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Main Menu

Bellona Home

The Nikitin case

Energy

Russia

Environmental facts and  
info

Advanced Search

  Below this section only

RUSSKAYA ■ ENGLISH ■ NORSK ■

THE NUCLEAR Click for latest news  
**CHRONICLE**  
FROM *Russia*

## Barents Sea fish monitor

# Safe cod from the Barents Sea

The fish industry and the Bellona Foundation have initiated monitoring of radioactivity in fish from the Barents Sea. Daily samples of fish will be analysed by the Food Control Authority, and the results will be published on [www.bellona.no](http://www.bellona.no).

Alvhild Hedstein, 2000.08.23 11:41

Fish authorities have since 1994 tested fish fillets from Lofoten and the Barents Sea for environmental poisons and radioactivity. The levels of radioactivity in fish have been approximately 1 Bq/kg fish fillet, while the health limit recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO) is 600 Bq/kg fish. The samples are normally taken once a month.

After the accident of the Russian submarine *Kursk*, questions concerning radioactive releases from the wreck, have been raised. But, in order to ensure the world that fish from the Barents Sea still is safe to consume, the Bellona Foundation, in cooperation with the fish industry and close connection with the fish authorities, has initiated intensive sampling of fish from the Barents Sea. Every catch of fish arriving at the Norwegian fishing company Findus in Hammerfest will be analysed for radioactivity. If the results, against expectations, show increased levels of radioactivity, the fish will not be released on the market.

The fish samples are taken according to the ICES Standard, which calls for 25 different fish fillets. The samples are being sent to the Food Control Authority in Salten, to be analysed in a high resolution Germanium detector with counting time of 24 hours. The result of the first tests will be available starting on Thursday August 24, and published on [www.bellona.no](http://www.bellona.no) immediately.

The sampling will continue intensively for two weeks, and subsequently the situation regarding the submarine *Kursk* will determine whether the intensive sampling should continue, or be replaced by monthly samples taken by the authorities.

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