

Wolffish in Subarea 1

Advice June 2017 for 2018-2020

Recommendation for 2018 - 2020

Atlantic wolffish: The Scientific Council advises that there should be no directed fishery.

Spotted wolffish: The Scientific Council advises that the TAC should not exceed 975 tonnes.

Management objectives

No explicit management plan or management objectives have been defined by the Government of Greenland.

Management unit

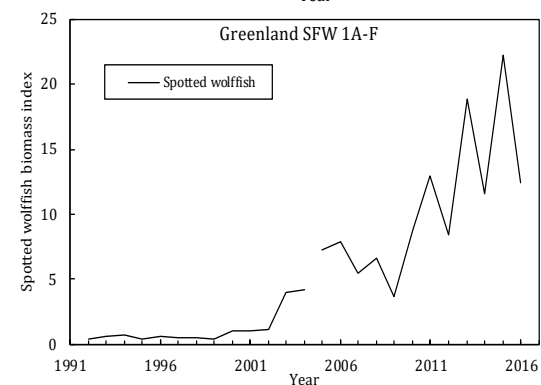
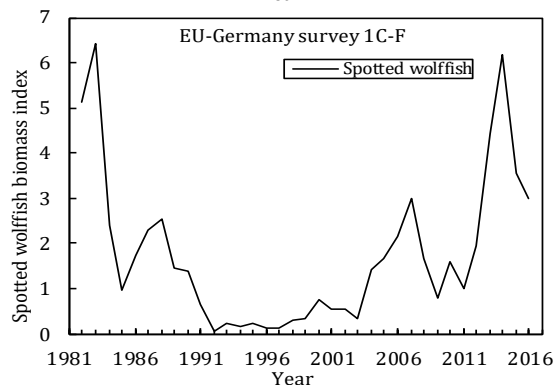
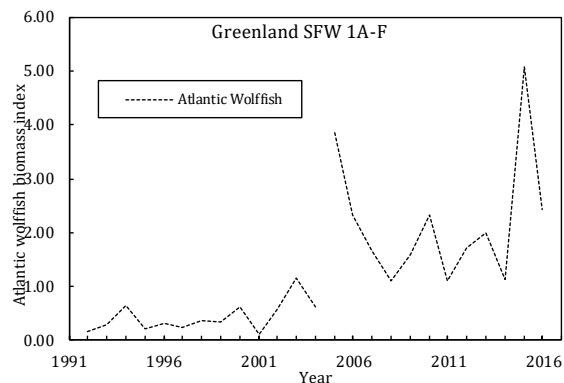
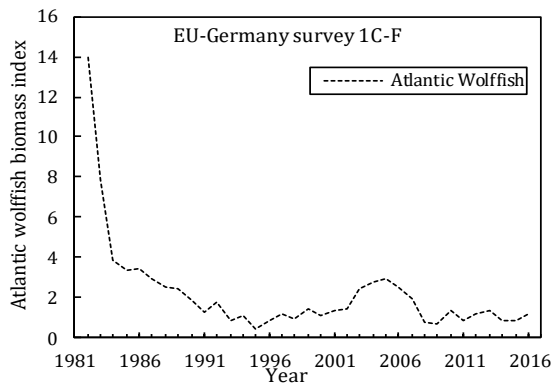
Atlantic wolffish is known to be more connected to the offshore banks in South and West Greenland and is considered a single unit.

Spotted wolffish is found in all areas both inshore and offshore, but is known to be the dominating species in the coastal regions and the fjords in South, West and North Greenland. It is presumed to be a single stock.

Stock status

Atlantic wolffish: The biomass indices of the EU-Germany survey is far below the initial values.

Spotted wolffish: There is no sign that the recent decrease in the landings was caused by a decrease in the stock. The average of the EU-Germany survey biomass index for the recent 3 year is near the same level as in the 1982-1984 period. The Greenland Shrimp and fish survey biomass index average for the recent 3 years, is 19% higher than the prior 4 year period.



Reference points

Could not be established.

Assessment

No analytical assessment was performed. The assessment was based upon a qualitative evaluation of survey indices, length composition and historic fishery. The assessment is considered data limited and with relatively high uncertainty, as surveys do not fully cover the distribution of the stock.

Human impact

Mainly fishery related mortality. Other mortality sources (e.g. pollution, shipping, oil-industry) are undocumented.

Environmental impact

Unknown

Fishery

Wolffish are primarily taken in a directed longline fishery or as a bycatch in longline, gillnet or trawl fisheries. The proportions of Atlantic and spotted wolffish in the catches are unknown, but there is little doubt that spotted wolffish constitutes the majority of recent landings since the fishery takes place in the coastal areas and the fjords where spotted wolffish is known to be the dominating species. Furthermore, the majority of the Atlantic wolffish observed in surveys are smaller than normal commercial sizes, whereas spotted wolffish between 70 and 110 cm are plentiful.

Recent catch estimates (tonnes) are as follows:

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Atlantic wolffish TAC								1.0	1.0	1000
Spotted wolffish TAC								1.025	1.025	1025
Wolffish TAC	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	2.025	2.025	2025
STATLANT 21	1.2	.05	0.009	.8	1.0	.9	.9	0.4	0.2	
STACFIS	1.2	1.1	1.3	.8	1.0	.9	.9	0.4	0.2	

Effects of the fishery on the ecosystem

Wolffish in the area are targeted with longlines, selecting mainly adult fish and with low environmental impact.

Special comments

For spotted wolffish, the ICES Harvest Control Rule 3.2 for data limited stocks was used as a basis for giving TAC advice (mean survey index y_{1-3} /mean y_{4-7} =1.19). The survey index used was the Greenland survey as its distribution was appropriate to the distribution of the stock. The 1st year 'precautionary buffer' of 20% reduction was applied.

Sources of Information

SCR Doc. 17/015 036 and; SCS Doc. 17/08.