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Status of the Fisheries and Research carried out in Subarea 5 in 1970

by

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Reports on research have been received from Canada, Federal Republic of Germany, Spain, Poland, USSR, UK, USA.

The following papers are pertinent:

Comm. Docs. 71/1, 11, 15, 16, 17, 20.  
Res. Docs. 71/14, 26, 27, 28, 32, 41, 43, 44, 47, 48, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 59, 61, 84, 85, 87, 92, 97, 99, 100, 101, 102, 105, 106, 113, 114, 115, 117, 122, 125.

1. Status of the fisheries.

The total nominal catch again decreased, from 864,000 metric tons in 1969 to 654,000 in 1970 (76%). The decrease was shared by Canada, Spain, USSR and USA, and only moderate increase in tonnage was obtained by Federal Republic of Germany and Poland.

Notable decreases in catch were shown for all major species except mackerel and this increase is entirely due to effort diverted from other species, especially by Poland and to a lesser extent by USSR.

Subarea 5 Nominal Catch

(000's metric tons - by countries)

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1969/1970</u>
Canada	100	60	47	78%
Fed.Rep. Germany	71	74	92	125%
Poland	80	56	102	172%
Spain	18	16	8	50%
USSR	282	380	166	44%
USA	281	263	230	87%
All countries	906	864	654	76%

Subarea 5 Nominal Catch

(000's metric tons - by species)

	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1970/1969</u>
Cod	49	46	35	76%
Haddock	44	25	13	52%
Redfish	7	12	17	140%
Silver hake	81	88	48	54%
Flounders	53	78	55	70%
Red hake	19	50	11	22%
Herring	407	259	219	84%
Mackerel	51	65	102	157%
Alewife	21	26	14	54%
Shellfish	97	107	84	78%
All species	906	864	654	76%

2. Research carried out

The six Comm.Docs. and 35 or so Res.Docs. referring in part or whole to Subarea 5 reflect in international concern for decreasing catches of major species and the assessments of the state of the stocks. The Environmental Subcommittee has reviewed and commented on the hydrographic conditions and the Assessments Subcommittee on the state of stocks, the latter at a midterm meeting in January (Comm.Doc. 71/1) with revisions at the current May sessions.

On the basis of the research documents and Assessments Subcommittee deliberations new conservation measures are being urged for haddock (Comm.Doc. 71/15), yellowtail flounder (Comm.Doc. 71/16) and herring (Comm.Doc. 71/17, 20)

Joint research cruises in the subarea have been participated in by USSR, USA and Canada.