

**c) Special Requests for Management Advice**

**i) Greenland Halibut TAC & Exceptional Circumstances**

*i) The Fisheries Commission adopted in 2010 an MSE approach for Greenland halibut stock in Subarea 2 + Division 3KLMNO (FC Doc. 10/12). This approach considers a survey based harvest control rule (HCR) to set a TAC for this stock on an annual basis. The Fisheries Commission requests the Scientific Council to:*

*a) Monitor and update the survey slope and to compute the TAC according to HCR adopted by the Fisheries Commission according to Annex 1 of FC Document 10/12.*

Scientific Council responded:

The TAC for 2015 derived from the HCR is 15 578 t.

As per the HCR adopted by the Fisheries Commission, survey slopes were computed using the most recent five years of survey data (2009-2013) and are illustrated in Fig. 1. The data series included in the HCR computation are the Canadian Fall Divs. 2J3K index, the Canadian Spring Div. 3LNO index and the EU Flemish Cap index covering depths from 0-1400m. Averaging the individual survey slopes yields  $slope = 0.0089$ . Therefore, the computed TAC is:  $15\,441 * [1 + 1 * (0.0089)] = 15\,578$  t. This change from the 2014 TAC is within the  $\pm 5\%$  constraint on TAC change that is part of the HCR.

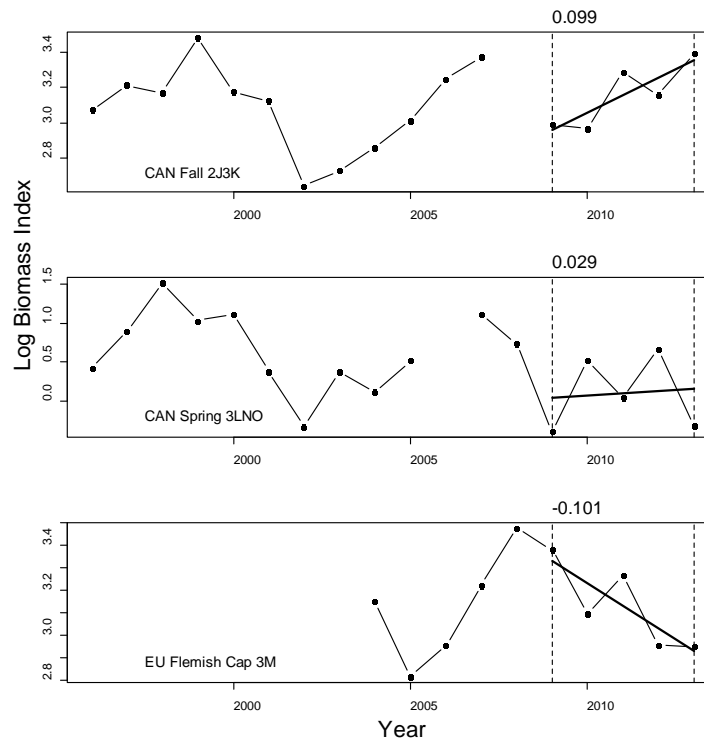


Fig. 1. Input for Greenland Halibut in Subarea 2 + Divisions 3KLMNO Harvest Control Rule. Slopes are estimated from linear regression of log-scale biomass indices (mean weight per tow) over 2009-2013. Survey data come from Canadian autumn surveys in Div. 2J3K, Canadian spring surveys in Div. 3LNO and EU Flemish Cap survey (to 1400m depth) in Div 3M.