Riksrevisjonen

Office of the Auditor General of Norway

The impact of environmental audits in Norway – lessons learned

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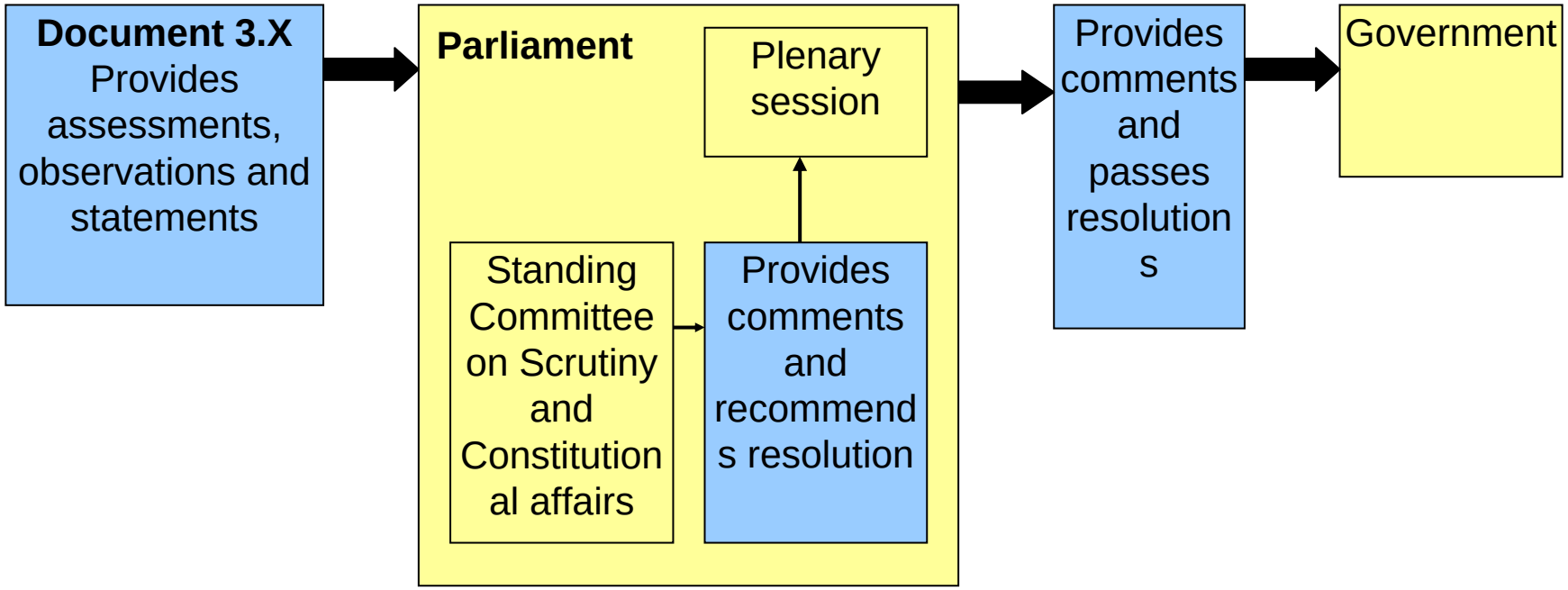
Institutional Setting

- The SAI of Norway does not make recommendations



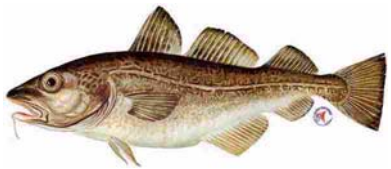
Our Questions to the Ministries:

- In what ways have the audits been useful?
- What actions and initiatives have the audits generated?
- Are there other experiences you would like to share?

Factors of value I

New knowledge is well received

- Empirical data



- Causal chains

- Assessments of policy instruments:

Factors of value II

Increased focus on important areas

- Outcome: Parliament explicitly sets ecological sustainability of the grazing resources before economic gain.
- Outcome: The audit helped the Ministry get the message across to a wide audience.
- Outcome: Increased number of controls and stricter reactions to violations

Factors of value III

Guidance on improved management by objectives and reporting

- Outcome: Restructuring and reorganization of management systems and reporting structures

- Outcome: Improved routines and practices regarding reporting, evaluation and the management of subordinate agencies,

Key factors to secure acknowledgement of the findings from the audited body

- Broad approach to the theme
- Firm professional base and integrity
- Good communication and a well targeted scope

How our SAI will continue to ensure impact of our environmental audits

- More and better dialogue and communication
- Strengthen the risk assessment phase - use of “strategic studies”
- Continue to provide new knowledge