



# Fisheries inspection 2015

Commercial and recreational  
Inspection and results

## Colophone

### **Fisheries inspection 2015**

Commercial and recreational

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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 of concern is increased dissemination 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 2015. In addition, it shows which infringements are recorded, and the impact of inspection efforts.

The results are compared with similar results for 2014. It should be noted, that several of the figures in this report, are not completely identical to the corresponding figures in the "Fisheries inspection 2014". The main reason is, that the results shown in "Fisheries inspection 2014" was obtained in mid-January 2015 and that there subsequently was recorded some additional information for 2014, which is now included in the calculations. Moreover, The Danish AgriFish Agency has since implemented new IT systems, that can also cause the results not to be entirely identical with similar results found in the "Fisheries inspection 2014".

The report was drawn up in March 2016 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 2015 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 at sea, upon landings in harbour, relative to purchasers of fish and by administrative crosschecks and systematic monitoring.

The total number of inspected fishing trips has decreased compared to 2014. The decline is partly due to inspection operations at sea, has become more time-consuming, and that inspections are done on more targeted vessels with specific problems. Finally, the inspection framework has changed. The total number of landings has decreased, while the volume of fish landed has increased.

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. It is the second year the Danish AgriFish Agency works with compliance benchmarks and the Agency welcomes a higher level of compliance within these fisheries.

The pelagic fishery<sup>1</sup> was inspected according to plan and inspection objectives has been met.

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<sup>1</sup> Pelagic fishing is fishing for herring, mackerel and horse mackerel.

Inspection of industrial fishing<sup>2</sup> was carried out as planned and inspection objectives has been met for the most important industrial species.

In 2015, the Danish AgriFish Agency also participated in joint international inspection campaigns (Joint Deployment Plans), 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 cod, herring, salmon and sprat in the Baltic Sea.

The monitoring of fishing activities, in areas where fishery restrictions apply, were extended in 2015. The general trend, is a decline in recorded illegal fishing activities in the monitored areas.

New regulation prohibiting discard came into force in 2015. The Danish AgriFish Agency has applied a lot of resources guiding fishermen about this new regulation, both directly to the individual fisherman, through meetings with the industry, via articles in “Fiskeritidende” (a journal for the industry) and through the AgriFish Agency website .

In connection with the administrative and physical inspection actions, the Danish AgriFish Agency found almost the same number of infringements as in 2014. 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 and increased administrative crosschecks.

In 2015, the Danish AgriFish Agency also 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 inspected in accordance with a risk-based inspection strategy. More fishing gears were checked in 2015 than in 2014. Of the gears checked, less illegal gears were found than in 2014.

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

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<sup>2</sup> 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 crosschecks of information from vessels and from purchasers of fish are also carried out.

In 2015, the inspection base for landing inspections was approx. 75,000 landings of fish, which was 8 % less than in 2014. The quantity of fish landed in 2015 was approx. 1,156,900 tons, which is 17 % more than landed in 2014.

In 2015, 3,249 fishing trips were inspected, which was 661 less than in 2014, equivalent to a decrease of 20% in inspections made.



Checking mesh size

2,626 inspections were performed when landing at the quayside equivalent to an inspection rate of 3.5%. In 2014, the inspection rate was 3.9%. 623 inspections were carried out at sea and there were 851 observations of fishing vessels without boarding the vessel.

		2013	2014	2015	Change 2014 - 2015
<b>Inspection</b>	Inspections in harbours	3,071	3,140	2,626	-16 %
	Inspections at sea	808	767	623	-23 %
	Total vessel inspections	3,879	3,907	3,249	-20 %

The decline in number of inspections at port in 2015, is mainly explained by the decrease in industrial landings. The changes are described in detail in section 2.4. In addition, the number of inspected landings of cod decreased compared to 2014, see further detail in Section 2.2.

The decline in the number of inspected vessels at sea is due to the fact, that the individual inspections has become more extensive and time consuming. More time is spent now on sampling of species and size composition in the last haul, see further Section 2.9.

Finally, the foundation for the inspection framework has changed. The total number of landings of fish are reduced by 8% - at the same time the volume of fish landed has increased.

## 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. The Danish AgriFish Agency has continued to work with the new model in 2015.

Targets are expressed as degrees of compliance to 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 to 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 an objective 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 “Specific Control and Inspection Programme”, 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 2015, 86 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)
- Highgrading<sup>3</sup>
- 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<sup>4</sup>-failure

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

<sup>4</sup> 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.

In 2014, 76 regulation areas showed a high degree of compliance. For the same areas in 2015, the target was that at least 75 regulation areas continued to show a high degree of compliance at the end of the year.

In 2014, 10 regulation areas showed a lower degree of compliance. For these areas in 2015, the target was that at least five 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.

### **Regulation areas with indications of a high degree of compliance**

At the end of 2015, indicators showed that risk assessment for irregularities continued to be “low” or “very low” in 75 of the regulation areas. Just one area had changed for the worse relative to compliance with regulations. This was:

- Reporting of changing of area when fishing for sole in the North Sea, with passive gears

For this area, there were throughout 2015 involved approximately 10 fishing trips, therefore a very few irregularities had a great influence on the result.

### **Regulation areas with indications of a low degree of compliance**

At the end of 2015, indicators showed that risk assessment for irregularities had declined in five of the regulation areas. These were:

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

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

- Reporting of change of area when fishing for sole in the North Sea with towed gears
- Tolerance in logbook for plaice from the North Sea with passive gears
- Tolerance in logbook for sole from the North Sea with towed gears
- Highgrading of cod from Skagerrak, towed gears.
- Highgrading of cod from the North Sea, towed gears

Overall inspection efforts in 2015 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 discussions and meetings with the industry.

The general compliance to the regulation in the selected areas show a clear and very positive development. At the end of 2013, 14 areas showed many irregularities. By the end of 2014, this was reduced to 10 areas, and by the end of 2015, further reduced to seven areas.

## Inspection of foreign vessels

In 2015, the Danish AgriFish Agency's target was to carry out inspections of at least 5 % foreign vessels with landings of SCIP species in Denmark. This target was achieved for both SCIP areas (the North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat and the Baltic Sea).

SCIP-area	Inspection frequency
North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat	7.1 %
Baltic Sea	8.1 %

## 2.2 Inspection of cod fishing

In 2015, there were 36,786 landings of cod in Danish harbours, equivalent to a decline of 8 % compared with 2014. Of these, 952 landings were inspected, equivalent to an inspection frequency of 3 %.

		2013	2014	2015	Change 2014 - 2015
Cod	Number of cod landings	41,235	39,901	36,786	-8%
	Quantities of cod landed in tons (gutted weight)	18,443	20,848	22,817	9%
	Inspection of cod landings	1,531	1,151	952	-17%
	Quantity of cod inspected in tons	1,275	1,153	1,065	-8%
	Inspection frequency (quantity)	7 %	6 %	5%	
	Inspection frequency (number in harbour)	4 %	3 %	3%	
	Percentage of cod inspections compared with Total inspections	50 %	37 %	30%	
	Inspections at sea	268	356	296	

In 2015, the Danish AgriFish Agency inspected 5 % of the quantity of cod landed compared with 6 % in 2014. The inspection of landings in which cod is included accounts for the greatest part (30 %) of all landing inspections. The percentage of cod inspections compared with total inspections has declined.

This is primarily due to the Danish AgriFish Agency has focused on inspection of landings of all species that are part of the SCIP programs, as shown in Section 2.1.

## 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 crosschecks 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 2015, physical inspections of 41 landings were performed, equivalent to 13 % of the number of pelagic landings and 17 % of the quantities landed, hence the target for inspections were met.

		2013	2014	2015	Change 2014–2015
<b>Pelagic</b>	Number of pelagic landings	318	311	315	1 %
	Landed pelagic amounts in tons	112,713	99,398	125,005	26 %
	Inspection in harbours (number)	54	36	41	14 %
	Inspection frequency (number in harbour)	17 %	12 %	13%	1%
	Inspection frequency (quantity)	22 %	15 %	17%	2%

## 2.4 Inspection of industrial fishing

In 2015, the inspection of landings of industrial fish was managed with the help of 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 16 segments and the inspection target was achieved in 13 segments.

The target was not met for the segments: sprat in the Skagerrak, blue whiting in the waters west of the British Isles and sardine from all waters. Overall, only four inspections were missing in achieving the goal of these three segments, while they accounted for only about 6% of the total industrial fish landed in 2015.

In industrial fishing, the number of landings rose by 9% compared to 2014. In 2015, 572 landings of industrial fish were inspected. The overall inspection frequency declined from 28 % in 2014 to 16 % in 2015. The reason for the significant drop in the number of inspected landings of industrial fish, is due to a pilot scheme implemented in 2014, was discontinued in 2015. The pilot scheme led to landing obligation of all species and led among other things to significantly more inspections of sprat landings. Furthermore, differences in the requirements to the sand eel fishery meant that considerably more inspections and samples were carried out in 2014 compared to 2015.

		2013	2014	2015	Change 2014 – 2015
<b>Industrial</b>	Number of industrial landings	3,223	3,245	3,543	9 %
	Industrial quantities (tons)	425,418	448,417	634,355	41 %
	Inspection of industrial landings (number)	478	909	572	-47 %
	Inspection frequency (number in harbour)	15 %	28 %	16 %	-12 %
	Inspections at sea	27	25	67	+168%

## 2.5 Inspection of other species or other inspections

When inspecting cod-, industrial and pelagic landings, inspections 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 species such as eels, shrimp, lobster, and bivalve molluscs (oysters

and mussels). In 2015, 1,061 landing inspections and 260 inspections at sea were carried out of other species. In 2014 the corresponding number was 1,044 on landing and 364 at sea.

While the number of inspected cod- and industrial landings declined in 2015, we saw a small increase in the number of inspected landings of other species. The reason for this is, as mentioned in Section 2.2, that the Danish AgriFish Agency has focused on all of the species included in the SCIP programs.

## 2.6 Inspection in the sale phase

In 2015 the aim for the Danish AgriFish Agency was to carry out inspections on 5% of the quantities of the edible species cod, plaice, sole and salmon (species covered by SCIP).

Below is a list of the quantities inspected:

Species of fish	Purchased quantity (tons)	Inspected quantity (tons)	Inspection frequency
Cod	21,539	1,840	8.5 %
Plaice	12,695	876	6.9 %
Sole	147	8,3	5.7 %
Salmon	30	2,2	7.5 %
Total	34,411	2,727	7.9 %

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.

The Danish AgriFish Agency also carried out further checks on fresh fish transported from landing sites for fish auctions and other sales locations. In 2015 inspection on 42 transports of fish were carried out - the equivalent number of inspection operations in 2014 was 20.

## 2.7 Inspection of IUU fishing<sup>5</sup>

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. 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. For landings in third countries, there must be a validated catch certificate if the catch is processed in the third country and subsequently to be imported into a country within the EU.

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.

In 2014, administrative inspections of certificates from 667 landings from third country vessels were conducted as well as physical inspections of 38 landings, equivalent to 5.7 %. Thus, the target inspections were complied with.

There were 1,636 validations of certificates for Danish batches of fish for export.

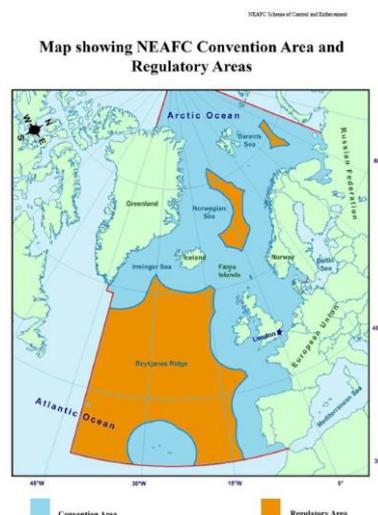
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<sup>5</sup> Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated fishing

## 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, Atlanto-Scandian 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. 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 2015, 35 observations of fishing vessels were made. Thereof 18 vessels were inspected. 17 of the vessels were Russian, and 1 vessel was from the Faeroe Islands. 15 vessels were inspected during fishery and 2 vessels during transshipment, and 1 vessel while steaming. No infringements were found during the campaign



*Inspection of a vessel fishing in the NEAFC-area.*

## 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 July 1, 2015. This implies that the port state can not 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 call at a foreign port, it shall send a pre-notification to the port state and request permission to call. 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 2015, The Danish AgriFish Agency received and approved 326 pre-notifications on landing and thereof 18 landings were inspected, corresponding to 5.5%. 1 infringement was reported.

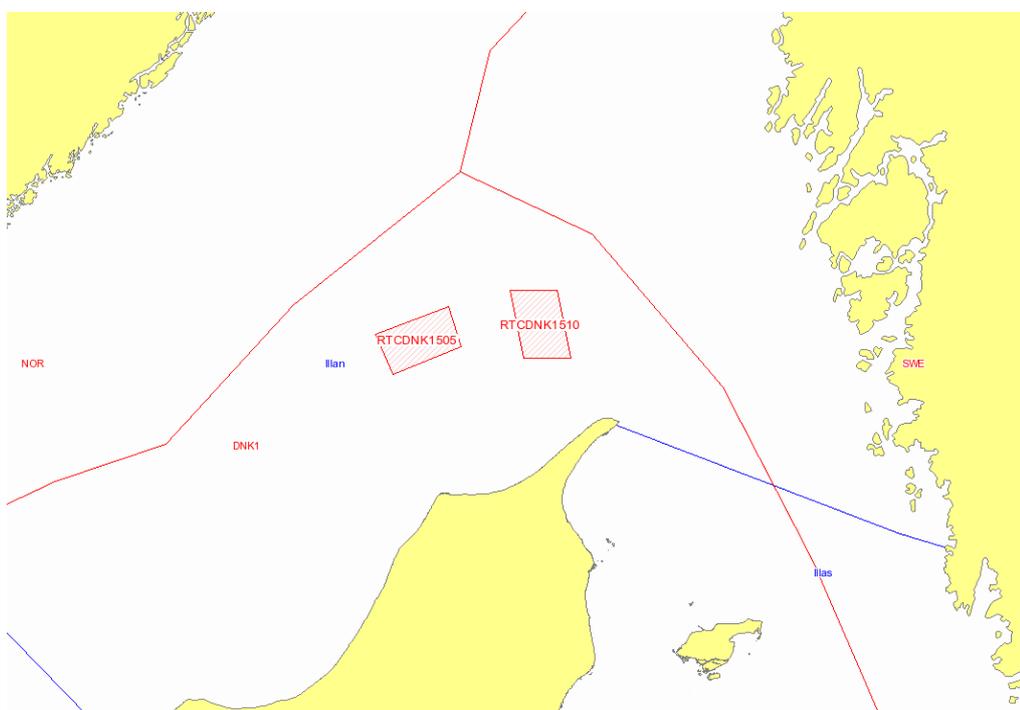
## 2.10 Inspection of RTC<sup>6</sup>

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

During the course of 2015, inspection vessels carried out 11 RTC inspections in the North Sea and the Skagerrak, of which two resulted in area closures due to the presence of a large proportion of juvenile fish from the species, cod, haddock, whiting and pollack.

		2013	2014	2015	change 2014 – 2015
RTC	Number of RTC inspections	16	13	11	-16 %
	Included closures	3	4	2	-50 %

The two areas were closed for fishing for a period of 21 days. The chart shows the position of the closed areas.



## 2.11 Last Haul

In 2015, fisheries 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 really become relevant with the introduction of the discard ban. 103 samples were performed in the Baltic Sea and 26 samples in the North Sea, Skagerrak, Kattegat.

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

## 2.12 Administrative crosschecks

Formerly, the administrative crosschecks consisted of automatically generated monthly lists of inconsistencies that were subsequently inspected by hand. Information from the log book, sales notes, VMS and notifications were collated and compared.

In 2014 the Danish AgriFish Agency established a new automated validation system called VALID. In 2014, VALID was still in the commissioning phase, and both the monthly lists and VALID ran parallel. In 2015, all administrative inspection were made via 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 significant 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 settlements and landing declarations. VALID crosschecks and validate the data. If there is any inconsistency, a task is automatically generated. The task will then be manually processed. In some cases, there may be contact either to the master or to the buyer for clarification.

In 2015, VALID found inconsistencies on 481 occasions, which has given rise 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 2015 actually accrued as a result of data quality and not as a result of actual infringements. A total of 114 infringements were identified by administrative crosschecks in 2015 - the corresponding number in 2014 was 126.

## 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 2015, 15 areas were monitored.

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 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 2015, 1,364 alarms were recorded, ref. the list. All the alarms were investigated and assessed for further action. 1,243 of the alarms were relate to legal access to the area, and 121 alarms, or 9%, led to further inquiries. No incidents led to a infringement report, as the circumstances were either legitimate activities, or trivial matters (e.g., a single VMS signal close to the border of a closed area). 5 incidents related to foreign vessels – in such cases the flag state was notified.

The increase in the total number of alarms is due to the number of monitoring areas rose from 12 to 15.

Monitoring area	Number recorded alarms 2013	Number recorded alarms 2014	Number recorded alarms 2015	Change 2014 - 2015
Kattegat, K1	871	135	84	-38 %
Kattegat, K2	188	129	139	8 %
Kattegat, K3	349	113	73	-35 %
Baltic Sea, Bornholm Deep	97	90	87	-3 %
Baltic Sea, Gotland Deep	1	2	4	100 %
Vestern Baltic Sea, zone A	90	72	65	-10 %
Eastern Baltic Sea, zone B	147	125	58	-54 %

Øresund	449	249	187	-25 %
North Sea, sprat box	116	6	20	233 %
North Sea, sandeel area 1	No monitoring		2	100 %
North Sea, sandeel area 2	No monitoring		5	100 %
North Sea, sandeel area 3	No monitoring		572	100 %
North Sea, sandeel area 4	232	199	0	-100 %
RTC-areas (2 areas)	40	53	9	-83 %
Natura2000 (4 areas)	22	54	59	9 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,602</b>	<b>1,227</b>	<b>1,364</b>	<b>11 %</b>

## 2.14 Inspection of mussel fishing

Besides physical inspections (see Section 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 and oyster 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.

A total of 54 mussel and oyster vessels in four different fishing areas were fitted with Black Boxes in 2015. The Danish AgriFish Agency's departments in Nykøbing Mors and Kolding undertake 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 in relation to fishing in closed areas and within the depth limits. No infringements were noted in 2015.

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.

## 2.15 JDP campaigns

In the course of 2015, 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. Overall, 20 exchanges of Danish

inspectors has been made to another Member State and there have been 17 foreign inspectors exchanged to Denmark.

During the campaign period, Denmark has been in charge of coordination for 7 weeks in the Baltic Sea and for 9 weeks in the North Sea, Skagerrak and Kattegat.

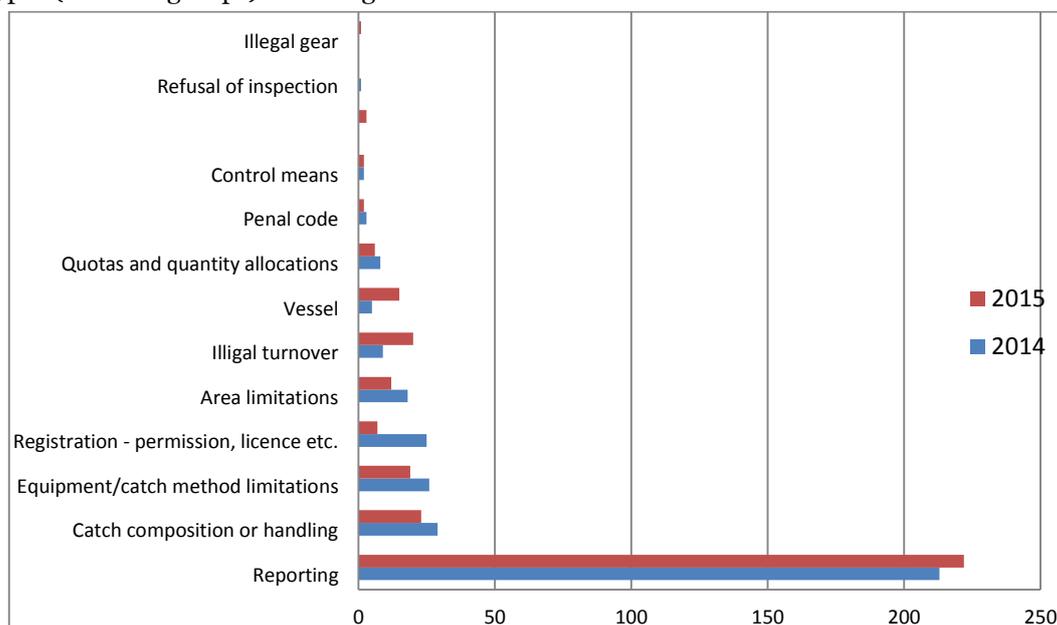
The vessels inspected by Danish inspection vessels and the inspection of vessels in harbours were included in the list of the overall inspection results. It should be noted, when Denmark was responsible for coordination, but also during foreign coordinated campaigns, special risk lists of vessels that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

## 2.16 Infringements, commercial fisheries

The physical and administrative inspection in 2015 registered 293 infringements, of which 76 cases related to cod fisheries. In 2014 the corresponding figures were 301 infringements, of which 123 were relating to cod fisheries. We generally saw a small reduction in the number of infringements compared to 2014, but the number of infringements relating to cod was reduced by 38 %

The decline in the number of infringements in the cod fishery is mainly due to systematic administrative crosschecks of notifications in 2014 and 2015, which has led to a higher level of compliance.

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



It is infringement of reporting regulations (logbooks, reports and sales notes), which account for the major part, equivalent to 67 %.

In the following groups there has been substantial change from 2014 to 2015:

- Small increase in infringements of the reporting regulations (213 to 222)
- Increase in illegal turnover (9 to 20)

- Increase in infringements concerning engine power of fishing vessels (5 to 15)
- Decrease in cases concerning permits and licenses (25 to 7)
- Changes in the number of infringements should be viewed in light of the following:
  - The administrative crosschecks show continued infringements of reporting rules
  - There has been particular focus on the illegal sale of fish
  - There has been focus on smaller vessels engine power
  - There is a preventive effect in the use of points allocated for serious infringements, which are often related to the withdrawing of permissions

### 2.17 Point allocation for serious infringements

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

If within 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 / 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, 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/sailing rights 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 2015, there were two incidents where points were allocated. In both cases, points were given for a single offense. One case concerns a repeat offence where the license holder and the master has accumulated a total of 11 points. The highest number of points allocated in 2015 is 6. There were no suspensions of fishing licenses or sailing rights.

None of the cases were appealed to the Ministry of Food Complaint Center.

		2014	2015	Change 2014 – 2015
<b>Point allocation</b>	Number of vessels	7	2	-5
	Number of cases	7	2	-5
	Number of infringements	14	2	-12

The reason for the decline in the number of cases from 2014 to 2015, can be found in the Common Fisheries Policy discard ban. In most of the previous cases, the reason for the distribution of points was noncompliance to the rules on catch composition in industrial fisheries. With the landing obligation there are no longer any infringements of the target species provision.

After applying the point system for three years, 22 vessels has been assigned points once while 5 vessels have been assigned points on two occasions. The highest number of points assigned on one occasion has been 10 (fishing without a license and false logbooks). The highest number of accumulated points are 16 assigned to two cases related to the landing of undersized fish and incorrect logbook.

As a result of the rule, that points are outdate after three years if no new serious infringements are committed, it is expected that the first license holders with points, will get their points erased in early 2016.

## **2.18 Cooperation and dialog with the industry**

In 2015, monthly meetings were held with representatives from the industry in a forum called CFP Dialogue Forum. At these meetings practical experience and communication efforts, was 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 a discard ban.

In 2015, employees of the Center for Monitoring and Centre for Fisheries, 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.

During inspections conducted in 2015, our inspectors have informed and guided fishermen on the ban on discard in the Baltic Sea as well as for pelagic and industrial species in other areas. There have been no sanctions for noncompliance to the ban on discard in 2015.

### 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 makes up the basic documentation for the inspection work.

#### 3.1 Inspection of recreational fishermen, anglers and their gear

In 2015, we have seen a slight decrease in the number of trips of inspection from 556 to 531 equivalent to 4 %.

The number of inspections fell from 2.290 to 2.067 in 2015, representing a decrease of 11%.

In 2015, 6,250 fishing gear were inspected, which was 253 more than in 2014, representing an increase of 5%.



*Inspection of fishing gear*

		2013	2014	2015	Change 2014 – 2015
<b>Inspection</b>	Number of inspection trips	517	556	531	-5 %
	Number of inspections	1,840	2,290	2,067	-11 %
	Number of inspected gears	5,104	5,977	6,250	+5 %

In 2015 the Danish AgriFish Agency developed an electronic inspection application that inspectors can use for recording inspection information on tablets. Previously, the information was recorded on paper forms. This has provided better means for registration of inspected gears and can be a contributory factor to a larger number of inspected gears despite of a smaller number inspection trips and fewer inspections.

1,559 inspections of recreational fishing licenses were carried out, which was 252 more than in 2014. The increase corresponds to 19%. The total number of recreational fishing licenses sold was 31,437.

#### 3.2 Inspection campaign

As part of the Minister of Environment and Food of Denmark's vision to strengthen angling and leisure fishing, the first phase of an inspection campaign was implemented in November 2014, focusing on coastal fishing. The second phase of the inspection campaign took place in April-May 2015. In the second phase of the campaign, 1,730 gears were inspected, corresponding to approximately three times as many as inspected in the same period in 2014. 411 illegal gears were found - about twice as many as the same period in 2014.

### 3.3 Inspection of anglers and sports fishermen

3,331 anglers and sports fishermen were checked to confirm their angling license, which were 15 % fewer than in 2014.

193,432 angling licenses for sports fishermen were paid for in 2015. Of these, 144,277 were annual cards, 19,835 weekly cards and 29,320 were day cards.

### 3.4 Fresh water inspections of fish passages, release and electrofishing

493 inspections of fish passages, releases and electro fishing were carried out in rivers and lakes, which was a decrease of 40% compared to 2014. The decrease is primarily due to special focus on eel passages in 2014.

65 inspections of releases were conducted, which was 20 fewer than 2014.

4 inspections of electro fishing were conducted, which was 1 more than 2014.

### 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 and angling licenses).

527 infringements were found by inspections, corresponding to a decline of 22 % compared with 2014. Inspections leading to the discovery of infringements resulted in the confiscation of 2,140 items of fishing gears, corresponding to a decline of 10 %.

There is still a declining but nevertheless high infringement frequency. A contributory reason for 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.

		2013	2014	2015	Change 2014 - 2015
<b>Infringements</b>	Proportion of confiscated inspected equipment	51 %	44 %	38 %	-13 %
	Number of cases	770	677	527	-22 %
	Proportion of unknown	69 %	79 %	79 %	
	Confiscated items of gear	2,579	2,381	2,140	-10 %
	Items confiscated per inspection	5.0	4.3	4.0	-6 %
	Proportion of gill nets	34 %	29 %	21 %	
	Proportion of traps	41 %	43 %	32 %	
Proportion of other gears	24 %	29 %	47 %		

The proportion of inspected gears confiscated declined from 44 % in 2014 to 38 % in 2015.

79 % of the illegal gears were not provided with identification information and are therefore characterised as “Unknown”. These gears were confiscated and subsequently destroyed. 28 % of the illegal items corresponded to gill nets, whilst traps accounted for 32 %.

The proportion of illegal gear, apart from gill nets and traps, has increased compared to 2014. The reason for this was that many illegal eel traps from the North Funen area were confiscated.

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 2014. Infringement of the equipment limitations (number of fishing gear, illegal fishing gear, deficient labelling etc.) continues to account for the largest part, corresponding to 74 %. The number was 76 % in 2014.

In the following subgroups, there were substantial development from 2014 to 2015:

There was a decrease in the number of cases concerning incorrect or lack of labelling or marking.

There was a slight decrease in the number of cases concerning fishing in polluted areas.

There was a slight decrease in the number of cases concerning fishing in conservation zones.

There was no significant change for the other subgroups compared with 2014.

41 of the inspected recreational fishermen had not paid for a fishing license, corresponding to 2.5 % of those inspected. The corresponding figure for 2014 was 40 fishermen equivalent to 3.1 %.

189 of the inspected anglers and sports fishermen had not paid for a angling license, corresponding to 5.7 % of those inspected. The corresponding figure for 2014 was 207 anglers and sports fishermen, equivalent to 5.5 %.

## 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 the planning of inspection efforts. In 2015, the Danish AgriFish Agency’s target was, that there should be a follow-up in the form contact with the reporter. Contact should be by phone, email etc. in at least 75 % of the possible infringements.

In 2015, the Danish AgriFish Agency received 472 reports, where the reporting person could be contacted. In 384 cases, equivalent to 81 %, the person submitting the report was contacted. Besides the named reports, the Danish AgriFish Agency received 101 anonymous reports where there was no information about the person reporting.

## 5. Audits

### **5.1 Auditing 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 the uniformity of inspections 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. Thus the Danish AgriFish Agency wishes to raise the agency's inspectors to a common and consistently high professional level.

In 2015, there were 12 audits, of which:

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





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