

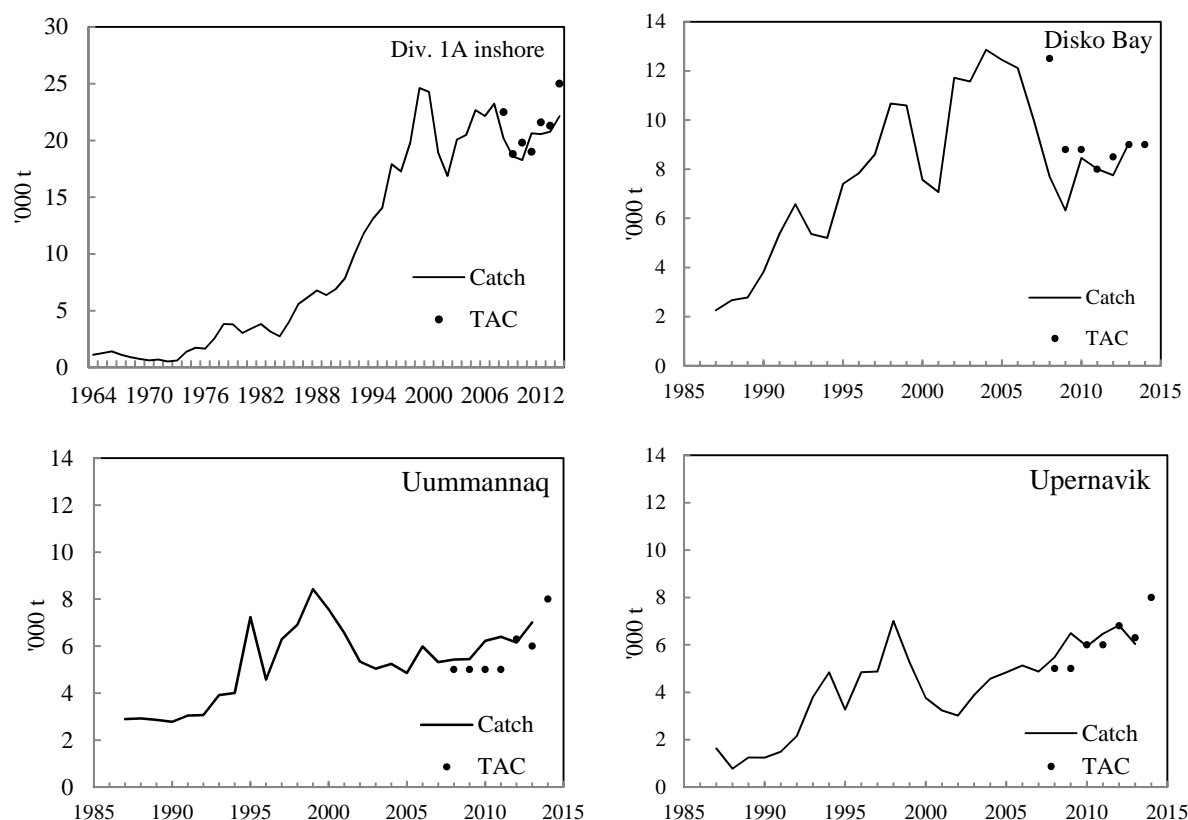
Recommendation for 2015 and 2016:

Disko Bay: The stock is stable at lower levels. The updated indices indicate that the stock is decreased and that the fishery is still dependant on new incoming year classes. However, the long-term stability in both surveys indicates a steady supply of pre-fishery recruits (35-50 cm) to the stock. Scientific council therefore recommends that catches in 2015 and 2016 should not exceed 8 000 t.

Uummannaq: The stock is in good condition. Stability in the indices suggests that changes in the stock have so far occurred at a slow rate. Catches have slowly increased during the past decade. Catches have been around 6 000 t annually over the past twenty years. Scientific council therefore recommends that any increases beyond this level should be slow and incremental.

Upernavik: The stock is in good condition. The stability in the indices suggests that changes in the stock have so far occurred at a slow rate. However, catches have increased substantially since 2002. Scientific council therefore recommends that there should be no increase in catches beyond the 2009-11 average (6 300 t) in 2015 and 2016.

Background: The inshore stocks of Greenland halibut in Subarea 1 are believed to be dependent on recruitment from the offshore spawning stocks in the Davis Strait. Little migration out of the inshore areas to the offshore stock and between the separated inshore areas has been observed and a separate TAC is set for each of the districts: Disko Bay, Uummannaq and Upernavik.

Fisheries and catches:

Total landings for Division 1A inshore: For the three areas combined, landings were less than 1 000 t until 1955 but gradually increased to a level of 5 000 t by 1985. After the mid-1980s landings increased to 25 000 t in 1999 and have remained at a level of 20 000 to 25 000 t since then.

Disko Bay: Landings increased from about 2 000 t in the mid 1980's and peaked from 2004 to 2006 at more than 12 000 t. After 2006, landings were halved in just three years without any restrictions on effort, TAC or reduced prizes prices to explain the decrease. Landings have however gradually increased since then and in 2013, 9 073 t was landed from the area.

Uummannaq: landings increased from 3 000 t in the mid 1980's and peaked in 1999 at more than 8 000 t. Landings then decreased to a level of 5 – 6 000 t. In 2013, 7 007 t were landed from the district which is an increase compared to recent years

Upernavik: landings increased from the mid 1980's and peaked in 1998 at a level of 7 000 t. This was followed by a period of decreasing landings, but since 2002 catches have gradually increased. In 2013, 6 039 t were landed from the district, which is less than the set TAC quota, but this can largely be explained by a change in effort distribution following the transition to the ITQ system.

Nominal catches and TACs for Div. 1A (Inshore) are as follows:

		2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Disko Bay	TAC				12.5	8.8	8.8	8.0	8.0	9.0	9.0
	STACFIS	12.5	12.1	10.0	7.7	6.3	8.5	8.0	7.8	9.1	
Uummannaq	TAC				5.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	8.0
	STACFIS	4.9	6.0	5.3	5.4	5.5	6.2	6.4	6.2	7.0	
Upernavik	TAC				5.0	5.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.3	8.0
	STACFIS	4.8	5.1	4.9	5.5	6.5	5.9	6.5	6.8	6.0	
Div. 1A Unknown		0.8									
Total	TAC				22.5	18.8	19.8	19.0	21.6	21.3	25.0
	STACFIS	22.7	23.2	20.2	18.6	18.3	20.6	20.8	20.7	22.1	

Data:

All areas: Commercial length frequency data were available in 2013. Logbook data provided since 2008 was available, and used to calculate a standardized CPUE index based on longlines only.

Disko bay: CPUE and NPUE indices were derived from the Disko Bay Gillnet survey. The survey targets the pre-fishery recruits between 35 and 50 cm.

Abundance and biomass indices were derived from the Greenland shrimp fish trawl survey.

Assessment:

No analytical assessment could be performed.

Disko Bay

Biomass: The continuing decrease in the mean length in the landings and the shift in the length distributions towards smaller size indicates that the biomass is currently below previous levels. Survey results indicate a relatively stable biomass of pre-fishery recruits.

Fishing mortality: Unknown. The contribution to F from the shrimp trawlers is likely reduced since the implementation of sorting grids in the inshore shrimp trawl fishery in 2011.

Recruitment: Good. Trawl survey results in the Disko Bay indicate high levels of recruits in 2011 and 2013.

Uummannaq

Biomass: The long term stability in the mean length in the landings and wide range of sizes in the landings suggests that changes, if any, until now has happened at a slow rate.

Fishing mortality: Unknown. But there are no other fisheries in the district inducing fishing mortality.

Recruitment: Good. Offshore survey results from nearby areas indicate high levels of recruitment in recent years.

Upernavik

Biomass: The long term stability in the mean length in the landings and wide range of sizes in the landings suggests that changes, if any, until now has happened at a slow rate.

Fishing mortality: Unknown. But there are no other fisheries in the district inducing fishing mortality.

Recruitment: Good. Trawl survey results from nearby offshore areas indicate high levels of recruitment.

State of the stock:

Disko Bay: The continuing decrease in the mean length in the landings and the shift in the length distributions towards smaller size indicates that the biomass is currently below previous levels. Survey results indicate a relatively stable biomass of pre fishery recruits. Trawl survey results in the Disko Bay indicate high levels of recruits in 2011 and 2013.

Uummannaq: The long term stability in the mean length in the landings and wide range of sizes in the landings suggests that changes, if any, until now has happened at a slow rate. Offshore survey results from nearby areas indicate high levels of recruitment in recent years.

Upernavik: The long term stability in the mean length in the landings and wide range of sizes in the landings suggests that changes, if any, until now has happened at a slow rate. Trawl survey results from nearby offshore areas indicate high levels of recruitment.

Reference Points: Could not be determined for any of the stocks.

Special Comments: The stocks are believed not to contribute to the spawning stock in Davis Strait, and no significant spawning has been observed in the areas, hence the stocks are dependent on recruitment from offshore spawning areas.

Sources of Information: SCR Doc. 14/003, 14/038, 14/041; SCS Doc. 14/12.
