the rights to be master of a fishing vessel are suspended for a second time, the suspension period is four months, after suspension for a third time, the period is eight months, after the fourth it is one year. If the license holder/captain is allocated at least 18 points for the fifth time, the fishing license / the rights to be master of a fishing vessel are permanently withdrawn.

If the license holder and/or vessel captain does not commit any more serious infringements within three years of the date of the last serious infringement , all points are deleted for the license holder/vessel captain.

In 2014, there were seven incidents where points were allocated. Here points were allocated for 14 violations. The cases were divided between seven vessels. None of these vessels had had two or more cases. The highest overall number of points allocated in 2014 was seven. There were no suspensions of fishing licenses or sailing rights.

All the points allocated related to industrial fishing (illegal catch composition). Moreover, in all cases points were allocated for incorrect entries in logbooks.

Appeals against 2 of the cases were lodged with the Danish Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries' complaints board. One case was sustained and one case has yet to be decided.

		2013	2014	Change 2013 - 2014
Point Allocation	Number of vessels	18	7	-61 %
	Number of cases	22	7	-68 %
	Number of infringements	44	14	-68 %

The reason for the decline in the number of cases from 2013 to 2014 is assessed to be the effect of the point allocation system, which consequently has had behavioural modification impact, which was precisely the purpose of the rules.

After two years of using the point system, 21 vessels have been allocated points once, whilst four have been allocated points twice. The highest number of points allocated in a single case was 10 (fishing without a license and incorrect logbook entries). The highest number of points allocated is 16 allocated for two cases of landing undersized fish and incorrect logbook entries.

3. Inspection of recreational fishing and fish passages

Recreational fishing inspections are in particular carried out as inspection of fishing equipment in fresh water and coastal areas and inspection of persons angling or engaging in recreational fishing. Fish passages are inspected in fresh water via damming, dams etc. through the use of fishways, eel passages and gratings. After conducting an inspection, the inspectors issue an inspection report with more specific information from the inspection. Information from the inspection reports makes up the basic documentation for the inspection work.

3.1 Inspection of anglers and their tackle

In 2014, the number of inspection visits increased from 517 to 556, which is equivalent to 8 %.

The number of inspections in 2014 increased from 1,840 to 2,290, which is equivalent to an increase of 25 %.

In 2014, 5,977 fishing tackles were inspected, which was 873 more than in 2013, equivalent to an increase of 17 percent. In 2014, a new mobile app was tested for the recording of recreational inspections. Data thus obtained is not yet fully available, and the number of items of equipment and persons inspected may be somewhat greater than the list compiled.



Inspection of a recreational fishing gear.

		2012	2013	2014	Change 2013 – 2014
Inspection	Number of inspection visits	584	517	556	8 %
	Number of inspections	1,843	1,840	2,290	25 %
	Number of inspected gears	6,116	5,104	5,977	17 %

In 2014 1,307 inspections were conducted for recreational fishing licenses, which was 194 more than in 2013 and equivalent to an increase of 17 %. In 2014, 32,461 recreational fishing licences were paid for.

3.2 Inspection campaign

As part of the Minister of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries' vision to strengthen angling and leisure fishing, the first phase of an inspection campaign was implemented with focus on coastal fishing. The second phase of the inspection campaign is being implemented in 2015 from 1 April to the middle of May. The first phase of the inspection campaign inspected 1,292 items of equipment, corresponding to five times the amount of equipment as in November 2013.

3.3 Inspection of anglers and sports fishermen

3,757 anglers and sports fishermen were checked to confirm their angling license, which were 14 fewer than in 2013.

197,105 angling licenses for sports fishermen were paid for in 2014. Of these, 148,014 were annual cards, 18,574 weekly cards and 30,517 were day cards.

3.4 Fresh water inspections of fish passages, releases and electrofishing

823 inspections were conducted in rivers, streams and lakes, which is a decline of 11 % compared with 2013.

85 inspections were conducted of releases of fish, which were 43 more than in 2013.

3 inspections were conducted of electrofishing, which were 7 more than in 2013.

3.5 Infringements, recreational fisheries

The summary of recreational infringements included cases against both known and unknown anglers, landowners and recreational fishermen (but not lack of payment for fishing licenses)

686 infringements were found by inspections, corresponding to a decline of 11 % compared with 2013. Inspections leading to the discovery of infringements resulted in the confiscation of 2,407 items of fishing gears, corresponding to a decline of 7 %.

There is still a declining but nevertheless high violation frequency. One contributory cause of fishing inspectors still being able to confiscate a large quantity of the inspected equipment is assessed to be the gradually increasing trend towards receiving specific and precise reports of illegal fishing.

		2012	2013	2014	Change 2013 - 2014
Infringements	Proportion of confiscated inspected equipment	61 %	51 %	40 %	-22 %
	Number of cases	814	770	686	-11 %
	Proportion of unknown	77 %	69 %	73 %	
	Confiscated items of gear	3729	2579	2407	-7 %
	Items confiscated per inspection	6,4	5,0	4,3	-14 %
	Proportion of gill nets	30 %	34 %	28 %	
	Proportion of traps	32 %	41 %	43 %	
	Proportion of other gears	39 %	24 %	29 %	

The proportion of inspected gears confiscated declined from 51 % in 2013 to 40 % in 2014.

73 % of the illegal gears was not provided with identification information and is therefore characterised as "Unknown". These gears were confiscated and subsequently destroyed. 28 % of the illegal items corresponded to gill nets, whilst traps accounted for 43 %.

The violations were divided into different types and subgroups. A single violation may consist of several types (and subgroups) of infringements.

Distribution between groups has not changed significantly compared with 2013. Violation of the equipment limitations (number of fishing gear, illegal fishing gear, deficient labelling etc.) continues to account for the largest part, corresponding to 76 %. The number was the same in 2013.

In the following subgroups there was substantial growth from 2013 to 2014:

- There was a decline in the number of cases of fishing in conservation zones.
- There was a decline in the number of cases of fishing in gill net areas (100 m zone).
- There was a decline in the number of cases of other illegal forms of the uses of fishing gear/methods.

There was no significant change for the other subgroups compared with 2013.

40 of the inspected recreational fishermen had not paid valid fishing license, corresponding to 3.1 % of those inspected. The corresponding figure for 2013 was 31 fishermen equivalent to 2.8 %.

207 of the inspected anglers and sports fishermen had not paid valid angling license, corresponding to 5.5 % of those inspected. The corresponding figure for 2013 was 251 anglers and sports fishermen, equivalent to 6.6 %.

4. Reports

4.1 Reports of illegal fishing

Citizens have options to report presumed illegal fishing to the Danish AgriFish Agency. This can be done either via the Danish AgriFish Agency's website or through direct contact with one of the agency's units. Reports are recorded and are included in planning inspection efforts. In 2014, the Danish AgriFish Agency's target was that there should be a follow-up in the form of contact with the reporter. Contact should be by phone, email etc in at least 75 % of the possible violations.

In 2014, the Danish AgriFish Agency received 633 reports, where the reporting person could be contacted. In 503 cases, equivalent to 79 %, the person submitting the report was contacted. Besides the named reports, the Danish AgriFish Agency received 87 anonymous reports where there was no information about the person reporting.

5. Audits

5.1 Auditing of the Danish AgriFish Agency's fishing inspections

The Danish AgriFish Agency performs internal audits of the agency's fisheries inspectors. The purpose is to guarantee quality and the uniformity of inspection visits.

The Danish AgriFish Agency's inspectors work in accordance with internal guidelines that describe what each inspection visit must consist of. Audits are intended to ensure that the inspectors are working within these guidelines and thus ensure uniformity of procedures and work processes.

During audits, experiences are exchanged which are collected and mediated across the units. Thus the Danish AgriFish Agency wishes to raise the agency's inspectors to a common and consistently high professional level.

In 2014, there were 8 audits, of which:

- Six related to landing inspections.
- Two related to inspections at sea.



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