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Spanish Researches in 1958

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During 1958 Spain has participated in the exchange of otoliths. The samples of otoliths received through the ICNAF Secretariat have been studied and returned together with a report on the results of the readings.

When elaborating the yearly programs of Spanish researches in the ICNAF area it is not possible to specify in detail the regions to be investigated due to the fact that special research vessels are not available, and that researches, therefore, must be carried out from commercial vessels and in those areas where they will be fishing.

Following the program established at the Biarritz Meeting observers have been sent aboard the fishing vessels to collect data and material for further study in the laboratories.

These observers are crew members of the fishing vessels, and they have been specially instructed for the work assigned to them.

In 1957 Spain commenced research work in the W.-Greenland waters. A report on the work was presented to the 1958 Annual Meeting (Meeting Document no. 8 of that meeting. Ser. no. 534.).

The research work in the W.-Greenland region was continued in 1958, but limited to the study of the size and age of the cod. The numbers of cod measured from the various subdivisions were as follows:

Subdivision 1B	-	1,199	spec.
" 1C	-	7,619	"
" 1D	-	1,385	"
" 1E	-	4,782	"
TOTAL		14,985	"

The measurements were made aboard the trawler "Aliseo" of the company Pysbe between 26 May to 10 July 1958.

The trawl used had a mesh-size in the cod-end of 160mm (6 3/8"), when new and dry.

The 14,985 cod were measured aboard immediately after capture, before being gutted.

Otoliths were collected from 1,500 of the cod measured. The reading of the otoliths has not yet been completed; the results will be reported when available.

Subdivision 1B.

Fishery was carried out from 19-22 June and the samples were collected from the area between 66°42' and 66°30' N. Lat. and 56°30' and 56°15' W. Long., i.e. from Store Hellefiske Banke at depths of

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230-280 m.

The length frequency is shown in Fig. 1a. The peak of the curve (31.4%) is off 60 cm. No cod below 45 or above 85 cm were observed.

Subdivision 1C.

The catches sampled were made on 26 May (46°35'N-53°20'W) and on 2-18 June (65°45'-64°24'N and 55°35'-54°15'W) on the Lille Hellefiske Banke, 155-350 m depth.

The frequency curve is shown in Fig. 1b. The highest number of cod (17.4%) was found in the group 60-65 cm. Only very few specimen were below 40cm which is the minimum size for marketable cod of the Spanish fishing fleet.

Subdivision 1D.

The samples were collected from fishery in the days 28-30 May in the area 63°31' and 63°34'N -53°35' and 53°29'W on Fylla Banke at depths of 150-165 m.

The most frequent size observed was 65 cm (16.3%), the size-group 75 cm accounted for nearly the same percentage (15%). No cod below 40 cm were found (Fig. 1c).

Subdivision 1E.

The samples were taken from trawlings in the period 25 June to 10 July in the area 61°50' and 61°24'N-50°35' and 50°15'W on Dana Banke at depths of 150-200 m.

The most frequent size was at 70cm (22.2%), followed by the 65cm group (19.1%) and the 75 cm group (18.1%) See Fig. 1d.

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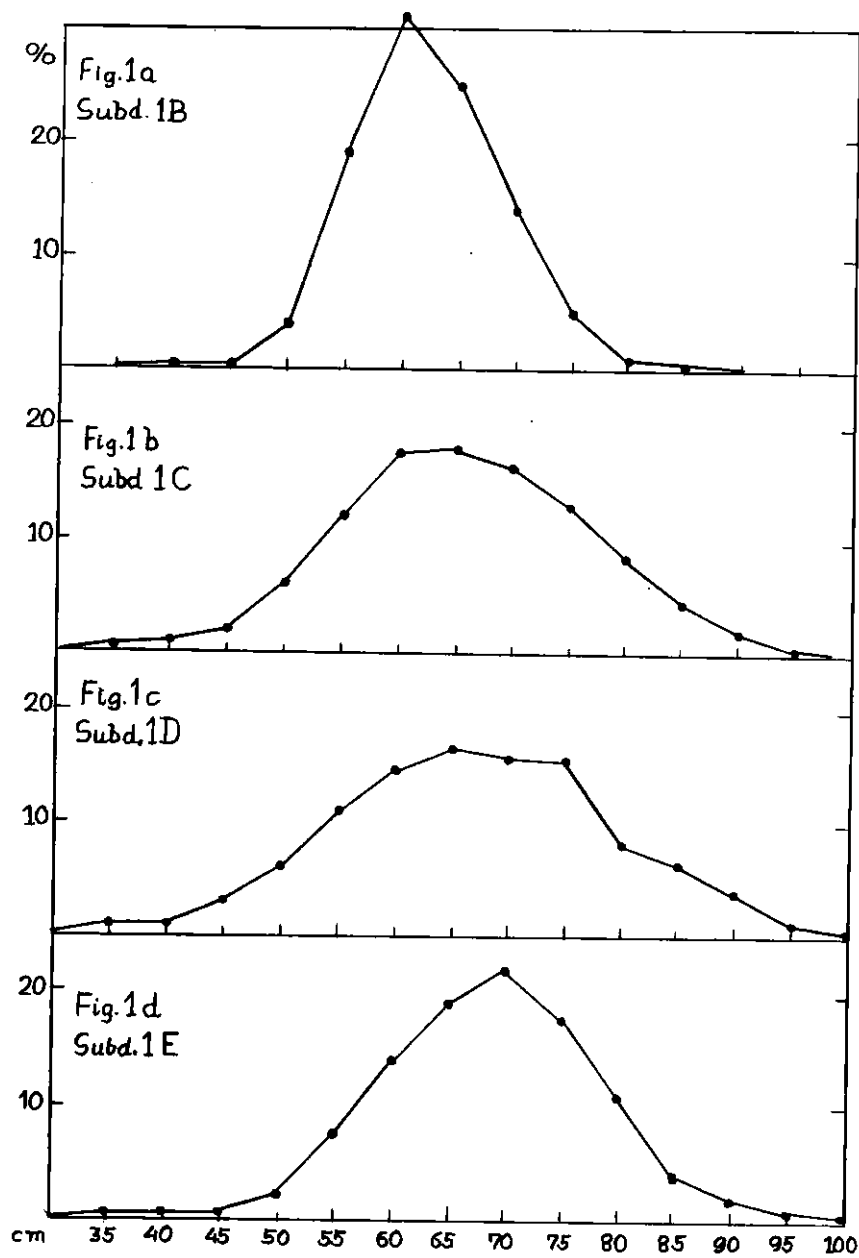


Fig. 1 a - d. Length-distribution curves for cod samples taken from trawl catches in Subdivisions 1B, 1C, 1D and 1E in 1958.

