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**Stock Abundance Indices and Length Compositions of Demersal Redfish and Other Finfish
in NAFO Sub-area 1 and near bottom water temperature
derived from the German bottom trawl survey 1982-2006**

by

Heino Fock, Hans-Joachim Rätz and Christoph Stransky

Federal Research Centre for Fisheries, Institute for Sea Fisheries
Palmaille 9, D-22767 Hamburg, Germany

Heino.fock@ish.bfa-fisch.de, hans-joachim.raetz@ish.bfa-fisch.de; christoph.stransky@ish.bfa-fisch.de

Abstract

Survey abundance, biomass estimates and length compositions for golden and deep sea redfish ≥ 17 cm (*Sebastes marinus* and *S. mentella*), juvenile redfish < 17 cm, American plaice (*Hippoglossoides platessoides*), Atlantic and spotted wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus* and *A. minor*) and thorny skate (*Raja radiata*) in Division 1D to 1F are presented. For golden redfish, American plaice and both wolffishes, stocks sizes have declined significantly until the early 1990s and remained at a low level since until 2000. Since then, abundances increased only slightly. For thorny skate, abundances increased in the early 1990s and for deep-sea redfish in the late 1990s. Both abundances decreased since then. All stocks considered are presently composed of small and mainly juvenile specimens except for spotted wolffish. Near bottom water temperature continued to be high (since 1996), the maximum of the time series was observed in 2003.

1 Introduction

This paper presents estimates of stock abundance and biomass indices disaggregated by length as derived from annual German groundfish surveys for golden and deep sea redfish ≥ 17 cm (*Sebastes marinus* and *S. mentella*), juvenile redfish < 17 cm, American plaice (*Hippoglossoides platessoides*), Atlantic and spotted wolffish (*Anarhichas lupus* and *A. minor*) and thorny skate (*Raja radiata*). The surveys commenced in 1982 and represent the longest time series of quantitative information from the traditional fishing grounds off West Greenland south of 67° northern latitude. Environmental conditions are reflected as trends in near bottom water temperatures. The information is presented as an update of continued analyses of the survey results (Rätz, 1999; Rätz and Stransky, 2003.)

2 Materials and Methods

Abundance, biomass estimates and length structures were derived from annual groundfish surveys covering shelf areas and the continental slope off West Greenland. Surveys commenced in 1982 and were primarily designed for the assessment of cod. Because of favourable weather and ice conditions and to avoid spawning concentrations, autumn was chosen for the time of the surveys. These were carried out by the research vessel (R/V) WALTHER HERWIG (II) throughout most of the time period. In 1984 R/V ANTON DOHRN was used and she was replaced by the new R/V WALTHER HERWIG III since 1994, respectively.

The surveys were primarily designed for the assessment of cod. In order to reduce the error of abundance estimates, the subdivision of shelf areas and the continental slope into different geographic and depth strata was required due to a pronounced heterogeneity of cod distribution. The survey area was thus split into four geographic strata. Each stratum was itself subdivided into two depth strata covering the 0-200 m and 201-400 m zones. Figure 1 and Table 2 indicate the names of the 8 strata, their geographic boundaries, depth ranges and areas in nautical square miles (nm²). All strata were limited at the 3 mile offshore line.

The applied strategy was to distribute the sampling effort according both to the stratum areas and to cod abundance. Consequently, fifty percent of the hauls were allocated proportionally to strata by stratum area while the other fifty percent were apportioned on the basis of a review of the historical mean cod abundance/nm², all hauls being randomly distributed within trawlable areas of the various strata. Non-trawlable areas were mainly located inshore. During 1982-2002, 1 697 successful sets were carried out, the numbers of valid sets by year and stratum being listed in Table 3. In 1995 and since 2001, the survey area off West Greenland was incompletely covered due to technical problems. Only 75 % of the strata of West Greenland were covered in 2005. Figure 1 shows the positions of hauls conducted during the most recent survey.

The fishing gear used was a standardized 140-foot bottom trawl, its net frame rigged with heavy ground gear because of the rough nature of the fishing grounds. A small mesh liner (10mm) was used inside the cod end. The horizontal distance between wing-ends was 25 m at 300 m depth, the vertical net opening being 4 m. In 1994, smaller Polyvalent doors (4.5 m², 1,500 kg) were used for the first time to reduce net damages due to overspread caused by bigger doors (6 m², 1,700 kg), which have been used earlier. Fish were identified to species or lowest taxonomic level and the catch in number and weight was recorded. Total fish lengths were measured to cm below.

Hauls, which received net damage or became hang-up after less than 15 minutes, were rejected. Some hauls of the 1987 and 1988 surveys were also included although their towing time had been intentionally reduced to 10 minutes because of the expected large cod catches as observed from echo sounder traces. The coefficient of catchability was set arbitrarily at 1.0, implying that estimates are merely indices of abundance and biomass. The towing time was normally 30 min. at a speed of 4.5 knots (Table 1). Stratified abundance estimates were calculated from catch-per-tow data using the stratum areas as weighting factor for the arithmetic means (Cochran, 1953; Saville, 1977). All calculations of abundance and biomass indices were based on the 'swept area' method using 22 m horizontal net opening as trawl parameter, i. e. the constructional width specified by the manufacturer. The conversion of catch-per-tow (C_{tow}) to catch per nautical square mile C_{sqnm} is:

$$C_{\text{sqnm}} = C_{\text{tow}} * 30 \text{ minutes} / \text{trawled time} * 84.1616 / 2.25$$

Respective confidence intervals (CI) were set at the 95% level of significance of the stratified mean.

Strata with less than five valid sets were rejected from the calculation. To account for missing strata, a further experimental General Linear Model (GLM) index was calculated for biomass assuming multiplicative effects of year and stratum on biomass, which implies log-transformation of the catch data C .

$$\log(C_{\text{tow}} + 1) = \alpha + \beta_1 \text{ year} + \beta_2 \text{ stratum} + e$$

Accordingly, residuals are assumed log-normally distributed. Specific treatment of zero catches is required (here: unit value is added to every catch datum) and backtransformation to the stratum mean follows

$$C_{\text{stratum, year}} = \exp(a + b/2) - 1$$

where a is the mean by stratum and year and b is the corresponding stratum variance of log-transformed data. Though the addition and subtraction of unit value to the catch is incorrect, for catch rates the application of the log-normal model is likely more realistic than the gamma model (Venables and Dichmont 2004). A gamma model is in preparation.

Near bottom water temperature was measured directly before or after a trawl haul by means of a CTD sonde. The annual stratified mean temperature was estimated in the same manner as applied for the fish abundance, i.e. through area weighting (Cochran, 1953; Saville, 1977).

Results

Fig. 1 displays the coverage of the survey area by the geographical haul distribution in 2005.

The abundance and biomass indices by stratum of *S. marinus* ≥ 17 cm is given in Table 3 and illustrated in Figure 2. The stock is indicated to be depleted since the early 1990s. Substantial recovery is though not apparent. In 2006, the stock was mainly composed of two length groups of 25-35 cm and 40-45 cm in body length, which corresponds with the indication of stronger incoming year classes observed in 2005.

Table 5 lists the abundance and biomass indices of *S. mentella* ≥ 17 cm by stratum, the values being presented in Figure 4. Abundance peaked in 1997. Since then, three further years with high abundances have been recorded including 2006. As in 2004 and opposite to 2005, the length distribution is trimodal with modes at 30 (about 9-10 yrs old), 22-25 and 17-20 cm. As for golden redfish, the latter indicates an incoming but less pronounced year class (Fig. 5 and Table 6). It must be noted, that the survey design hardly covers the distribution area of deep sea redfish, and the survey results should be carefully interpreted.

The abundance of juvenile redfish < 17 cm *Sebastes spp.* has varied over a wide range since 1982. The recent index is among the lowest observed since 1982 (Fig. 6 and Table 7). The length composition revealed peaks at 6-7, 10-12 and 14-16 cm, an indication of sizes at ages 0, 1 and 2 in autumn (Fig. 7 and Table 8). The strong peak for age 0 in 2004 does not re-appear as age 1 in 2005, but is evident in 2006.

Abundance and biomass of American plaice *Hippoglossoides platessoides* significantly declined since the late 1980s but increased slightly since 2002 (Fig. 8 and Table 9). Opposite to previous years when the stock predominantly was composed of small fish below 20 cm as illustrated in Figure 9 and listed in Table 10, the share of specimens > 30 cm increased in 2005 and 2006. The catchability of flatfish by the survey gear is considered poor but the time series seems to represent the stock development.

Atlantic wolffish *Anarhichas lupus* does not show a decrease in survey abundance but in both biomass estimates, which were significantly lower in the 1990s (Fig. 10 and Table 11). That indicates that the stock then was mainly composed of small fish with low body weights. This indication is confirmed by the length distributions given in Figure 11 and Table 12 as fish below 35 cm are recently dominating the size composition of the stock.

The abundance and biomass of spotted wolffish *Anarhichas minor* decreased significantly until 1992 (Fig. 12 and Table 13). Since 1996, a clear upward trend in particular for the biomass estimates is evidenced in the survey series. The size distribution is scattered as a result of low catch rates and high variation in body length (Fig. 13 and Table 14).

Both abundance and biomass indices of thorny skate *Raja radiata* are recently very low compared to the values estimated during the 1980s and early 1990s (Fig. 14 and Table 15). Size composition was dominated by small fish below 25 cm body length until 2004 (Fig. 15 and Table 16). In 2005, the length distribution was more even. In 2006 again, a high share of small fishes had been caught.

Trends in near bottom temperature means by stratum and stratified mean temperature are listed in Table 17 and shown in Figure 16. They reveal that the warm conditions off West Greenland continued since 1996 with a maximum stratified mean temperature in 2003. The stratum mean temperatures show a significant depth effect, with the colder temperatures measured in the shallow strata (< 200 m). Deeper strata are generally warmer by about 1-2°C.

References

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Table 1 Trawl parameters of the German bottom trawl survey off West Greenland.

German survey	
Gear	140-feet bottom trawl
Horizontal net opening	22 m
Standard trawling speed	4.5 kn
Towing time	30 minutes
Coefficient of catchability	1.0

Tab. 2 Survey areas and effort (hauls) of the German bottom trawl survey off West Greenland by stratum, 1982-2005.

STRATUM	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	Sum
AREA nm ²	6805	1881	2350	1018	1938	742	2568	971	18273
1982	20	11	16	7	9	6	13	2	84
1983	26	11	25	11	17	5	18	4	117
1984	25	13	26	8	18	6	21	4	121
1985	10	8	26	10	17	5	21	4	101
1986	27	9	21	9	16	7	18	3	110
1987	25	11	21	4	18	3	21	3	106
1988	34	21	28	5	18	5	18	2	131
1989	26	14	30	9	8	3	25	3	118
1990	19	7	23	8	16	3	21	6	103
1991	19	11	23	7	12	6	14	5	97
1992	6	6	6	5	6	6	7	5	47
1993	9	6	9	6	10	8	7	0	55
1994	16	13	13	8	10	6	7	5	78
1995	0	0	3	0	10	7	10	5	35
1996	5	5	8	5	12	5	10	5	55
1997	5	6	5	5	6	5	8	5	45
1998	9	5	10	7	11	6	10	5	63
1999	8	6	14	8	13	6	9	3	67
2000	13	6	14	7	14	5	9	5	73
2001	0	0	15	7	15	5	11	6	59
2002	0	0	7	2	5	6	8	4	32
2003	0	0	7	6	7	7	6	5	38
2004	9	7	11	9	9	6	9	5	65
2005	0	0	9	7	8	6	6	5	41
2006	6	5	7	5	7	7	8	5	50

Table 3 *S. marinus* \geq 17cm, abundance (1 000) and biomass (tons) for West Greenland by stratum and total, 1982-2005. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance. GLM 1985-1989 subject to revision.

Abundance

Abundance										
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI
1982	7016	6341	88792	5511	5736	14876	4088		132360	55
1983	4022	3186	3356	6523	4043	5886	1697		28713	53
1984	1327	3438	461	1209	10671	2776	4214		24096	65
1985	4661	10451	6157	1569	3221	14442	4974		45475	52
1986	6329	4324	2077	3483	21504	2883	2717		43317	53
1987	905	653	1328		9611		660		13157	39
1988	830	2238	343	2255	5938	1954	732		14290	54
1989	422	421	776	690	6490		362		9161	60
1990	122	433	280	710	1037		146	2270	4998	75
1991	225	256	96	691	236	528	21	1671	3724	51
1992	129	105	73	190	194	476	193	836	2196	151
1993	170	482	59	267	79	132	0		1189	93
1994	109	325	155	167	66	46	152	247	1267	41
1995					50	68	39	146	303	97
1996	150	267	21	243	380	383	28	298	1770	47
1997	252	609	16	175	120	311	36	552	2071	40
1998	116	141	45	142	19	106	126	254	949	160
1999	225	293	132	219	72	213	10		1164	70
2000	197	621	63	571	83	200	10	836	2581	59
2001			106	304	72	456	8	1557	2503	124
2002			101		333	536	13		983	93
2003			251	375	186	516	0	1998	3326	50
2004	143	331	56	373	209	453	64	2042	3671	63
2005			195	399	155	1041	159	5916	7866	83
2006	0	241	25	183	62	823	120	9642	11095	106

Biomass

Biomass											
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI	GLM Biomass
1982	1797	1354	34439	2557	3205	9794	2532		55678	54	28816
1983	844	944	1572	3043	1874	4816	1084		14177	61	10987
1984	306	893	197	518	4934	2284	2088		11220	55	9375
1985	1021	1819	2968	472	1426	9210	2720		19636	34	
1986	1279	1215	752	1230	10122	1705	1762		18065	38	
1987	252	246	660		4954		439		6551	38	
1988	143	404	118	942	2570	1342	383		5902	60	
1989	184	137	273	249	2620		208		3671	47	
1990	41	149	75	275	479		80	1343	2442	45	3904
1991	41	83	24	226	120	272	3	1007	1776	98	2849
1992	20	36	21	61	52	241	69	447	947	130	2022
1993	48	111	19	114	39	55	0		386	68	1247
1994	34	147	47	64	27	36	41	80	476	38	1606
1995					19	19	21	43	102	38	942
1996	61	102	2	60	128	118	8	132	611	40	1421
1997	41	261	5	61	35	188	10	246	847	58	1475
1998	20	43	12	42	14	54	56	117	358	102	1372
1999	54	71	35	68	17	82	8		335	61	1380
2000	68	173	31	215	21	76	3	388	975	96	1856
2001			24	113	54	228	3	776	1198	67	2268
2002			24		157	230	13		424	82	2172
2003			96	174	83	284	0	966	1603	85	2375
2004	61	171	24	181	91	262	41	1235	2066	61	1838
2005			82	201	52	476	118	2986	3915	60	4064
2006	0	72	12	133	32	450	92	6226	7017	78	3932

Table 5 *S. mentella* \geq 17cm, abundance (1 000) and biomass (tons) for West Greenland by stratum and total, 1982-2005. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance. GLM 1985-1989 subject to revision.

Abundance

Abundance										
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI
1982	0	389	16	348	0	2360	0		3113	65
1983	41	1010	71	2528	0	5236	0		8886	42
1984	41	2966	7	1276	0	1115	0		5405	93
1985	0	369	31	26	56	327	0		809	47
1986	2144	414	38	292	4	444	0		3336	36
1987	987	13679	42		56		0		14764	45
1988	150	3186	26	777	60	4620	0		8819	58
1989	0	186	9	102	0		8		305	60
1990	0	9	5	704	50		0	3881	4649	43
1991	0	0	0	0	0	652	0	1773	2425	81
1992	0	36	0	15	0	106	0	0	157	165
1993	0	23	0	159	8	0	0		190	86
1994	0	271	21	96	95	162	0	36	681	168
1995					29	234	95	1468	1826	55
1996	1524	619	0	236	0	1921	28	7135	11463	64
1997	252	1759	0	381	37	3204	144	30742	36519	62
1998	0	324	0	212	151	828	10	2543	4068	67
1999	34	235	7	281	39	1735	95		2426	43
2000	0	94	7	768	31	1422	0	21187	23509	65
2001			24	636	116	5419	0	13939	20134	66
2002			0		0	1351	23		1374	95
2003			0	571	114	1554	0	9365	11604	116
2004	225	1206	40	1122	242	1115	139	5021	9110	89
2005	40	1042	40	1042	27	791	77	1123	3100	110
2006	0	1309	63	739	52	1239	48	13311	16761	66

Biomass

Biomass												
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI	GLM	Biomass
1982	0	96	7	114	0	893	0		1110	68		1387
1983	14	213	26	1158	0	2857	0		4268	47		3005
1984	7	798	5	491	0	472	0		1773	97		1728
1985	0	96	14	11	27	110	0		258	35		
1986	225	38	19	110	4	180	0		576	36		
1987	82	1183	9		31		0		1305	46		
1988	20	425	21	159	45	1878	0		2548	56		
1989	0	23	7	15	0		0		45	63		
1990	0	6	2	87	8		0	542	645	44		1830
1991	0	0	0	0	0	153	0	445	598	80		2099
1992	0	2	0	1	0	28	0	0	31	160		1258
1993	0	4	0	22	2	0	0		28	61		2047
1994	0	32	2	10	12	24	0	3	83	128		1306
1995					6	24	10	159	199	52		2067
1996	7	55	0	19	0	235	3	689	1008	59		3793
1997	20	141	0	38	2	320	18	2973	3512	59		3207
1998	0	26	0	17	17	88	3	326	477	73		2636
1999	7	21	5	36	6	188	21		284	52		1077
2000	0	9	0	65	2	122	0	1915	2113	57		2248
2001			2	66	10	469	0	1468	2015	74		3640
2002			0		0	145	3		148	102		1344
2003			0	66	12	223	0	1557	1858	120		4814
2004	34	117	7	122	50	149	23	1172	1674	74		2516
2005			5	125	4	89	23	403	649	109		2173
2006	0	138	7	80	10	260	24	4115	4633	76		4361

Table 7 *Sebastes. spp.* < 17cm, abundance (1 000) and biomass (tons) for West Greenland by stratum and total, 1982-2005. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance.

Abundance

Abundance											
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI	
1982	1055	357	120	27	8	42	23		1632	44	
1983	3954	506	14	138	8	16	21		4657	56	
1984	5022	3713	21	219	141	27	13		9156	67	
1985	4886	9616	54	2712	47	67	54		17436	164	
1986	10738	237636	113	1811	54	218	39		250609	168	
1987	12453	113990	5		19		18		126485	87	
1988	19680	42481	0	107	19	139	0		62426	41	
1989	7717	13159	3071	5370	17		69		29403	35	
1990	11255	35933	15416	1538	72		6199	848	71261	52	
1991	51936	59846	34872	22668	13692	2508	891	1540	187953	38	
1992	25716	19083	12690	17276	17463	13973	41	13718	119960	54	
1993	5458	39035	665	11331	355	2773	13		59630	111	
1994	3403	12003	9828	4014	1190	1730	10842	9867	52877	95	
1995					399	10236	855	34695	46185	106	
1996	456	14356	5210	9377	26961	11571	2488	107236	177655	98	
1997	6519	47117	0	15852	43421	20194	444	68931	202478	62	
1998	1558	25350	50177	30834	55983	13090	37049	13318	227359	100	
1999	3886	54143	1067	8617	1105	7643	758		77219	48	
2000	1293	9958	63	3052	393	8195	0	33103	56057	62	
2001			1318	3559	110	2432	8	1484	8911	24	
2002			1255		145	1523	23		2946	85	
2003			390	7090	114	1674	15	1054	10337	79	
2004	6676	12206	343	4706	112	1083	10	1089	26225	154	
2005			118	2628	54	778	0	342	3920	176	
2006	1697	26157	264	2186	73	962	168	603	32110	72	

Biomass

Biomass											
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI	
1982	34	13	7	1	0	1	0		56	41	
1983	102	21	0	6	0	1	0		130	52	
1984	88	105	0	5	6	1	0		205	73	
1985	82	367	2	58	2	3	0		514	142	
1986	456	6646	2	77	2	6	0		7189	168	
1987	265	5020	0		0		0		5285	93	
1988	218	1492	0	3	0	5	0		1718	56	
1989	109	271	21	49	0		0		450	42	
1990	102	369	63	20	0		10	2	566	58	
1991	197	798	73	242	29	24	3	15	1381	46	
1992	150	386	49	111	74	220	0	64	1054	54	
1993	75	512	16	265	6	76	0		950	90	
1994	27	216	54	57	29	64	141	277	865	132	
1995					6	330	10	348	694	97	
1996	7	284	14	117	91	297	18	3300	4128	96	
1997	61	344	0	214	163	544	15	2437	3778	81	
1998	20	433	165	322	221	351	141	531	2184	120	
1999	54	941	14	190	17	272	18		1506	47	
2000	27	252	2	106	14	284	0	1414	2099	61	
2001			7	65	6	90	0	71	239	29	
2002			12		2	29	0		43	83	
2003			9	138	2	40	0	26	215	53	
2004	54	348	9	140	4	70	0	22	647	160	
2005			2	69	0	19	0	3	93	179	
2006	40	696	7	60	2	21	8	33	867	72	

Table 9 *Hippoglossoides platessoides*, abundance (1 000) and biomass (tons) for West Greenland by stratum and total, 1982-2005. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance.

Abundance

Abundance										
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI
1982	31582	5092	29598	5735	2843	2133	1043		78026	30
1983	46601	6482	55493	2871	2725	461	811		115444	49
1984	18251	6258	53766	4366	2928	2244	1792		89605	43
1985	21388	5974	22819	6185	2632	239	3161		62398	23
1986	22035	11393	58741	9556	2936	2388	4463		111512	39
1987	23321	3314	26226		2357		1030		56248	26
1988	10963	3476	8025	5698	3566	800	1035		33563	18
1989	9370	4454	11362	3775	8764		1446		39171	28
1990	8615	6465	8227	2614	1083		1492	606	29102	25
1991	7826	4537	5168	1899	1517	639	1248	952	23786	17
1992	8527	4996	3020	2704	1233	1707	1744	175	24106	28
1993	5859	3284	1201	1212	632	694	398		13280	17
1994	2212	3525	1488	1514	624	282	1661	189	11495	21
1995					891	1189	1019	785	3884	18
1996	3716	1337	956	1424	1946	772	1566	472	12189	17
1997	8656	3262	2585	3543	2973	1288	2427	109	24843	21
1998	6254	3956	5654	2873	1767	865	2296	204	23869	17
1999	5410	2675	5013	2904	1835	389	1356		19582	20
2000	2273	3929	1953	3302	1016	361	1197	36	14067	18
2001			11195	3831	1275	394	3616	182	20493	23
2002			6820		1203	2138	1718		11879	23
2003			20675	9700	1140	2170	1633	15	35333	34
2004	23681	7048	18111	6319	998	1120	1741	50	59068	24
2005			16344	8276	1459	1087	950	606	28722	32
2006	4579	4563	9006	7031	1139	1156	1189	44	28707	25

Biomass

Biomass											
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI	GLM Biomass
1982	6050	946	7797	1151	919	376	157		17396	32	8425
1983	7451	1155	11771	607	1008	88	167		22247	41	9855
1984	1701	762	8662	807	607	387	365		13291	45	10482
1985	1939	600	3861	1062	519	49	321		8351	22	7497
1986	2150	1147	8429	1385	703	452	460		14726	30	11900
1987	3130	339	5471		645		229		9814	30	8077
1988	919	293	1699	807	814	137	236		4905	19	4468
1989	517	297	1476	371	2120		288		5069	40	3710
1990	395	397	1220	314	213		288	221	3048	22	3541
1991	347	399	486	260	266	125	187	173	2243	18	3790
1992	578	419	228	183	151	250	152	25	1986	26	2655
1993	327	222	82	102	66	70	26		895	17	2185
1994	143	416	134	143	64	34	108	28	1070	25	1567
1995					70	154	123	58	405	20	4061
1996	211	100	66	164	159	78	149	38	965	22	2973
1997	490	265	209	343	353	168	185	7	2020	27	3273
1998	306	252	355	244	186	122	185	19	1669	20	2615
1999	245	160	331	268	180	35	85		1304	26	2057
2000	122	331	136	309	105	38	49	6	1096	22	1903
2001			637	297	109	45	149	12	1249	22	2937
2002			390		122	200	113		825	22	2832
2003			1462	922	124	258	126	3	2895	35	3908
2004	1613	581	1629	753	136	175	221	4	5112	22	4529
2005			2115	1398	238	134	149	79	4113	32	4623
2006	256	429	975	1036	136	114	218	9	3171	37	3261

Table 11 *Anarhichas lupus*, abundance (1 000) and biomass (tons) for West Greenland by stratum and total, 1982-2005. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance.

Abundance

Abundance										
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI
1982	11113	2955	3457	2313	1822	458	945		23063	23
1983	7567	3186	1720	485	1471	211	786		15426	24
1984	5777	1277	1542	185	1382	111	750		11024	26
1985	5369	2718	1419	370	955	999	907		12737	19
1986	4961	1704	1967	635	1500	511	811		12089	19
1987	5328	1644	888		1023		691		9574	15
1988	4927	1834	895	449	1136	555	758		10554	21
1989	3675	673	1669	516	2901		1130		10564	21
1990	3511	1076	1981	295	1899		1066	612	10440	17
1991	2838	1010	968	756	2593	639	562	494	9860	21
1992	3015	376	1509	937	3360	916	948	2107	13168	26
1993	4723	1712	703	426	574	326	385		8849	28
1994	1545	1196	1725	567	1225	153	4515	1047	11973	48
1995					1349	563	529	705	3146	26
1996	715	942	254	381	2574	622	799	1075	7362	21
1997	3001	1279	1126	335	3771	1149	1538	2863	15062	30
1998	3083	957	783	653	1990	620	1009	1047	10142	21
1999	4457	1138	1941	653	6287	1337	801		16614	29
2000	1980	1725	402	413	2072	1116	480	2652	10840	21
2001			973	1110	3800	1160	724	1774	9541	28
2002			3001		3351	403	552		7307	22
2003			1307	1714	7345	511	575	1468	12920	27
2004	8234	2071	1718	826	3238	953	1271	1744	20055	20
2005			3565	462	6264	1138	2517	625	14571	27
2006	1759	1304	1529	769	1481	1019	1477	1301	10640	24

Biomass

Biomass											
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI	GLM Biomass
1982	9908	2974	5203	3926	2273	475	1240		25999	31	12879
1983	3661	3442	2084	471	1769	271	1086		12784	31	7516
1984	3089	673	1283	189	820	71	871		6996	24	6293
1985	1837	1134	1020	200	581	557	632		5961	16	5524
1986	1783	912	1441	434	973	458	768		6769	16	7160
1987	2191	521	573		1048		616		4949	16	6407
1988	1102	384	797	298	882	341	696		4500	16	4649
1989	687	222	620	246	1750		1037		4562	19	3994
1990	708	177	496	111	655		660	320	3127	16	3467
1991	456	166	160	161	674	148	249	214	2228	20	2494
1992	436	79	322	237	831	200	231	630	2966	27	3129
1993	646	314	101	80	130	67	108		1446	22	2123
1994	218	209	376	97	285	26	865	171	2247	42	2102
1995					248	68	131	114	561	25	2915
1996	61	261	42	68	486	114	169	238	1439	19	3489
1997	306	239	89	77	665	164	352	372	2264	24	3471
1998	361	194	125	146	287	97	175	266	1651	16	2565
1999	327	273	322	146	1039	230	136		2473	23	3509
2000	231	297	63	88	349	168	172	560	1928	22	2300
2001			209	263	1006	218	185	579	2460	25	4943
2002			578		859	91	146		1674	21	3623
2003			486	438	2475	141	200	646	4386	26	6000
2004	1327	389	550	242	971	299	758	652	5188		5888
2005			1372	165	1812	299	1284	384	5316	27	6037
2006	279	306	682	302	614	196	1110	821	4311	23	4825

Table 13 *Anarhichas minor*, abundance (1 000) and biomass (tons) for West Greenland by stratum and total, 1982-2005. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance.

Abundance

Abundance										
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI
1982	381	154	353	153	130	14	326		1511	29
1983	184	38	148	3	89	39	367		868	32
1984	184	60	176	14	89	23	241		787	30
1985	204	115	106	4	29	61	110		629	33
1986	483	203	108	38	68	16	118		1034	22
1987	306	211	63		130		239		949	28
1988	231	150	45	15	145	33	316		935	25
1989	245	130	49	25	281		110		840	34
1990	109	201	38	19	99		152	6	624	27
1991	333	141	26	33	54	4	74	50	715	27
1992	41	47	14	107	37	23	13	29	311	63
1993	82	222	49	51	37	17	69		527	35
1994	61	109	61	62	21	9	28	7	358	79
1995					14	4	18	0	36	73
1996	0	56	54	38	17	11	0	7	183	45
1997	102	58	16	38	60	16	49	73	412	46
1998	116	28	26	11	27	23	39	44	314	55
1999	34	83	56	38	50	19	21		301	56
2000	218	164	26	88	37	11	44	44	632	28
2001			47	27	87	5	44	12	222	49
2002			101		72	23	0		196	32
2003			63	32	31	8	15	7	156	52
2004	143	60	63	80	64	23	108	80	621	32
2005			118	70	37	14	270	29	538	42
2006	437	14	88	46	166	36	132	94	1013	73

Biomass

Biomass											
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI	GLM Biomass
1982	2198	470	1896	827	531	42	1988		7952	43	4533
1983	1674	256	656	5	562	183	2357		5693	37	4030
1984	851	196	1036	15	448	55	1358		3959	34	3649
1985	14	119	569	0	134	307	681		1824	44	1674
1986	1157	307	566	63	370	36	1004		3503	27	2856
1987	653	126	334		1029		2034		4176	29	3707
1988	136	85	195	87	1141	101	3010		4755	38	4222
1989	374	32	167	40	1382		847		2842	36	2115
1990	82	83	200	7	667		1217	3	2259	31	2278
1991	27	30	2	9	252	5	724	179	1228	41	1134
1992	7	6	0	7	29	4	36	35	124	104	1003
1993	68	40	16	33	35	16	211		419	42	599
1994	27	24	75	25	10	1	141	3	306	76	1079
1995					66	40	218	0	324	64	840
1996	0	137	33	42	39	7	0	10	268	68	1431
1997	75	9	26	38	37	2	23	57	267	69	489
1998	20	2	103	26	118	3	252	49	573	61	807
1999	34	43	141	30	109	13	113		483	61	678
2000	218	96	108	167	225	86	198	177	1275	38	1270
2001			157	65	516	38	229	56	1061	42	1455
2002			197		535	99	0		831	55	1533
2003			247	73	91	53	56	113	633	45	1095
2004	116	40	289	186	455	188	557	539	2370	33	2228
2005			416	324	347	152	1487	205	2931	41	3569
2006	1237	16	254	188	808	192	415	537	3647	58	3875

Table 15 *Raja radiata*, abundance (1 000) and biomass (tons) for West Greenland by stratum and total, 1982-2005. Confidence intervals (CI) are given in per cent of the stratified mean at 95% level of significance.

Abundance

Abundance										
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI
1982	5383	1625	1412	473	556	83	162		9694	38
1983	4798	589	815	360	349	27	59		6997	87
1984	2742	1672	653	505	149	482	116		6319	42
1985	2239	2393	1847	689	397	56	257		7878	44
1986	2178	2806	766	326	295	131	203		6705	46
1987	1790	538	653		291		64		3336	30
1988	3879	1046	996	770	335	39	85		7150	39
1989	11963	2141	3859	694	607		149		19413	38
1990	7145	1981	2489	548	271		550	345	13329	51
1991	1967	480	1220	262	610	130	95	65	4829	26
1992	4457	598	2844	1531	496	523	205	58	10712	50
1993	2266	352	684	279	188	263	95		4127	39
1994	2531	378	872	272	233	79	398	15	4778	43
1995					182	301	116	15	614	59
1996	1273	126	428	76	114	111	56	29	2213	29
1997	4886	493	879	46	120	122	180	0	6726	41
1998	1694	534	439	202	258	46	49	15	3237	31
1999	2164	235	684	195	297	194	213		3982	36
2000	721	188	503	870	248	134	234	15	2913	37
2001			435	88	116	134	629	30	1432	41
2002			642		116	194	121		1073	35
2003			428	292	62	286	208	0	1276	40
2004	878	81	623	228	120	888	193	21	3032	46
2005			743	218	217	342	223	0	1743	36
2006	339	70	593	411	41	375	504	36	2372	36

Biomass

Biomass											
Year	Str1.1	Str1.2	Str2.1	Str2.2	Str3.1	Str3.2	Str4.1	Str4.2	Total	CI	GLM Biomass
1982	2994	811	1328	340	409	59	154		6095	36	4085
1983	966	192	703	132	331	27	56		2407	34	1878
1984	728	333	404	96	136	126	95		1918	31	1867
1985	497	427	804	181	159	46	56		2170	22	1804
1986	517	527	421	83	122	65	39		1774	28	1626
1987	415	149	306		184		13		1067	29	1295
1988	653	122	503	238	174	19	33		1742	28	1499
1989	2076	429	980	107	314		90		3996	31	2878
1990	980	263	526	56	91		113	201	2230	45	1840
1991	279	81	181	36	246	42	10	33	908	28	981
1992	327	94	139	134	221	89	23	27	1054	49	1180
1993	340	88	82	31	29	24	3		597	28	783
1994	231	71	143	30	91	14	54	11	645	61	758
1995					70	37	41	0	148	75	1085
1996	95	23	38	23	21	16	8	13	237	44	859
1997	354	96	181	6	16	29	33	0	715	35	879
1998	143	90	89	47	56	13	8	15	461	33	721
1999	150	68	143	65	68	26	54		574	56	983
2000	116	47	141	298	103	12	28	13	758	42	1063
2001			75	30	58	24	131	18	336	49	1129
2002			136	21	32	15			204	35	952
2003			73	55	25	51	90	0	294	45	1202
2004	82	17	143	47	39	152	33	10	523	42	887
2005			148	55	78	59	67	0	407	40	1201
2006	25	13	145	130	8	66	151	10	548	36	989

Table 17 Stratum means of near bottom temperature (°C) and stratified mean, 1982-2005.

YEAR	1.1	1.2	2.1	2.2	3.1	3.2	4.1	4.2	5.1	5.2	6.1	6.2	7.1	7.2	Mean
1982	2.540	3.627	1.953	3.100	3.256	3.633	2.623							4.600	3.139
1983	2.028	3.713	1.420	3.819	2.139	4.808	2.160			4.117		4.000		2.943	3.012
1984	1.365	2.790	1.617	3.886	2.462		2.519						4.129		2.698
1985	4.190	5.154	3.116	4.612	2.614	4.336	4.444		5.040	5.190	4.421	4.300		3.300	4.181
1986	3.669	4.393	4.014	5.073	4.203	5.066	4.102			4.796	4.042	4.516		3.347	4.136
1987	3.086	4.890	3.393		3.504		3.530			4.467		4.400		3.300	3.783
1988	2.548	4.328	3.034	4.956	4.228	5.234	4.332		4.479	4.559	4.298	4.578		3.792	3.959
1989	2.323	3.953	2.718	4.525			2.579		3.392	3.743	3.648	4.064		3.146	3.295
1990	2.497	3.922	3.000	4.809	3.421		2.516		4.395	4.570	3.252	4.019		3.025	3.461
1991	3.533	4.726	3.477	4.204	3.016		2.997								3.558
1992	3.900	4.418	2.911	4.457	2.985	4.691	1.938							3.472	3.489
1993	3.007	4.003	2.360	3.360	4.711	4.959	2.773		3.771	4.056	4.327	4.394		2.820	3.597
1994	2.914	4.436	3.747	4.641	3.847	5.109	3.773								3.620
1995					4.229	4.614	3.469	4.242	2.601	3.623	3.683	4.318		3.834	3.862
1996	4.614	5.506	4.414	5.688	5.610	5.700	5.057	5.732	4.505	5.129	5.320	4.903		2.848	4.709
1997	3.304	4.938	4.022	5.180	4.570	5.478	4.606	5.540	4.578	4.742		4.266		3.464	4.189
1998	4.059	5.336	4.686	5.840	6.400	6.382	5.359	5.978	6.021	5.820	5.583	5.346		4.641	5.181
1999	4.941	5.051	4.429	5.729	4.834	5.773	4.104		5.225	5.315	4.777	4.087		2.435	4.435
2000	3.085	4.583	4.377	5.033	4.645										3.860
2001			5.007	5.350	5.133	5.992	4.429		5.620						5.128
2002			4.503		5.832	5.961	4.906		4.820	5.298		4.924		4.278	4.904
2003			6.948	6.515	6.529	6.633	5.406	6.539	6.124	5.821	4.970	5.093		4.021	5.500
2004	4.979	5.4914	5.0883	5.7722	5.5936	6.1778	5.91	5.976	5.9304	5.6729	5.7543	4.414		4.562	5.142
2005			5.020	5.564	4.611	5.774	4.681	5.461	3.839	5.335	4.552	4.359		3.9499	4.565

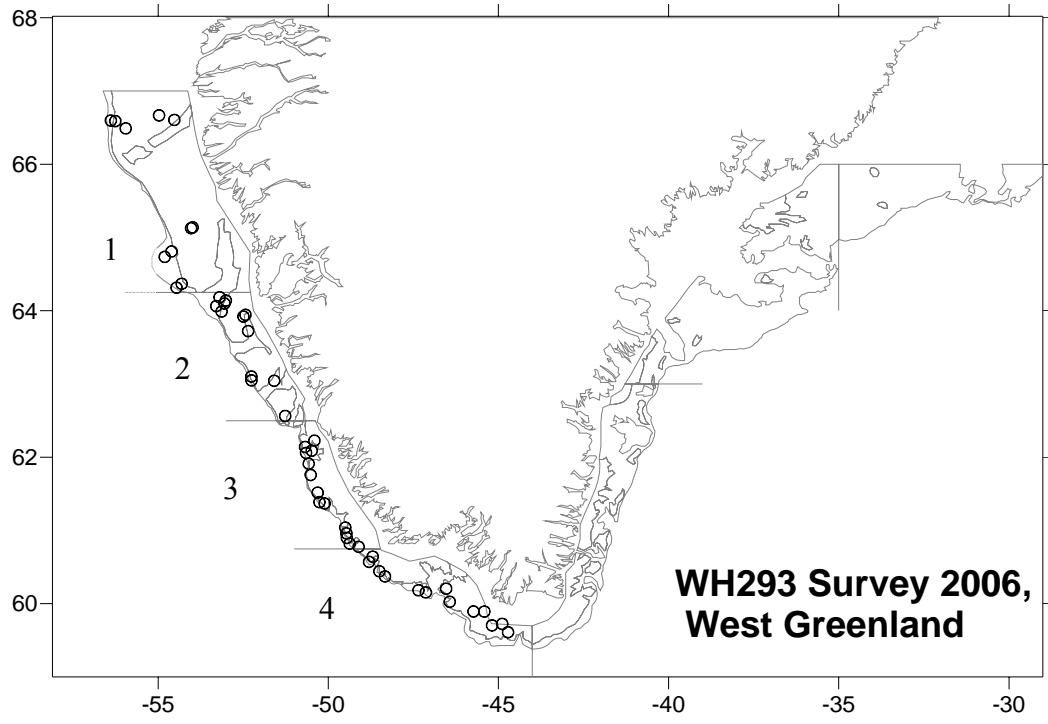


Fig. 1 Stratification of the survey area as specified in Table 2, positions of hauls carried out off West Greenland in 2006.

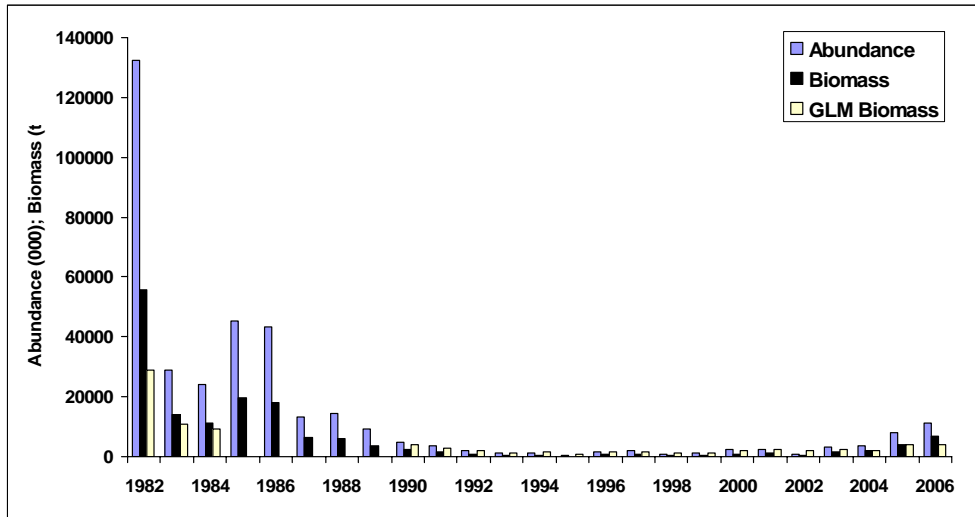


Fig. 2 Abundance and biomass indices for *S. marinus* ≥ 17 cm off West Greenland, 1982-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 3. GLM 1985-1989 subject to revision.

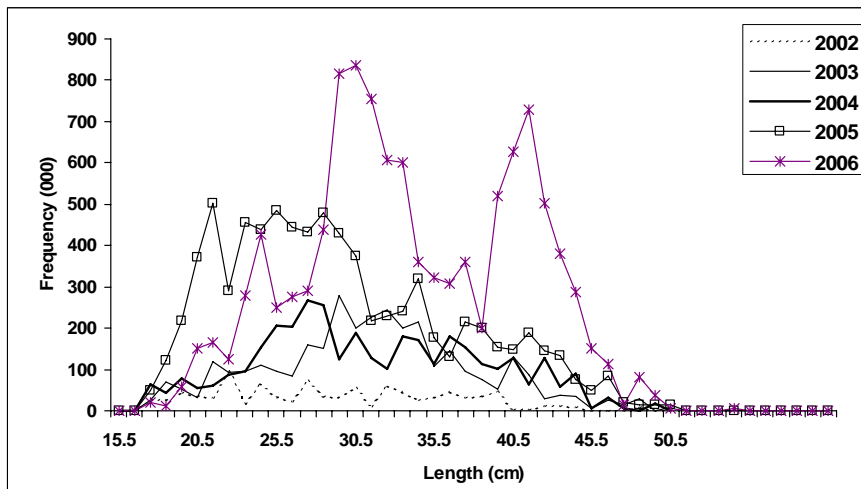


Fig. 3 Length disaggregated abundance indices for *S. marinus* ≥ 17 cm off West Greenland, 2002-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 4.

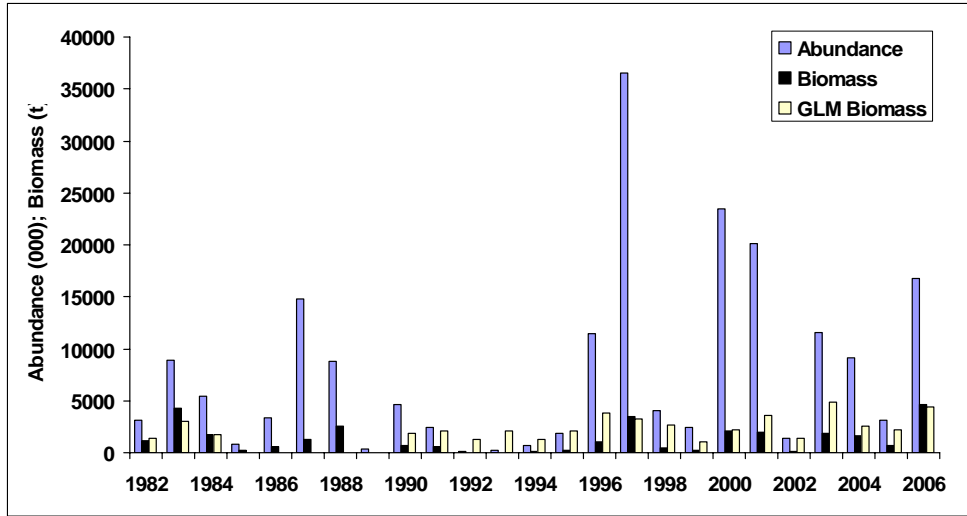


Fig. 4 Abundance and biomass indices for *S. mentella* ≥ 17 cm off West Greenland, 1982-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 5. GLM 1985-1989 subject to revision.

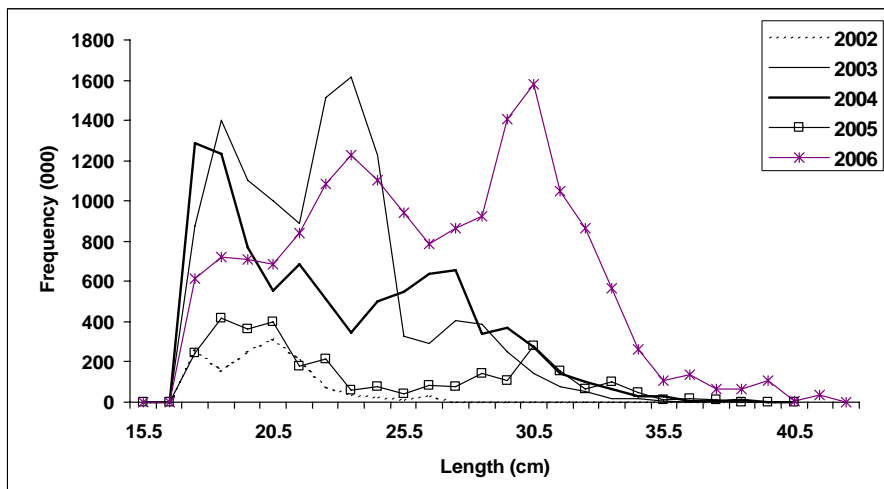


Fig. 5 Length disaggregated abundance indices for *S. mentella* ≥ 17 cm off West Greenland, 2002-2006. Respective values are listed in Table 6.

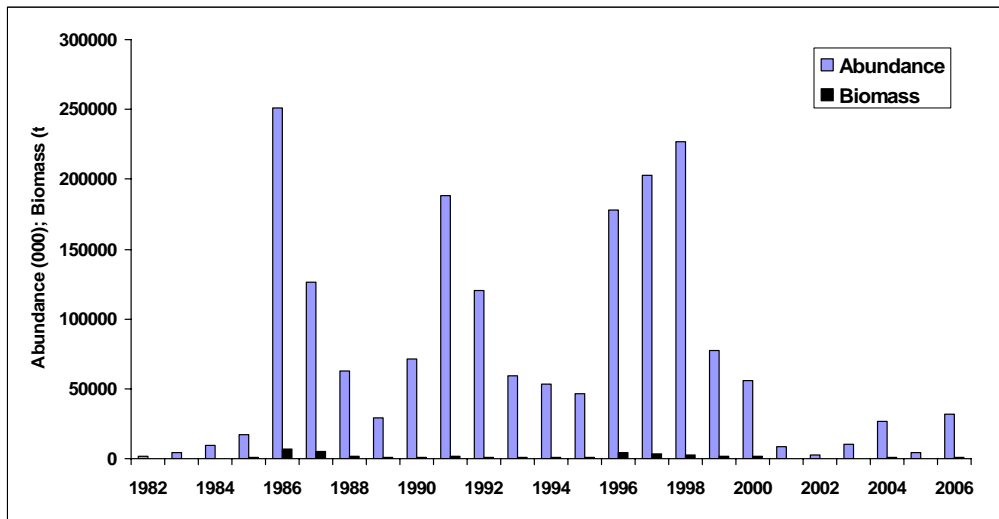


Fig. 6 Abundance and biomass indices for *Sebastes* spp. <17 cm off West Greenland, 1982-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 7.

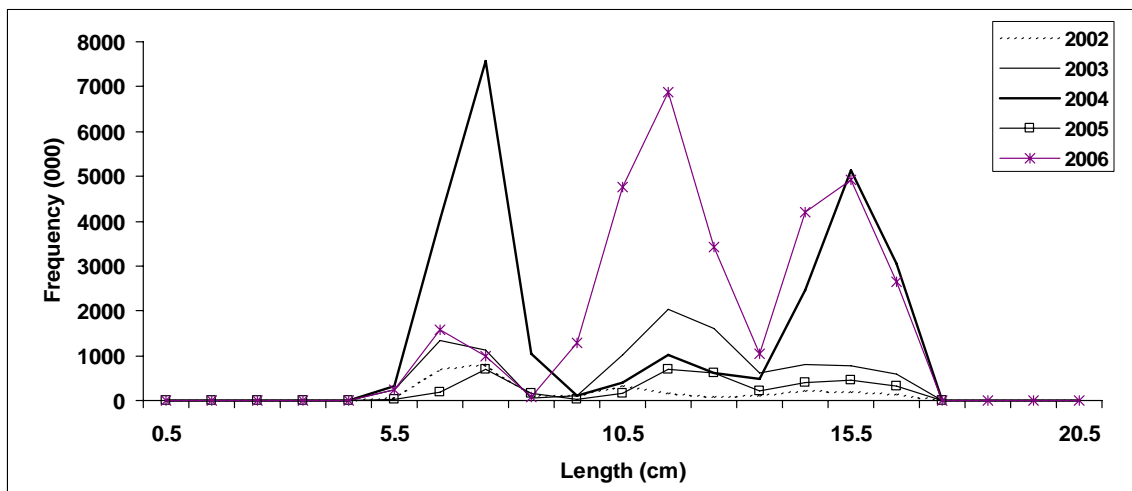


Fig. 7 Length disaggregated abundance indices for *Sebastes* spp. <17 cm off West Greenland, 2002-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 8.

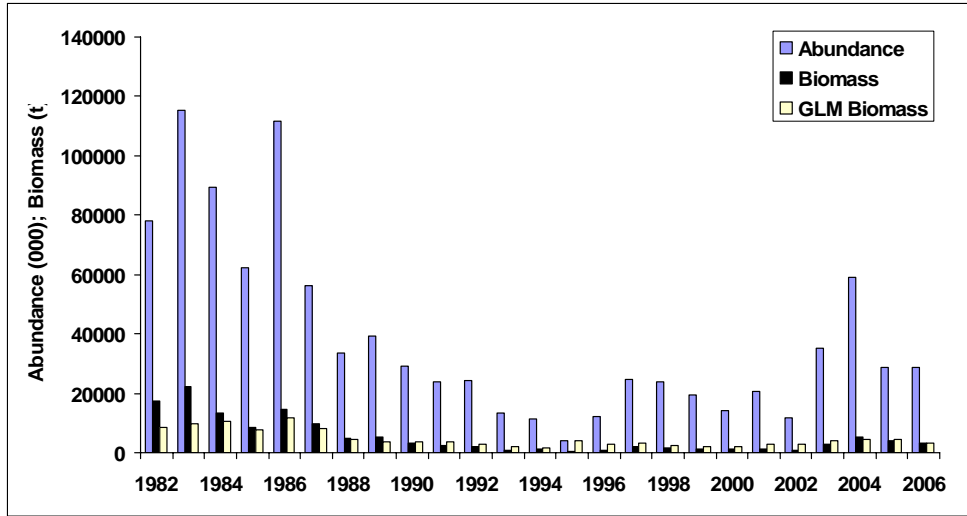


Fig. 8 Abundance and biomass indices for *Hippoglossoides platessoides* off West Greenland, 1982-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 9.

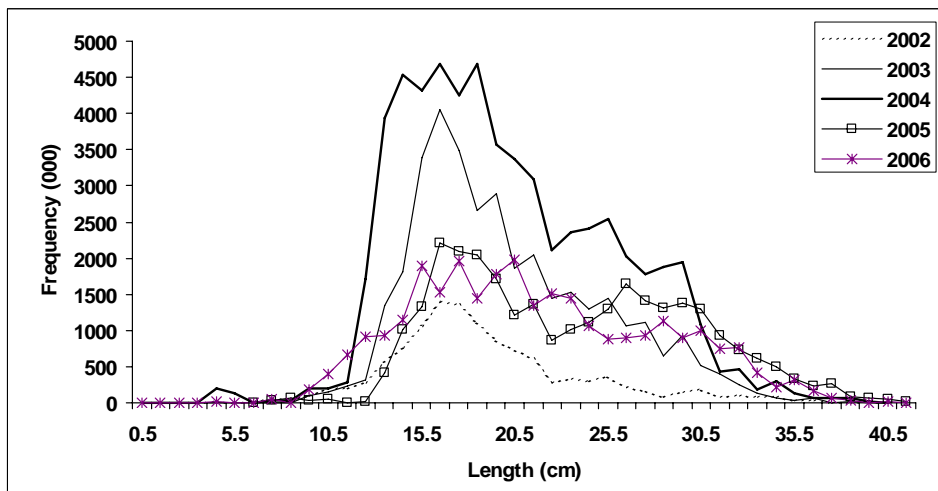


Fig. 9 Length disaggregated abundance indices for *Hippoglossoides platessoides* off West Greenland, 2002-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 10.

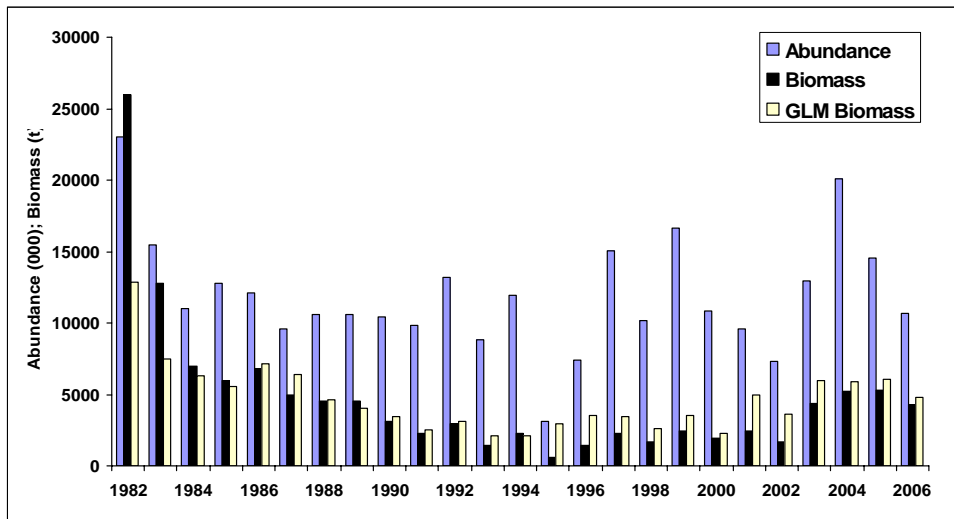


Fig. 10 Abundance and biomass indices for *Anarhichas lupus* off West Greenland, 1982-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 11.

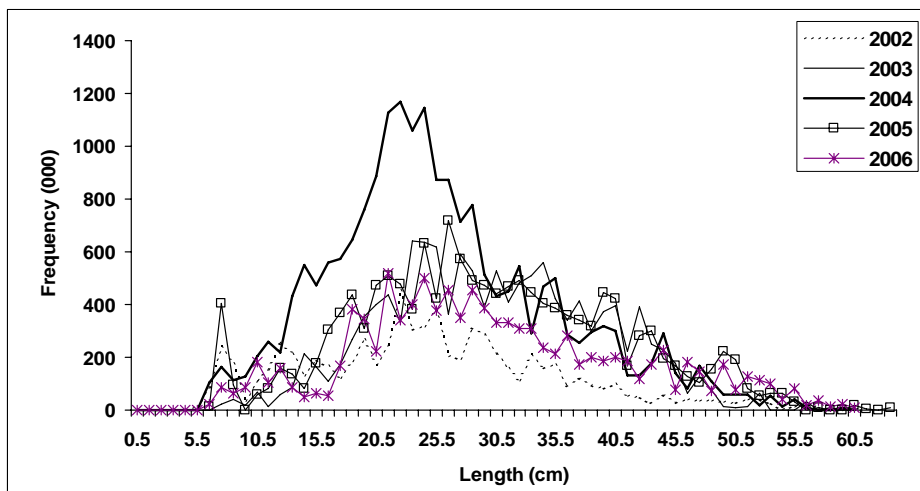


Fig. 11 Length disaggregated abundance indices for *Anarhichas lupus* off West Greenland, 2002-2006. Respective values are listed in Table 12.

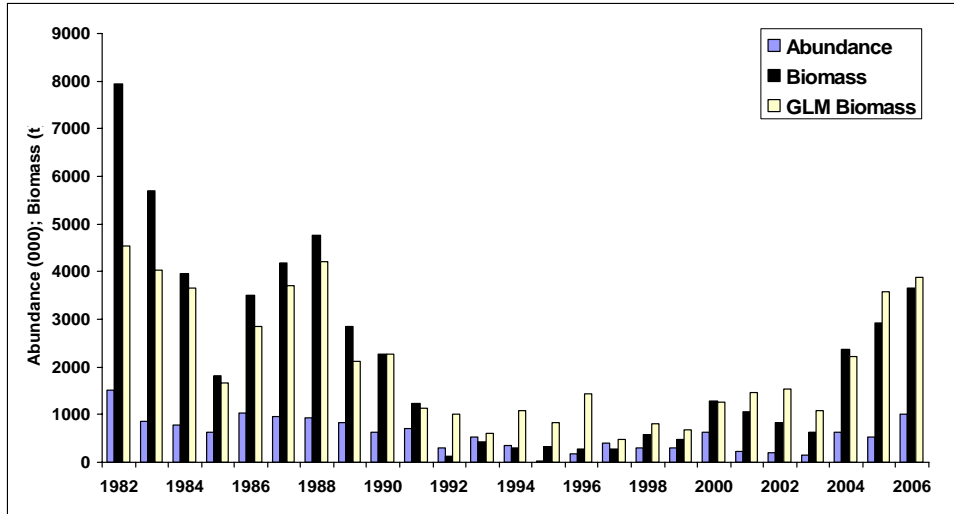


Fig. 12 Abundance and biomass indices for *Anarhichas minor* off West Greenland, 1982-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 13.

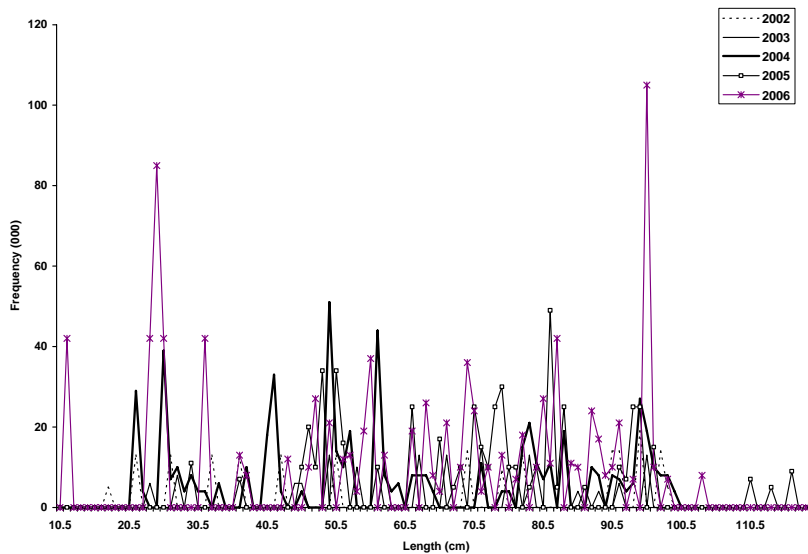


Fig. 13 Length disaggregated abundance indices for *Anarhichas minor* off West Greenland, 2002-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 14.

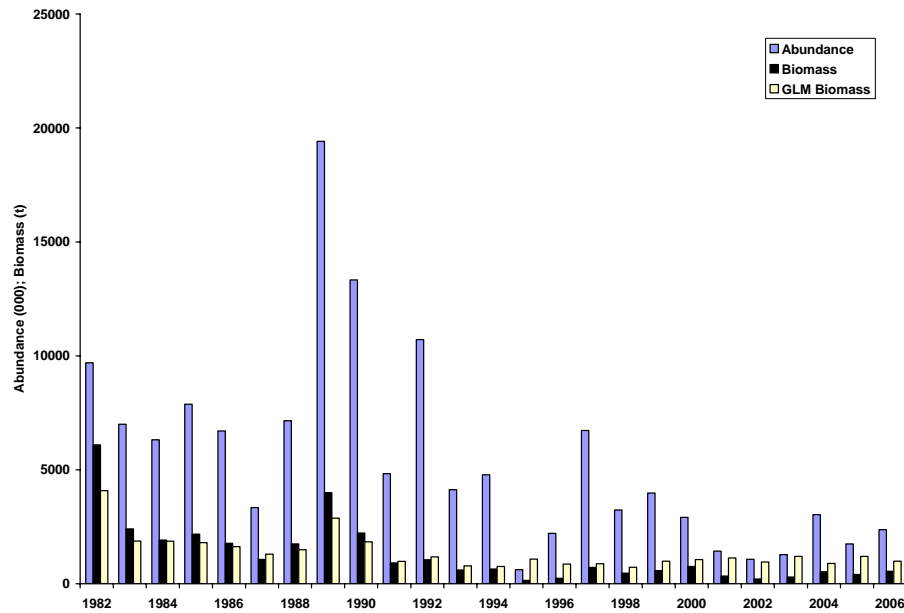


Fig. 14 Abundance and biomass indices for *Raja radiata* off West Greenland, 1982-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 15.

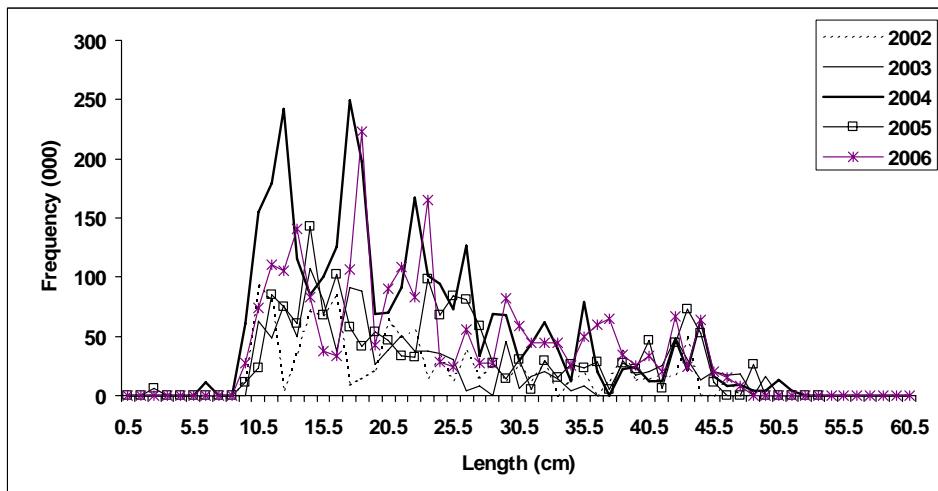


Fig. 15 Length disaggregated abundance indices for *Raja radiata* off West Greenland, 2002-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 16.

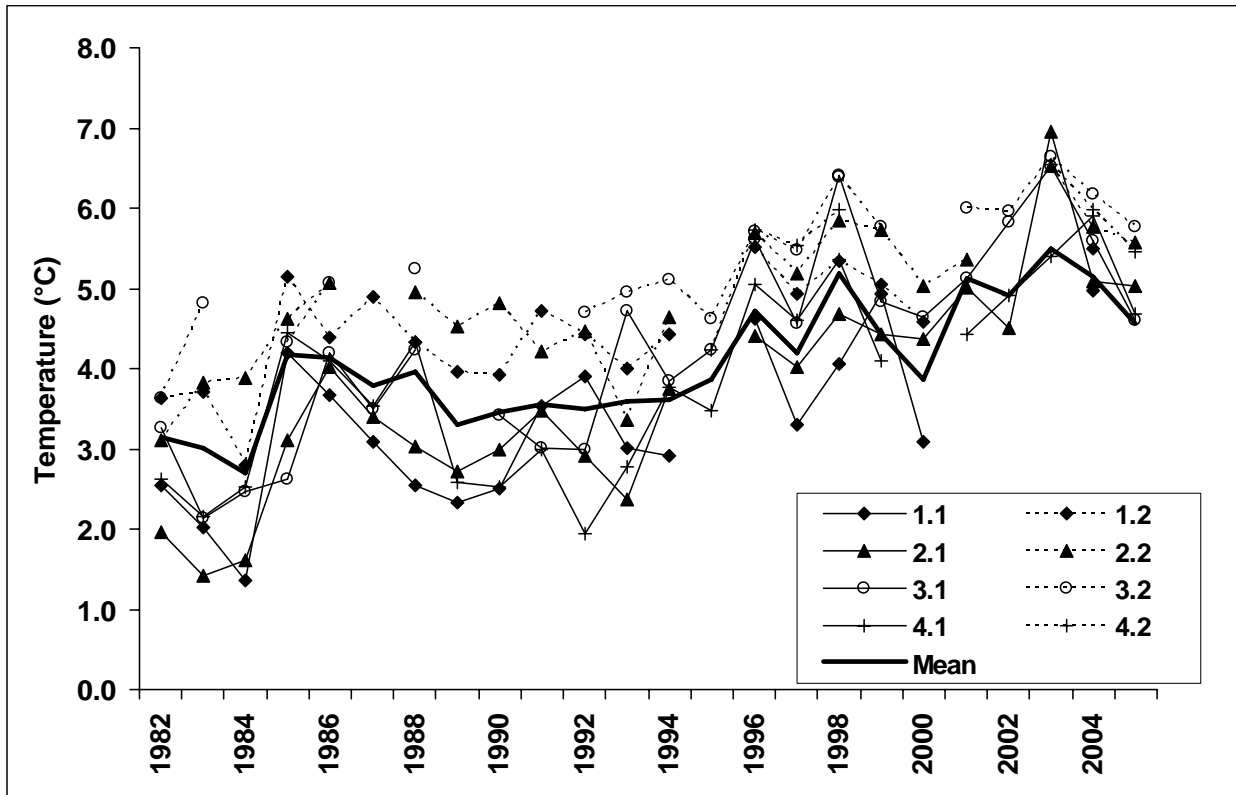


Fig. 16 Stratum means of near bottom temperature (°C) and stratified mean, 1982-2005. Respective values are listed in Table 17. Solid lines display trends in shallow strata (<200 m), dashed lines display trends in deep strata (>200 m),