

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR



THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

Serial No. 2966  
(D.a.72)

ICNAF Summ.Doc. 73/12

## ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1973

## NORWEGIAN RESEARCH REPORT, 1972

by

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## I. Subareas 1, 2 and 3

## A. Status of the fisheries

From 1971 to 1972 there was a marked increase in the fishing effort in subarea 1 and a corresponding increase in catch.

In Subareas 2 and 3 the activity decreased from 1971 to 1972.

These changes are illustrated in the Table below.

Catch and Effort data, 1971 and 1972 (provisional figures for 1972).

ICNAF Subareas	Days fished, trawlers.		Catch trawlers (metric tons)		Total catch (metric tons)	
	1971	1972	1971	1972	1971	1972
1	206	767	2338	21488	7893	33001
2	259	49	5556	1111	5556	2345
3	71	24	2187	362	21178	6142
Total	536	840	10081	22961	34627	41488

In Subarea 1 an expanding fishery for deep sea prawn gave catches of 684 metric tons in 1972. Except for this development, the species composition of the total catch did not change significantly from 1971 to 1972.

Catch (metric tons) by species and Subareas, 1972 (provisional figures).

ICNAF Subareas	Cod	Redfish	Halibut	Greenland halibut	Deep Sea prawn	Salmon
1	32080	50 <sup>+</sup>	14 <sup>+</sup>	15 <sup>+</sup>	684	158
2	1111	-	79	1155	-	-
3	6142 <sup>++</sup>	-	-	-	-	-
Total	39333	50	93	1170	684	158

+ Estimated by catch in the cod fisheries

++ Most of this Catch (5780 tons) was taken by longlines. Some of these longline catches may have been taken from Subarea 2, but we have not

been able to split it between the areas.

No length or age sampling was carried out.

B. Special Research Studies

Capelin. Capelin investigations were carried out on a survey with

R. V. "Johan Hjort" in Newfoundland waters 17 May to 19 June 1972.

A more detailed report on the results is given in a research document by O. Dragesund and T. Monstad (ICNAF Res.Doc. 73/33, Serial No. 2967).

The aim of the survey was to gain more knowledge about the distribution and migration of the capelin, the structure and size of the resource and the catchability, particularly of the mature stock prior to and during the spawning season.

The capelin was distributed over large areas on the Grand Banks from the ice edge to the tail of the bank. The highest concentrations were found in the northern part and at the Southeast Shoal. The 1969 year-class dominated the mature part of the stock, followed by the 1968 year-class. The behaviour of capelin off Newfoundland during the spawning migration apparently is different from that observed for the Barents Sea capelin. No dense shoals were observed during the spawning migration on the Grand Banks towards the Southeast Shoal. The mature capelin gradually approached the spawning grounds in rather small shoals. Three Norwegian purse seiners accompanied R. V. "Johan Hjort". In May no suitable shoals for purse seining were found. However, from the first week of June onwards, purse seining might be a possibility as concentrations become denser at the Southeast Shoal. Spawning started in the middle of June.

On the basis of echo integrator readings, the total abundance of capelin in the area covered was estimated to be about 0.8 mill. tons.

The recorded abundance may be only a small part of the total resource off Newfoundland and Labrador. In order to obtain more information on the resource, research has to be carried out further north along the coast throughout the summer and early autumn.

II. Harp and Hooded seals

A. Status of the fisheries

Status of the fisheries is reviewed in  
Report of Mid - Term Meeting of Scientific Advisers to Panel A,  
Charlottenlund, Denmark, 6-7 November 1972 (Serial No. 2906).

B. Special Research Studies

In 1972 harp and hooded seals were studied on the Front off  
Newfoundland-Labrador on board a commercial sealer during the  
sealing season from 12 March to 24 April. Ice-edges and the  
distribution of seals were plotted and 26 hooded seal pups and  
61 harp seal pups were tagged. One young harp seal was recaptured  
in Disko Bay, West-Greenland in late September. This is the third  
young harp seal tagged by Norway off Newfoundland which has been  
recaptured in West-Greenland in the autumn of the year it was  
tagged. A hooded seal tagged at Newfoundland in 1971 was recap-  
tured in southern West-Greenland in April 1972 and a hooded seal  
tagged at Newfoundland in 1970 was recaptured in the Angmagssalik  
Fiord in East Greenland in late July 1972. This is the first recovery  
near the moulting area in the Denmark Strait of a hooded seal  
from Newfoundland.

Dated and sexed material for age-analysis was collected from 747  
hooded seals. Additional age material was collected from 255  
hoods and 149 harps by sealers. Material for studies of reproductive  
performance was collected from 156 hooded seals. A total of 148  
harp seal pups were weighed and measured.

