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Estimation of the Stock Size and Allowable Catch of Silver Hake (*Merluccius bilinearis*)  
in Divisions 4VWX for 1981

by

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This should be regarded as a supplementary information to the stock size and allowable yield estimates presented in NAFO Scr.Doc. 80/II/46. The stock size assessment for 1981 was made from the stock size and allowable yield estimates for 1980. In 1980, the total silver hake quota for Subarea 4 was 100 thous. tons, however, since quotas were not taken year after year, the possible yield totalled to 51.5 thous. tons. The USSR catch constituted 44.9 thous. tons. Quota allocations for the USSR were 45 and 56.6 thous. tons in 1979 and 1980 respectively. Therefore, as in the previous years, the total silver hake catch in 1980 will hardly exceed the USSR quota significantly, and is expected to be around 60-65 thous. tons.

In table 1 the stock size estimate of 929 thous. tons is given for 1981, which may provide the allowable yield of 187 thous. tons if the fishing mortality rate the same as in 1979 persists in 1981.

TABLE 1. Silver hake catches and stock sizes in Divisions 4VWX in 1979-1981

Age	2	3	4	5	6	7+	Total 2+	
							in 10 <sup>5</sup> sp.	in thous. tons
C <sub>79</sub>	520	799	575	215	34	9	2 152	50
N <sub>80</sub>	(20.000)	32 500	5 549	2 778	680	53	61 560	737
C <sub>80</sub>	139	2 026	497	380	190	15	3 247	65
F <sub>80</sub>	0.009	0.080	0.120	0.195	0.430	0.430		
N <sub>81</sub>	(20.000)	12 020	18 200	2 985	1 189	269	54 663	929
F <sub>81</sub>	0.020	0.20	0.30	0.50	1.50	1.50		
C <sub>81</sub>	320	1 731	3 767	943	770	174	7 705	187
W <sub>tkg</sub>	0.095	0.151	0.214	0.319	0.478	0.590		

C - catch

N - stock

W<sub>tkg</sub> - mean weight, kg