

Greenland halibut in Subarea 1 (inshore – Uummannaq)

Advice June 2026 for 2027 – 2028

Recommendation for 2027 and 2028

Scientific Council projected the fishing mortality scenarios defined for stocks in the Cautious Zone of the NAFO PA Framework. During the projection period (keeping F constant at the 2027 leaf values), there is a 65 to 79 % annual probability that the stock remains below $B_{trigger}$, and <1% to 3 % annual probability that the stock will be below B_{lim} .

Catches between 1 141 t and 2 707 t in 2027 are consistent with the HCR from the NAFO PA. Keeping F constant at the 2027 leaf values results in catches between 1 309 t and 2 956 t in 2028, maintaining F levels lower than would be expected under the defined leaf scenarios.

Management objectives

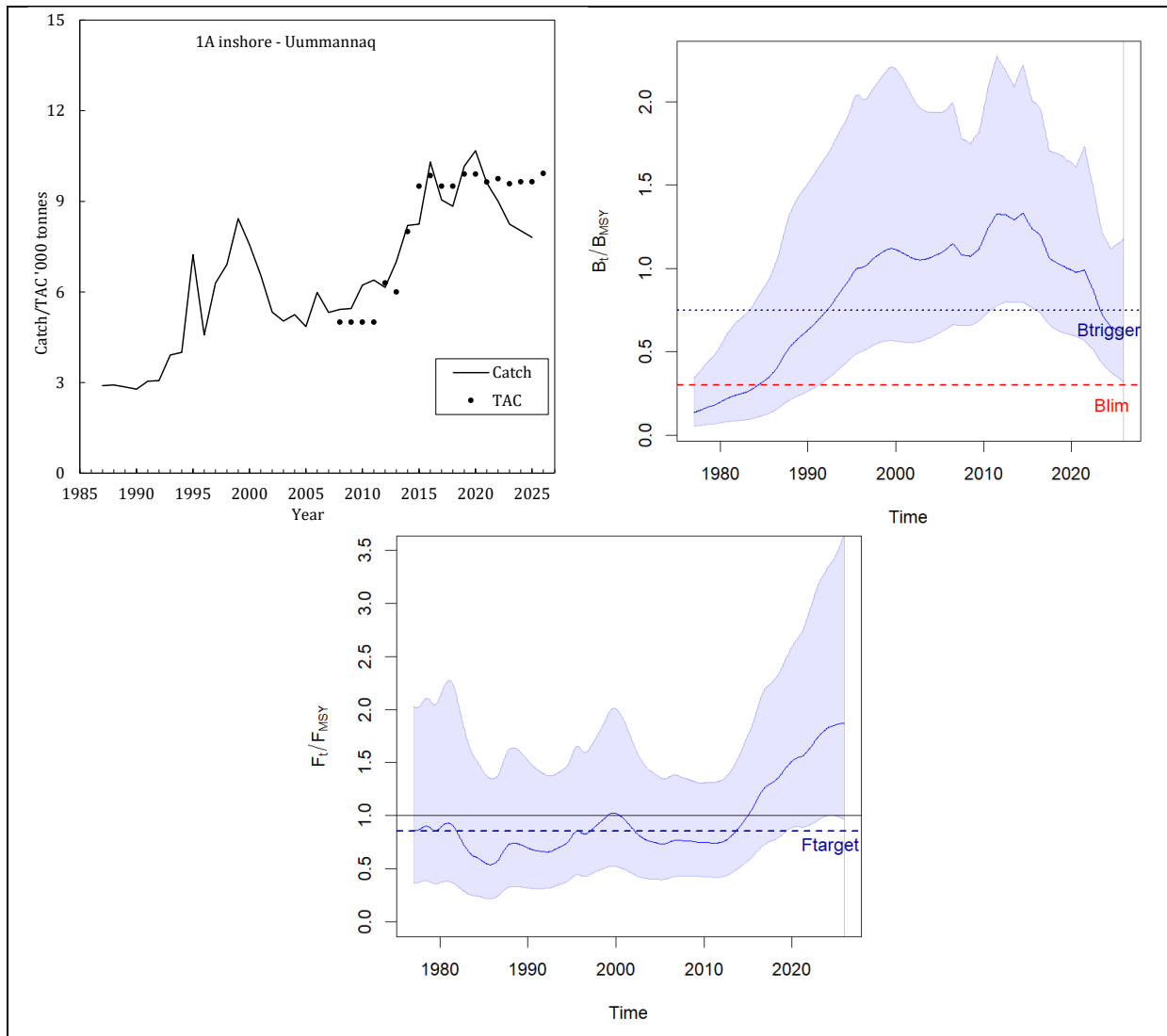
Denmark (on behalf of Greenland) requested an assessment of stock status and advice. No explicit management plan or management objectives have been defined by the Government of Greenland but a management plan is currently under development.

Management unit

Three inshore stocks in Division 1A (Disko Bay, Uummannaq, and Upernavik) are believed to recruit from the SA 0 + 1 offshore stock. Separate advice is given for each area in Division 1A inshore. The Greenland halibut stocks in Subarea 0 + 1 (offshore) and Division 1A inshore are part of a larger population complex distributed throughout the Northwest Atlantic.

Stock status

The stock is in the Cautious Zone of the NAFO PA Framework. In 2025, the median estimate of biomass was below $B_{trigger}$ but above B_{lim} with a 98% probability and the median estimate of fishing mortality is 1.9 times F_{lim} . Recruitment is unknown.



Reference points

B_{lim} is 30% B_{msy} . $B_{trigger}$ is 75% B_{msy} . F_{lim} is F_{msy} . F_{target} is 85% F_{msy} .

Projections

Medium-term projections were carried forward for catch scenarios with catch = TAC = 9 922 t for 2026. Constant F was applied from 2027-2028 at several levels of F , i.e. $F = 0$ and the NAFO PA Leaf (lower edge, mid and upper edge for 2027) for stocks in the Cautious Zone.

During the projection period (2027-beginning 2029), there is a 50 to 79 % annual probability that the stock remains below $B_{trigger}$, and <1% to 3 % annual probability that the stock will be below B_{lim} for the projected scenarios (excluding $F=0$). The annual probability of exceeding F_{lim} in 2027-2028 is lower than 16 % for the projected scenarios (excluding $F=0$). Projections show a 72 to 90 % probability that the stock will increase from 2026 to 2029 for the projected scenarios (excluding $F=0$).

Catch 2026 = 9 922 t (TAC)			
Year	F	Yield (t) Median	Projected Relative Biomass (B/B_{msy}) Median (80% CI)
$F = 0$			
2026	0.27	9 922	0.62 (0.43, 0.89)
2027	0.00	0	0.57 (0.36, 0.89)
2028	0.00	0	0.68 (0.44, 1.05)
2029	-	-	0.80 (0.53, 1.21)
Lower edge leaf			
2026	0.27	9 922	0.62 (0.43, 0.89)
2027	0.04	1 141	0.57 (0.36, 0.89)
2028	0.04	1 309	0.66 (0.42, 1.02)
2029	-	-	0.75 (0.49, 1.16)
Midrib leaf			
2026	0.27	9 922	0.62 (0.43, 0.89)
2027	0.07	2 015	0.57 (0.36, 0.89)
2028	0.07	2 250	0.64 (0.41, 1.00)
2029	-	-	0.71 (0.45, 1.12)
Upper edge leaf			
2026	0.27	9 922	0.62 (0.43, 0.89)
2027	0.09	2 707	0.57 (0.36, 0.89)
2028	0.09	2 956	0.62 (0.39, 0.99)
2029	-	-	0.68 (0.43, 1.09)

Catch 2026 = 9 922 t (TAC)					
Cautious Zone		$F = 0$	F lower edge leaf in 2027	F midrib leaf in 2027	F upper edge leaf in 2027
Yield (t) Median	2026	9 922	9 922	9 922	9 922
	2027	0	1 141	2 015	2 707
	2028	0	1 309	2 250	2 956
$P(F > F_{lim})$	2026	99 %	99 %	99 %	99 %
	2027	<1 %	<1 %	2 %	14 %
	2028	<1 %	<1 %	3 %	16 %
$P(B < B_{lim})$	2026	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %
	2027	3 %	3 %	3 %	3 %
	2028	<1 %	1 %	2 %	2 %
	2029	<1 %	<1 %	<1 %	1 %
$P(F > F_{target})$	2026	> 99 %	> 99 %	> 99 %	> 99 %
	2027	<1 %	<1 %	7 %	28 %

	2028	<1 %	<1 %	8 %	29 %
$P(B < B_{trigger})$	2026	75 %	75 %	75 %	75 %
	2027	79 %	79 %	79 %	79 %
	2028	61 %	65 %	68 %	70 %
	2029	42 %	50 %	56 %	61 %
$P(B_{2029} > B_{2026})$		96 %	90 %	82 %	72 %
$(B_{2029} - B_{2026}) / B_{2026}$		30 %	22 %	15 %	10 %

Assessment

A Stochastic surplus Production model in Continuous Time (SPiCT) was used for the assessment of this stock. Input data come from the research survey and the fishery.

The next full assessment of this stock is planned for 2028.

Human impacts

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

Biology and environmental interactions

No specific studies were reviewed during this assessment.

Ecosystem sustainability of catches

The impact of bottom fishing activities on VMEs in SA 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 SA 1 have also been closed to bottom fishing to protect benthic habitats.

Greenland halibut is included in the piscivore guild. There are no EPU or TCIs defined for this region. The ecosystem sustainability of catches cannot be evaluated.

Fishery

Catches in the Uummannaq fjord gradually increased from the 1980s reaching 8 425 t in 1999 but then decreased to ~ 5 000 t in 2002. Since 2004, catches gradually increased reaching 10 670 t in 2020. Subsequently, catches decreased, reaching 7 812 t in 2025.

Recent catches and TACs ('000 t) are:

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
TAC	9.5	9.5	9.9	9.5	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.7	10.4	9.9
Catch ¹	9.0	8.8	10.2	10.7	9.6	9.0	8.3	8.0	7.8	

¹ STACFIS estimates

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. Impacts on VMEs have not been addressed.

Greenland shark is a bycatch species of concern in the fishery given its low reproductive rate, slow growth rate and limited ecological information.

Special comments

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

Commercial length frequencies are vital information and data from fish graders could improve the data input. Unfortunately, grader data has not been provided by the industry since October 2021.

Sources of information

SCR Docs. 26/016, 019, 024; SCS Doc. 26/11.