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United Kingdom Research Report for 1960

by C. E. Lucas and R. J. H. Beverton

1. Commercial Fishing

Considerably more fishing was carried out by English vessels at West Greenland in 1960 than in 1959, but the total catch was nearly the same. Data are as follows:-

	1959	1960
Hours fishing	7,231	12,694
Catch of cod(cwt)	217,878	218,611
Catch (cwt) per 100	4.06	2.11

Ton-hours

2. Market Sampling

About 7,500 cod from West Greenland were sampled at Hull and Grimsby in 1960, and otoliths taken from 262 of these. Compared with 1959, the 1960 catches contained relatively more small fish and fewer medium and large. The numbers caught per 100 hours fishing in 1960 are given in Table 1.

3. An observer (Mr. G.C. Trout) spent the period from January 7th to February 5th on the stern trawler FAIRTRY II, (1960 Ann.Meet.Doc.no.42) and obtained length compositions of her cod catches in Divisions 3L and 3P by sampling the various size categories into which her catch is sorted prior to processing. Since the daily output of fillets was available, changes in the length composition of the total catch between grounds could readily be obtained. A similar survey has just been made on FAIRTRY I, on which a report will be issued (1961 Ann. Meet. Doc.no.). Routine sampling by shipborne personnel is now being arranged on FAIRTRY I, II, and III, starting with trips sailing at the end of 1960.

4. Comparative Fishing

No comparative fishing experiments were conducted in the ICNAF Area during 1960 but some undertaken elsewhere may be relevant to the Commission's program. These have included further mesh selection experiments, in particular with single and double twine and with cod-ends made of courlene. In addition, experiments have been made on diurnal variations in fish catches and on the reactions of fish to fixed and moving obstacles. Following a recent review by a special Mesh Selection Working Group (Convener, Mr. J. A. Pope), ICES intends to prepare a report summarising all selectivity data for the ICES Area.

5. Fishery Assessments

A meeting of the Fishery Assessment Working Group (Convener, Mr. R.J.H. Beverton) was held in Lowestoft from March 17th-26th, 1960.

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Further meetings of the Group in Bergen before and during the Meeting of the Research and Statistics Committee enabled a Progress Report to be submitted giving provisional assessments of the effect of mesh size in the majority of cod and haddock fisheries of the ICNAF Area. A further meeting of the Group is planned at Lowestoft from March 21st-30th, 1961.

6. Environmental Studies

During a cruise of the R.V. ERNEST HOLT to East Greenland in August-September 1960, a hydrographic and plankton section off Cape Farewell was worked (August 26th and 27th).

The Continuous Plankton Recorder survey, conducted from the Oceanographic Laboratory in Edinburgh, was further extended during 1960 along two slightly differing routes (one summer and one winter) between Iceland and Newfoundland, again with the assistance of Icelandic scientists. Seven records (8,200miles) were obtained during the year and have contributed further to knowledge about the distribution of redfish larvae, as well as providing basic information about the abundance and seasonal variation in many plankton organisms. Brief reports on both aspects of the work have been prepared by Edinburgh laboratory for general ICNAF purposes and particularly for the meeting of the ICNAF Environmental Working Party (Conv., Dr. C. E. Lucas), which will be held in Aberdeen during March 1961.

Table 1. Numbers of cod by 3 cm length groups caught per 100 hours fishing off W. Greenland, 1960

<u>Length</u> (cm.)	<u>Number</u>
33-35	100
36-38	88
39-41	1,039
42-44	3,709
45-47	8,089
48-50	11,160
51-53	9,015
54-56	4,758
57-59	2,874
60-62	2,000
63-65	2,485
66-68	3,024
69-71	2,846
72-74	2,573
75-77	1,822
78-80	1,615
81-83	883
84-86	564
87-89	513
90-92	115
93-95	182
96-98	16
99-101	11
102-104	49
105-107	0
108-110	6
111+	6

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