

**SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - JUNE 2024****German Research Report for 2023**

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Sub-area 1

A. Status of the Fishery

After the increase in effort in 2019 to 1707 hours, the fisheries in 2020 directed towards Greenland halibut (*Reinhardtius hippoglossoides*) in 1C+1D had an effort of 1549 hours which is at the level of the year 2018 with 1532 h, but less than in 2012 and 2011 with 2004 hours and 2938 hours, respectively. In turn, reported landings were 1925 t at the same level as in 2019 with 1926 t from 1C+1D, with a decreasing CPUE in 1D. The fisheries has concentrated in 1D. In 2021, both effort and catch decreased, i.e. 1298 hours in terms of fishing effort and 1701 t in terms of landings. In 2022, effort increased to 1604 h but landings were the same as 2021, i.e. 1700 t. In 2023, effort (1560 h) and landings (1717 t) were at the same level as in the year before, however with regional differences CPUE trends: In 1D, CPUE was declining.

Log book reported by-catch in the fishery comprised some 1 % of total landings yielding 12 t. The by-catch of roundnose grenadiers was 7 t and thus above the range observed in previous years (3-4 t in 2007, 2008 and 2010, but <1 t in 2011 and 2012, 4.3 t in 2018, 5 t in 2020). Wolffish by-catch (Northern wolffish, *A. denticulatus*) was 5 t and by-catch of skates was < 1 t. In 2022, total by-catch decreased to 6.3 t. By-catch in 2023 was 4.8 t, of which 1.9 t were roundnose grenadier and 2.9 t were Northern wolffish.

Table 1 lists a breakdown of the effort, landings, and non-standardised Greenland halibut CPUE by month in 2023. The annual trend is shown in Figure 1.

No pelagic fishery for pelagic redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) in the NAFO RA took place in 2022. The fisheries in 2000-2006 appeared as an intermezzo only. It occurred for the first time off Southwest Greenland in 1999, and increased substantially in 2000 due to a change in distribution patterns of the stock in westerly direction as derived from a biennial international hydro-acoustic surveys conducted in June/July 2001-2005 by Iceland, Russia and Germany (e.g. ICES CM, 2005). After 2000, the fishery was conducted in the NAFO Regulatory Area and Greenland EEZ in Div. 1F during the 3rd quarter at depths above 500 m and targeted almost exclusively mature redfish with almost no discard and no by-catch of other species. No fishery was reported since 2007.

In 2022 – as in 2021 - no commercial German cod fisheries took place in Div. 1F. The reported catch in 2008 was 2415 t. In 2009, catch dropped to 370 t. No cod was landed from SA-1F in 2010, in 2011 catches amounted to 4 t. In 2012, some 69 t were landed from Division 1D+1F, with a minute increase in 2013 amounting to 391 t.



B. Special Studies

1. Environment

The German groundfish survey off Greenland did not take place in 2023 in NAFO SA 1C to 1F.

2. Biological Studies

In NAFO SA 1C to 1F, no biological data for wolffishes, Atlantic cod, redfish and skates and Greenland halibut were collected.

Sub-area 2

A. Status of the Fishery

2 J

No fisheries in 2007- 2022. In 2003, German trawlers conducted a pelagic fishery for pelagic redfish (*Sebastes mentella*) for the first time in the NAFO Regulatory Area of Div. 2J. The fishery was conducted in Div. 2J during the 3rd quarter only at depths above 500 m and targeted almost exclusively mature redfish with almost no discard and no by-catch of other species. No fishery was carried out since 2006. Table 3 lists a breakdown of the effort, landings, and non-standardised pelagic redfish CPUE by year and quarter.

2 H

No fisheries in 2007 - 2022. In 2006, one catch of 4 t redfish was recorded for 2 H.

B. Special Studies

1. Environment

No research in relation to environment was carried out by Germany in NAFO Sub-area 2.

2. Biological studies

2011 hydro-acoustic survey for pelagic redfish: see SA 1

Sub-area 3

A. Status of the Fishery

German fishing vessels did not fish in Sub-area 3.

B. Special Studies

1. Environment

No research in relation to environment was carried out by Germany in NAFO Sub-area 3.

2. Biological studies

No biological samplings or studies were performed by Germany in NAFO Sub-area 3.

References:

Table 1. German effort (hours fished), landings (kg), unstandardized CPUE (kg/h) and accompanied standard deviations for Greenland halibut (*R. hippoglossoides*) in Sub-division 1D by month and by year and 2021. CPUE statistics calculated for catches > 100 kg of target species only.

	NF-1C	NF-1C	NF-1C	NF-1C	NF-1D	NF-1D	NF-1D	NF-1D
Month	CPUE_mean	CPUE_std	Catch_kg	Effort_h	CPUE_mean	CPUE_std	Catch_kg	Effort_h
5	1302	370	143941	113.1	1034	318	299775	291.6
8								
9	1098	341	456906	424.1	604	246	97427	156.6
10	1224	581	146003	122.0	776	53	8624	11.1
11	1138	351	265986	233.9				
12	1730	877	299012	207.2				

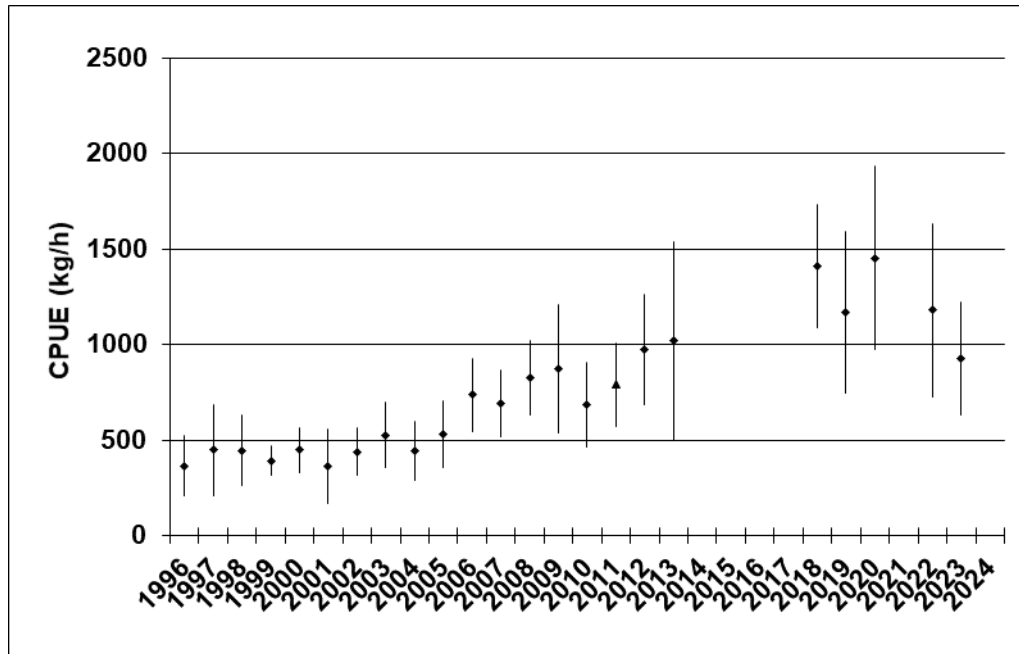


Figure 1. Greenland halibut in NAFO Div. 1D. Unstandardised CPUE and accompanied standard deviation by year as derived from German commercial landings, 1996-2022. Respective values for 2022 are listed in Table 1.