

Work at sea

I had just been out sailing in my friend's small Flipper boat. We had been beaten up by the high waves on our way home. Long after I had arrived in the port, it felt as if the dry land below me still was moving and did my walk uncertain.

I told about the trip to a friend who has sailed as a fisherman when he was young.

'Ha!' he pointed out indulgent: *'There are no high waves inside the fiord! I should like to let you have been on board my trawler out at sea in in January 1990. It was tough!'*

My friend continued: *'We had to put into a port of refuge. The windows on the bridge of the trawler were smashed, and the navigational instruments were damaged or destroyed. I had my cabin just behind the wheelhouse. Everything was thrown around. I had to use my straight arms and legs to be in my berth.'*

Even for a hardened fisherman like my friend, it had obviously been an awful experience:

'I could not sleep. I concentrated on holding on and keeping track of how the ship slammed into the waves, so it echoed from bow to stern.'

The fishery in The Arctic waters is a dangerous workplace. Every year there are serious accidents and deaths at sea. But the profession is simultaneously crucial for Greenland's economy, so it is only in the worst hurricanes that trawlers may seek shelter in the fiord or in the ports.

The fishery takes place out on the banks outside the big fiords, which are carrying melt water from the ice sheet into the sea. Often the trawlers are very close to the countless deadly dangerous rocks along the coast of Greenland, which form one of the world's largest archipelagos.



The outermost archipelago North of the settlement Nanortalik, September 2015