

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL AND STACFIS SHRIMP ASSESSMENT MEETING –NOVEMBER 2025

A Provisional Assessment of the Shrimp Stock off West Greenland in 2025

by

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Summary

The West Greenland Stock of *Pandalus borealis* was assessed from indices of biomass density based on catch and effort data from fishing fleets, biomass and stock-composition information from a research trawl survey, catch data, and information on the distribution of the stock as revealed by fishery logbooks. The assessment framework incorporates a logistic stock-recruitment model, fitted by Bayesian methods, that uses CPUE and survey series as biomass indicators, and includes as removals catch data, assumed free of error, as well as a term for predation by Atlantic cod, using available series of cod biomass.

In 2023, there was an abnormal spatial distribution of sea ice north of 66°N in Greenland EEZ, which prevented trawling of most planned stations during the survey. Due to poor coverage in the northern survey area, it is uncertain if this year's survey results reflect the stock trajectory and status. Hence, it was assumed that the commercial important areas in north weren't covered properly during the survey. To compensate for the un-surveyed area, an average of the past five-year values of biomass and density in the un-surveyed stratum/strata, were used in place of missing values for 2023 assessment of the West Greenland shrimp stock.

The spatial distribution of sea ice was not abnormal in 2024, nevertheless there might be a tendency to later retraction of the sea ice over the past years (i.e. in June/July rather than in May/early June). In the more northern western regions, sea ice prevented trawling at all stations during the survey in 2024, but the results are assumed to be representative for the stock situation. There were no complications with ice coverage during the 2025 survey,

CPUEs were standardized by linearized multiplicative models including terms for vessel, month, gear type, year, and statistical area. In the recent three years the CPUE of the coastal fleet decreased slightly while the CPUE of the offshore fleet increased from 2016 to 2017. In the subsequent years CPUE of both the offshore fleet and the combined index have declined and is in 2025 at the lowest value since 2013. CPUE for the inshore fleet has remained stable over recent years.

Standardized CPUE for the Canadian fleet fishing in Div. 0A has not been updated since 2011 because it is not possible to receive new logbook information from Canada.

The survey index of total biomass remained fairly stable from 1988 to 1997. It then increased until 2003. Subsequent values were consecutively lower, with the second lowest level in the last 23 years occurring in

2014. Over the following years biomass increased until 2020 and has since been declining. In 2025 overall survey biomass as well as fishable biomass is below their 20-year lower quartile respectively, respectively.

For the offshore regions, fishable biomass is way below the 20-year lower quartile, while inshore is above its 20-year mean. Areas north of 66°N have almost three-quarters of the offshore biomass (51% in 2025). Hence, in 2025 the proportions of fishable biomass in the offshore area and inshore are 59% and 41% respectively.

Proportion fishable of the survey biomass were in 2025 at lower quartile for the last 20 years, owing to relatively large proportions of pre-recruits in the stock, in inshore regions. Proportion of both males and females of fishable biomass are almost at their 20-year median.

Overall, the number of age 2 shrimps, has declining since 2022, and is way below their 20-year lower quartile. The stock composition inshore has historically been characterized by a higher proportion of young shrimps than that offshore. However, over the past years offshore constitutes much higher numbers of both age-2 shrimp as well as number of pre-recruits, exceptions was in 2024, the numbers of age-2 shrimp was almost at the same value inshore and offshore. Numbers of pre-recruits were in 2025 higher inshore than offshore.

The fishable stock is in 2025 composed by a relatively high number (61%) of males, inshore, while in offshore regions the proportions of males (53%) and females (47%) are more evenly distributed.

The quantitative assessment adopted by NAFO shows a stock that has been declining for a decade, albeit from levels that were probably not sustainable—has probably been fished over its MSY mortality from 2011 to 2014 but now appears to be close to its MSY level.

Introduction

The stock of the northern shrimp (*Pandalus borealis*) of West Greenland is distributed in NAFO Subarea 1 and the eastern margin of NAFO Div. 0A, and within this area is assessed as one unit. A Greenlandic fishery exploits the stock in Subarea 1 up to 76°00'N (Div. 1A–1F); a Canadian fishery is restricted to Div. 0A.

In 2002 a quantitative assessment framework based on a biological model of shrimp stock dynamics (Hvingel and Kingsley 2002) was adopted by STACFIS and Scientific Council. Input data series includes a swept-area index of fishable biomass from an annual research trawl survey, a series of standardized indices of fishery CPUE and a series of past catches. The model was modified in 2011 to give more weight to the survey index of biomass and less to the fishery CPUE (Kingsley 2011).

Up to 2014 an externally calculated index series of 'effective' biomasses of Atlantic cod —i.e., corrected for the partial overlap of its distribution with that of the shrimps—was also included. In 2014 and until 2018 this was replaced by the inclusion of the four biomass index series on which it had been based as well as the series of overlap indices (Kingsley 2014). The biomass indices are generating a series of estimated biomasses, and this is multiplied by the overlap series to generate a series of 'effective' biomasses that are used in estimating the amount cod removed from the shrimp stock each year.

Model estimation of 'True cod' biomass, based on the four cod biomass indices, was found to be overestimated and resulted in an unrealistic removal of shrimp biomass. Therefore, the four cod biomass indices were replaced by an absolute cod biomass index, modelled in a state-space stock assessment model SAM. More detailed information can be found in Rigét and Burmeister 2019 (d).

The Greenland survey acts as tuning fleet in the SAM assessment. The survey has a coverage from NAFO Div. 1A in the north to Div. 1F in the south and covers the period from 1992 until today.

Due to the lack of survey in 2021, no new data covering fishable shrimp biomass, cod biomass and overlap factor were available as input index to the assessment model. As a consequence, the models need to have input data for cod biomass as well as overlap factor, different scenarios based on average cod biomass and

overlap factor for the past two, three, four, five and ten years was applied (all results are not shown in the paper). Further, larger uncertainty was added to the estimation of estimated overlap and effective cod biomass in 2021.

```
.
for (i in Present.Year:Present.Year)
{   Past.cod[i] <- True.cod[i] * Est.Overlap.2021 #Past.cod is 'effective cod' to enter #predation function New coding 2021 due to lack
of survey info
```

```
Est.Overlap.2021 ~ dnorm (0.26,4.21) #New coding 2021 due to lack of survey info
```

In 2025 the survey was conducted with the research ship r/v Tarajoq, and the survey was performed as in all previous years. A more detailed description of the survey and results are found in (Burmeister et al 2025). Consequently, the standard model was used for 2025 assessment.

The quantitative model was fitted to the input data and short-term (1-year) and medium-term (three-year) projections of stock development were made for annual catches from 60 000 to 100 000 tons under assumptions that the cod stock, allowance made for its overlap with shrimp distribution, might be at 14 000 tons. The median estimate for 2025 was 13 500 tons. The associated risks of transgressing reference parameters—maximum sustainable yield levels of biomass (B_{msy}) and mortality (Z_{msy})—as well as a precautionary limit set at 30% of B_{msy} were estimated.

This assessment refers also, although qualitatively, to information on the distribution of the Greenland fishery derived from logbooks. Trawl time, and catches, were assigned to statistical areas covering the West Greenland shrimp grounds, and series of indices of how widely the fishery was distributed were calculated (Burmeister, 2024). The assessment also refers to indices that summarize survey information on the distribution of the stock and its structure (Kingsley 2008b; Kingsley 2015; Kingsley 2016; Burmeister et al. 2016; Burmeister and Rigét 2017; Burmeister and Rigét 2018, Burmeister and Rigét 2019; Burmeister and Rigét 2020; Burmeister et al. 2022, Burmeister et al. 2023; Burmeister et al. 2024).

Environment

The mean survey bottom temperature—weighted by area, increased quite abruptly from a mean of 1.83°C in 1990–96 to 3.5°C in 1997–2014. From 2015 temperature has continuously declined to low at 2.1°C in 2018 but has since slightly raised each year to 3°C since 2022. In 2025 area-weighted average bottom temperature valued 3.3°C. At about the same time as the mean bottom temperature increased, the shrimp stock started a more protracted shift in its distribution, into shallower water and into more northerly areas. In the mid-1990s, most of the survey biomass were between 300 and 400 m, with a significant amount deeper than 400 m. Now, the majority is between 200 and 400 m, with a significant amount between 200 to 300 m (Burmeister and Rigét 2020; Burmeister et al., 2023; Burmeister et al., 2024; Burmeister et al., 2025). This move into shallower water looks like a continuing trend since the early 2000s.

Since 2019 the cod stock estimation was done by a state-space model (SAM) (Rigét & Burmeister, 2020; Nielsen & Berg, 2014). The SAM model includes catch-at-age data from the commercial fishery and the Greenlandic survey catch-at-age data as the tuning fleet (Burmeister & Rigét, 2021). Catches from the commercial fishery have been low over almost two decades and mainly restricted to NAFO Div. 1F. The cod stock biomass has been increasing since 2017 and was estimated to 53 384 t in 2025 and composed of many year-classes. This estimate is considered uncertain because of the lack of input data for both the commercial fishery (2021 and 2022) and survey data (2021). Cod biomass is mainly distributed south of 66°N and in southern regions of West Greenland where there is a lower density of shrimps and the 'effective' cod stock appeared to be medium.

The estimated overlap between the cod and the shrimp stock varied over time, peaked at a high value (0.888) in 2011, dropped significantly in 2012, and have since averaged at 0.257. In 2024 the estimated overlap, based on the average of the most recent three years was 0.2981 resulting in an estimated 'effective' cod stock

at 17 Kt (Fig. 6). The cod biomass remained comparable in 2025, the overlap between cod and shrimp changes only little to 0.2542, and 2025 'effective' cod is estimated to 14 Kt which is comparable to the most recent years (Table 2 and Fig.6).

Stocks of Atlantic cod in West Greenland continue to fluctuate and while forecasting the biomass and distribution of cod on the West Greenland shrimp ground is important in predicting the dynamics of the stock of Northern shrimp and in managing the fishery, it remains an insoluble problem. The stock-dynamic model used in the assessment allows for flexible and comprehensive consideration of possible developments of the cod stock.

Stock Size, Composition and Distribution

The survey index of total biomass remained stable from 1988 to 1997. It then increased until 2003. Subsequent values were consecutively lower, with the second lowest level in the last 21 years occurring in 2014 (Figure 6). Since 2015 biomass has increased, dropped little in 2022 and continued its decline in 2025.

In 2023, there was an abnormal spatial distribution of sea ice north of 66°N in Greenland EEZ, which prevented trawling of many planned stations during the survey. Due to poor coverage in the northern survey area, it is uncertain if this year's survey results reflect the stock trajectory and status. To compensate for the un-surveyed area, an average of the past five-year values of biomass and density in the un-surveyed stratum/strata, were used to replace missing important values for 2023 assessment of the West Greenland shrimp stock.

The spatial distribution of sea ice was within its normal in 2024, despite there have been a tendency where sea ice is melting later, than what was observed in the period from 2010 – 2021.

In 2025 overall survey as well as fishable biomass are below their 20-year lower quartile. The number and biomass of males and females are at lower values than in 2024 and is in 2025 below their 20-year lower quartile.

Survey Measures of Stock Size

	Biomass (Kt)					Number (bn)		
	Survey			Fishable	Female	Male	Female	Age 2
	Disko B. & Vaigat	Offshore	Total					
2025 value ¹	86.6	125.1	211.7	189.66	83.08	32.9	9.2	1.1
20-year ² upper quartile	92.7	265.8	345.6	316.9	133.8	55.0	14.8	5.6
20-year median	79.1	210.8	301.2	274.9	116.9	48.2	13.3	4.9
20-year lower quartile	68.7	153.1	250.8	231.9	101.6	34.7	11.4	3.6
2025 rank	13.5	2.5	2.7	2.5	1.6	5.2	1.8	1
2024 value	80.8	145.8	226.5	212.7	97.9	31.7	10.8	2.8

¹ survey estimates of stock size for 2011, 2012, 2014, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2024 were adjusted for incomplete coverage of the offshore strata by applying the mean offshore density to the survey strata not covered, and adding the corrected offshore estimate to that for Disko Bay and Vaigat

² 20-year percentiles, and 2025 rank, are referred to the 20 preceding years, i.e. 2005–2024.

In the inshore area, comprising Disko Bay and Vaigat, the estimated survey biomass increased from 2024 to 2025 and is above its 20-year median. The offshore biomass in 2014 was close to its lowest for 20 years, followed by ups and downs from 2015 to 2017. Remained almost stable in 2018, increases until 2020 to value

above its 20-year upper quartile, but have dropped since 2022, and is now at a value below its past 20-year lower quartile. Relative to stock size, 2017-2019 values indicated some sign of an incoming recruitment pulse, which could explain the increase of the fishable male biomass in the most recent years. Despite high numbers of both age-2 and pre-recruit shrimp in the past years, fishable biomass did not increase in 2024 and 2025. Age-2, both in numbers and of total surveyed tons in 2025, were considerably lower than last year and well below their 20-year lower quartile, while pre-recruits in numbers of total biomass are at their 20-year median but below the average (Fig. 2a). Prospects for short-term recruitment are presumably poor.

Survey Measures of Stock Composition

Overall	Number (‘000/survey ton)		Biomass (%)			
	Age 2	14–16.5 mm	Fishable, of survey	Fishable males, of survey	Females, of survey	Females, of fishable
2025 value	5.3	7.9	89.6	50.3	39.2	43.8
20-year ¹ upper quartile	22.9	11.2	92.9	53.9	42.9	46.5
20-year median ¹	17.4	7.5	91.7	51.7	38.7	42.8
20-year lower quartile ¹	10.8	6.1	90.0	49.3	36.7	40.5
2025 rank ¹	1.4	10.4	5	6.7	11.7	13.2
2024 value	12.5	4.2	93.9	50.7	43.2	46.0

¹ quartiles and 2025 rank generally referred to 20 preceding years 2005–2024.

The overall stock composition in 2025 is marked, by a higher proportion of males in the survey as well as in the fishable biomass and is a little lower than their 20-year median; females has composed a declining proportion of the fishable biomass in the most recent years but is still 2025 almost at its 20-year median.

Disko Bay and Vaigat	Number (‘000/survey ton)		Biomass (%)			
	Age 2	14–16.5 mm	Fishable, of survey	Fishable males, of survey	Females, of survey	Females, of fishable
2025 value	4.8	60.0	83.5	51.0	32.5	49.0
Upper quartile ¹	29.2	33.3	91.6	51.9	45.3	43.2
Median ¹	22.5	30.7	90.2	49.0	40.0	43.3
Lower quartile ¹	13.8	27.1	89.0	46.0	34.3	38.9
2025 rank ¹	1.0	18.0	2.0	13.3	2.7	4.7
2024 value	14.0	20.2	92.4	52.4	40.0	51.9

¹ percentiles and 2025 rank is referred to the 20 preceding years, i.e. 2005–2024.

Differences between the stock compositions offshore and inshore—in Disko Bay and Vaigat—have tended to be maintained over time. For the age-2 and pre-recruit index, relative to survey biomass, the inshore used to have higher values than those of the offshore and has historically averaged higher proportions of smaller shrimp, until 2017. Nevertheless, in 2019 and 2020 age-2 average higher proportions offshore, but since there have been no differences between the two regions. Proportions of pre-recruits were in 2017 and 2020 been considerably higher in offshore regions compared to Disko Bay & Vaigat, but in the most recent years the trajectory, except for 2025, is as for the age- 2 index. In 2025 numbers of pre-recruits relative to biomass are higher in Disko Bay & Vaigat, than in offshore regions. Males constitute a little higher proportion of the total biomass inshore, compared to offshore regions, whereas females compose a higher proportion offshore.

Both inshore and offshore stock still seems to be biased toward smaller shrimps (males) and have in both 2024 and 2025 had a little higher proportion of fishable males than of fishable females.

Offshore	Number (‘000/survey ton)		Biomass (%)			
	Age 2	14–16.5 mm	Fishable, of survey	Fishable males, of survey	Females, of survey	Females, of fishable
2025 value	5.6	21.7	93.8	49.9	49.3	46.8
Upper quartile ¹	18.5	31.0	94.0	55.3	44.1	47.4
Median ¹	13.3	24.1	92.8	53.1	37.7	42.3
Lower quartile ¹	8.2	19.8	90.8	49.0	36.7	40.1
2025 rank ¹	4.4	8.3	14.2	7.8	14.0	12.9
2024 value	11.7	17.3	94.7	49.9	45.0	47.5

¹ percentiles and 2025 rank are referred to the 20 preceding years, i.e. 2005–2024.

Compared with values for the previous 20 years, offshore fishable biomass is way below the 20-year lower quartile, while in Disko Bay & Vaigat above its past 20-year median. Fishable-female proportions of the survey biomass are high in offshore regions and Disko Bay & Vaigat and are above their 20-year upper quartile. Fishable-males proportion is at the 20-year lower quartile offshore, but at the 20-year upper quartile inshore.

It is uncertain what the limits are for any of these stock-composition parameters to conduce to a ‘healthy’ stock with good potential for maintaining itself. There are relatively high numbers of pre-recruits inshore, which are assumed to enter the fishery within the next one to two years; lower numbers of fishable males to recruit to the spawning stock; relatively high proportions of spawning females in the fishable biomass; and, concomitantly in Offshore regions low survey and fishable biomass as well as low numbers of recruits, so the stock is in total assumed to be in a somewhat “safe condition”. Perception of the stock inshore and offshore is somewhat reversed. While Disko Bay & Vaigat having higher numbers of pre-recruits to recruit to the spawning stock in the future, fairly high fishable biomass, stock parameter of Offshore regions has over the most recent three years showed a declining trend. Overall, the shrimp stock is assumed to be in a fair condition.

Measures of Biomass Distribution within SA1

	Of offshore (%)						Of total (%)
	North	W1–2	W3–4	W5–7	W8– 9/W10	Distribution Index	Disko B. and Vaigat
2025 value	42.4	33.2	11.2	13.2	0.1	69.3	40.9
20-year ¹ upper quartile	39.2	36.6	22.4	20.3	0.5	48.8	32.7
20-year ¹ median	34.0	33.9	18.1	12.1	0.3	34.6	25.7
20-year ¹ lower quartile	29.3	31.1	14.4	8.4	0.1	30.1	23.1
2025 rank	15.9	8.3	3.1	12.0	2.3	17.3	17.4
2024 value	45.5	33.4	11.0	9.4	0.7	55.7	35.8

¹ percentiles and 2025 rank are referred to the 20 preceding years, i.e. 2005–2024.

Within the offshore region, spatial trajectories have diverged, and since 2000 the distribution of survey biomass has progressively contracted and shifted northwards (Fig. 3). The southernmost subarea experienced a collapse between 2004 and 2007 and currently supports only minimal biomass. At present, the majority of the biomass (92%) is located north of 66°N, whereas less than 1% occurs in the southernmost strata (W7–W10). The proportion of biomass within Disko Bay and Vaigat has exhibited temporal

fluctuations; however, concomitant with the decline in offshore biomass, the relative inshore contribution has increased since 2023 and, by 2025, accounts for 41% of the total survey biomass.

Offshore, the majority of the biomass are found in the most northern regions, West of Disko Bay (W1-W2) and in W4 (Holsteinsborg Dyb). Nevertheless, the proportion of the biomass have declined over recent years to a value below the 20-year lower quartile in regions of Holsteinsborg Dyb and West of Store Hellefiske Banke.

Fishery

The CPUE (relative biomass series) based on re-coded shrimp model (Rig  t et al 2018) with time variant catchability and with the years 2003 to 2006 removed, in general, follow the survey estimate of fishable biomass. From the beginning of 1990s both indices increased until 2002. From 2007 the indices decreased to 2013-2014 followed by an increase until 2017. From 2018 CPUE indices continued a decrease to a 2024 low value, considerably below what have been observed since 2013 (CPUE for 2025 is only preliminary half year data) (Fig. 6).

During the last 20 years the survey biomass index has fluctuated more than observed in the CPUE index.

The distribution of the fishery, like that of the survey biomass, has varied over time (Fig. 5). In the 1990s over half the catches were taken south of Holsteinsborg Dyb, but southern areas have subsequently lost their shrimp stock and the fishery in Greenland waters is now concentrated in NAFO Divisions 1A and 1B. In recent years, the offshore fishery has been extending its range northwards and recent years have seen some exploitation of grounds even north of 73   N (Burmeister and Rig  t 2022, Burmeister 2023, Burmeister 2024).

Between 1997 and 2003 the exploitation ratio—of catch to fishable biomass—declined from about 50% to about 25% (Fig. 1) as the catches, although steadily increasing, failed to keep up with the more rapidly increasing biomass (Fig. 6). While catches were high in 2004–2008 the ratio increased as biomass declined while catches did not, and from stayed above average as catches were not been brought down to match the lowness of biomass estimates. However, since 2015 catches have reflected the ups and downs in biomass, and the exploitation ratio has remained at an average of 35%.

Results of the Quantitative Assessment

The median estimate of the *MSY* was 114 Kt with quartiles at 95.7 and 135Kt; an estimated mode is at 100.2 Kt.

The model estimates show that the stock biomass has decreased in every year from 2004 to 2014 even though catches since 1990 appear to have been sustainable. The trend stopped in 2015, but the stock has been declining over the past three years. Fishable biomass at end 2025 is estimated to be lower than the most recent years value and little lower than B_{msy} (9% below B_{msy}). With a low effective cod biomass at 14 Kt and catches projected at 85 000 t, total mortality in 2025 is estimated to be below the *MSY* level and the mortality risk at 35% exceeds a management threshold of 45.4%.

Table: *P. borealis* in West Greenland: model estimates of stock status at end of 2025.

Biomass ratio B/B_{msy} (median estimate, %)	90.8
Prob. $B < B_{msy}$ (%)	64.3
Prob. $B < B_{lim}$ (%)	0.0
Mortality ratio Z/Z_{msy} (median estimate, %)	95.9
Prob. $Z > Z_{msy}$ (%)	45.4
Prob. $B < B_{msy}80\%$ (%)	33.1

With a mortality risk (i.e. that estimated mortality will exceed Z_{msy}) criterion of 35% is observed, catches of 75 Kt are predicted to be sustainable, provided that the effective cod biomass makes only moderately large gains in the coming years.

Risks associated with eight possible catch levels for 2025, with an 'effective' cod stock at 12 000 t, 13 000 t and 14 000 t, are estimated to be:

13 000 t cod	Risk of:	Catch option ('000 tons)						
		65	70	75	80	85	90	100
	falling below Bmsy end 2026 (%)	58.8	58.6	60.3	60.2	61.4	61.7	62.0
	falling below Blim end 2026 (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1
	exceeding Zmsy in 2026 (%)	19.9	25.8	32.0	37.7	43.5	48.9	53.9
	exceeding Zmsy in 2027 (%)	19.3	23.8	30.6	36.1	42.1	47.3	52.9
	falling below Bmsy 80% end 2026 (%)	29.7	29.9	30.7	32.2	32.3	32.7	34.6

14 000 t cod	Risk of:	Catch option ('000 tons)						
		65	70	75	80	85	90	100
	falling below Bmsy end 2026 (%)	58.2	58.9	60.4	61.0	60.9	61.5	62.0
	falling below Blim end 2026 (%)	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
	exceeding Zmsy in 2026 (%)	20.5	26.2	32.6	38.2	44.1	49.4	54.4
	exceeding Zmsy in 2027 (%)	19.3	24.9	30.9	36.9	42.3	47.6	52.6
	falling below Bmsy 80% end 2026 (%)	30.3	29.9	31.2	32.1	31.8	33.2	33.7

15 000 t cod	Risk of:	Catch option ('000 tons)						
		65	70	75	80	85	90	100
	falling below Bmsy end 2026 (%)	58.6	59.5	60.2	60.5	60.3	62.3	61.9
	falling below Blim end 2026 (%)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0
	exceeding Zmsy in 2026 (%)	21.0	27.0	33.0	38.6	44.5	50.0	55.0
	exceeding Zmsy in 2027 (%)	20.4	25.7	31.8	38.2	42.9	49.0	53.7
	falling below Bmsy 80% end 2026 (%)	30.3	30.7	31.7	32.6	32.7	33.3	34.2

Predation by cod can be significant and have a major impact on shrimp stocks. Currently the cod stock in West Greenland is at a low level compared to the period before the collapse in the beginning of 1990s, but has since 2010 shown a slow, but progressive increase. A large cod stock that would significantly increase shrimp mortality could be established in two ways: either by a slow rebuilding process or by immigration of one or two large year-classes from areas around Iceland, as in the mid-1980s. The question of cod predation is bedeviled by the difficulty of foreseeing the evolution of the stock and complicated by uncertainty as to the overlap between the two species.

Projections of stock development were made under the assumption that the 'effective' cod stock will remain at levels consistent with recent estimates, and that parameters of the stock-dynamic and predation processes, including their uncertainties, will retain the values estimated from the 50-year data series. Eight levels of annual catch were investigated from 65 000 to 100 000 tons (Figs 10–11), (Table 4 and Table 5).

Precautionary Approach

The 'Precautionary Approach' framework developed by Scientific Council defined a limit reference point for fishing mortality, F_{lim} , as equal to F_{msy} . The limit reference point for stock size measured in units of biomass, B_{lim} , is a spawning stock biomass below which unknown or low recruitment is expected. Buffer reference points, B_{buf} and F_{buf} , are also requested to provide a safety margin that will ensure a small risk of exceeding the limits.

The limit reference point for mortality in the current assessment framework is Z_{msy} , i.e. Z-ratio=1 and the risk of exceeding this point is given in this assessment. B_{lim} was set at 30% of B_{msy} . The risks of transgressing B_{lim} under scenarios of different future catches have been estimated (Table 4 and Table 5) and are low.

Model performance

The process error of model fit for the model is shown in Fig 12.d. There is a tendency of the process error increasing in the period from 2006 to 2009, followed by a decline. This could be explained by input index of CPUE, where CPUE data has been removed from the model.

The model was able to produce a reasonable simulation of the observed data (Fig. 11a, 11.b, 11.c). The probability of getting more extreme observation than the realized ones given in the data series on stock size were inside the 90% confidence limit (Table 6). The CPUE series was generally better estimated than the survey series. However, the model did not capture the survey peak around 2004. Otherwise, no major problems in Capturing the variability of the data were detected.

Conclusions

The stock is predicted to be close to its B_{msy} level at end 2025. Given the uncertainty of both stock status and stock-dynamic parameters, the risk of exceeding Z_{msy} should probably not exceed 35%. A quantitative assessment indicates that catching 75 Kt would keep the risk of exceeding Z_{msy} below 35%, assuming certain limits on the evolution of the biomass of Atlantic cod.

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Table 1. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: input data series 1976–2025 for stock-dynamic assessment model.

Year	Sam.obs[]	Overlap[]	Past.Catch[]	Prov.Catch[]	In.CPUE[¹ surv[]	Grunwald[]	Grunwald[]
1976	122.086	0.579	51.6	NA	0.3872	NA	NA
1977	135.088	0.574	42.3	NA	0.3268	NA	NA
1978	93.846	0.672	42.8	NA	0.09049	NA	NA
1979	92.525	0.67	55.9	NA	-0.01267	NA	NA
1980	60.822	0.68	53.8	NA	0.178	NA	NA
1981	67.802	0.619	54.3	NA	0.1139	NA	NA
1982	93.92	0.518	56.2	NA	0.3612	NA	NA
1983	56.107	0.461	52.8	NA	0.2398	NA	NA
1984	20.241	0.479	52.8057	NA	0.1756	NA	NA
1985	28.854	0.482	66.2079	NA	0.2422	NA	NA
1986	40.46	0.51	76.9	NA	0.2821	NA	NA
1987	91.014	0.604	77.391	NA	0.4087	NA	NA
1988	133.818	0.618	73.616	NA	0.1452	223.1907	NA
1989	103.399	0.37	80.671	NA	0.05258	208.9535	213.7
1990	41.954	0.289	83.97	NA	0	207.0053	27.8
1991	2.049	0.313	91.489	NA	0.04612	146.0081	2.7
1992	0.359	0.523	105.487	NA	0.1109	194.1563	0.8
1993	0.161	0.6455	91.013	NA	0.11	216.4703	NA
1994	0.075	0.599	92.805	NA	0.1133	223.1433	NA
1995	0.064	0.483	87.388	NA	0.2061	183.2427	NA
1996	0.039	0.28	84.095	NA	0.2465	192.0819	NA
1997	0.052	0.49	78.128	NA	0.2224	167.0946	NA
1998	0.063	0.39	80.495	NA	0.3647	244.2933	NA
1999	0.098	0.496	92.198	NA	0.4814	237.2942	NA
2000	0.245	0.643	97.968	NA	0.5758	280.336	NA
2001	0.315	0.462	102.926	NA	0.5379	280.4643	NA
2002	0.761	0.278	135.172	NA	0.7155	369.4608	NA
2003	1.246	0.398	130.173	NA	0.7949	548.2839	NA
2004	3.973	0.257	149.332	141	0.888	528.3298	NA
2005	5.005	0.074	156.899	140.5	0.9202	494.2	NA
2006	7.33	0.22	157.315	140.2	0.9226	451	NA
2007	12.363	0.139	144.19	135.2	0.9516	336.1	NA
2008	11.998	0.156	153.889	131.6	1.002	262.6	NA
2009	7.473	0.602	135.458	108.8	0.8992	255.1	NA
2010	5.473	0.315	133.99	138.5	0.8589	318.7	NA
2011	11.452	0.888	123.985	126	0.904	245.69	NA
2012	18.831	0.305	115.975	110	0.8264	176.44	NA
2013	21.469	0.206	95.381	100	0.6987	218.1	NA
2014	29.903	0.211	88.765	90	0.7719	170.01	NA
2015	36.213	0.2046	72.256	65	0.8154	255.54	NA
2016	35.159	0.079	85.527	82	0.875	201.3461	NA
2017	30.034	0.373	92.37	90	0.9887	284.6407	NA
2018	30.976	0.3841	94.878	101.25	0.9193	279.02	NA
2019	27.898	0.2696	104.314	100	0.8541	311.12	NA
2020	36.02	0.1994	113.758	117	0.7536	340.900959	NA
2021	54.593	0.2844	114.569	108	0.8817	NA	NA
2022	50.551	0.3013	118.127	120	0.7808	314.999	NA
2023	53.287	0.3405	113.223	110	0.7314	274.87	NA
2024	52.085	0.2981	99.809	102.5	0.6779	212.680786	NA
2025	53.384	0.2542	NA	85	0.5814	189.6255	NA

¹ 'effective cod biomass' was not an input data series in 2021; instead, a SAM cod biomass input series were input and used to estimate a cod biomass series which was multiplied by an input overlap series to generate an 'effective cod' series; tabulated are the median resulting estimates (see Kingsley 2014).

² Grunwald (1998).

³ survey estimates of fishable biomass for 2011, 2012, and 2014–2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024 were adjusted for incomplete coverage of offshore strata.

⁴ estimates of cod biomass and overlap factors in 2021 are based on average of the most 3 recent years.

Table 2. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: summary of estimates of selected parameters from Bayesian fitting of a surplus production model, 2025.

	Mean	S.D.	25%	Median	75%	Est. mode	Median (2024)
Max.sustainable yield	120.3	47.5	95.7	113.6	135.0	100.2	118.0
<i>B/Bmsy</i> , end current year (proj.)(%)	93.3	25.0	75.0	90.8	109.1	85.7	96.6
Biomass risk, end current year(%)	64.3	47.9	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Z/Zmsy</i> , current year (proj.)(%)	–	–	70.3	95.9	124.0	–	103.6
Carrying capacity	3204	1880	1836	2646	4059	1530	2940
Max. sustainable yield ratio (%)	9.7	5.2	5.8	9.0	12.8	7.5	8.5
Survey catchability (%)	20.2	12.9	10.4	16.9	26.8	10.4	14.9
CPUE(1) catchability	1.2	0.7	0.6	1.0	1.5	0.6	0.9
CPUE(2) catchability	1.8	1.2	0.9	1.5	2.4	0.9	1.3
Effective cod biomass 2025 (Kt)	17.6	24.4	10.3	13.5	17.4	5.3	16.6
<i>P</i> _{50%} (prey biomass index with consumption 50% of max.)	3.9	6.8	0.3	1.3	4.5	-3.8	1.3
<i>V</i> _{max} (maximum consumption per cod)	2.1	2.3	0.4	1.1	2.8	-0.9	1.0
CV of process (%)	12.0	2.7	10.2	11.9	13.6	11.6	12.0
CV of survey fit (%)	18.2	2.8	16.2	17.9	19.8	17.3	18.3
CV of CPUE (1) fit (%)	7.0	1.5	5.9	6.7	7.8	6.2	6.7
CV of CPUE (2) fit (%)	6.6	1.6	5.5	6.2	7.3	5.4	6.5

Table 3. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: selected¹ correlations (%) between model parameters, 2025.

	Start biom. ratio	CV cpu	CV CV s	CV proc	Vmax	P50%	Qc1	Qc2	Qs	MSY ratio	K
Max. sustainable yield	21			8			-19	-19	-18	24	26
Carrying capacity	14			12	-15		-73	-73	-73	-71	
Max. sustainable yield ratio (%)	-11	-5	6	-12	21		81	81	81		
Survey catchability (%)	-45		6	-20	23	-10	100	100			
CPUE catchability q1	-46			-19	23	-10	100				
CPUE catchability q2											
P50%	17				64						
Vmax	-13			-16							
CV of process (%)	15	-7	-27								
CV of survey fit (%)											
CV of CPUE 1 fit (%)											
CV of CPUE 2 fit (%)											

¹ those over 5%

Table 4. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: risks (%) of exceeding limit mortality in 2025 assuming effective cod biomass 13 Kt, 14 Kt and 15 Kt.

Catch (Kt/yr)	13 Kt		14 Kt		15 Kt	
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2	Year 1	Year 2
65	19.9	19.3	20.5	19.3	21.0	20.4
70	25.8	23.8	26.2	24.9	27.0	25.7
75	32.0	30.6	32.6	30.9	33.0	31.8
80	37.7	36.1	38.2	36.9	38.6	38.2
85	43.5	42.1	44.1	42.3	44.5	42.9
90	48.9	47.3	49.4	47.6	50.0	49.0
95	53.9	52.9	54.4	52.6	55.0	53.7
100	58.4	57.5	58.7	57.7	59.1	58.5

Table 5. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: risks (%) of exceeding limit mortality in 2026 – 2028 and of falling below B_{msy} or limit* biomass at the end of 2026 – 2028 assuming effective cod biomass 13 Kt, 14 Kt and 15 Kt.

13 000 t cod	Risk of:	Catch option ('000 tons)							
		65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
	falling below B_{msy} end 2026 (%)	59	59	60	60	61	62	62	62
	falling below B_{msy} end 2027 (%)	54	55	56	58	58	59	61	61
	falling below B_{msy} end 2028 (%)	50	51	54	54	56	57	59	60
	falling below B_{lim} end 2026 (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	falling below B_{lim} end 2027 (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	falling below B_{lim} end 2028 (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	exceeding Z_{msy} in 2026 (%)	20	26	32	38	44	49	54	58
	exceeding Z_{msy} in 2027 (%)	19	24	31	36	42	47	53	58
	exceeding Z_{msy} in 2028 (%)	19	23	29	35	42	47	52	57
	falling below B_{msy} 80% end 2026 (%)	30	30	31	32	32	33	35	35
	falling below B_{msy} 80% end 2027 (%)	27	28	30	30	33	33	35	36
	falling below B_{msy} 80% end 2028 (%)	25	27	29	30	32	33	36	37

* limit biomass is 30% of B_{msy}

14 000 t cod	Catch option ('000 tons)							
Risk of:	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
falling below Bmsy end 2026 (%)	58	59	60	61	61	62	62	62
falling below Bmsy end 2027 (%)	54	55	57	58	58	59	60	62
falling below Bmsy end 2028 (%)	50	52	53	55	55	58	59	61
falling below Blim end 2026 (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
falling below Blim end 2027 (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
falling below Blim end 2028 (%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
exceeding Zmsy in 2026 (%)	21	26	33	38	44	49	54	59
exceeding Zmsy in 2027 (%)	19	25	31	37	42	48	53	58
exceeding Zmsy in 2028 (%)	18	24	30	36	41	47	52	57
falling below Bmsy 80% end 2026 (%)	30	30	31	32	32	33	34	35
falling below Bmsy 80% end 2027 (%)	28	30	30	30	32	33	34	36
falling below Bmsy 80% end 2028 (%)	27	27	30	30	31	35	36	37
falling below Btrigger end 2026 (%)	23	24	24	24	25	26	27	27
falling below Btrigger end 2027 (%)	21	23	24	25	25	27	28	29
falling below Btrigger end 2028 (%)	21	21	24	24	26	28	29	31

* limit biomass is 30% of B_{msy}

15 000 t cod	Catch option ('000 tons)								
	Risk of:	65	70	75	80	85	90	95	100
falling below Bmsy end 2026 (%)		59	60	60	61	60	62	62	63
falling below Bmsy end 2027 (%)		55	55	57	57	58	60	60	62
falling below Bmsy end 2028 (%)		51	52	54	55	56	58	59	61
falling below Blim end 2026 (%)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
falling below Blim end 2027 (%)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
falling below Blim end 2028 (%)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
exceeding Zmsy in 2026 (%)		21	27	33	39	44	50	55	59
exceeding Zmsy in 2027 (%)		20	26	32	38	43	49	54	58
exceeding Zmsy in 2028 (%)		19	24	31	37	42	48	53	57
falling below Bmsy 80% end 2026 (%)		30	31	32	33	33	33	34	34
falling below Bmsy 80% end 2027 (%)		28	28	31	32	33	34	36	35
falling below Bmsy 80% end 2028 (%)		26	27	29	31	32	34	36	38

* limit biomass is 30% of B_{msy}

Table 6. Model diagnostics: Residuals (% of observed value) and probability of getting a more extreme observation (Pr).

Year	Survey resid(%)	Pr	CPUE1 resid(%)	Pr	CPUE2 resid(%)	Pr	Process er
1976			2.656	0.619			-0.01526
1977			4.605	0.708			-0.1421
1978			-3.846	0.3328			-0.155
1979			-7.932	0.178			0.0123
1980			6.019	0.7622			0.03414
1981			-7.825	0.1692			0.04854
1982			9.77	0.8892			0.03759
1983			-1.084	0.4452			-0.1101
1984			-3.647	0.3268			-0.03425
1985			-0.1916	0.4936			0.018
1986			-2.588	0.3756			0.05657
1987			9.804	0.8822			-0.06143
1988	5.624	0.591	-5.116	0.2672			-0.1267
1989	11.08	0.7316	-2.527	0.3962			-0.07612
1990	14.98	0.793	-2.884	0.3694			-0.03731
1991	-21.49	0.1344	0.0955	0.5078			0.04084
1992	2.229	0.5474	1.799	0.5848			0.04218
1993	10.07	0.7088	-1.169	0.446			0.002266
1994	11.11	0.7144	-3.018	0.3574			0.01304
1995	-12.28	0.255	2.497	0.6244			0.02692
1996	-10.26	0.2928	3.754	0.6828			-0.01398
1997	-27.79	0.0738	-2.255	0.3924			0.03836
1998	-0.1021	0.4962	1.828	0.5886			0.1114
1999	-14.56	0.2164	1.814	0.5934			0.08727
2000	-4.836	0.3958	4.503	0.717			0.03826
2001	-10.53	0.2916	-5.184	0.2674			0.08126
2002	4.018	0.5968	-0.3074	0.4968			0.1986
2003	29.14	0.929					0.1556
2004	20.18	0.833					0.0561
2005	18.45	0.805					-0.02569
2006	22.45	0.8662					-0.1156
2007	6.769	0.6478			-7.097	0.1828	-0.04903
2008	-11.37	0.2782			4.411	0.7142	-0.00149
2009	-9.382	0.3076			-1.226	0.4348	-0.02439
2010	15.54	0.7926			-2.53	0.3744	0.02263
2011	-7.913	0.3526			4.574	0.7202	-0.0319
2012	-33.59	0.0442			4.207	0.7196	-0.08246
2013	-6.185	0.3702			-2.374	0.377	-0.02957
2014	-33.03	0.0392			2.952	0.6474	0.04445
2015	1.751	0.5398			1.418	0.5738	0.03426
2016	-29.17	0.066			0.4047	0.516	0.0664
2017	-0.5511	0.5016			5.75	0.7662	0.03986
2018	-1.822	0.4762			-0.4204	0.4724	-0.05024
2019	14.85	0.7752			-1.155	0.4408	-0.05076
2020	26.9	0.9188			-8.236	0.1436	0.008772
2021	0.484	0.5098			4.066	0.6984	0.02481
2022	21.45	0.8708			-3.141	0.3384	-0.04545
2023	14.64	0.7786			-1.287	0.4406	-0.05095
2024	-3.336	0.4258			1.099	0.5612	-0.08355
2025	-9.22	0.319			-3.696	0.3772	-0.02849

Figures

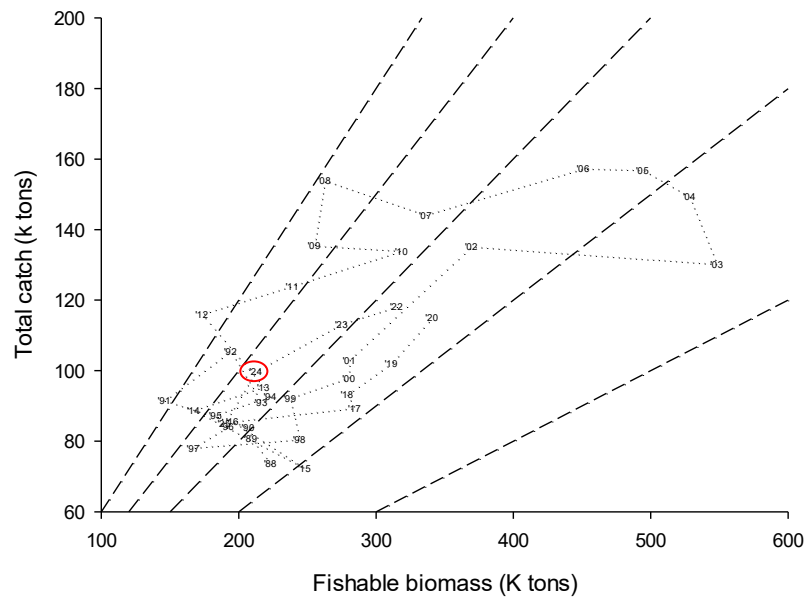


Figure 1. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: catch, fishable biomass and exploitation index, 1976–2025 (2025 catch is provisional).

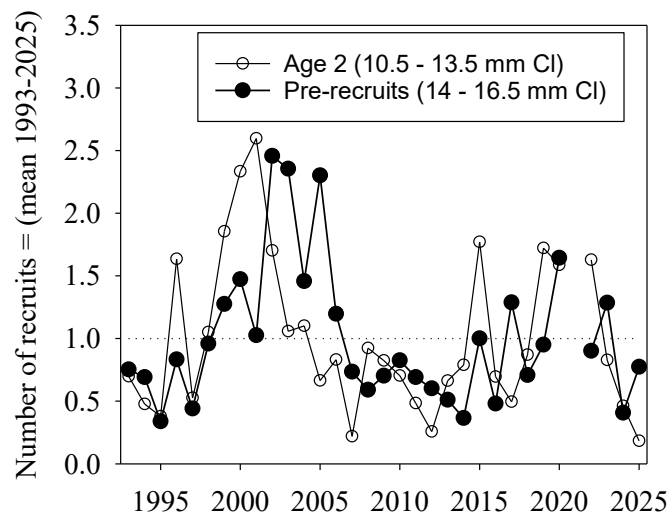


Figure 2. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: number at age 2 and pre-recruits from research trawl survey, 1996–2025.

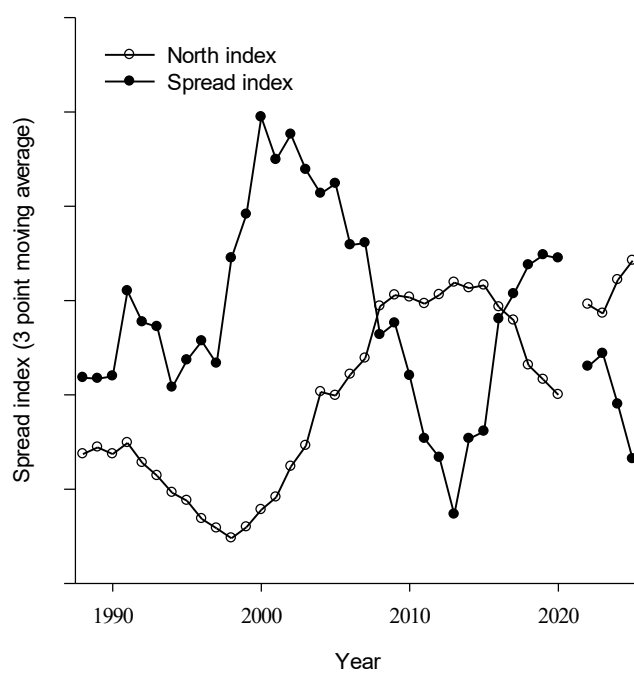


Figure 3. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: indices of distribution of the survey biomass, 1994–2025 (3-point moving means).

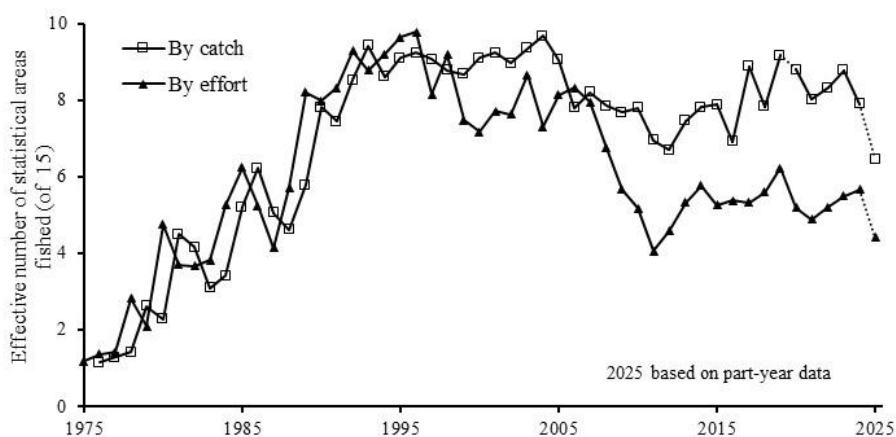


Figure 4. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: indices of the spreadth of distribution of the Greenlandic fishery among 15 statistical areas, from logbook records, 1975–2025. (2025 is preliminary data).

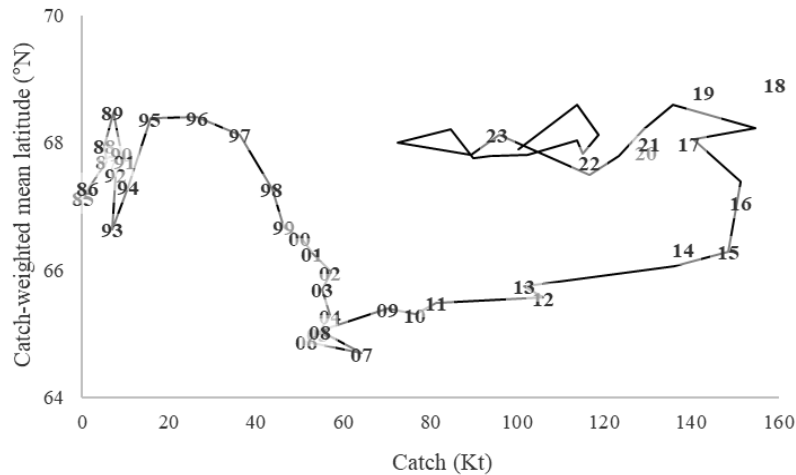


Figure 5. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: mean latitude by weight vs. total weight, for logbook-recorded catch in the Greenland fishery, 1985–2025 (2025 is only preliminary catch).

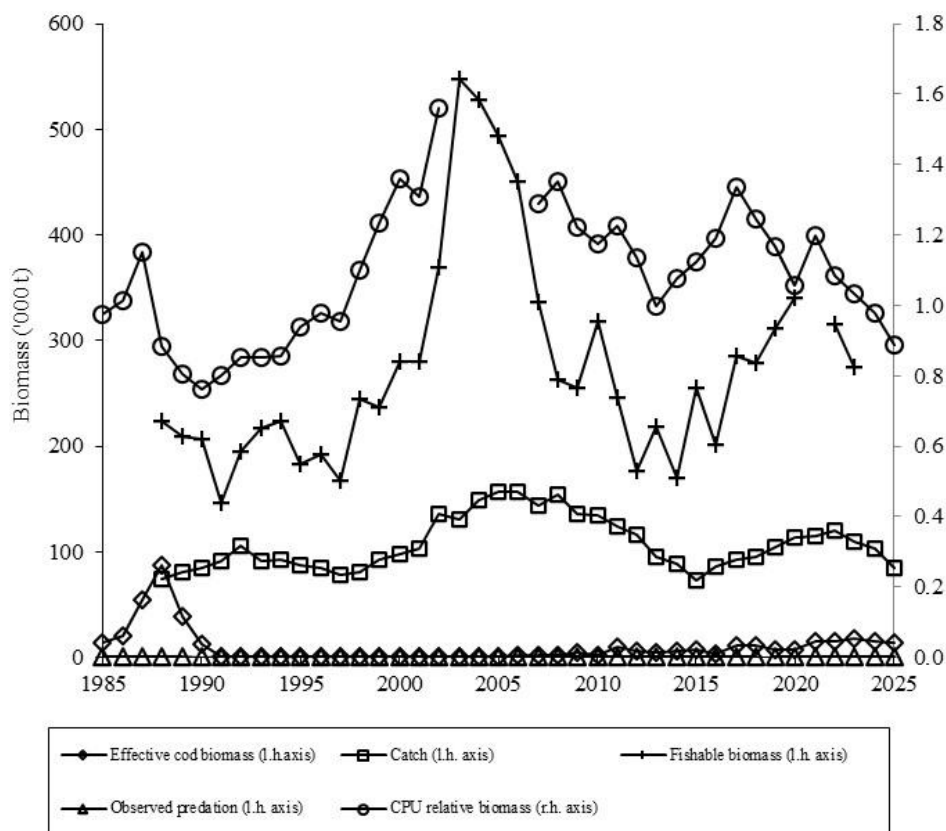


Figure 6. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: thirty-year data series providing information for the assessment model. (2025 catch is projected; effective cod biomass is synthesized from four biomass index series and a series of overlap indices between distributions of cod and shrimps.)

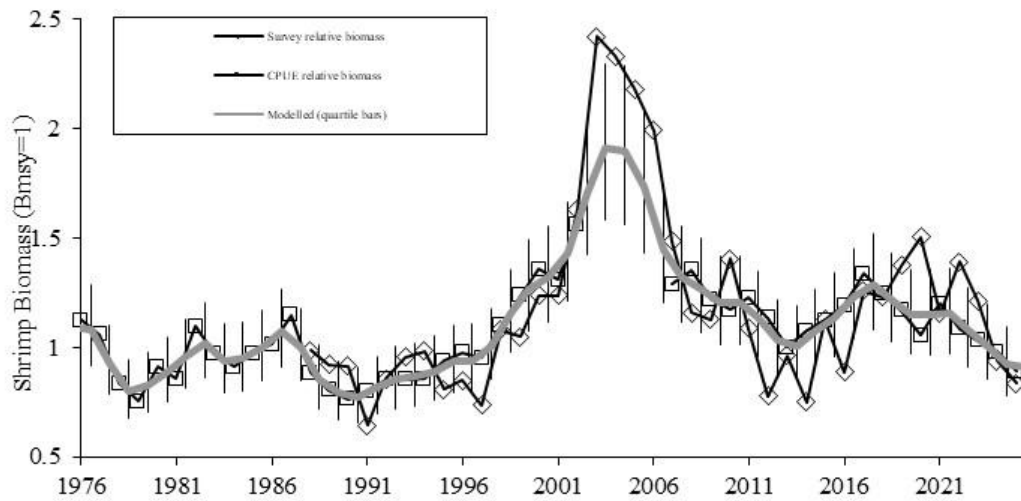


Figure 7. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: modelled shrimp standing stock fitted to survey and CPUE indices, 1976–2025.

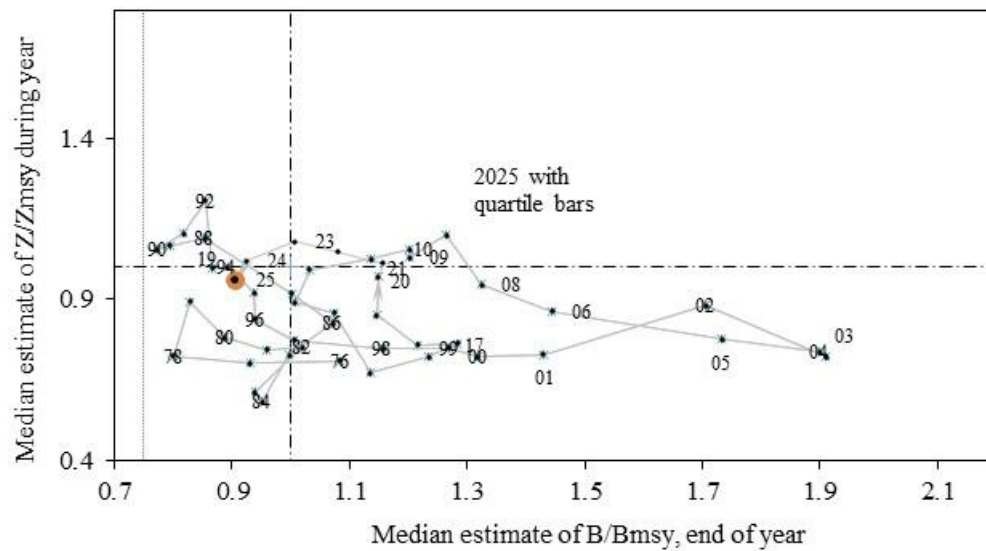


Figure 8. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: median estimates of biomass ratio (B/B_{msy}) and mortality ratio (Z/Z_{msy}) 1976–2025.

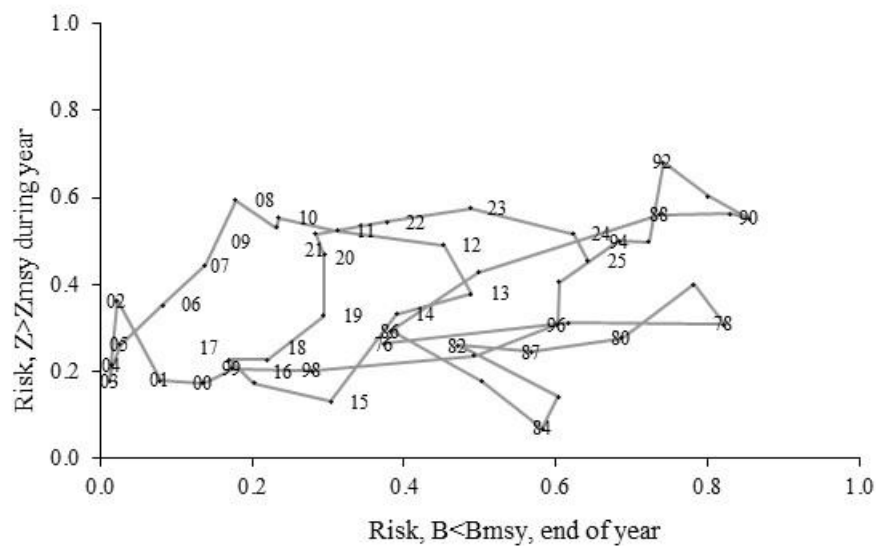


Figure 9. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: annual likelihood that biomass has been below B_{msy} and that mortality caused by fishing and cod predation has been above Z_{msy} 1976–2025.

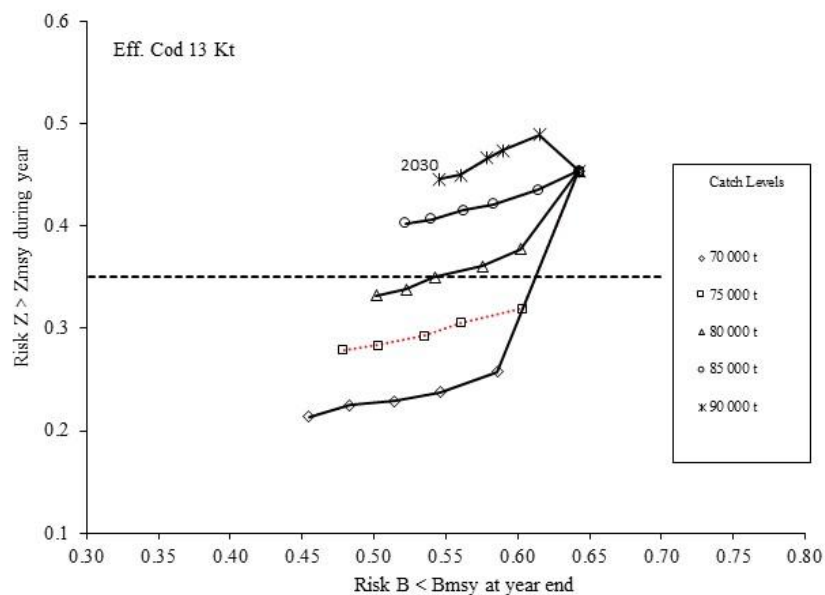


Figure 10a. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: joint 5-year plot 2025–30 of the risks of transgressing B_{msy} and Z_{msy} at catch levels 70–90 Kt/yr; with effective cod biomass 13 Kt.

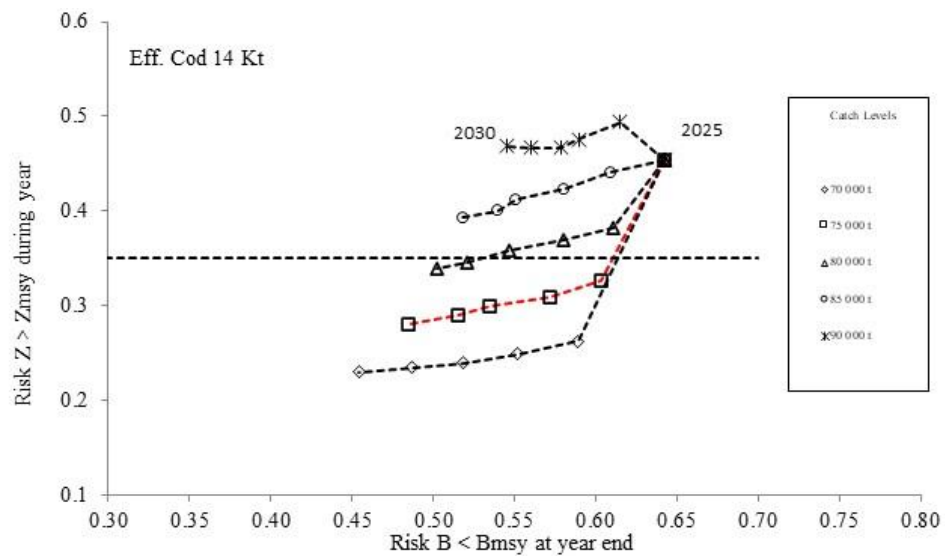


Figure 10b. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: joint 5-year plot 2025–30 of the risks of transgressing B_{msy} and Z_{msy} at catch levels 70–90 Kt/yr; with effective cod biomass 14 Kt.

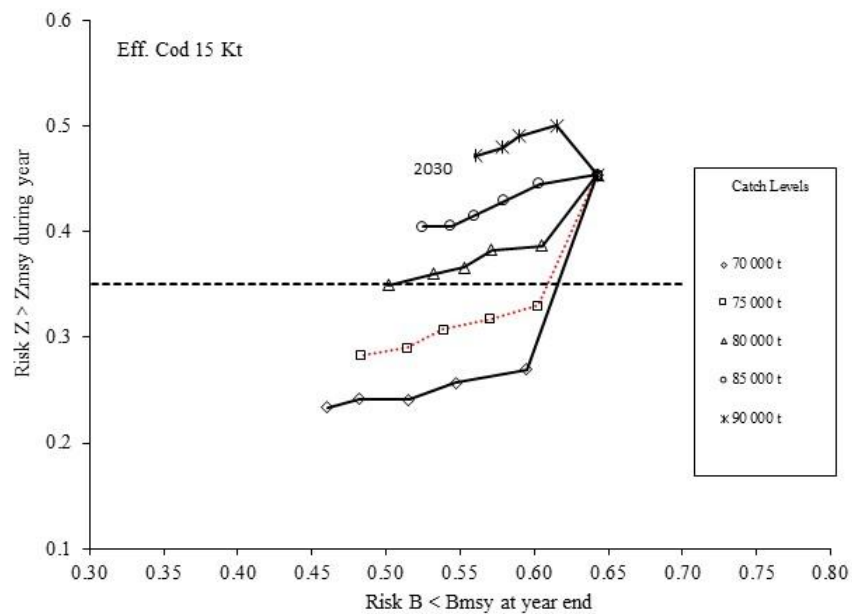


Figure 10c. *Pandalus borealis* in West Greenland: joint 5-year plot 2025–30 of the risks of transgressing B_{msy} and Z_{msy} at catch levels 70–90 Kt/yr; with effective cod biomass 15 Kt.

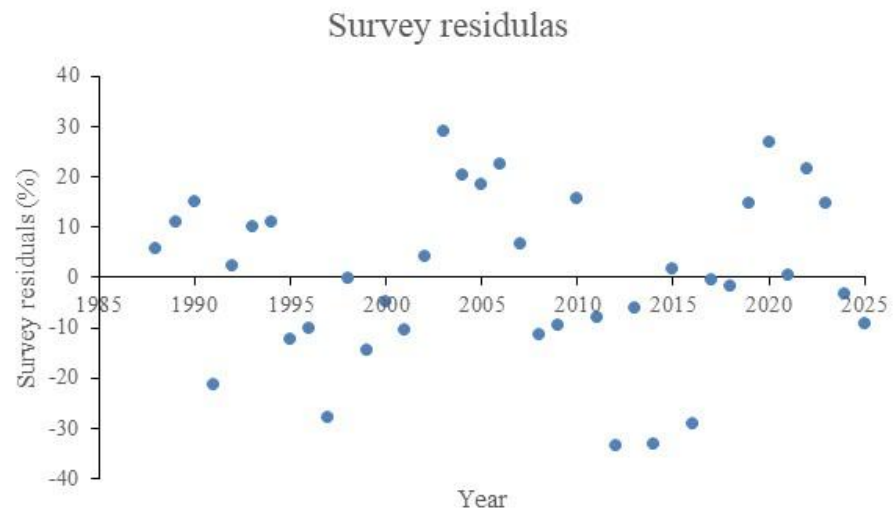


Figure 11a. Model diagnostics: Residuals of survey biomass (% of observed value) 1988 – 2025.

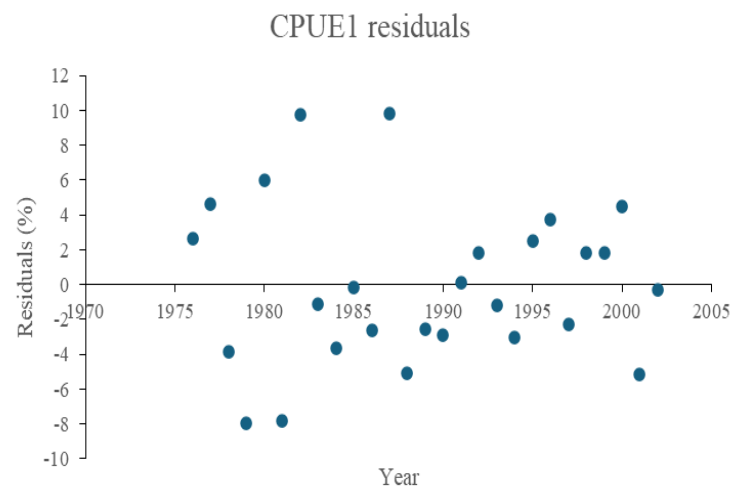


Figure 11b. Model diagnostics: Residuals of CPUE1 (% of observed value) 1976 – 2002.

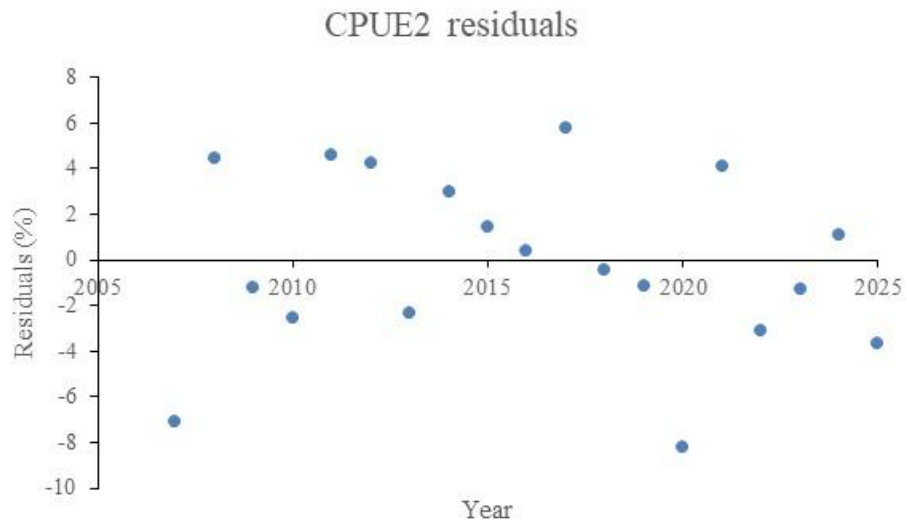


Figure 11c. Model diagnostics: Residuals of CPUE2 (% of observed value) 2007 – 2025.



Figure 11d. Model diagnostics: Process error of fit (CV of process (%)) 1994 – 2025.