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Spanish Research Report, 1971

by

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Sixteen trawlers and 135 pair trawlers operated in the ICNAF Area during 1971. Total catch was 269,171.7 tons, being 254,733 tons cod and 7,821.5 tons haddock. Total tonnage of the fleet was 91,669 gross tons and the crews consisted of 4,319 fishermen. The evolution of these figures in the last four years is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Total catch, cod and haddock catches, total tonnage and number of fishermen of the Spanish fleet.

	1968	1969	1970	1971
Total catch	341,311	293,972	276,007	269,172
Cod catch	329,180	286,844	267,888	254,733
Haddock catch	10,185	5,138	6,564	7,821.5
Total tonnage	93,705	89,205	83,605	91,669
Fishermen	4,847	4,414	4,053	4,319

Cod and total catches have decreased since 1968, but haddock catch has increased since 1969.

Table 2. Cod catches in the different subareas during the last four years.

Subarea	1968	1969	1970	1971
1	21,688	23,781	18,799	22,085
2	32,853	33,152	10,683	5,611
3	201,008	171,231	164,530	171,541
4	59,010	44,930	66,629	47,878
5	14,621	13,750	7,247	7,618
Total	329,180	286,844	267,888	254,733

The greatest decrease in cod catch is observed in Subarea 2.

Subarea 1

A. Status of the fisheries

Main fishing activity took place in Div. 1C (8,416.2 tons of cod) and 1D (11,387.4 tons of cod). In 1970 the main fishing activity was in Div. 1D, 1B, and 1A.

Subarea 2

A. Status of the fisheries

Small catches were made in this Subarea, the greatest being 5,333.4 tons of cod in Div. 2J.

Subarea 3

A. Status of the fisheries

Total cod catches in Subarea 3 increased (7,011 tons) 4.3%. In 1970 Div. 3L and 3O provided 58%, and in 1971 provided 61.1% of the whole catch from this Subarea. Total haddock catch in 1971 was 3,156 tons, 63% in Div. 3N and 3O.

B. Special research studies

Cod catch by a trawler was sampled in February and March from Div. 3Ps and 3L, for length, age and sex. The following numbers of cod were measured and had otoliths read: in Div. 3Ps 2,459 and 94; and in Div. 3L, 2,145 and 93.

A significant deviation from 50% in the proportion of sexes was observed in March for cod less than 53.5 cm. Females were more numerous than males.

Subarea 4

A. Status of the fisheries

Cod catch was 18,751 tons less (28%) than last year. Div. 4Vs and 4W provided in 1970 and also in 1971, 82% of the whole cod catch from this Subarea.

Haddock catch was 3,175.3 tons, 571 tons more than in 1970. Div. 4Vs and 4W provided 81.5% of the total haddock catch in this Subarea. In 1970 these divisions gave 83% of the haddock catch in Subarea 4.

Pollock catch (738.6 tons) was up about 40% over 1970 (525.9 tons). Pollock is caught in Div. 4R, 4Vn, 4Vs, 4W and 4X. In 1970 nearly 80% of the whole catch in Subarea 4 was in 4W, but in 1971 was only 44%, owing to a great increase in 4Vn and 4Vs.

B. Special research studies

Cod catch by a trawler was sampled in March and April from Div. 4Vs for length, age and sex. The following numbers of cod were measured and had otoliths read: in March, 2,587 and 151; in April, 2,242 and 116.

Significant deviations from 50% in proportion of sexes were observed in April in cod less than 53.5 cm as well as in other larger than this size. In both cases, females were more numerous than males.

Subarea 5

A. Status of the fisheries

Total catch was 9,401.8 tons, an increase of 15.2% over the 1970 catch.

Cod catch has remained at the 1970 level, but haddock catch (1,335.9 tons) increased over 1970 catch (845.1 tons) by 58%, mainly in Div. 5Ze.