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Squid (*Illex*) catches by the French Fleet in 1978

by

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Three trawlers have participated to the fishing season for squid (*Illex illecebrosus*), from August 13 to october 5, on the shelf off Nova Scotia in ICNAF divisions 4 Vs and 4 W. Length samples has been taken on these boats in Saint-Pierre.

1. Fishing grounds (Fig. 1)

Most of the fishing effort (71 %) has taken place in division 4 W, one part (5 % in August) around 61°30'W and 43°N (a), South-west of Sable Island, the remaining (66 % from August to october) around 61°W and 43°30'N also to the south-west but near Sable Island (b).

In division 4 Vs 29 % only of the fishing effort has taken place, in August-september, around 58°30'W and 44°N in the south-west part of the Banquereau (c).

During these months squid was mainly distributed between 150 to 190 m, mostly in August-september, and between 190 to 220 m in september-october (fig.1).

<u>Effort in fishing days</u>		<u>Aug.</u>	<u>sept.</u>	<u>oct.</u>
4 W	a	5	-	-
	b	13	42	7
4 Vs	c	-	27	-
Total (94 days)		18	69	7

2. Fishing success

In division 4 W mean catch rate per fishing day was 17 t in August, 23 t in september and 19 t in october. In september a maximum of 25 t was reached in division 4 Vs.

	<u>Mean catch (MT) per</u>	<u>Fishing day</u>			<u>Haul</u>		
		<u>Aug.</u>	<u>sept.</u>	<u>oct.</u>	<u>Aug.</u>	<u>sept.</u>	<u>oct.</u>
4 W	a	17.4	-	-	4.6	-	-
	b	16.2	21.4	18.9	4.5	5.2	4.1
4 Vs	c	-	24.8	-	-	5.5	-
	Mean	16.6	22.7	18.9	4.5	5.3	4.1

Catch per haul gives comparable results best catches taking place in september both in 4 W and 4 Vs.

For 94 fishing days medium catch was 21.3 t per day and for 393 hauls, 5.1 t per haul.

3. Catch composition in size (Fig. 2)

Three samples, one on each boat, for a total of 446 specimen has been measured (montle length). Length distribution is between 18 and 26 cm, mean length for males being 21 cm and for females 22 cm.

These data are in agreement with observations made by MESNIL in 1973 an 1974 during the same period (ICNAF selected paper n°2- 1977).

"4. *Illex* catch-per-effort by week

Week	Total fishing days	Catch per day (kg) ¹	
		4Vs	4W
Aug 13	1		1,646 (1)
14-20	7		17,363 (7)
21-27	6		18,731 (6)
28-3	7		19,501 (7)
Sep 4-10	14		18,540 (14)
11-17	20	29,194 (17)	9,837 (3)
18-24	20	12,288 (5)	21,622 (15)
25-1	14	22,452 (5)	29,745 (9)
Oct 2-5	5		15,732 (5)
Total days	94	(27)	(67)
Catch/day (kg)		24,815	19,879

¹ Number of fishing days in parentheses.

(over)

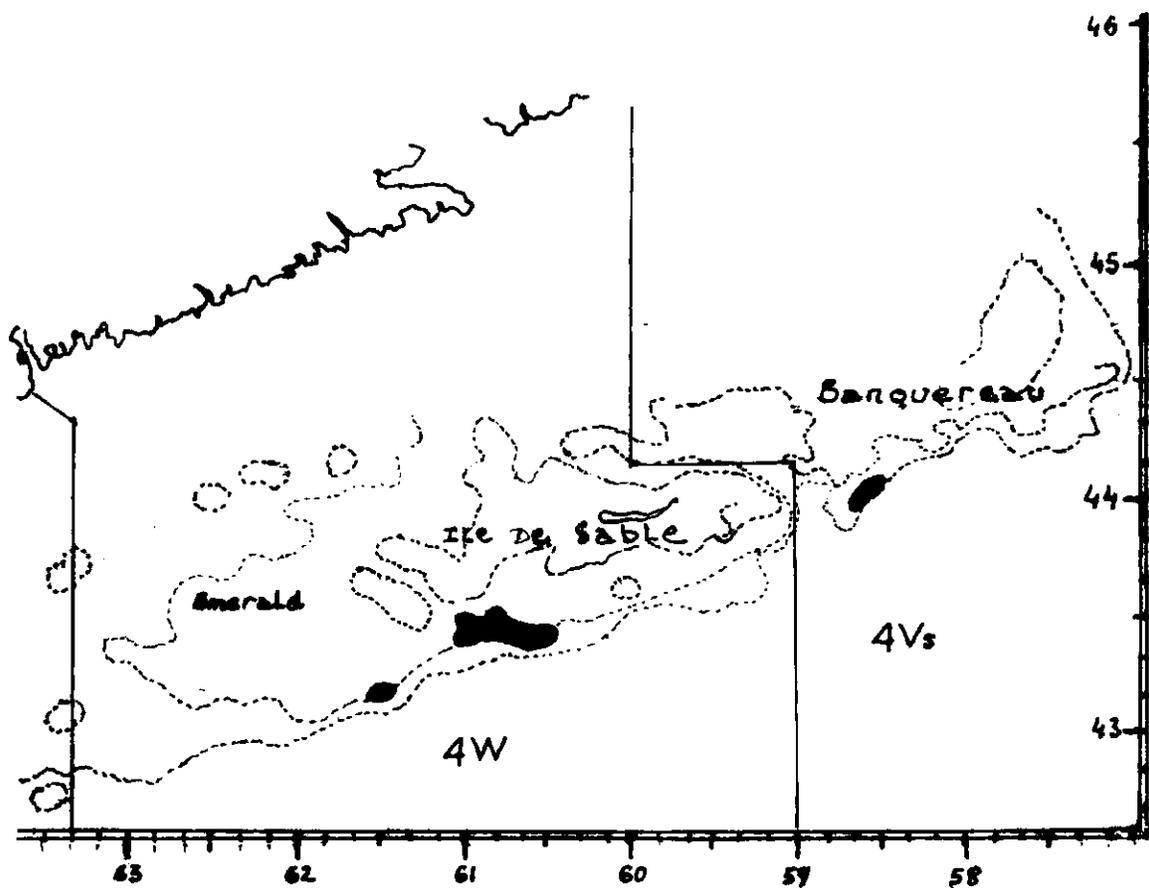


Fig. 1. Fishing areas.

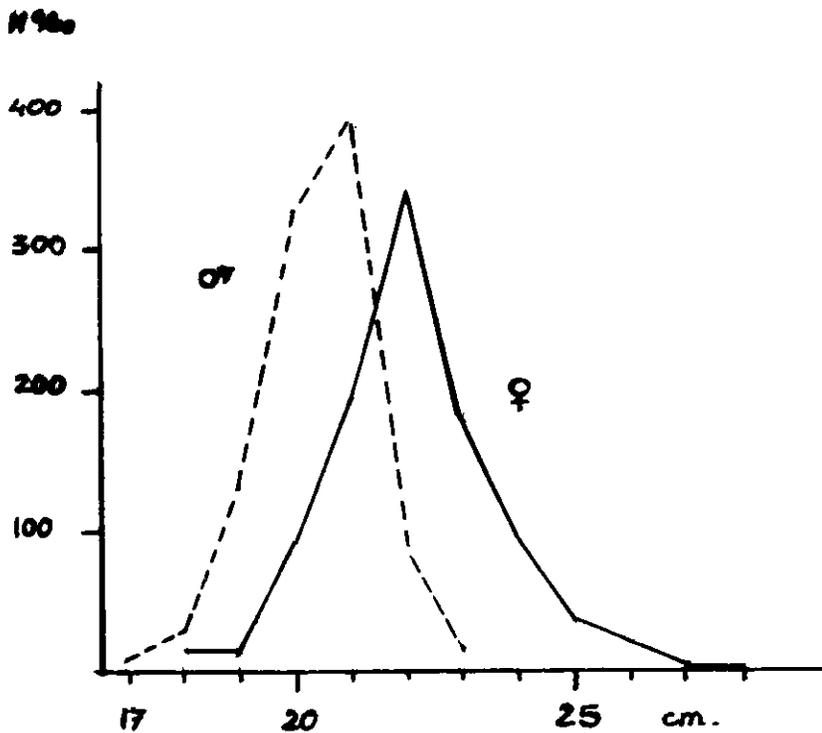


Fig. 2. Size composition of *Illex* catches.