

Wolffish in Subarea 1

Advice June 2026 for 2027 – 2029

Recommendation for 2027 – 2029

Given the lack of continued biomass increase, total catch (bycatch and directed) should not increase above the current five year average (227 t) for Atlantic and spotted wolffish combined.

Management objectives

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

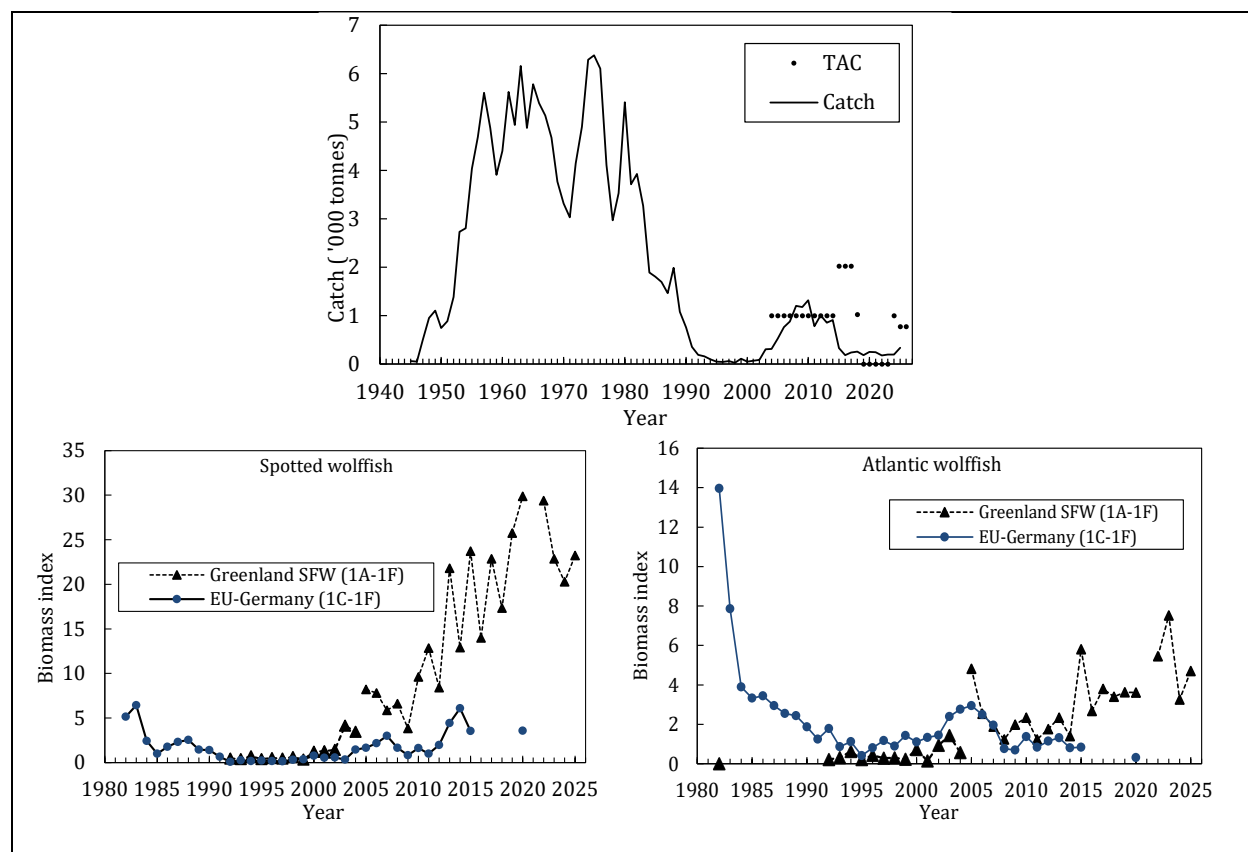
Management unit

Atlantic wolffish and spotted wolffish are both considered single units. Until 2025, both species were reported collectively as “wolffish” in fishery statistics.

Stock status

Atlantic wolffish: The biomass remains below the higher level of the 1980s. Recruitment and fishing mortality are unknown.

Spotted wolffish: Although the biomass and abundance indices have been increasing in the recent two decades, the indices have decreased since the most recent assessment in 2023. Recruitment and fishing mortality are unknown.



Reference points

Could not be established.

Assessment

No analytical assessment was performed for either stocks. The assessment is considered data limited and with relatively high uncertainty, as surveys do not fully cover the distribution of the stock.

The next assessment will be in 2029.

Human impacts

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

Biological and environmental interactions

There is no integrated summary information available on the structure, status and trends of the marine ecosystem for the area inhabited by this stock.

Ecosystem sustainability of catches

Wolffish is included in the piscivore guild. There are currently no Ecosystem Production Units defined nor TCI information for the distribution area of this stock.

Fishery

Wolffish are primarily taken as a bycatch in other fisheries. There is no information about the species split of the catches. The commercial fishery for wolffish in West Greenland occurred from the 1950s to 1979 with catches of around 5 000 t per year. After 1980, the cod fishery gradually stopped in West Greenland and catches of wolffish also decreased during this period. To minimize by-catch in the shrimp fishery, offshore trawlers targeting shrimp have been equipped with 22 mm grid separators since 2002 and inshore (Disko Bay) trawlers since 2011. Since 2015, reported catches have been at a lower level. A separate TAC is set for each species by the Government of Greenland.

Recent nominal catches of wolffish (t) and TAC.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
TAC	2025	1025	0	0	0	0	1000	1000	775	775
Catch ¹	238	260	186	251	243	175	197	195	338	

¹STACFIS estimates

Special comments

There are no special comments for either stock.

Sources of information

SCR Doc. 20/052, 26/011, 025 and SCS Doc. 26/11.