Thünen Institute of Sea Fisheries



Explanations on the ICES advice for 2026



Greenland halibut

For Greenland halibut as a deep sea stock, no single scientific survey is available covering the large assessment area of the Faroe Islands, Iceland and East Greenland. Accordingly, the stock dynamics are estimated to a large extent from commercial catch data in addition to a combined survey index, whereby the results depend on the weighting of the individual input parameters.

A scientific stock assessment is available. The stock has declined slightly in recent years but remains just within safe biological limits. In addition, the stock is being overfished in relation to F_{MSY} . According to ICES recommendations for 2026, the annual catch should not exceed 20,992 tonnes. This represents an increase of 17.3% compared to the previous year's recommendation. This is mainly due to a more optimistic estimate of the spawning stock biomass just above MSY Btrigger compared to the last stock assessment.

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https://www.thuenen.de/en/thuenen-topics/fisheries/understanding-fish-stock-developments-scientific-basis-for-sustainable-use/ices-advice-on-fishing-opportunities-whats-behind-it