"An Icelandic view" on the Greenland halibut

1. Landings

1.1. Total landings 2001

See WD26

1.2. Historical landings



The arbitrary division of the North-Atlantic into statistical areas, used by ICES for compilation of landing statistics, are biologically unnatural from the perspective of the natural history of Greenland halibut as well as being cumbersome after the extension of the EEZ to 200 miles by coastal nations. The major fishing grounds off the west coast of Iceland are for instance in two areas (Va and XIV) with portion of area XIV being inside the Icelandic EEZ. As the landings within Icelandic waters, since 1976, have not officially been separated and reported according to the defined ICES statistical areas, they are set under area Va by the North Western Working Group. Reported landings from XIV prior to 1976 are most likely from within the current Icelandic EEZ. Reduction in the catch from Icelandic waters in the 90's is due to restriction set up by the quota system.

1.3. Projected landings

TAC in Icelandic waters for the current fishing year (1.september 2001 - 30. august 2002) is 20 kt. Landings from Icleandic fisheries for the 2000/2001 quota year by the end of year 2001 were 3.1kt. It is anticipated that the Icelandic fleet will fish its quota within the fishing year, resulting in an estimated landings of 16.9 kt between 1.1.2002 and 31.8.2002. Given the same landings for the rest of the year as that of last year results in a predicted landing of 20kt from Icelandic waters. Given that the landings in 2002 from Vb and XIV will be the same as in 2001 it is anticipated that total landings for 2002 will be on the order of 30 kt.



Figure showing cumulative landings (tonnes) of the of Greenland halibut from Icelandic waters. On the left is cumulative landings by 2001/2002 fishing year (thin line show data for 2000/2001 fishing year) and on the right is cumulative landings by the 2002 calendar year (thin line shows data for calendar year 2001).

2. The fisheries in Icelandic waters

2.1. 2000 Landings of Icelandic fleet from Icelandic waters

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Gear	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Мау	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Okt	Nov	Dec	Total
Long line			1			69	101	171	51	1			394
Gill net	1											2	3
Bottom trawl	142	1787	2128	609	2005	3527	1293	1014	88	636	921	1382	15532
Pelagi trawl						518		92		50			660
Shrimp trawl							1						1
Sum	143	1787	2129	609	2005	4114	1395	1277	139	687	921	1384	16590

2.1.1. REPORTED LANDINGS WITIHIN 200 M EEZ (DIV IXV AND VA)

2.2. Some information of the Icelandic Greenland halibut fisheries based on captain log books



2.2.1. PROPORTION OF GREENLAND HALIBUT IN HAULS

The Greenland halibut trawl fisheries has been a relatively direct fisheries on the western, northern and eastern grounds, especially in recent times. The fisheries on the southeastern grounds have however been somewhat mixed, the major bycatch being redfish. The western ground has in recent times accounted for more 75% of the annual landings from Icelandic waters, the proportion caught on the western ground in year 2001 was 87% of the total trawl landings.



Depth of fishing on the main fishing grounds on the western grounds has remained relatively stable since 1990. Fishing on the eastern and southeastern grounds have moved to somewhat shallower waters in recent times, possibly because of a shift in the redfish fisheries on the southeastern grounds, where Greenland halibut is mostly a bycatch.





The relatively stable catch per haul through time has been made possible by increasing the duration of the hauls. Duration of hauls on the eastern and southeastern grounds has not increased as much as on the western and northern grounds, probably because of limiting manuverability and trawlable areas on these grounds.



2.2.5. CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT ON DIFFERENT FISHING GROUNDS

Cpue has historically been highest on the main fishing grounds in the western area. The fishing in this region was traditionally a seasonal fisheries, with the highest catch and highest cpue being in April and may, but in recent years, the fishing season has expanded with relatively even catch and cpue occurring

throughout the year. In addition to increase in cpue in recent years it is worth noting that the variability in the catch has also increased.



2.2.6. CATCH PER UNIT EFFORT ON THE MAIN FISHING GROUND COMPARED WITH GLIM (SCALED TO 1 IN 1985)

2.2.7. GLIM INDICES FROM THE ICELANDIC TRAWLING FLEET AND TOTAL RELATIVE EFFORT

	% change in CPUE			% change in effort
	between			between
cpue	years	landings	effort	years
1,00		32198	32198	
0,96	-4	33099	34514	7,2
0,90	-6	46767	51733	49,9
1,06	17	51307	48540	-6,2
1,04	-1	61323	58851	21,2
0,74	-29	38935	52757	-10,4
0,78	6	36882	47103	-10,7
0,63	-19	35382	56073	19,0
0,54	-15	40844	76344	36,2
0,41	-23	37302	90320	18,3
0,31	-25	35904	115819	28,2
0,27	-12	35857	131827	13,8
0,28	1	29751	108185	-17,9
0,42	53	20077	47576	-56,0
0,49	15	20333	41924	-11,9
0,52	8	26839	51317	22,4
0,63	20	28021	44478	-13,3
		Reduction	Effort	Catch
		20%	53373	33625
		None	44478	28021
		20%	35582	22417
		40%	26687	16813
		50%	22239	14011
	cpue 1,00 0,96 0,90 1,06 1,04 0,74 0,78 0,63 0,54 0,41 0,27 0,28 0,42 0,49 0,52 0,63	% change in CPUE between cyars 1,00 0,96 -4 0,90 -6 1,06 17 1,04 -1 0,74 -29 0,78 6 0,63 -19 0,54 -15 0,41 -23 0,31 -25 0,27 -12 0,28 1 0,42 53 0,49 15 0,52 8 0,63 20	% change in CPUE between coue years landings 1,00 32198 0,96 -4 33099 0,90 -6 46767 1,06 17 51307 1,04 -1 61323 0,74 -29 38935 0,78 6 36882 0,63 -19 35382 0,54 -15 40844 0,41 -23 37302 0,31 -25 35904 0,27 -12 35857 0,28 1 29751 0,42 53 20077 0,49 15 20333 0,52 8 26839 0,63 20 28021 Reduction 20% None 20% 40% 50% 50%	% change in CPUE

Derived effort in the last 3 years is less than half of the peak year of 95-97. A reduction in effort of approximately 20% is however required in order to reduce the landings to that of ACFM advice for the current year.

3. Information on catch composition

3.1. Data source 2001

3.1.1. LENGTH MEASUREMENTS

The following table provides informations on length measurements from various gear and regions (minor catches from some fleets have been included in the landings informations). Informations on age for 2001 are only available from the Icelandic fleet. Only 252 otoliths were available for the analysis of catch in numbers.

Gear	Area	Landings	No. samples	No. fish
Bottom trawl	Iceland-west	14423	135	6394
Bottom trawl	Iceland-north & east	1223	21	1479
Bottom trawl	Iceland-southeast	1106	6	2339
Gill Net	Faroe Islands	2812	12	4535
Bottom trawl	Faroe Islands	1241	5	606
Long line	East Greenland	983		2472
Bottom trawl	East Greenland	6233	48	1525
Total		28021	227	19350



3.1.2. LENGTH DISTRIBUTION ON THE WESTERN FISHING GROUNDS

Length distribution from samples on the western fishing grounds off Iceland show a more or less similar distribution from 1992. There are however indications that the fleet is fishing relatively narrower size range in the terminal year. The dotted line, which is the average length distribution in the catch from the above fishing grounds from 1976-1997, is shown as a reference point.