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Fishing

Factory trawlers fished in Subareas 1, 2 and 3. Conventional trawlers fished mainly in Subarea 1. A trial was made of transferring fish from a conventional trawler to a factory trawler at sea.

Sampling

4,227 cod from Subarea 1 were measured on the markets of Hull and Grimsby, and 180 otoliths collected. Following preliminary sampling by scientific staff, 19,600 fish were measured by members of the factory staff aboard the factory vessels FAIRTRY I, II and III (2,000 from Subarea 1, 3,000 from Subarea 2 and 14,000 from Subarea 3). The data from Subarea 1 are summarised in the attached table; the detailed data will be supplied in the sampling Yearbook.

Research vessels

No research vessel work was done west of Cape Farewell in 1961, but the ERNEST HOLT worked in East Greenland waters during April and October-November, the second cruise in co-operation with two commercial trawlers.

Environmental studies

Although no research vessel surveys were made in the area during 1961, the North Atlantic Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey, operated from the Edinburgh Oceanographic Laboratory, was extended further in the ICNAF area. Records are now being obtained on two new routes: (a) between the U.K. and St. John's, Newfoundland and (b) between St. John's, Newfoundland and Boston, Massachusetts, via Halifax, Nova Scotia. Together with the records obtained between Iceland and Newfoundland, a total of more than 7,500 miles of routes was sampled during the year.

The new sampling has produced further information about the distribution of redfish larvae and has permitted the comparison of standing crops of plankton over the European and American continental shelves and the open ocean. The distribution of warm water plankton over the Grand Banks of Newfoundland has been shown clearly and regularly in samples taken throughout the year.

In part, this extension of the survey has been made possible by the award of a contract from the U.S. Office of Naval Research, under which two Research Fellows will join the Edinburgh staff in 1962. The assistance of members of the staffs of the Icelandic Fisheries Laboratory and the Woods Hole Laboratory of the U.S. Bureau of Commercial Fisheries in supervising recorders during transit is also gratefully acknowledged.

Assessment Working Group

Members of the staffs of the Lowestoft and Aberdeen laboratories took part in resumed meetings (under the Chairmanship of Mr. R.J.H. Beverton), both in Lowestoft in March and during the course of the Commission's Annual Meeting in May. A report has been submitted to the Commission and prepared for publication.

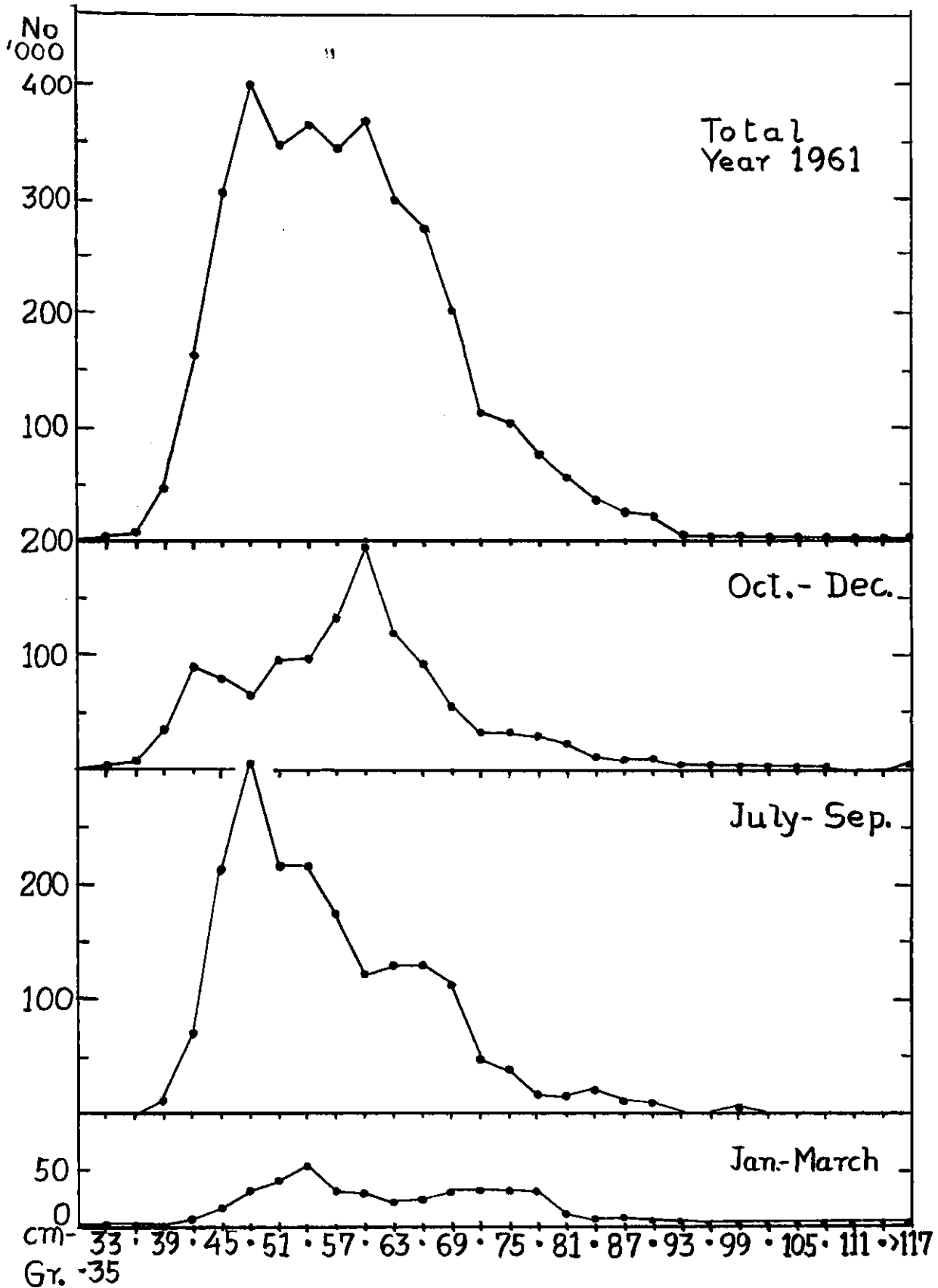


Fig. 1. Cod 1961. Numbers landed in British ports from Subarea 1 (excluding factory trawlers). Numbers and weights (tons, gutted) - Jan/March: 435,538 - 960t; July/Sept.: 1,924,817 - 3,020t; Oct./Dec.: 1,217,348 - 1,680t; Year: 3,577,703 - 5,660t.

Environmental Working Group

The initial meeting was held in Aberdeen during March (under the Chairmanship of Dr. C.E. Lucas). During the annual meeting a report was completed, providing a programme of research and plans for a Symposium in 1963. Members of the staffs of both Government laboratories worked with the Group and are at present closely concerned with developing plans for co-operation research vessel surveys in subarea 1 and 2

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