

Industrial fishery – the end of the line?

The port in the town of Sisimiut at the Greenlandic west coast. It is late, and most of the town has settled down for the night. But here at the port there is still hectic activity.

The trawlers are prepared for sea. Tomorrow morning they again will be cruising out in the Davis Strait. The goal is again to fill the hold of the trawlers with prawns. The deep sea prawn is the main export of Greenland.

Perhaps much will change over the coming decades. The market conditions indicate that in the future industrial fisheries like agriculture in greater and greater extent will be converted into sustainable production.

The consumers seem to have a clear voice: They want a fishery, which not is destroy-

ing the ecological systems and where the value of the natural resources in greater extent goes back to the local people who always have been dependent on the income from the local natural resources.

Already we experience much better prices on seafood that is produced locally on a sustainable basis. The consumer gets the whole storytelling about how she eats fish and prawns, fished with respect for the local people and for the nature in the sea.

The industrial fish and the shellfish caught and produced on large factory vessels do not in a necessary extent respect the requirement for sustainability, and the cash flows often bypass the local population, who is dependent on the income from the local fishery.



Sisimiut, February 2017