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PART D.General Information on the Fishery for Cod by
Spanish Trawlers in the ICNAF Area
During the 1962 Seasonby Captain J.L. Arambarri,
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This report is for the large size trawlers and does not include the pair trawler "parejas".

1962 fishing season for the Spanish fleet of large size trawlers began during the month of February in the western banks of the ICNAF area, Subareas 3 and 4. From the start catches were good but the size of the cod was generally smaller than the previous years. Less quantities of large sized cod were captured compared with 1961. Very large "stocks" of small cod were found but abandoned without fishing them except for trial purposes. This cod will form an important source for the coming years. Worms were noticed in the fish caught in the south part of the St. Lawrence Gulf.

Subarea 3L was fished later and important quantities of fairly large-sized cod were captured. The fishing in this area lasted a short time because the cod "stock" was very dynamic and disappeared rather quickly as has been noticed in other years. Very good fishing lasted for about ten days. This was about the end of March. Most of the fish were ready to spawn. The females were full of eggs and the males milt. Few fish were empty of sex products. The fish of this subarea were the largest in size, except one caught in Greenland during the year by the Spanish trawlers.

The second part of the first trip was made during the months of April and May in the Subareas 2 and 3 (2J and 3K). Large quantities of cod were caught continuously during this period. The cod was, as usual, the only species sought by the Spanish trawlers and was, as in previous years, of medium size. Most of the trawlers finished their first trip and left for home from this area to land their cargos during the month of May, some a little later.

Fishing was resumed by some of the trawlers early in June in Subarea 2 and by some in Subarea 3. Captures in both subareas were of the same type, a medium sized cod, smaller than in the early spring and very abundant. The month of July marked a steady decline in the fishing in both subareas and by the end of the month fishing was scarce and reduced to small stocks. It was presumed that the fish moved toward the shore of Labrador into shoaler water. The following month in the subareas did not show good fishing except for a period during the first part of the month of September in Division 3K. The fishing season was closed in this general subarea at the beginning of December without any improvement in the captures.

During the month of September a cod was caught in Subarea 2J with a Danish tag which was presumably tagged in Greenland. It is

the third record of a cod with a Danish tag caught in or near the Hamilton Bank of Labrador.

In Subareas 2 and 3 (2J and 3K) were noticed large schools of small cod which did not reach the minimum standard size for the Spanish cod market.

Several of the Spanish trawlers fished on Greenland Banks (Subarea 1) during the month of August mainly. At this time fish were abundant and were moving continuously. Trawlers moved continuously from place to place inside Great and Little Hellefiske Banks. During long periods fish were found to be pelagic or off the bottom. Most of the cod caught were 70 cm and over.

In Subareas 1, 2 and 3, on the edges of the fishing grounds, large amounts of redfish were caught and discarded entirely. Many times they were mixed with cod.

The central region of Subarea 3 had an abundance of flat fishes and there appeared to be more halibut present than in previous years. These flat fishes were discarded.
