

The life as hunters & fishermen



*by
Keld Jensen*

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Kangeq is one of the few settlements in West Greenland, which is located next to the sea. Kangeq actually in Greenlandic means "cape". Out here, there has previously been rich with wildlife, which could form the basis for human survival.

Along the west coast, it was primarily the large bird migration from the icy northern areas to the ice-free areas here in the south. In addition the migration of seals took place around the headland of the island Kangeq and the other islands in the area.

Part of the seal catch on the hooded seal (Cystophora cristata) took place at the Fyllas Bank outside in the Davis Strait. It took the kayaks three hours to get there. The trip home took much more time, because they then have to tow the catch.

Back in 1800 the outer coast was rich in wildlife. The catch was whales, seals, birds and fish (cod). The climate changed and the waters got colder and the East Greenland ice penetrated farther and farther to the north. The result was decline of the catch for most

species.

In the winter, the archipelago and the sea remains rich in wildlife. This applies to birds as razorbills, long-tailed ducks and eiders, and also the seals, which indeed have been and remains as an important food in Greenland. In other periods of the year the populations moved to other places to hunt reindeer or salmon.

In the late 1960s, before the village was abandoned, the most important commercial catch was cod. In addition, the inhabitant shot some birds, which were sold in Nuuk. Kangeq then include two fish plants and a blubber plant. The settlement includes eight small motor boats and twenty sailboats with or without motor.

The catch was sold to the Royal Greenland Trade Company. The catch included cod, seals, whales, foxes and reindeers.

The vast majority of the money economy came from the cod fishing. It was especially this one-sided dependence on only one economic income

opportunity that at last removed the basis for the continuation of the settlement in the 1970s.

After 1970, there has been attempt to start a small hotel in Kangeq, but the attempt failed when the hotel burned down as a result of an accident. Today, several of the houses are under restoration, so they can be used as holiday cottages. The tourist boats from the capital Nuuk, located about sixteen kilometres northeast of Kangeq, often visit the fabulous abandoned settlement.

































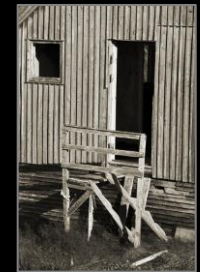






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