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Summary of information on boardings by Canadian ICNAF inspectors  
of Spanish fishing vessels in ICNAF Subareas 4 and 5

To date, in 1974 Canadian ICNAF inspectors have conducted a total of 26 boardings of Spanish vessels fishing in Subareas 4 and 5. With respect to the operations of the Spanish fleet, these inspections revealed: (1) widespread use of small meshed nets for fishing cod, (2) frequent catches of haddock in excess of ICNAF exemption limits, and (3) a total absence of logbook reporting of by-catches and discards.

1. In eighteen percent of the inspections, Spanish vessels were found to be using small mesh codends contrary to the ICNAF trawl regulations. The mesh size of the illegal codends has ranged from less than 70 mm (so small that the Canadian inspectors could not insert ICNAF gauge in the net to measure it) to 116 mm, whereas the ICNAF minimum in the areas concerned is 120 mm for trawls constructed of polyamide fibres. In addition, in one instance, the escapement of small fish was further restricted through the improper attachment of topside chafing gear.
2. On several occasions during the year, Canadian surveillance has shown many Spanish trawlers fishing in areas of high haddock concentrations, where Canadian vessels were forced to suspend fishing operations in order to avoid grossly exceeding the ICNAF 10% or 5,000 lb incidental catch limit. During three inspections Canadian inspectors found that haddock formed between 40% and 95% in the catches of the Spanish vessels. In one case, a pair of Spanish trawlers admitted to having 20% haddock on board, in spite of the fact that much of cod on board was caught in Subarea 3. (The ICNAF haddock catch allowance regulation states that a vessel may not have on board more than 10% haddock of all fish caught in a particular Subarea.)
3. Every Spanish vessel inspected had its logbook examined by the Canadian inspector. Every logbook inspection showed that the Captains were only recording three species: cod, haddock and pollock, as being caught despite the fact that most catches observed contained other species (mainly flounder) in varying amounts. These other species often made up a substantial proportion of the total catch (as high as 60%), and all were discarded. During virtually every boarding, Spanish fishermen were seen discarding the small haddock and cod which could not be split and salted. Catches of these small fish were not recorded in logbooks.

Summary of Canadian Boardings of Spanish Vessels

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Date Boarded</u>	<u>ICNAF Division of Boarding</u>	<u>Catch Inspected</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Marolez	May 21	4W	1.5T. (Cod 95%)	
Borda Berri Borda Aundi	May 27	4W	0.5T. (Haddock 80%) (Cod 10%)	Both vessels small mesh nets, improperly attached chafer, 20% Haddock catch on board.
Jose Cornide	May 27	4W	0.5T. (Cod 50%) (Haddock 40%)	Excessive haddock catches.
Urizar	May 27	4W	1.0T. (Cod 85%) (Haddock 10%)	
Urizar	May 30	5Z	5.25T. (Haddock 95%) (Flounder 5%)	Excessive haddock catches.
Elizacho Elizondo	June 2	5Z	3.0T. (Cod 100%)	Both vessels small mesh nets.
Xaxan	June 2	5Z	2.2T. (Cod 90%) (Haddock 10%)	Small mesh net.
Borda Berri Borda Aundi	June 2	5Z	0.1T. (Cod 100%)	
Meixueriro	June 2	5Z	2.0T. (Cod 100%)	
Julio Molina	June 2	5Z	7.5 T. (Cod 92%)	
Angelote Cachuelo	June 2	5Z	0.6T. (Cod 100%)	
Meixueriro	June 2	5Z	3.4T. (Cod 40%)	
Donosti	June 9	5Z	1.0T. (Cod 100%)	

<u>Vessel Name</u>	<u>Date Boarded</u>	<u>ICNAF Division of Boarding</u>	<u>Catch Inspected</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Irumako	June 9	5Z	2.0T. (Cod 100%)	
Donosti	June 20	5Z	0.5T. (Cod 90%)	
Rio Piles	June 23	5Z	0.5T. (Cod 90%)	
Jose Cornide Eduardo	June 23	5Z	0.5T. (Cod 90%)	
Arosa Quarto Arosa Quinto	June 23	5Z	0.5T. (Cod 90%)	
Uralde Urizar	June 23	5Z	0.5T. (Cod 90%)	
Julio Molina Angelia Meirama	November 6	4W	Cod	Small mesh net.

