

The Greenlandic use of the seaweed

In recent years, we experience new interest in developing projects for the seaweed production. Several concrete projects are already in progress, and legislation has been developed to regulate the area. The collection and harvest of seaweed along the coast of Greenland requires permission from The Greenlandic Self-government.

The group of seaweed which attracts most attention is the brown algae. The brown algae are, thanks to their amount along the coasts, most suitable for a production of food and as feed for forage. The most used species along the Greenlandic coast is the bladder wrack. But there are many other species culinary used by gourmet cooks in the restaurants in Greenland.

But today, because of the modern supply of food from Europe, the preparation and eating of seaweed is not very widely used in the domestic fleshpots.

In Greenland and on other North Atlantic coasts, the seaweed has been forage for sheep. Either the seaweed has been a part of the winter feed together with hay, or the sheep, in their stay in the mountain in the summer time, have migrated down to the coast to eat the fresh seaweed.

The use of seaweed has a long tradition in Greenland. The fact, that the bladder wrack has had several uses reveals the Greenlandic name for bladder wrack, *equutit*. Equutit is close to the Greenlandic word for toilet paper, *equutissaq*.



Nearby Qaqortoq, South Greenland, June 2008