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Preliminary report on catches of Atlantic salmon  
in the Labrador Sea, March 29-April 5, 1968

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INTRODUCTION

Surface drift net catches of Atlantic salmon in the Labrador Sea and off Newfoundland have been reported by Templeman (1967) for July-August, 1965 and by Templeman (MS, 1967) for March-May, 1966. These catches were taken off southern Labrador and Newfoundland. From March 29 to April 5, 1968 the research vessel A.T. Cameron fished 5 overnight drift net sets off northern Labrador, catching a total of 23 salmon.

SALMON CATCHES

Positions, temperatures, numbers caught, and individual fish lengths and weights are listed in Table 1. The third position was not far from the ice edge, which at this time extended eastward to about the 1000-fathom (1800 m) isobath along the Labrador coast.

Gear consisted of 50-fathom (92 m) polypropylene gillnets, about 2.5 fathoms (4.6 m) deep, of mesh sizes  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 inches (90 to 150 mm). The headrope was strengthened by addition of a three-quarter inch (19 mm) diameter polypropylene rope. No salmon were taken by the smallest mesh net (only one 90 mm net was used). The nets were set at dusk or later and hauled shortly after dawn. They were fished at the surface, and most salmon were taken in the upper metre of the net, frequently within the first 5 or 6 meshes below the headrope. Sea conditions caused a good deal of tangling of the gear, e.g. rolling up of nets around the headrope, and sometimes around each other.

Five of the 23 salmon caught were alive when taken aboard. None of these would have been suitable for tagging. Scales have not yet been examined, but it is evident from the sizes taken that most fish would have returned to the rivers as 2+ sea age fish, assuming they did return in 1968.

REFERENCES

Templeman, W. 1967. Atlantic salmon from the Labrador Sea and off West Greenland taken during A.T. Cameron cruise, July-August, 1965. ICNAF Res. Bull., No. 4: 5-40.

Templeman, W. MS, 1967. Distribution and characteristics of Atlantic salmon over oceanic depths and on the bank and shelf slope areas off Newfoundland, March-May, 1966. ICNAF Ann. Meet., 1967, Res. Doc. 67/65, Ser. No. 1856, 38 pp.

Table 1. Salmon caught in the Labrador Sea, March 29-April 5, 1968.

Date	Lat. N Long. W	Bottom Depth (m)	Surf. Temp. °C	Number of Nets	Hours Fished	Fork Length (cm)	Whole Weight		Gutted Weight	
							*Pounds	Kg	*Pounds	Kg
r. 29-30	60°00' 55°55'	2930	3.6	20	12.6	63	5.7	2.59	5.2	2.26
						71	7.6	3.45	6.6	3.00
						74	10.2	4.62	9.1	4.11
r. 30-31	58°05' 55°36'	3020	3.6	22	11.9	64	5.6	2.55	5.0	2.27
						64	6.3	2.85	5.7	2.60
						65	5.9	2.67	5.2	2.38
						67	6.3	2.86	5.6	2.56
						68	6.8	3.09	6.0	2.71
						69	8.0	3.61	6.9	3.11
						70	7.4	3.35	6.3	2.87
						71	7.0	3.16	6.2	2.80
						72	7.3	3.29	6.7	3.04
						74	8.5	3.85	7.6	3.45
77	11.2	5.07	9.8	4.45						
r. 1	56°58' 56°08'	2380	2.7	24	6.7	64	5.5	2.48	4.9	2.21
						71	9.7	4.40	8.8	3.99
r. 3-4	56°08' 52°59'	3110	3.4	23	12.5	64	5.3	2.39	4.6	2.10
						66	5.6	2.52	4.9	2.20
						76	7.8	3.54	6.9	3.11
r. 4-5	55°42' 50°35'	3400	2.9	24	10.4	64	5.2	2.36	4.7	2.13
						64	5.6	2.53	5.1	2.32
						70	6.7	3.03	5.8	2.61
						70	6.9	3.15	6.2	2.80

\* Fish were weighed in Kg and the weights later converted to pounds.