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Status of the Fisheries and Research carried out in Subarea 5 in 1969

by G.F.M.Smith
Fisheries Research Board of Canada
Ottawa

Reports on research have been submitted by Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Poland, USSR, UK and USA.

The following papers are pertinent: Comm.Docs. 70/20, 23; Res.Docs. 70/10, 13, 16, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25, 31, 39, 52, 59, 62, 63, 69,70, 71, 72, 76, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83,84, 86, 87, 91, 94.

1. Status of the Fisheries

The total nominal catch in Subarea 5 decreased in 1969 to 838,000 metric tons from 906,000 metric tons in 1968. This decrease was shared by Canada, Poland and USA. Federal Republic of Germany and Spain showed little change and the USSR catch increased from 282,000 metric tons to 380,000.

Subarea 5 Nominal Catch
(000's metric tons - by countries)

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Canada	100	61
Fed.Rep.Germany	71	73
Poland	80	56
Spain	18	16
USSR	282	380
USA	<u>281</u>	<u>237</u>
All countries	906	838

Subarea 5 Nominal Catch
(000's metric tons - by species)

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>
Cod	49	45
Haddock	44	25
Redfish	7	12
Silver hake	81	82
Flounders	53	78
Red hake	19	50
Herring	407	258
Mackerel	51	64
Alewife	21	27
Shellfish	<u>97</u>	<u>85</u>
All species	906	838

The notable decreases in catch were haddock and especially herring. The increase in silver hake, flounders, red hake and mackerel were largely due to USSR catches.

(over)

Iceland and Norway participated in the Subarea 5 herring fishery for the first time, catching 13,000 and 1,000 metric tons respectively.

The report of 7,000 tons of sculpins ascribed to the USSR in Res.Doc. 70/31 is an error.

2. Research Carried Out

Canada

Collaborative study of the scallop fishery with the US Bureau of Commercial Fisheries was continued. Herring studies were restricted to larval abundance and distribution. Swordfish work was continued and some concern expressed over the decline in the average size of that fish as possibly due to overfishing.

Federal Republic of Germany

Sampling studies on herring were carried out. Meristic characters and age composition were used in comparing herring from different regions to understand stock divisions or subdivisions.

Poland

Studies on herring of length and age composition and of fecundity were carried out.

USSR

Environmental studies in Subarea 5 involved both hydrography and plankton work. In October and November a joint cruise with USA on distribution and abundance of groundfish was carried out. Studies of herring spawning on Georges Bank were continued and the observed decrease was attributed to reduced stock.

UK

The Continuous Plankton Recorder Survey extended into Subarea 5 again in 1969 with 744 miles of recording.

USA

Biological and hydrographic environmental studies of previous years were continued as were joint plankton studies with the USSR. A cooperative joint groundfish survey with the USSR was carried out.

Extensive studies on haddock, yellowtail and herring were carried out and these species are subject of concern regarding the state of the populations.

Tagging of offshore lobsters showed that large females move greater distances than do inshore lobsters.

3. Special Concern over Haddock, Hakes, Herring and Yellowtail

These species are under especially close study because of concern regarding the state of the exploited populations. The Assessments Subcommittee have been asked for advice on these populations and this advice is most pertinent to the deliberations of this group of scientific advisers and to the members of Panel 5. Haddock, red hake and silver hake are already under an ICAF catch control regulation and their status should be reviewed.