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Landings and length distribution of Greenland halibut from the Norwegian fishery in West Greenland waters during 2006

by

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Abstract

This working document summarises landings of Greenland halibut and Sebastes Sp in west Greenland waters during 2005 and 2006, NAFO area 1. Further length data for 2005 and 2006 collected by the fishermen as well as biological data for 2005-2006 collected by scientific personnel from catches of Greenland halibut are presented.

Landing statistics

Landing statistics and CPUE-data for Greenland halibut, grenadiers and redfish for 2005 and 2006 are listed in Table 1 and 2, respectively. In 2006 no directed fishery for redfish was conducted in NAFO areas. Norwegian catches were taken from ICES/NEAFC areas only. The redfish reported below is most likely bicatch from the Greenland halibut fishery.

Table 1 Norwegian trawl catches (based on national landing statistics) and CPUE (based on log-books) by species and NAFO-areas in 2005.

Species	NAFO-area	Catch (tonnes)	Fishing months	CPUE		
				Tonnes /fishday	Tonnes /hours trawling	Tonnes /haul
Greenland halibut	1D	1419	Aug-Nov	11.9	0.70	3.81
Grenadiers	1E	5	Aug-Nov	0.03	0.002	0.010
Redfishes	1D	483	August	23.4	1.05	21.3
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Table 2 Preliminary statistics showing Norwegian trawl catches (based on national landing statistics) and CPUE (based on log-books) by species and NAFO-areas in 2006.

Species	NAFO-area	Catch (tonnes)	Fishing months	CPUE		
				Tonnes /fishday	Tonnes /hours trawling	Tonnes /haul
Greenland halibut	1D	897	Aug-Sept	8.74	0.52	3.24
Grenadiers		7		0.11	0.007	0.041
Redfish		7		By-catch only		

Length samples

During 2006 total length samples were collected from 4 commercial trawlers operating in Greenland waters. Samples were collected by the fishermen following procedures given by Møre Research and Institute of Marine Research. Samples have been following the same sampling procedure since 2001 (Table 3).

All vessels fished in the period August-September and mainly in the area of 63-64°N and 56-58°W. Fishing depth was 1100-1400m.

Table 3. Overview over collected length measurements from the Norwegian commercial trawlers operating in West Greenland waters during 2006.

Gear	Vessel	No. Stations	No. measured
Trawl	Arvid Nergård	24	1529
	Nordfjordtrål	9	888
	Sunderøy	12	1233
	Tønsnes	16	1685

Total length was collected from a number of samples collected throughout the fishing period. A minimum of 100 fish were measured from each haul. Mean length of all data compiled was 52,0cm (Table 4, Figure 1).

Table 4. Mean lengths and length range of the samples collected from the Norwegian trawl fishery in west Greenland waters during 2006.

Gear	Vessel	No. measured	Min TL cm	Max TL cm	Mean TL (cm)
Trawl	Arvid Nergård	1930	32	97	53.2
	Nordfjordtrål	1001	36	91	52.4
	Sunderøy	1233	31	94	52.0
	Tønsnes	1634	28	95	51.1
	Total	5798	28	97	52.0

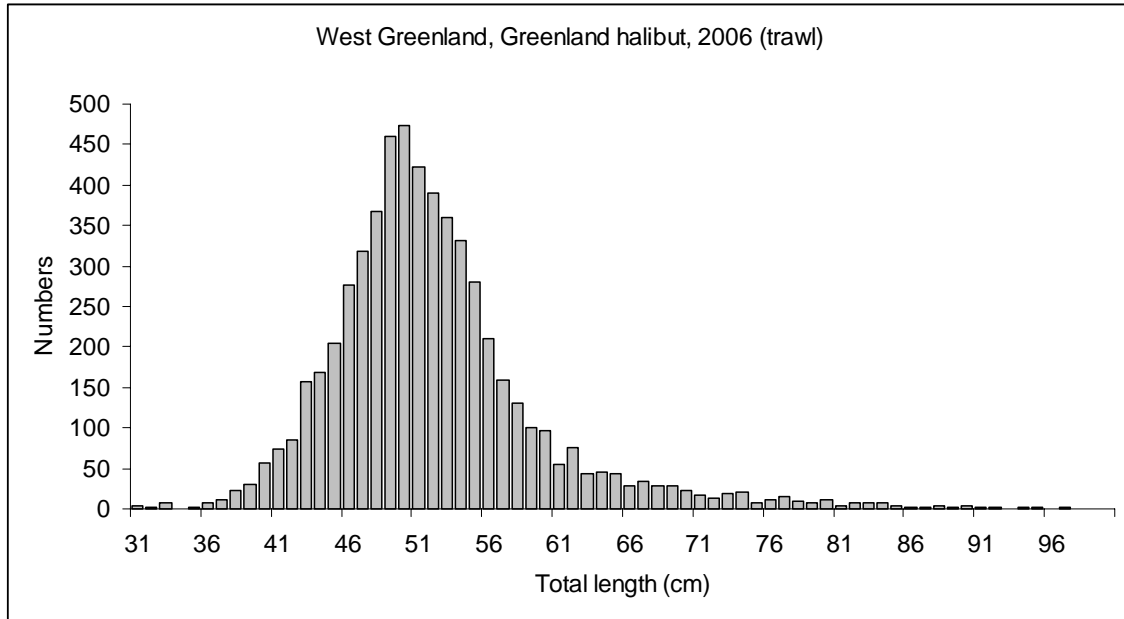


Figure 1. Length measurements from trawl during 2007. All vessels included.