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Spanish Research Report, 1975

by

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Definitive catch statistics for 1975 were not available. It was imposible to estimate the real catch of the Spanish fleet in the ICNAF area.

Very preliminary statistics show based upon the bi-monthly reports sent by the vessel's masters, that the most important species was the cod, followed by Squids (mainly Loligo), capelin, haddock and pollock. The two last ones are taken as by-catch of the directed cod fishery, which is operated mainly by pair trawlers, and takes place from Subareas 1 to 5.

In 1975, cod sampling was carried out in the months of January and February in Divisions 4Vn and 5Ze respectively, on board a Spanish pair trawler. Each one of the two boats of the fishing unit has 1400 HP and 594 GRT.

Capelin sampling and biological observations of the catches were carried out in Divisions 3D and 3N, on board a Spanish stern trawler of 1500 GRT and 2400 HP (Res.Doc. 76/VI/9).

A scouting cruise was carried out in Subareas 3 and 4, Divisions 3N, 3D, 3Ps, 4Vs and 4WX, directed to study the distribution and abundance of the Onmastrephid Illex illecebrosus, on board a Spanish commercial vessel (otter trawl type) of 284 GRT and 800 HP (Res.Doc. 76/VI/3).

Some observations of the Illex catches were carried out in Subareas 5 and Statistical area 6, during late June and the beggining of July, on board a Spanish stern trawler of 500 GRT and 1250 HP.

Subarea 1

A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

Bi-monthly reports show that the fishing season in this area extended from February to November.

The most important species in this area for the Spanish fleet was the cod.

Catch statistics were not available.

B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

Neither sampling nor other research study were carried out in this Subarea.

Subarea 2

A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

Bi-monthly reports show that the most important species is the cod. Fishing activity extended all the year.

No catch statistics were available.

B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

Neither sampling nor other research studies were carried out in this Division.

Subarea 3

A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

Catch statistics were not available

B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

1. Cod

Any research study was carried out for this species.

## 2. Capelin

During the months of June and July, biological data and observations of the capelin catches were carried out in Divisions 3N and 3O (Res.Doc. 76/VI/9).

These were carried out on board a Spanish stern trawler of 1500 GRT and 2400 HP. Fishing operations were carried out in depths ranging from 45 to 90 meters, and the biggest catches were obtained in depths ranging from 50 to 60 meters.

The average catch per day fished was 90.42 MT and the average catch per hour trawled was 11.63 MT.

Length frequencies distributions show that modal values for females are higher than for males.

## 3. Illex

Twenty tows were carried out by a scouting vessel, in Divisions 3NO and 3Pe, directed to study the distribution and abundance of Illex. (Res. Doc. 76/VI/3).

Fishing operations were carried out in depths ranging from 54 to 120 fathoms, and following the border of the shelves.

Only one specimen was taken that resulted to be a female of 170 mm of dorsal mantle length.

## Subarea 4

### A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

Catch statistics were not available

### B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

#### 1. Cod

Cod sampling was carried out in Division 4Vn in the month of January.

A total of 1610 individuals were measured and 208 taken for age determination.

Length and age compositions of the cod sampled in this subarea are given in tables 1 and 2.

## 2. Illex

Thirty two tows were carried in this subarea in order to study the distribution and abundance of this species (Res. Doc. 76/VI/3).

The biggest concentration of Illex was found in depths ranging from 76 to 84 fathoms.

A total 4488 specimens were measured modal length of the distributions ranged  $155 \pm 0.5$  mm. No sex differentiation was done.

### Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6

#### A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

Catch statistics were not available

#### B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

##### 1. Cod

Cod sampling was carried out during month of february in Division 52e. A total 572 individuals were measured and 213 taken for age determination. Length and age compositions of the cod sampled are given in tables 1 and 2.

##### 2. Illex

Observations on Illex by-catch fishery were carried out in order to calculate its amount, during late June and the beginning of July.

The catch of a total of 52 tows was observed during 18 days and the by-catch was estimated in 2.5%. The only species appeared in the by-catch were: Priapulus triacantus, Urophysis sp. and some specimens of Homarus americanus.

Table 1. Length composition (o/oo) of the cod sampled in Division 4Vn and 5Ze.

month/division

Length group (cm)	I	II
	4Vn	5Ze
39- 41	5	
42- 44	30	
45- 47	61	
48- 50	82	5
51- 53	129	9
54- 56	160	19
57- 59	175	33
60- 62	159	54
63- 65	96	105
66- 68	51	149
69- 71	34	159
72- 74	11	140
75- 77	4	136
78- 80	4	93
81- 83	1	51
84- 86		26
87- 89		10
90- 92		2
93- 95		
96- 98		3
99-101		5
Total	1002	999
n.f. measur.	1610	572
mean length	56.	71.

Table 2. Age composition (o/oo) of the cod sampled in Divisions 4Vn and 5Ze.

month/division

<u>year</u> <u>class</u>	<u>I</u> <u>4Vn</u>	<u>II</u> <u>5Ze</u>
1-1974		
2-1973		6
3-1972		225
4-1971	89	590
5-1970	272	107
6-1969	393	54
7-1968	159	8
8-1967	48	5
9-1966	31	
10-1965	7	
11-1964	1	
12-1963		
13-1962		
14-1961		
<hr/> Total	1000	995
mean age	5.93	4.52