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## German Research Report, 1962. Part B. by J. Messtorff.

Early in 1962 the German FRS. "Anton Dohrn" paid a short visit to Subdivisions 3M and 3K (23.-27. Febr.) on her way to Westgreenland. Due to very bad weather conditions and to limited time only few experimental hauls and hydrographic stations could be carried out. For these research hauls the trawl codend was fitted with small meshed netting (inside) in order to get information on the distribution of small cod. The percentage length compositions of cod caught on the southern slope of Flemish Cap (3M) in 310 m and at the shelf edge east of Belle Isle (3K) in 330 m are given in fig. 1). On Flemish Cap small cod ranging from 17 to 26 cm in length (mean length 22.0 cm) - forming the outstanding first peak in the length composition - were dominating with 60% and were all 2 years of age (1960 year-class). The remaining 40% were 3 to 5 years old (mean length 40.1 cm). The total average length was 29.4 cm. Off northern Newfoundland (3K) in about the same fishing depth (330 m) the smallest cod measured 24 cm with less than 3% below 30 cm and only a few 2 years old fish. About 50% measured between 40 and 50 cm. The total average length was here 43.7 cm.



Fig. 1. Cod length compositions, FRS. "Anton Dohrn" February, 1962. in Subdivision 3M and 3K.

On the southern slope of Flemish Cap water temperatures were rather uniform with about 4°C between surface and 270 m depth. In the northern part of Subdiv. 3K surface temperatures near the shelf edge were between  $-0.4^{\circ}$  and  $+0.8^{\circ}$ C and surface salinities between 33.79 and 34.150/00. Both, temperatures and salinities were increasing slowly with depth. Bottom temperatures and salinities at the same stations were as follows:

at	350 m	+2,5°C,	34.46 0/00
	500	+3.3,	34.74
	680	+3,6,	34.89

<u>Cod Taggings</u>: In November 1960 a total of 141 cod were tagged on board a commercial trawler in Subdiv. 2J (the trawler was originally bound for Greenland waters, where a cod tagging programme was to be carried out). Release position:  $53^{\circ}20^{\circ}N$ ,  $52^{\circ}25^{\circ}W$ . The fishing depth was 260-275 m. All cod were in relatively poor condition. At the end of August 1961 one cod was recovered by a Portuguese trawler on the northern slope of the Newfoundland Bank, Subdiv. 3L. The position of recapture was  $48^{\circ}50^{\circ}N$ ,  $50^{\circ}09^{\circ}W$ . The fish measured 57 cm at release and after recapture a length of 58 cm was reported. All fish were tagged with yellow plastic tags with the letters DHB and a number.

<u>Commercial fishery</u>: Because of good fishing conditions in Greenland waters, fishing activity of German trawlers was very low during 1962 in Labrador and Newfoundland waters. Only a total of 14 trips to Labrador and Newfoundland have been carried out in January, February and March 1962. Among these trips, however, two trawlers landed mixed catches from Newfoundland/Westgreenland and two from Labrador/Westgreenland. The landings are given in the following table:

Landed	Weight	in Tons

	Labrador 2J	New 3K	foundland 3L	Total	
Cod	557	296	-49	902	
Redfish	1452	1567	90	3109	
Other fish ) incl. fishmeal ) etc.	189	234	66	489	
total	2198	2097	205	4500	
trips	'7	6	1	14	
fishing days	75	69	9	153	

From April until the end of October 1992 no fishing took place by German trawlers off Labrador or Newfoundland and in November/December 62 only two trips have been reported. Both deepfreezing trawlers fished partly in Subdiv. 2J, 3K, 3L and 3M and additionally in Westgreenland waters. Their catch statistics are not yet available.

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