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The United States Report on the Operation of the 10 Percent
Annual Exemption to the Subarea 5 Mesh Regulation, 1969

During calendar year 1969, annual exemption certificates were issued to 49 U.S. trawlers, 3 less than 1968. At year's end (December 31, 1969), 34 certificates were active (Table 1), 12 were temporarily suspended and 2 had been canceled. Trawlers of the U.S. are required by domestic regulations to suspend their annual exemption certificates and to remove all small meshed trawl nets from the vessel when primarily engaged in catching fish under regulation.

Vessels in the 51 to 100 tonnage class continued to hold the greater number of exemption certificates. These are vessels which normally engage in the ground-fish fishery from October to April using large mesh trawl nets and from May to September fish primarily for silver hake using small mesh trawl nets.

A substantial shrimp fishery commenced in 1969 resulting in a change in the level of catch of codfish landed by exempted vessels, especially those landing in Gloucester, Mass. From Table 2, it will be noted that the percentage of cod landed increased from 3.3 percent in 1968 to 8.4 percent in 1969. When computing the percentage of regulated fish landed by exempted trawlers, only the weight of finfish is used; therefore, the weight of any shrimp landed is eliminated from the calculations. The number of excess trips noted in Table 4 also reflects the change. The vessels involved in past years were engaged in fishing for silver hake, which were used when computing the allowable percentage of cod or of haddock.

TABLE 1
Number of 10 Percent Annual Exemption Certificates
by Tonnage Class in Effect at End of Year

Gross Tons	Class	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
0-25	OTS	1	1	1	3	0
26-50	OTS	7	10	5	3	9
51-100	OTM	16	24	16	10	15
101-150	OTM	1	0	1	1	1
151-200	OTL	5	6	5	4	5
Over 200	OTL	1	1	1	2	4
TOTAL		31	42	29	23	34

TABLE 2
Analysis of Landings Under 10 Percent Annual Exemption
Subarea 5 (Metric Tons, Live Weight)

	1965		1966		1967		1968		1969	
Fishing Trips	2,000		2,140		1,347		996		1,855	
	M. Tons	%	M. Tons	%	M. Tons	%	M. Tons	%	M. Tons	%
All Species	29,320	100.0	24,076	100.0	16,264	100.0	14,167	100.0	18,143	100.0
Haddock	1,510	5.2	1,569	6.5	922	5.7	307	2.2	422	2.3
Cod	780	2.7	795	3.3	647	4.0	465	3.3	1,516	8.4
Redfish	4,914	16.8	6,137	25.5	4,408	27.0	2,104	14.9	8,213	45.3
Silver Hake	13,241	45.1	12,589	52.3	8,141	50.1	10,360	73.0	4,716	26.0
Other ¹	8,875	30.2	2,986	12.4	2,146	13.2	931	6.6	3,276	18.0
1. Includes cusk, flounder, pollock, white hake, etc.										

TABLE 3

Analysis of Landings Under 10 Percent Annual Exemption
Subareas 4 and 5 (Metric Tons, Live Weight)

	1965		1966		1967		1968		1969	
Fishing Trips	2,110		2,241		1,981		1,040		1,895	
	M. Tons	%	M. Tons	%	M. Tons	%	M. Tons	%	M. Tons	%
All Species	37,091	100.0	30,915	100.0	19,010	100.0	17,904	100.0	21,878	100.0
Haddock	1,518	4.1	1,574	5.1	926	4.9	311	1.7	423	1.9
Cod	787	2.1	805	2.6	651	2.4	469	2.6	1,517	6.9
Redfish	13,083	35.3	12,940	41.9	7,048	37.1	5,798	32.4	11,940	54.6
Silver Hake	12,815	34.6	12,589	40.7	8,141	42.8	10,360	57.9	4,716	21.6
Other ¹	8,888	24.0	3,007	9.7	2,244	11.8	966	5.4	3,282	15.0

1. Includes cusk, flounder, pollock, white hake, etc.

TABLE 4

Number of "Excess Trips"¹ by Exempted Vessels

Month	No. of Excess Trips	Subarea 5, 1969		Total Subarea 5 Landings (Metric Tons, Live)	
		Quantity Excess Metric Tons, Live		Cod	Haddock
		Cod	Haddock	Cod	Haddock
Jan.	1	1.64	-	1,567	1,127
Feb.	-	-	-	1,106	1,058
Mar.	2	3.51	-	1,748	1,855
Apr.	4	1.58	7.02	2,270	2,760
May	16	26.34	4.66	2,927	1,924
Jun.	23	41.09	5.62	2,479	2,456
Jul.	19	29.45	9.37	2,180	1,575
Aug.	18	30.68	6.40	2,108	1,621
Sept.	16	34.49	4.09	2,516	1,538
Oct.	16	41.94	18.76	2,216	1,576
Nov.	5	2.04	.78	1,568	861
Dec.	5	2.49	1.71	1,466	719
TOTAL	125	215.75	58.41	26,083	18,870

1. Vessels which land more than 5,000 pounds or 10 percent by weight of all fish on board. These vessels if they had been on a trip basis would have been in violation.