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the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

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Further elaboration of Canadian proposal for reduction in fishing effort in groundfish stocks in Subareas 2, 3 and 4 in 1976

In Commissioners' Document 75/IX/40 it was indicated that a further Commissioners' Document would be submitted including tabulated information on fishing effort on groundfish in recent years in (1) Subarea 2 and Division 3K, (2) Division 3M, (3) Division 3LNO, (4) Division 3P and (5) Division 4VWX. The attached table summarizes information from ICNAF statistics showing the days fished by each country by vessels categorized by gear and tonnage in each of the above areas, averaged for the years 1972 and 1973.

Comparable statistics are available for these two years only. It seems desirable to have a broader base for the reduction in effort than would be given by one year only. The grand total of days fishing for groundfish was about 10% higher in the 1972-73 average than in 1973 alone. A 45% reduction from the 1972-73 average would, therefore, have the same average effect as a 40% reduction from the 1973 level. Canada is now modifying its original proposal, accordingly, to a 45% reduction below the 1972-73 averages of days fishing for groundfish by each country, other than the coastal states, in each of the five areas listed above by each category of vessel by gear and tonnage. The relevant figures for the 1972-73 averages appear in the attached table.

To avoid disruption of small fisheries which are not important factors in the general conservation problem, the Canadian proposal is further modified to exempt from the reduction, all cases where the number of fishing days by vessels of any country in any size and gear category in any of the five areas is less than 200. As a corollary, it is proposed that, in cases where the number is over 200, it not be reduced below that level. On the other hand, it is proposed that no increase above the 1972-73 average be permitted.

There is a precedent in ICNAF quota regulations for the provision of an "Others" category to provide for fishing by non-members or member nations which have done little or no fishing. It is proposed that this principle be applied to the present proposal and that a limited number of fishing days be allocated to an "Others" category in each of the five areas and that any country (as in the case of quota regulations) have the privilege of fishing within this "Others" category, rather than under a national allocation. The number of days so allocated should not, however, be large enough to affect the efficiency of the effort reduction seriously and consequently, should not increase the grand total of the reduced number of fishing days more than 1% or 2% in any of the five areas.

Days fished for groundfish - 1972-73 average.

Country	Vessel tonnage	Gear	Area				
			SA2+3K	3LNO	3M	3P	4VWX
Bulgaria	>2000	OT	-	19	-	-	-
		MWT	2	-	-	-	-
Denmark (F) ✓	NK	NK	232	34	759	42	676
Denmark (G) ✓	150-499.9	OT	13	8	-	-	-
	500-999.9	OT	61	12	-	-	-
France (M)	1000-1999.9	OT	411	269	105	109	492
France (SP)	150-499.9	OT	-	108	-	288	102
FRG	1000-1999.9	OT	316	10	18	-	-
	>2000	OT	781	36	26	3	3
GDR	500-999.9	OT	2	-	-	-	-
	1000-1999.9	OT	914	76	-	1	66
	1000-1999.9	MWT	6	1	-	-	-
	>2000	OT	224	10	-	-	-
	>2000	MWT	4	-	-	-	-
Iceland	500-999.9	OT	3	-	-	-	-

Country	Vessel tonnage	Gear	Area				
			SA2+3K	3LNO	3M	3P	4VWX
Italy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Japan [∇]	1000-1999.9	OT	-	1	-	1	9
	>2000	OT	-	30	3	38	133
Norway [∇]	150-499.9	OT	58	-	7	-	-
	150-499.9	LL	103	17	47	122	112
	500-999.9	OT	82	-	3	-	-
	1000-1999.9	OT	37	-	-	-	-
Poland	1000-1999.9	OT	-	-	-	-	19
	>2000	OT	2060	373	58	5	10
Portugal	500-999.9	DV	-	281	6	62	18
	500-999.9	GN	-	324	-	-	-
	1000-1999.9	OT	1510	2063	1039	106	191
	1000-1999.9	DV	-	65	-	16	11
	1000-1999.9	GN	-	650	-	9	1
	>2000	OT	627	638	407	38	101
Romania	>2000	OT	175	33	10	2	-
Spain [∇]	150-499.9	PT	47	5240	13	1118	1459
	500-999.9	PT	42	1852	8	237	740
	1000-1999.9	OT	245	386	233	128	257
	1000-1999.9	PT	3	291	-	57	120
USSR	150-499.9	OT	-	1024	23	1902	53
	500-999.9	OT	14	94	7	6	108
	>2000	OT	5046	2947	1304	154	6827
UK	500-999.9	OT	47	25	75	-	-
	1000-1999.9	OT	721	427	524	31	50
USA	0-49.9	LL	-	-	-	-	1
	50-149.9	OT	-	-	-	-	61
	150-499.9	OT	-	-	-	-	607
	150-499.9	MWT	-	-	-	-	4

Footnotes

- ∇ Denmark (F) did not report effort in 1972 or 1973. Effort is estimated by dividing average catch in each area by an assumed catch rate of 10 mt/day fished.
- ∇ Denmark (G) reported hours fished not days fished. Days fished are estimated assuming a ratio of 15 hrs per day fished.
- ∇ Japan reported hours fished not days fished in 1973. Days fished are estimated using the 1972 ratio of 13.5 hrs per day fished for Subareas 2+3, and 14.6 hrs per day fished for Div. 4VWX.
- ∇ Norway reported effort for only 53% of catch in 1972-73, and Div. of capture for only 67% of catch in 1972-73, for Subareas 2+3. Subarea 4 effort was not reported by Div.
- ∇ Figures for the PT gear categories are for days fishing by pairs of trawlers.

General footnote

Groundfish effort has been defined as effort for which more than 50% of the catch is groundfish. Groundfish is defined as all finfish species other than capelin, herring, mackerel, and "other pelagics". The basic data were obtained from Table 5 of ICNAF Statistical Bulletins Vols. 22 & 23.