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Japanese Research Report for 1983

by

S. Kawahara

Far Seas Fisheries Research Laboratory
5-Chome Orido, Shimizu 424, Japan

The nominal total catch by Japanese trawlers from the NAFO waters (Subareas 3, 4, 5 and 6) showed about 50% decrease from 9,500 tonnes in 1982 to 4,300 tonnes in 1983 (Table 1). This is mainly due to the reduction of quota for Japan within the U.S. 200-mile zone. In addition, the catch of Illex in Subareas 3 and 4 was extremely low as in 1982 fishing season.

The number of Japanese trawlers operated in the NAFO waters declined from 11 vessels in 1982 to 9 vessels in 1983, eight of which were 1,500-2,500 GRT class stern trawlers and one was 1,000 GRT class. The total fishing effort was about 10 thousand hours fished, about 40% decrease from the effort of 16 thousand hours in 1982.

The fishing grounds of Japanese trawlers in 1983 were located on Flemish Cap and the edge of the continental shelf from Division 30 to Division 6B. Japanese trawlers moved seasonally among those fishing grounds as in 1982, but some vessels were laid up during 2-4 months after the poor Illex fishing season.

I. Subarea 3

A. Status of the Fisheries

The small-scale trawl fishery for redfish was carried out in Division 3M. Under the national quota of 400 tonnes for redfish in this division, several trawlers operated during March-May and September-October and caught 405 tonnes of fish, mostly composed of redfish. Redfish was taken at depths between 300-700 m. The mesh size of the cod-ends used was about 130 mm.

II. Subarea 4

A. Status of the Fisheries

The Illex-directed fishery was carried out in Divisions 4VWX. In August, most of the Japanese trawlers began to search Illex schools along

the southern edge of the Scotian Shelf. The searching operations extended to the southwestern Grand Bank (Division 30). However, few aggregations of Illex were found and the catches were mainly composed of silver hake. All vessels moved away by mid-September. Finally, the Illex catch was about 400 tonnes as low as in 1982. Japanese trawlers operated mainly at depths of 120-230 m. The mesh size of the cod-ends used was 60-65 mm.

III. Subareas 5 and 6

The Loligo fishery was carried out along the edge of the continental shelf in Divisions 5Ze-6B, while Illex-directed fishery could not be operated because of the large reduction of the national quota for Illex. The Loligo fishery was performed during January-March and December. Loligo was taken mainly at depths between 90-190 m with a small quantity of butterfish, mackerel and silver hake as by-catch. The mesh size of the cod-ends used was 45-50 mm and 60-65 mm for off-bottom trawls, respectively.

Table 1. Fishing efforts and catches by species of Japanese trawl fishery in each NAFO division in 1982 and 1983.

Year	1982*											Total	
	3L	3M	3N	3O	4Vs	4W	4X	5Ze	5Zw	6A	6B		6C
Division	10	849	12	408	3	1,618	213	1,957	2,109	3,829	3,423	1,410	15,839
Hours fished	2	118	2	43	1	107	24	146	161	341	294	129	1,368
Days fished	1	455	1	548	-	1,244	172	888	962	2,068	1,967	1,170	9,476
Total catch	-	392	0	496	-	0	0	1	-	0	-	-	889
Redfish	-	-	0	3	-	904	33	31	44	198	143	60	1,416
Silver hake	-	-	0	11	-	50	113	-	-	-	-	-	174
Argentine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Squid-Loligo	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	640	484	449	458	697	2,728
Squid-Illex	-	-	0	0	-	255	18	114	23	1,134	1,076	256	2,875
Others	1	63	1	38	-	35	8	102	411	287	290	157	1,394

Year	1983											Total	
	3L	3M	3N	3O	4Vs	4W	4X	5Ze	5Zw	6A	6B		6C
Division	-	1,274	-	6	6	2,353	124	2,075	1,079	2,165	583	-	9,665
Hours fished	-	113	-	3	1	152	13	134	82	148	41	-	687
Days fished	-	406	-	4	1	1,225	134	836	500	934	256	-	4,29F
Total catch	-	389	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	391
Redfish	-	-	-	-	-	643	7	43	22	35	16	-	766
Silver hake	-	-	-	-	-	74	74	-	-	-	-	-	148
Argentine	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	625	309	669	205	-	1,809
Squid-Loligo	-	-	-	-	-	382	21	118	8	43	11	-	583
Squid-Illex	-	17	-	2	1	125	32	50	161	187	24	-	600
Others	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

* Excluding the effort and catch of Japanese vessels which were chartered by Canada. These catches amounted to 3,462 tonnes (mainly redfish) in Division 3K and 2,013 tonnes (mainly cod) in Division 3L.

