

Recommendation for 2025 and 2026

Following the application of the ICES guidance on data limited stocks (DLS) method 3.2, the Scientific Council recommends that TAC in 2025 and 2026 should not exceed 4 674 t. A PA buffer is applied in 2024 for the first time.

Management objectives

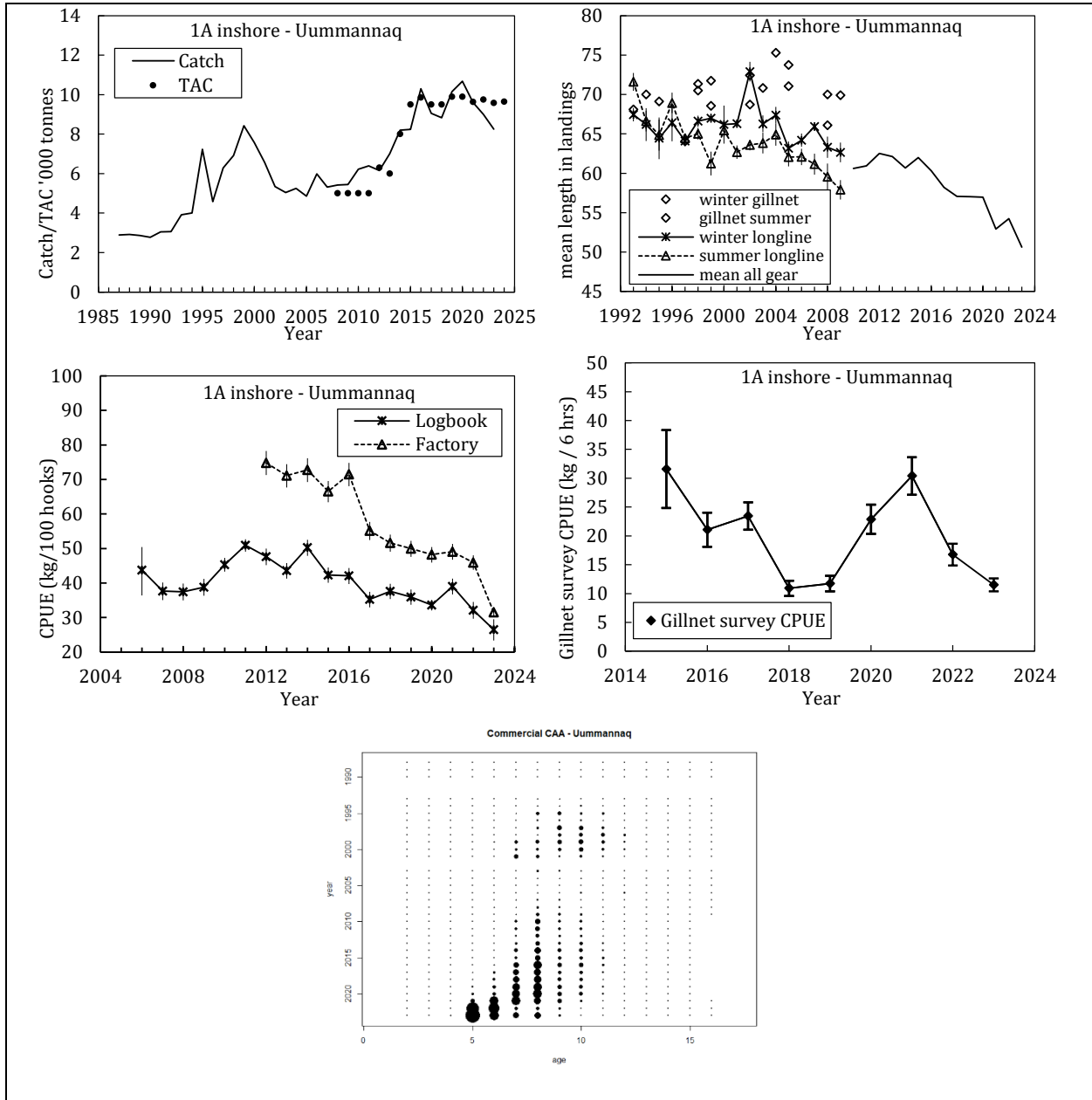
No explicit management plan or management objectives has been defined by the Government of Greenland. A management plan is currently under development.

Management unit

Three inshore stocks in Division 1A (Disko Bay, Uummannaq and Upernavik) are believed to recruit from the Subareas 0+1 offshore spawning stock (in the Davis Strait), and there is little migration between the separated areas and the stock in Subareas 0+1 offshore. Separate advice is given for each area, within the specific management unit, in Division1A inshore.

Stock status

The commercial logbook CPUE has decreased by 44 % and the factory based CPUE has decreased by 58 % since 2012. The mean size of the landed fish has decreased from 60 cm in 2016 to 50 cm in 2023 equivalent to a 43 % reduction in mean weight. The fishery is mainly based on incoming year classes ages 5 and 6 in 2023. The stock shows signs of depletion.



Reference points

Could not be established.

Assessment

No analytical assessment was performed. Survey indices, mean length in the landings, commercial CPUEs and catch at age information were considered the best information to monitor the stock.

Basis for advice

The ICES Harvest Control Rule 3.2 for data limited stocks was used as a basis for giving TAC advice (mean survey index 2021-2023/mean 2017-2020=1.134). Since both the mean length in the fish landings and the commercial CPUEs have decreased in both 2022 and 2023 and stock status relative to reference points is unknown, a PA buffer is applied in 2024 for the first time.



Multi-year advice is recommended when applying this index-ratio based rule. Also, Greenland has requested advice for as many years as is considered appropriate. A two-year advice cycle is suggested at this time.

This results in the following advised catch:

2025 and 2026 $Catch_{advised} = 4\,674\text{ t}$ (catch advised for 2023 and 2024 = $5\,153 * 1.13 * 0.8$)

This rule should be reviewed in the next assessment.

Human impact

Mainly fishery-related mortality. Retrieval of lost fishing gear (lost gillnets, longlines and more) by the GINR research vessel RV Sanna was conducted in 2023. Other mortality sources (e.g. pollution, shipping, oil-industry) are undocumented.

Biological and Environmental interactions

No studies were reviewed in this assessment.

Ecosystem sustainability of catches

The impact of bottom fishing activities on VMEs in Subarea 0 was assessed in 2016. Three areas have been designated as marine refuges, that exclude bottom contact fisheries: Disko Fan, Davis Strait and Hatton Basin. Areas in Subarea 1 have also been closed to bottom fishing to protect benthic habitats.

Greenland halibut is included in the piscivore guild. There is no EPU nor TCIs defined for this region. The ecosystem sustainability of catches cannot be evaluated. Greenland Shark is a bycatch species of concern in the fishery given its low reproductive rate, slow growth rate and limited ecological information.

Fishery

Catches in the Uummannaq fjord gradually increased from the 1980s reaching 8 425 t in 1999, but then decreased to ~ 5 000 in 2002. Since 2004, catches gradually increased reaching 10 670 t in 2020. In 2023 catch decreased to 8 250 t.

Recent catch estimates ('000 ton) are as follows:

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1A Uummannaq - TAC	9.5	9.9	9.5	9.5	9.9	9.5	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.7
1A Uummannaq - catch	8.2	10.3	9.0	8.8	10.2	10.7	9.6	9.0	8.3	
STACFIS Total	8.2	10.3	9.0	8.8	10.2	10.7	9.6	9.0	8.3	

Effects of the fishery on the ecosystem

Greenland halibut in the area is targeted with longlines and gillnets. Both gears select adult fish with large body size and do not retain recruits or small-sized fish. Ghost fishing by lost gillnets has been observed, but its effects in the Uummannaq fjord is unknown.

Special comments

Recruits are mainly received from the offshore stock in Subareas 0+1 offshore.

Sources of Information

SCR Doc. 24/029, 034; SCS Doc. 24/014.