



Annual report on inspection of commercial and recreational fisheries 2016

Colophone

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1. Introduction

1.1 Foreword

The Danish AgriFish Agency inspection strategy includes a number of strategic areas - one of the areas is increased compliance and application of risk-based approach to inspection. This report is part of the effort to focus on higher impact of risk-based inspections, thereby ensuring a higher level of compliance in the fisheries sector.

The report presents the most important inspection results for the Danish AgriFish Agency's decentralized units (inspectorates, inspection vessels and the FMC) in relation to fisheries for 2016. In addition, it shows which infringements are recorded, and the impact of inspection efforts.

The results are compared with similar results for 2015. It should be noted that several of the figures in this report are not completely identical to the corresponding figures in the "Fisheries inspection 2015". The main reason is that the 2015 results were obtained in mid-January 2016 and subsequently updated with additional information for 2015. Moreover, in 2016 The Danish AgriFish Agency implemented a new IT system altering some of the calculation methods..

The report was drawn up in March 2017 by the FMC in collaboration with the agency's Fisheries Inspection planning team.

1.2 Summery and overall assessment

The Danish AgriFish Agency's largest inspection subject in 2016 was, as in previous years, the inspection of commercial fishing. In addition, the Agency also inspected 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 at sea, landings in port, at purchasers of fish and by administrative crosschecks and systematic monitoring.

The total number of inspected fishing trips has increased compared to 2015. This is primarily due to an increased number of inspections of cod and other species for human consumption. The inspection framework has changed so that the total number of landings and the volume of fish landed have decreased.

Certain fisheries are covered by inspection plans. This applies to cod, plaice, sole, salmon, herring, and sprat. These inspection plans include effect-based inspection objectives. The Danish AgriFish Agency is pleased to note that the level of compliance within these fisheries is high and has been increasing.

There has not been detected any infringements of the landing obligation based on inspections. However, based on the inspection reports indications of non-compliance with of the landing obligation cannot be ruled out.

The pelagic fishery¹ was inspected according to plan and the relevant inspection objectives have been met.

¹ Pelagic fishing is fishing for herring, mackerel and horse mackerel.

Inspection of industrial fishing² was carried out as planned and inspection objectives have been met for 15 out of 16 industrial segments.

As in previous years the Danish AgriFish Agency participated in joint international inspection campaigns (Joint Deployment Plans) in 2016, including 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 on cod, herring, salmon and sprat in the Baltic Sea.

The monitoring of fishing activities in areas where fishery restrictions apply was extended in 2016. The general trend shows a decline in recorded illegal fishing activities in the monitored areas.

Based on the administrative and physical inspections, the Danish AgriFish Agency found less infringements in 2016 compared to 2015.

It is the assessment of The Danish AgriFish Agency that the increased focus on risk-based inspections and thereby increased attention on vessels previously failing to comply with the regulations, has had a positive effect in relation to rule compliance and the number of infringements.

Recreational fishing has also been inspected in accordance with a risk-based inspection strategy. More fishing gears were checked in 2016 than in 2015. Of the gears checked, fewer illegal gears were found than in 2015.

The Danish AgriFish Agency' cooperate closely with several organizations and stakeholders, including The Danish Tax Agency (SKAT) and The Danish Veterinary and Food Administration. Finally, the Agency provides guidance and information to citizens and interested stakeholders as well as having contact with the press.

² 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 mainly consists of inspection of vessels at sea while fishing, inspection in ports during landing and inspection of batches of fish acquired by purchasers. After each inspection an individual inspection report is issued. This information constitutes the basic documentation of the inspection. Furthermore, administrative crosschecks of information from vessels and from purchasers of fish and a administrative real-time monitoring of the vessels fishing activity are also part of the inspection task.

In 2016 the number of landings of fish amounted to 73.867 - a decrease of 2 % compared to 2015. The quantity of fish landed in 2016 was approx. 887.029 tonnes which is- 23 % less than in 2015. The decline is mainly due to smaller quantities of landed industrial species. The total amount of industrial species landed by Danish vessels decreased by approx. 230.000 tonnes compared to 2015.

In 2016, 3,369 fishing trips were inspected, which was 121 more than in 2015, equivalent to an increase of 4 %.

2,809 inspections were performed at landing equivalent to an inspection rate of 3.8%. In 2015, the inspection rate was 3.5%. In 2016, 560 inspections were carried out at sea and there were 791 observations of fishing vessels without boarding of the vessel.



Checking mesh size

		2014	2015	2016	Change 2015 - 2016
Inspection	Inspections in port	3.141	2.624	2.809	7 %
	Inspections at sea	767	624	560	-10 %
	Total vessel inspections	3.908	3.248	3.369	4 %

Despite of fewer inspections related to industrial and pelagic landings in port, the total number of inspections in port increased by 7 % in 2016. This is due to an increased number of inspections of cod and other species for human consumption.

The decline in number of inspected vessels at sea is due to the fact that individual inspections have become more extensive and time consuming. Now, more time is spent on sampling of species and size composition in the last haul. For further information - see section 2.10 and 2.11.

Finally, the decline in number of inspected vessels should also be seen in context with the fact that the total number of landings of fish was reduced by 2 % and the volume of fish landed by 23 %. For further information see section 2.4.

2.1 Effect-based fisheries inspection

At the end of 2013, the Danish AgriFish Agency changed its 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. The new model has also been applied in 2016.

Targets are expressed as degrees of compliance with the regulations, and targets are set as maintenance targets for areas with a high degree 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 with the regulations. The aim is that the inspection efforts result in a higher degree of compliance.

Inspection is not considered as an objective in itself but as a mean of persuading fishermen to change behaviour.

The new inspection model is used in the following fisheries:

- Cod in the North Sea, Skagerrak and 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 fisheries mentioned above are covered by a so-called “Specific Control and Inspection Programme”, hereinafter 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 2016, 80 regulatory areas with effect targets in relation to compliance with the rules were chosen. Each area consists of a combination of a rule, a species, an area and a type of gear.

The following rules were selected:

- Tolerance of reporting quantities in logbook
- Fishing without permission (license)
- Highgrading³
- Fishing areas with fishing 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
- VMS⁴-failure

³ Highgrading is yield optimization by illegal discards of less valuable fish that can be landed legally.

⁴ Vessel Monitoring System, satellite-based system, where the vessel once an hour sends a signal to the Danish AgriFish Agency containing information on position, course and speed.

The reason for choosing fewer regulatory areas in 2016 than in 2015 (80 compared to 86) is that the rule "notification of changes of fishing area" was not included in the automatic inspection model in 2016. This was due to difficulties in designating vessels did not comply with the rules for updating electronic logbook for cross boarder fishing. The regulatory area will be included in the inspection model in 2017 and is now limited to fisheries where a notification of change of fishing area is required.

In 2015, 76 regulatory areas showed a high degree of compliance. In 2016, the target was that at least 71 regulatory areas continued to show a high degree of compliance for the same areas at the end of the year.

In 2015, 4 regulatory areas showed a lower degree of compliance. For 2016, the target was that at least 2 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 detail.

Regulatory areas with indication of a high degree of compliance

At the end of 2016, indicators showed that risk assessment for non-compliance continued to be “low” or “very low” in 75 of the regulatory areas. Just one area had changed for the worse as regards compliance with regulations. This was:

- Tolerance of reporting quantities in logbook, when fishing for sole in the North Sea, with passive gears

Regulation areas with indications of a low degree of compliance

At the end of 2016, indicators showed that risk assessment for irregularities had declined in 2 of the regulatory areas. These were:

- Tolerance in logbook for sole from the North Sea with towed gears
- High grading of cod from the North Sea, towed gears

2 areas were unchanged or changed for the worse as regards compliance with regulations. These were:

- Tolerance in logbook for plaice from the North Sea with passive gears
- High grading of cod from Skagerrak, towed gears.

In 2016 overall inspection efforts 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 crosschecks were performed of reported fishing information with subsequent dialog, guidance and possible sanctions. In addition, there were also dialogue and meetings with the industry.

In general, compliance with the regulation in the selected areas has developed positively. Although the number of regulatory areas has changed, there has been a reduction in the number of areas with many irregularities (from 14 areas at the end of 2013 to 5 areas by the end of 2016).

	Number of regulatory areas	Number of regulatory areas with low degree of compliance
2013	91	14
2014	89	9
2015	89	7
2016	80	5

Inspection of foreign vessels

In 2016, the target was to carry out inspections of at least 5 % of the landings of SCIP species by foreign vessels in Denmark. This target was achieved for both SCIP areas (the North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Baltic Sea).

SCIP-area	Inspection Frequency 2014	Inspection frequency 2015	Inspection frequency 2016
North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat	6,5 %	8,3 %	6,8 %
Baltic Sea	5,2 %	9,2 %	10,3 %

2.2 Inspection of cod fishery

In 2016, there were 35,929 landings of cod in Danish ports 2 % less than in 2015. Of these, 990 landings were inspected equivalent to an inspection frequency of 2,8 %.

In 2016, the Danish AgriFish Agency inspected 5 % of the quantity of cod landed which is the same level as in 2015. The inspection of landings in which cod is included accounts for the greatest part (35 %) of all landing inspections.

The percentage of inspections at sea, in which cod fishing is included, has increased from 47 % in 2015 to 56 % in 2016, an increase of 8 percentage points. The increase is due to the fact that there has been more focus on collecting "Last Haul" information (see section 2.11) in 2016, especially from vessels fishing for cod.



		2014	2015	2016	Change 2015 - 2016
Cod	Number of cod landings	39.903	36.788	35.929	-2%
	Quantities of cod landed in tonnes (gutted weight)	20.848	22.812	20.392	-11%
	Inspection of cod landings	1.151	956	990	4%
	Quantity of cod inspected in tonnes	1.152	1.069	1.073	0%
	Inspection frequency (quantity)	6 %	5 %	5 %	
	Inspection frequency (number in harbour)	3 %	3 %	3 %	
	Percentage of cod inspections compared with total inspections of landings	37 %	36 %	35 %	
	Inspections at sea	355	296	313	8 %
	Percentage of cod inspections compared with total inspections at sea	46 %	47 %	56 %	

2.3 Inspection of pelagic fishing

Inspection of pelagic landings of herring, mackerel, horse mackerel or blue whiting (blue whiting from 2015) of more than 10 tons from the North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and Western Waters are subject to a large number of inspection elements including e.g. monitoring of landings from start to finish. Physical inspections are carried out on selected vessels and administrative crosschecks are performed for all landings. Physical inspection of at least 5 % of the number of landings and at least 7,5 % of the quantities are required according to EU legislation. Prior to 2016 the requirement was 10% and 15 % respectively.



In 2016, physical inspection of 35 landings were performed equivalent to 9 % of the number of pelagic landings and 8 % of the quantities landed, thereby meeting the inspection targets.

		2014	2015	2016	Change 2015-2016
Pelagic	Number of pelagic landings	263	315	410	30 %
	Landed pelagic amounts in tons	83.444	125.106	273.595	119 %
	Inspection in harbours (number)	31	41	35	-15 %
	Inspection frequency (number in port)	12 %	13 %	9%	
	Inspection frequency (quantity)	15 %	17 %	8%	

2.4 Inspection of industrial fishing

In 2016, the inspection of landings of industrial species was managed according to an inspection plan developed in collaboration with DTU Aqua containing various inspection frequencies for specific industrial fisheries. The inspection frequency is a result of a risk assessment by type and area. For example, the inspection frequency for sprat from the North Sea was 20 %, whilst the frequency for blue whiting in Western Waters was 50 %. Inspection frequencies have been set for 16 segments and the inspection target was achieved in 15 segments.

The target was not met for blue whiting in Western Waters. 33 % of the landings were inspected. The segment represented approximately 20 % of the total industrial landings in 2016. Blue whiting is also a by-catch in pelagic fishing for herring and has been inspected in relation to pelagic landings. See section 2.3.

Compared to 2015 the number and quantities of industrial landings decreased by 40 % compared to 2015. The decrease is primarily due to a reduction of landed sandeel from approx. 228.000 tons in 2015 to approx. 40.000 tons in 2016.

In 2016, 467 landings of industrial species were inspected. The overall inspection frequency rose from 16 % in 2015 to 22 % in 2016.

		2014	2015	2016	Change 2015 - 2016
Industrial	Number of industrial landings	3.245	3.543	2.116	-40 %
	Industrial quantities (tons)	448.417	635.365	438.835	-31 %
	Inspection of industrial landings (number)	909	572	467	-18 %
	Inspection frequency (number in port)	28 %	16 %	22 %	37 %
	Inspections at sea	77	67	48	-28 %

2.5 Inspection of other species or other inspections

When inspecting cod-, industrial and pelagic landings inspection of other species were also carried out on board the vessels. Other species were also inspected at sea during fishing or during landing in situations where cod, pelagic and industrial species were not part of the catch. The most significant species were the SCIP-species plaice, sole and salmon as well as eel, shrimp, lobster, and bivalve molluscs (oysters and mussels).

In 2016, 1.317 landing inspections and 199 inspections at sea were carried out for other species. In 2015 the corresponding number was 1.061 and 260.



These figures include inspections on board vessels at sea which had not yet catch onboard.

While the number of inspected industrial landings declined in 2016 a small increase in the number of inspected landings of cod, and a more significant increase of inspected landings on other species were seen. As mentioned in Section 2.2, this stems from the fact that the Danish AgriFish Agency has focused on all of the species included in the SCIP programs.

2.6 Inspection at the buyer and at transport

In 2016 the aim was to inspect 5 % of the quantities of the species cod, plaice, sole and salmon (species covered by SCIP) at the buyer.

Below is a list of the quantities inspected:

Species of fish	Purchased quantity (tonnes)	Inspected quantity (tonnes)	Inspection frequency
Cod	18.967	2.029	10,7 %
Plaice	13.257	1.580	11,9 %
Sole	212	2,5	1,2 %
Salmon	22	0,09	0,4 %
Total	32.458	3.611	11,1 %

Hygiene inspections are made while inspecting landings and during inspection at the buyer. 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. In 2016 the aim was to make hygiene inspections on at least 10% of the amount of fish, at the purchasers or by sea or landing – there was hygiene inspected 11,9 % of landed fish for human consumption.

The Danish AgriFish Agency also carried out further inspections on fresh fish transported from landing sites for fish auctions and other sales locations. In 2016 inspections on 29 transports of fish was carried out - the equivalent number of inspections in 2015 was 42.

2.7 Inspection of IUU fishing⁵

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 ports. In addition, the Agency must validate the catch certificates for Danish vessels, whose catches are exported to third countries or landed directly in third countries.

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

In 2016, administrative inspections of certificates from 576 landings from third country vessels were conducted as well as physical inspections of 52 landings, equivalent to 9,0 %. The target for inspections was met. Furthermore, there were 2,030 validations of certificates for Danish batches of fish for export.

2.8 NEAFC campaign

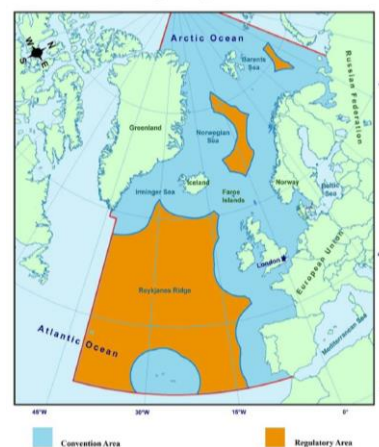
The North East Atlantic Fisheries Commission (NEAFC) is an international commission made up of five parties: the EU, Iceland, Norway, Russia and Denmark on behalf of the Faeroe Islands and Greenland.

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, Atlantic 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.

Denmark shall provide an inspection platform for 14 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. The Danish AgriFish Agency sends the fisheries inspection vessel "Vestkysten" north into the international waters in the Norwegian Sea, which is located between Greenland and Norway.

In 2016, 13 observations of fishing vessels were made and 8 vessels were inspected. 6 of the vessels were Russian and 2 were from Spain. No infringements were found during the campaign.

Map showing NEAFC Convention Area and Regulatory Areas



⁵ Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing

2.9 Inspection of NEAFC fishery

In order to inspect and prevent IUU activities the requirements for approval and inspection of foreign landings were expanded to include fresh fish from the NEAFC Convention area with effect from 1 July 2015. This implies that the port state cannot allow landing if a vessel has engaged in fishing activities in the NEAFC Convention area, unless the vessel's flag state has confirmed that the fish on board is legally caught and that the vessel has reported fishing activity in accordance with the regulations. The administrative procedure is supplemented by a requirement that physical inspections shall be carried out on at least 5 % of the landings from the Convention area.

Before a vessel can enter at a foreign port, it shall send a pre-notification to the port state and request permission to arrive. Pre-notification is submitted via the NEAFC Secretariat website.

Pre-notification consists of three parts to be completed by the respective vessel, the vessel's flag state and port state.

In 2016, The Danish AgriFish Agency received and approved 567 pre-notifications on landings and thereof 52 landings were inspected corresponding to 9,2 %. 1 infringement was reported.

2.10 Inspection of RTC⁶

Besides the normal inspection elements, RTC inspections consist of the weighing and counting of the specified species cod, haddock, whiting, and pollack. The inspection results are also used to assess possible high grading.

During the course of 2016, inspection vessels carried out 15 RTC inspections in the North Sea and Skagerrak. None of the RTC inspections resulted in area closures in 2016

		2014	2015	2016	change 2015 – 2016
RTC	Number of RTC inspections	13	11	15	36 %
	Included closures	4	2	0	

⁶ Real Time Closure, closure of defined areas due to occurrences of large quantities of juvenile fish.

2.11 Last Haul



In 2016, fishing inspection vessels supplemented the traditional inspection at sea with inspection of the catch composition and size distribution of selected species. This kind of inspection has been named "Last Haul- inspection" and is conducted in accordance with guidelines prepared by the EFCA. The purpose was to collect data on the distribution of fish above and below the minimum size. This was part of the risk assessment to be prepared in connection with the ban on discards of the species concerned. The task has become relevant with the introduction of the discard ban. In 2016, 91 samples were performed in the Baltic Sea and 78 samples in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat. In 2015, the equivalent number of samples was 103 in the Baltic Sea and 26 in North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat.

The inspection results show that a larger proportion of cod below minimum size can be detected when inspected. Based on the results of the Last Haul, the assessment by the Danish AgriFish Agency is that there is an indication of non-compliance with the landing obligation regulation. It should be noted that no infringement of the landing obligation regulation rules has been found yet.

2.12 Administrative crosschecks

The Danish AgriFish Agency carries out administrative cross checks on a range of information on fishing activity through an automated validation system, called VALID. A number of tasks made by VALID are mandatory, according to EU legislation. In addition, the Agency has added tasks to VALID that are considered to be of significance to inspection purposes.

VALID gathers information based on a single fishing trip. It collates relevant data from the fishing trip including VMS, logbook, licenses, notifications, sales notes and landing declarations. VALID crosschecks and validates the data. If there is any inconsistency, a task is automatically generated. The task will then be manually processed. The procedure consists, among other things, on a quality assurance of the collated information. In some cases, there may be contact either to the master or to the buyer for clarification.

In 2016, VALID found inconsistencies on 750 occasions, which all have led to closer examination. The high number of inconsistencies is due to the complexity of VALID. Unlike in the past, where the objective of the administrative crosschecks was primarily to detect infringements, VALID now takes a broader approach. VALID validates the data and many of the inconsistencies found in 2016 actually occurred as a result of data quality and not as a result of actual infringements. A total of 95 infringements were identified by administrative crosschecks in 2016 - the corresponding number was 128 in 2015.

2.13 Inspection of fishing areas with fisheries restrictions (closed areas)

The Danish AgriFish Agency systematically monitors fishing activities in a number of fishing areas with fishing restrictions. In 2016, 14 areas were monitored, including several areas with subareas. Among these were Natura 2000 areas that included 14 subareas and the NEAFC area which included 32 subareas.

Monitoring is carried out using the vessels' VMS information on position, course and speed. If a vessel is active in a closed area, an automatic alarm is issued to the FMC. Then a procedure is initiated which leads to a more detailed administrative investigation of the vessel's activity, including possible contact with the vessel. In case of doubts about the vessel's activity in the closed area, a physical inspection is carried out if possible.

In 2016, 1,299 alarms were recorded, ref. the list. All alarms were investigated and assessed for further action. 979 of the alarms were related to legal access to the area, and 320 alarms or 25 %, led to further inquiries. No incidents led to an infringement report as the activities were either legitimate or the infringements trivial (e.g., a single VMS signal close to the border of a closed area). 3 incidents were related to foreign vessels – in these cases the flag state was notified.

Monitoring area	Number of recorded alarms 2014	Number of recorded alarms 2015	Number of recorded alarms 2016	Change 2015 - 2016
Kattegat, K1	135	84	67	-20 %
Kattegat, K2	129	139	174	25%
Kattegat, K3	113	73	31	-58 %
Baltic Sea, Bornholm Deep	90	87	40	-54%
Baltic Sea, Gotland Deep	2	4	9	125 %
Baltic Sea, Gdansk Deep	-	-	1	
Vestern Baltic Sea, zone A	72	65	91	40 %
Eastern Baltic Sea, zone B	125	58	15	-74 %
Oresund	249	187	37	-80 %
North Sea, sprat box	6	20	13	-35 %
North Sea, sandeel area 1	-	2	-	
North Sea, sandeel area 2	-	5	-	
North Sea, sandeel area 3	-	572	-	
North Sea, sandeel area 4	199	0	7	
North Sea, Firth of Forth, sandeel	-	-	0	
RTC-areas (2 areas)	53	9	-	
Natura 2000 (14 areas)	54	59	813 ⁷	1.278 %
NEAFC (32 subareas)	-	-	0	
I alt	1.227	1.364	1.299	-5 %

⁷ The high number of alarms for Natura 2000 areas is due to the fact that more areas have been monitored than before. And that monitoring of especially very small Natura 2000 areas also occurs in a so-called buffer zone beyond the restricted area itself. In the buffer zone, fishing vessels can fish legally, but nevertheless release an alarm.

2.14 Inspection of mussel fishery

Besides physical inspections (see Section 2.5) of mussel fishing, the activities of vessels used for mussel fishery are checked systematically. All vessels with licenses to fish for blue mussels and oyster must be equipped with an electronic Black Box, which records and gathers data on the vessels' positions, courses, speeds and fishing activities. Implementation of this surveillance initiative has among other things influenced the EU Commission to authorise Denmark's fishery of blue mussels in specially protected Natura 2000 areas.

A total of 74 mussel and oyster vessels in four different fishing areas had licenses to fish blue mussels and oysters, and were equipped with Black Boxes in 2016. The Danish AgriFish Agency's departments in Nykøbing Mors and Kolding undertook the systematic monitoring of these vessels' activities. Among other things, inspections consist of checking for fishing in prohibited areas, and that only areas open for fishing are used, as well as checking that there is no fishing within established depth limits. Moreover, administrative crosschecks are carried out on selected fishing trips, where logbooks, yield documents, reports and sales notes are inspected.

The systematic monitoring showed that mussels and oyster vessels have a high degree of compliance as regards fishing in closed areas and within the depth limits. No infringements were noted in 2016. Physical inspection revealed 15 infringements. 7 related to logbook, 3 related to license, 3 related to hygiene conditions and 2 regarding other infringements.

2.15 JDP campaigns

In the course of 2016, decentralized units and inspection vessels participate in a number of joint international inspection campaigns, Joint Deployment Plans (JDP). The purpose is to ensure uniform and efficient implementation of the relevant regulations, which, among other things, is done by pooling inspection resources, exchanging fishing inspectors and coordinating joint action across fisheries territories and national borders.

Inspections were carried out both at sea and at ports 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 Western Waters. Danish inspectors were assigned to foreign inspection vessels and ports, and foreign inspectors were on board Danish inspection vessels and carried out landing inspections together with Danish fishing inspectors in Danish ports. Overall, 18 Danish inspectors have been exchanged other Member States and 15 foreign inspectors have been exchanged to Denmark.

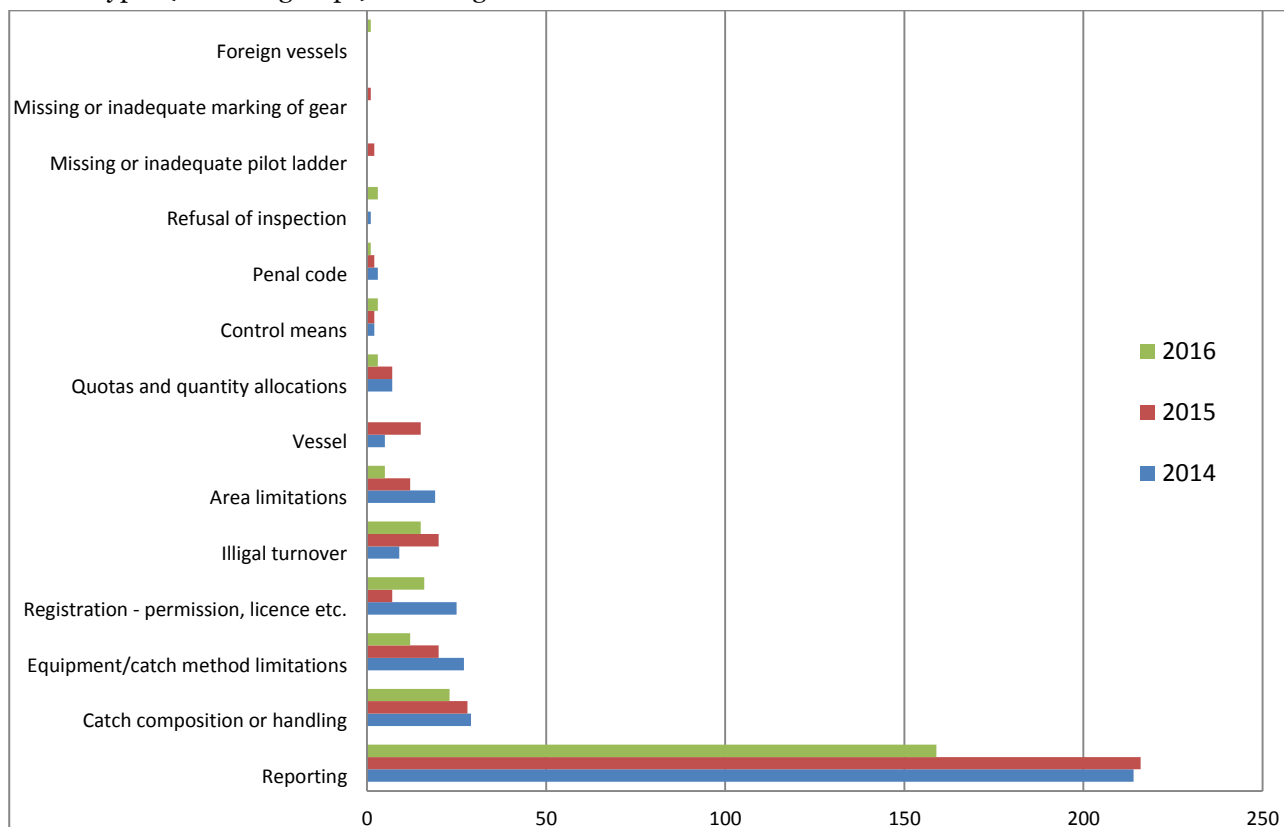
During the campaign period, Denmark has been in charge of the coordination for 6 weeks in the Baltic Sea and for 11 weeks in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat.

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

2.16 Infringements, commercial fisheries

In 2016 219 infringements were registered as part of the physical and administrative inspection, of which 74 were related to cod fisheries. In 2015, the corresponding figures were 292 infringements, of which 68 were related to cod fisheries. The total number of infringement has decreased compared to 2015.

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



Infringements due to reporting regulations (logbooks, reports and sales notes) account for the major part of the total number of infringements, equivalent to 66 %.

For the following groups of infringements there have been a substantial change from 2015 to 2016:

- Decrease in infringements related to reporting regulations (216 to 159)
- Decrease in infringements related to area limitations (12 to 5)
- Decrease in infringement related to equipment/catch method limitations (20 to 12)
- Increase in infringement concerning registration – permission, licenses etc. (7 to 16)

The change in the number of infringement is mainly due to the systematic and administrative cross-checks and follow-up which has led to improved compliance with the reporting rules. Furthermore, systematic real-time monitoring of areas appears to have had a preventive effect on the number of infringements related to area limitations.

2.17 Allocation of points for serious infringements

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

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

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

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

There was no points allocated in 2016

		2014	2015	2016	Change 2015 – 2016
Point-allocation	Number of vessels	7	2	0	-2
	Number of cases	7	2	0	-2
	Number of infringements	14	2	0	-2

The lack of allocation of points in 2016 is due to the Common Fisheries Policy discard ban. In most of the previous cases, the allocation of points was due to noncompliance with the rules on catch composition in industrial fisheries. With the landing obligation there are no longer any infringements related to the target species provision.

As a result of the rule that points expire after three years if no new serious infringements are committed points have been erased in 21 cases since implementation of the regulation. From the beginning of 2017, there are only registered active points in 12 cases.

2.18 Cooperation and dialog with the industry

In 2016, monthly meetings were held with representatives from the industry in the so called CFP Dialogue Forum. At those meetings practical experience and communication efforts were brought up as a regular agenda item. Also in 2015, several ad hoc meetings were organized with the entire fishing industry concerning management of industrial fishing under the discard ban.

In 2016, representatives from The Danish AgriFish Agency participated in information sessions and general meetings with the local fishermen's associations to inform about the discard ban and other elements of the Common Fisheries Policy. Furthermore, there have been articles in "FiskeriTidende" and information via the Agency's website. Employees from the units (inspectorates and inspection vessels) also participated in local meetings with representatives from the industry

In 2016, The Danish AgriFish Agency identified three areas where guidance is needed. These were pre notification, installation and updating of electronic logbook as well as completion of landing declaration. For those areas, easy-to-understand guides have been prepared, which were provided by the inspectors to the fishermen who needed it. The instructions can also be obtained from The Danish AgriFish Agency's website.

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 fish ways, 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 make up the basic documentation for the inspection work.

In 2016, the Danish AgriFish Agency used drones as a tool in the inspection of recreational fishing. The first tests with drones have shown that overflight with drones in shallow areas and conservation zones with fishing bans provide a quick and good image of any fishing activity. Especially shallow areas can be difficult to inspect from boat and the information from drone flights makes it easier to assess whether additional inspection is required. The Danish Agency for Agriculture and Fisheries will continue and develop the use of drones for inspections in 2017



Recreational inspection with a drone

3.1 Inspection of recreational fishermen, anglers and their gear



Inspection of a fishing gear

The number of inspections increased from 1.990 in 2015 to 2.056 in 2016, equivalent to an increase of 3 %.

In 2016, 6.322 fishing gear were inspected, which was 70 more than in 2015, representing an increase of 1%.

1.600 inspections of recreational fishing licenses were carried out, an increase of 68 compared to 2015. The increase from 2015 to 2016 corresponds to 4%. The total number of recreational fishing licenses sold was 31.295.

		2014	2015	2016	Udvikling 2015 – 2016
Inspections	Number of inspections	2.215	1.990	2.056	3 %
	Number of inspected gears	6.444	6.251	6.322	1 %

3.2 Inspection campaign

No nationwide control campaign aimed at recreational fishing was held in 2016. The inspection units have continuously planned and carried out inspections in locally defined areas and at times when there has been a particular risk of infringement.

3.3 Inspection of anglers and sports fishermen

2.970 anglers and sports fishermen were checked to confirm their angling license a decrease of 13 % compared to 2015. 190.987 angling licenses for sports fishermen were paid for in 2016. Of these, 139.274 were annual cards, 21.185 weekly cards and 30.528 were day cards.

3.4 Fresh water inspections of fish passages, release and electrofishing

463 inspections of fish passages, releases and electro fishing were carried out in streams and lakes, - a decrease of 6 % compared to 2015.

49 inspections of releases were conducted, which is 16 fewer than in 2015.

15 inspections of electro fishing were conducted, which is 10 more than 2015.

3.5 Infringements, recreational fisheries

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

538 infringements were found by inspections, corresponding to an increase of 3 % compared to 2015. Inspections leading to the discovery of infringements resulted in the confiscation of 1,609 items of fishing gears, corresponding to a decrease of 24 % compared to 2015.

The proportion of inspected gears confiscated declined from 32 % in 2015 to 25 % in 2016. Although declining the infringement frequency remains at a high level. Part of the reason for fishing inspectors are still able to confiscate a large quantity of the inspected equipment, is probably that more specific and precise reports of illegal fishing are received. See further in Section 4.1.

		2014	2015	2016	Udvikling 2015 - 2016
Infringements	Proportion of confiscated inspected equipment	37 %	32 %	25 %	-22 %
	Number of cases	672	520	538	3 %
	Proportion of unknown	80 %	80 %	70 %	
	Confiscated items of gear	2.365	2.118	1.609	-24 %
	Proportion of gill nets	33 %	30 %	38 %	
	Proportion of traps	44 %	41 %	39 %	
	Proportion of other gears	23 %	29 %	23 %	

70 % of the illegal gears were not provided with identification information and are therefore characterised as "Unknown". These gears were confiscated and subsequently destroyed. 38 % of the illegal items were gill nets, whilst traps accounted for 39 %.

The proportion of illegal gear, apart from gill nets and traps, has decreased compared to 2015. This is due to that many illegal eel traps from the North Funen area were confiscated in 2015 and that similar illegal gear has not been detected in 2016.

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

Distribution between groups has not changed significantly compared with 2015. Infringements related to equipment limitations (number of fishing gear, illegal fishing gear, deficient labelling etc.) continue to account for the largest part, corresponding to 69 %. In 2015 the figure was 75 %.

The following subgroups were subject to a substantial development from 2015 to 2016:

- A decrease in the number of illegal gear (148 to 131)
- An increase in the number of cases concerning fishing in conservation zones (46 to 67)
- An increase in the number of cases concerning gill nets within 100 m from the coastline (39 to 74)

There was no significant change for the other subgroups compared to 2015.

48 of the inspected recreational fishermen had not paid for a fishing license, corresponding to 2,3% of those inspected. The corresponding figure for 2015 was 41 fishermen equivalent to 2,5 %.

108 of the inspected anglers and sports fishermen had not paid for an angling license corresponding to 3.6 % of those inspected. The corresponding figure for 2015 was 189 equivalent to 5,7 %.

4. Reports

4.1 Reports of illegal fishing

Citizens have the possibility 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 the planning of inspection efforts. In 2016, 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 made by phone, email etc. in at least 75 % of the cases

In 2016, the Danish AgriFish Agency received 572 reports, where the reporting person could be contacted. In 443 cases, equivalent to 77 %, the person submitting the report was contacted. Besides the named reports, the Danish AgriFish Agency received 248 anonymous reports.

		2014	2015	2016	Change 2015 – 2016
Reports	Reports where person could be contacted	633	472	572	21 %
	Contact to the person submitting the report	79 %	81 %	77 %	-4 %
	Anonymous reports	87	101	248	147 %

5. Audits

5.1 Audit of the Danish AgriFish Agency's fishing inspectors

The Danish AgriFish Agency performs internal audits of the agency's fisheries inspectors. The purpose is to guarantee quality and uniformity of the 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, collected and mediated across the units. It is the aim of The Danish AgriFish Agency that the agency's inspectors achieve a common and consistently high professional level.

In 2016, there were 12 audits of which:

- 9 were related to landing inspections.
- 3 were related to inspections at sea.



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