



HEILSUFRØÐILIGA STARVSSTOVAN

Faroese Food- veterinary and environmental agency, www.hfs.fo

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Matvørudeildin

Heavy Metals in Faroese farmed Fish.

The production of farmed salmon on the Faroe Islands is subjected to regular control by the Faroese Food, Veterinary and Environmental Agency (Heilsufrøðiliga Starvsstovan) for residues of veterinary drugs and environmental contaminants according to the rule laid down in Directive 96/23/EC¹. Results of analysis for heavy metals in samples from Atlantic salmon (*Salmo salar*) and rainbow trout (*Onchorynchus mykiss*) are shown in table 1.

Number of samples for analysis depends on the total productions of aquaculture products in the previous year.

The exports of aquaculture products the past 5 years have been between 27.952.221 and 47.644.000 kg.

Table 1.

Heavy metals (Pb, Cd and Hg) in farmed Faroese Atlantic salmon and Rainbow trout from 2001-2005.

Year	Species	Total nr. of samples	Number of samples analysed	Pb	Cd	Hg	% of total samples analysed for heavy metals
				µg/kg			
2001	Atlantic salmon	283	47	<20	<3	<69,1	16,6%
2002	Rainbow trout	433	25	<20	<2	<79,4	19,4%
2002	Atlantic salmon		59	<20	<2	<67,8	
2003	Rainbow trout	365	5	<20	<2	<71,3	15,6%
2003	Atlantic salmon		52	<20	<2	<63,1	
2004	Rainbow trout	346	21	<20	<2	<92,4	16,2%
2004	Atlantic salmon		35	<20	<2	<53,3	
2005	Rainbow trout	351	10	*	*	*	17,4%
2005	Atlantic salmon		51	*	*	*	

* Results of analysis for the year 2005 are not available yet.

According to EU rules², the maximum level of heavy metals in muscle meat of fish and fishery products thereof, shall be:

Pb	Cd	Hg
200 µg/kg	50 µg/kg	500 µg/kg

¹ COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 96/23/EC of 29 April 1996 on measures to monitor certain substances and residues thereof in live animals and animal products and repealing Directives 85/358/EEC and 86/469/EEC and Decisions 89/187/EEC and 91/664/EEC

² COMMISSION REGULATION (EC) No. 78/2005 of 19 January 2005 amending Regulation (EC) No 466/2001 as regards heavy metals