

KAPISILLIT

– THE Kapisilik River



by
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Kapisillit – The Kapisilik River

Behind Kapisillit - south of the settlement - a long valley forms the course of the river Kapisillik. Kapisillik runs through seven large or small lakes before flowing into the bay just east of the settlement. The water of the river comes from the melting of the ice sheet and from the numerous small rivers and streams, which carry melt water and rain from the surrounding mountains into the valley.

The rain over the mountains or the sun's rapid melting of ice in the ice sheet can quickly raise the water level in the river and the lakes in the valley. In many places the river is very narrow. The large quantities of water form a roaring river, which emits a rumbling noise. Here, it is very dangerous to try to force the stream to the opposite bank. Just a few hundred yards farther up the river can spread out, and here the water flows slowly and quietly between scattered rocks.

In the Kapisilik River we have Greenland's only spawning ground for salmon. Kapisilik is also home to a large population of trout.

The salmons spawn in freshwater, and here the alevin spend the first year. The spawning often takes place far up in the river system. The salmons have been caught in the fifth lake, the river passes by from the fiord.

One to five years old the salmons leave the river and move out in the sea where they grow large. Most salmons are back in the river six to ten months after they first left Kapisilik.

Fishing for salmon has always been important to man in the Godthaabsfiord. The fishing methods have been different. At the beginning of the last century the local people established a stone dam on the Kapisilik River. Several rows of stone were arranged in the river so they run up to the dam. Each family had their own row. When the salmon arrived to the river, they were stopped by the dam, and they could be caught with a racket or only with the hands.

It is claimed that this form of fishing was developed by the Norse. Unlike almost any other type of fishing, this fishing in the rows was carried out by the women.



A small waterfall in the Kapisilik River, August 2004



The course of the Kapisilik River through the wilderness , September 2001



The river widens in the flat country, September 2001



A little waterfall in the river, September 2001



The water in the river finds its way to the fiord, September 2001



*A stunted tree on the river bank,
September 2001*



Willow thickets as tall as a man by the Kapisilik river, August 2004



Reindeers put to flight along the river, August 2004



*The river surrounded by the
colours of autumn,
September 2001*



*A little brook finds its course
through the rocks,
September 2001*



The fell-field traversed by the upper run of the Kapisilik river, August 2004



The trouts stand close in a small brook, August 2004



A hunting hut by the Kapisilik river, August 2004



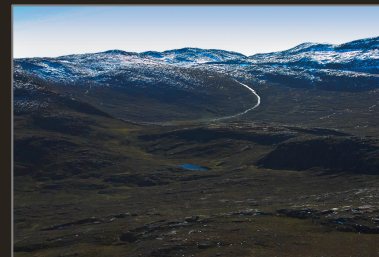
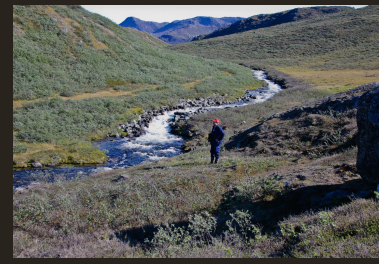
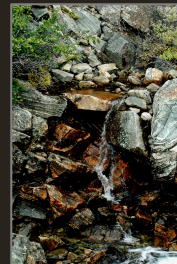
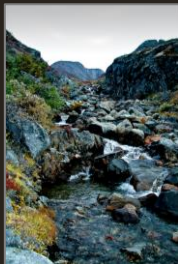
*A stone slide east of the
Kapisilik river, August 2004*



The course of the Kapisilik river from the lake Tummerallip Tasersua, September 2004

Thumbnails

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COLOPHON

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PDF Version 1.0

Originally Published April 2012

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