

Naturland performance report

Checkliste_Wildfisch_Seafreeze Scup Fishery Rhode Island (7.9)

(to be filled in by the inspector)



Are there major deviations?

yes (to be dealt with high priority)

no

Name of operator: Seafreeze Fleet

Name of inspector: Anneliese Brüggmann

.Date of inspection: 02.06.2025 Inspection...
Start of inspection (time): 09:00 announced unannounced On-the-spot inspection remote inspection

End of inspection (time): 16:15

Last official **risk rating** of the EU organic control body: low medium high

Following non-compliances have been detected during inspection (please list here or in annex for annotations!):

- 1) Relevant environmental pollutants in the final product are not yet monitored and controlled within the limits specified in the analytical protocol in Table I.
- 2) Naturland training and material supporting the catalogue of measures have not yet been provided.

In the event that Naturland has subsequently notified additional inspection points or special inspection focal points for inspection: Please indicate here the results of the inspection and any infringements:

- 1)
- 2)

Please list here (or in annex for annotations) all the conditions from last Naturland certification letter and explain if these conditions are fulfilled or not:

- 1)
- 2)

Recommendations/ conditions for Naturland certification (please list here or in annex for annotations!):

(the operator will be officially informed through the certification letter sent by the Naturland certification committee)

- 1)
- 2)

Statement from the operator (for Naturland):

The signatories confirm with their signature the **correctness** of all findings laid down in this inspection checklist. The manager of the operation confirms with his signature the **completeness** of the information laid down in this inspection report.

A copy of this document was left with the operation

A copy of this document will have to be handed over to the operator promptly by the inspection body.

Operation/manager:

North Kingstown, 04.06.25

Place, date, signature

Inspector:

North Kingstown, 04.06.25

Place, date, signature

Naturland Inspection Checklist - Season: 2025
Checklist_Wildfisch_Seafreeze Scup Fishery Rhode Island
 Name of operator: Seafreeze Limited



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 In case a checkpoint is only partially fulfilled, please mark 'NO'!
 In case you answer any question with 'NO', please provide an explanation (in comment field or annex) in any case!

OK/compliant	NO/non compliant	NOT RELEVANT	NOT CHECKED
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A.I.1 Certifications				
If the fishery has further certifications, please list these (if there are none, please tick 'not relevant').	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> HACCP, MSC and SMETA <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
A.I.1 a) Violations				
If there are currently violations of other certification programmes, please describe (if there are none, please tick 'not relevant').	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No open non-conformities with any other standards. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
A.I.2 Contracts				
Producer Contract and Sublicence Contract have been established with Naturland. They cover the whole fishing operation.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Third-party vessels do not have any contract but only land non-certified fish. This is irrelevant for the Naturland certification. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
A.I.4 Conversion				
If conversion is done gradually, the different stages are clearly separated and Naturland has approved the conversion plan (please give date of approval).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No gradual conversion. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
A.I.4 a) Conversion				
Switching between sustainable and conventional management is not practiced. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> All of the scup fishery is MSC certified and is planned to be Naturland certified. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<u>Remarks:</u> Sustainable management according to the specific management conditions.				

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A.I.6 Product flow				
Calculation of flow of goods has been performed for at least one Naturland certified product (record of incoming and outgoing goods) and is plausible. Calculation is attached with the inspection report.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> One calculation of flow of goods has been performed for a non-certified product to test the system. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
A.I.6 b) Value Chain				
All parts of the value chain were inspected and the results documented (ICS allowed for cooperatives). Please list all inspected units. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> The boat, the head office, the production and the cool storage has been inspected. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<u>Remarks:</u> e.g. storage, processing etc.				
A.I.7 Conditions from Previous Certification Letter				
The conditions set by Naturland Certification Committee and communicated by the previous certification letter are all found to be properly fulfilled (please add a brief description on fulfilment of each condition).	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No previous inspection. This is an initial audit. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
A.I.7 a) Additional checkpoints for inspection				
Additional checkpoints for inspection mandated by Naturland were checked. The results are noted here or in annex for annotations. Evidence is attached where applicable or required.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No additional checkpoints. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
A.I.7 b) Subcontractors				
If subcontracted processors are engaged, Naturland subcontracting agreements or other appropriate agreements with analogous content have been concluded. Attach a completed list of sub-contractors to the inspection report, which includes the following information (name and location, sub-contractor agreement available, subcontracted activity). Please also note if a subcontractor is the legal owner of the goods, as in this case a sublicense agreement with Naturland is necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No subcontracted processor. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				

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A.I.7.c) Subcontractors			
All subcontracted processors have been inspected in accordance with Naturland standards.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No subcontracted processors <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __			
A.I 8 Labelling and marketing			
For all commercialized certified fish, the certified operator is indicating the Naturland certification on all business documents (invoices, bill of sale, shipping order etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Not yet applicable, but a sample of labels for MSC certified scup has been shown and a "DN" will be used in the future for Naturland certified products. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __			
A.I.8 a) Labelling and marketing			
Products from sustainable fisheries are clearly labelled as such ("product of sustainable fishery").	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Not yet applicable, but a sample of labels for MSC certified scup has been shown and a "DN" will be used in the future for Naturland certified products. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __			
A.I.8 b) Labelling and marketing			
It is ensured that the same product is not offered from both sustainable and conventional sources simultaneously.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> The only source of certified scup is the own fleet with three vessels. Conventional scup bought from third-party vessels is always kept separate and is equipped with different Lot numbers. The lot numbers always indicate the vessel e.g.: 3= Titan <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __			
A.II.2 c) Complaints			
Complaints are recorded in a register and followed up. Please make a copy of last year's complaints related to Naturland or Naturland products and attach it to the Naturland inspection report, if any.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Complaint procedure is set up but no complaints to Naturland products as it is an initial audit. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __			
A.II.2 d) Cold chain			
An unbroken cold chain is maintained from catch to sale.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> The cold chain was tested and confirmed. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __			

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A III Naturland Checklist Social Responsibility			
Naturland Checklist Social Responsibility has been completed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> See social checklist. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _			
B.1.2.1 Expert meeting			
The next expert survey should take place in 2029 the latest. Necessary arrangements have been made, and the operations team is informed.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _			
B.1.2.2 Topics expert meeting			
The following topics will be discussed in the expert meeting: - Observation of bycatch of juvenile scup - Mesh size adaption	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _			
B.2.4 Evaluation of Atlantic scup			
According to the latest report, the Atlantic scup stock is not overfished and not subject to overfishing. The spawning stock biomass (SSB) for scup in the designated catching areas is at or above the biomass that would produce maximum sustainable yield (SSB-MSY). *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _			
<u>Remarks:</u> The Northeast Fisheries Science Center of NOAA does the regular stock assessment. After the stock assessments, conducted by the Science Center, the results are sent to the Science and Statistical Committees of the MidAtlantic Fishery Management Council to use in setting catch advice for the Council. The link to the latest Scup Fishery Information Document by Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council can be found here: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/status-stocks-reports https://www.mafmc.org/s/2024_Scup_info_doc_FINAL-mkn6.pdf https://apps-st.fisheries.noaa.gov/sis/docServlet?fileAction=download&fileId=8979			

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B 2.7.1 Catch quota				
The nationally allocated quota of the fishery is met. Please indicate the annual quota and the quantities actually caught in the previous season.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Commercial Annual Catch Limit (ACL) for Atlantic scup in FAO 21 is defined in total at 26.85 million lb in 2025. The commercial quota for Atlantic scup in FAO 21 is defined at 19.54 million lb in 2025. *				
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> The quota Period May 1st-September 30 th :7.6 mio lb				<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _
<u>Remarks:</u> The restrictions on the Commercial Annual Catch Limit (ACL) are defined by the Mid Atlantic Fishery Management Council, on advice from its Scientific and Statistical Committee based on science from NOAA's Northeast Fisheries Science Center.				
B 2.7.2 Evaluation of Sea bass and Summer Flounder				
In case the stock of sea bass or summer flounder in FAO 21 is overfished or subject to overfishing the part of these species does not exceed 5 % in the total annual catch. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Yes, confirmed by clients attached reports.				<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _
<u>Remarks:</u> The link to the latest stock assessment can be found here: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/summer-flounder https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/black-sea-bass				
B 2.7.3 Fishing methods				
The fishery is carried out exclusively with otter trawls.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Confirmed by interviews and pictures. Confirmation by video is pending.				<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _
B 2.7.4 Mesh specifications				
The minimum mesh size used by the trawl fishery is 5 inches. The mesh shape is diamond.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Yes, confirmed by interviews and visual inspection.				<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _

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Then I will send it to christina			
OK/compliant	NO/non compliant	NOT RELEVANT	NOT CHECKED

B 2.7.5 & 6 Protected areas I

The fishermen avoid the marine protected areas and respect the spatiotemporal closures. *

Comments / explanations: see annex no. __
 Yes, confirmed by interviews and documents provided.

Remarks:
 Fishermen do not fish in the following areas:
 - Marine protected areas and the spatiotemporal closures
 - Sensitive areas that overlap with deep-sea coral regions
<https://www.mafmc.org/actions/msb-am16>
<https://www.nefmc.org/library/omnibus-habitat-amendment-2>
 - Areas within the U.S. EEZ where fishing is prohibited
<https://www.fisherycouncils.org/area-based-management>
 - Northeast Canyons Marine National Monument
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/new-england-mid-atlantic/habitat-conservation/northeast-canyons-and-seamounts-marine-national>
 - Scup Gear Restricted Areas and Tilefish Gear Restricted Areas.
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/species/tilefish/commercial>
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/map/gulf-maine-georges-bank-regulated-mesh-areas>

B 2.7.6 a) Marine Mammal Authorization Program

The fishery has registered in the Marine Mammal Authorization Program.
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/national/marine-mammal-protection/marine-mammal-authorization-program>

Comments / explanations: see annex no. __
 All three vessels do have marine mammal authorization permits.

B 2.7.7 Documentation of catch

Each landing of the fish is controlled and documented by the fishing authorities. *

Comments / explanations: see annex no. __
 Catch amount is submitted to the government upon landing. No officer of the government is present at each landing but

Remarks:
 All federally permitted scup vessels are required to submit electronic Vessel Trip Reports (VTR) to the federal government. For state only vessels, as well as dealers, state reporting is also required for vessels with a scup permit to Rhode Island department of Environmental Management (RIDMF).

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B 2.7.8 Documentation of bycatch of endangered species				
Bycatch of endangered species (Red List of IUCN / ETP - endangered, threatened, protected species) and marine mammals is documented and released alive.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No endangered species on the Rd List of IUNC/ETP are ever in the bycatch. No such species are native to the FAO 21. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				
B 2.7.9 Research and observations				
Scientists and observers have the permission to accompany the fishing vessels for research purposes. Please describe verification. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> The Cornell Cooperation extension of Suffolk County had a cooperation in 2023 to go on fishing trips. Evidence was seen. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				
<u>Remarks:</u> <u>Verification Approach:</u> Review internal policies or agreements allowing access for scientists and observers. Check for contracts or cooperation with research institutions. Interview key personnel (e.g., vessel captain) about access conditions and past collaborations. Where applicable, request evidence of past onboard presence or confirmation that such access is permitted in principle.				
B 2.7.10 NOAA observers on scup vessels				
Scup vessels have not refused to take NOAA Fisheries Observers on board to collect biological data and conduct regulatory compliance. Please describe verification. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> NOAA observers are very rarely present on the scup vessels, but if required, access is granted. Refusal would lead to fines. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				
<u>Remarks:</u> <u>Verification Approach:</u> Review internal policies or agreements allowing access for scientists and observers. Check for contracts or cooperation with research institutions. Interview key personnel (e.g., vessel captain) about access conditions and past collaborations. Where applicable, request evidence of past onboard presence or confirmation that such access is permitted in principle.				
B 2.7.11 Gear Loss I				
Vessels are equipped with GPS, electronic plotters, and net sensors that allow for the identification of seafloor type and slope. Lost gear can be located and must be retrieved.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No gear loss the past years. Net sensors allow rapid location. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				
B 2.7.11 a) Gear Loss II				
If gear was lost, it has been documented and recovered. If not, a detailed explanation must be provided.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Not a common event, in such cases net is retrieved. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				

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B.2.7.12 Waste management plan I			
All vessels are equipped with the information of marine litter for United States Coast Guard.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Information was seen on inspected vessel.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __	
B.2.7.12 a) Waste management plan II			
The fishermen follow a waste management plan which includes avoidance of waste and also collect ocean litter during the fishing trips.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Rouge lobster cages are collected if possible.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __	
B.2.7.13 Specifications of Vessels			
The maximum vessel size is 151 feet in length and the maximum horsepower is 2000.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> The three relevant vessels Titan, Prevail and North Star do not exceed 151 feet and horsepower is below 2000.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __	
B.2.7.14 Fuel			
The fuel used is Diesel.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Confirmed by captain.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __	
B.2.7.15 Environment Pollutants			
Relevant environmental pollutants in the final product are monitored and controlled within the limits specified in the analytical protocol in Table I.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No laboratory analysis is done on the fish. Fish are only controlled visually by any smell.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __	
B.3.3.1 Employment and remuneration I			
All fishermen are either self-employed or employed by Seafreeze and receive a defined share of the catch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Independent contractors, paid by share. The share is cut up based on experience and ore position on the boats.		<input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __	

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B 3.3.1 a) Employment and remuneration II				
All workers employed by Seafreeze receive at least the national minimum wage.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No employed workers, fishermen are <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				
B 3.3.2 Code of conduct and safety trainings				
The fishermen follow a code of conduct and are regularly instructed in safety issues.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> First aid and safety at sea trainings are done by Seafreeze. the Coast guard does annual training on how to use survival suits. All trainings are supervised by the safety and compliance manager. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				
B 3.3.3 Social support and training				
The company supports local fishing communities and provides support. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Scientists are paid to get better stock assessment of squid. Yearly squid donation is confirmed by managers. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				
<u>Remarks:</u> Seafreeze donates yearly squid to the Calamari Festival held by the Narragansett Chamber of Commerce that draws thousands of people each year. Seafreeze also invests in the local fishing community by supporting full-time staff to work on regulatory and fishery science issues that beneficially impact all local commercial vessels.				
B 3.3.3 a) Conflicts with other resource users				
The company has measures in place to avoid conflicts with other users of resources.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> The government takes care that no conflicts of interest arise. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				
B 4.1 Fishing licence				
A central register of fishing vessels is maintained; only registered vessels that have been issued with a fishing licence engage in commercial fishing.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> All vessels are registered and are issued with a valid fishing license. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				
B.4.2 Training and material				
Staff and workers are familiar with the contents of the Naturland standards. Training and material supporting the catalogue of measures have been provided.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no. __	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> No Naturland training has yet been installed. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. __				

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B 4.3 Quota registration				
Before embarking on a fishing trip, the vessel 's operators ensure that the vessel has quota registered which suffices for the expected catch.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> The quota is given by the government; it is 50000 per boat if the trip is in January. The actual weight is given at point of landing. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
B 4.4.1 Traceability				
The fish can be traced back to the vessel by time and catch area.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Fish can be traced back to vessel, trip number and date. Catch area is always FAO 21. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
B 4.4.2 Fish landing				
Each landing is controlled and weighed in the harbor. *	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> no. _	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<u>Comments / explanations:</u> Confirmed by interview, weighing is, however, not done by the authority but by Seafreeze staff. The size of the haul is submitted to the Government afterwards. If the catch exceeds the quota, the boat is fined. <input type="checkbox"/> see annex no. _				
<u>Remarks:</u> Recording of vessel catch quotas and catches is done by the Fisheries Authority.				

