

Northwest Atlantic



Fisheries Organization

Serial No. N928

NAFO SCS Doc. 84/IX/27

SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 1984

Cuban Research Report, 1983

by

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Status of the Fisheries

The fishing operation of the Cuban vessels in the area of the Northwest Atlantic during 1983 was developed in Subareas 3 and 4 and it was directed towards silver hake, redfish and squid.

The total nominal catch reached 14,786 metric tons, that is, 80% of the one obtained in 1982 (Table 1). This decrease was due mainly to:

- Sudden decrease of the silver hake fishery of Subarea 4, since half of June and the almost total disappearance of this species in July.
- The absence of squid (*Illex illecebrosus*) in its traditional grounds of Subareas 3 and 4.

The fishing operation was carried out by 13 trawler vessels, all of them of category 7, all of which operated for 894 fishing days, which is equivalent to an increase of 16% in relation to the fishing effort (in days) during 1982.

The fishing gears were mainly bottom-trawl in the silver hake fishery and midwater-trawl in the redfish fishery. Much time was spent searching for squid with acoustic equipment.

SUBAREA 3

In this subarea, the redfish fishery was carried out in Divisions 3M, 3N and 3O. Operations in Divisions 3N and 3O were carried on outside the Canadian 200-mile zone.

The total nominal catch in 1983 was 6,232 metric tons which represent 42% of the total nominal catch (Subarea 3+4) and an increase of 1.3% in relation to 1982 (Table 1).

Table 2 shows the nominal catches per species obtained by Cuban vessels in their operation during years 1982 and 1983. Redfish represented 98.8% of our catches resulting in almost totally clean fishery during this last year, showing a very similar pattern to that of 1982.

The catch per division for 1982 and 1983 are shown in Table 3, the results being very similar for both years in each division.

SUBAREA 4

In Divisions 4VWX of this subarea, there was a catch of 8,554 metric tons which represents an important decrease of 31.1% in relation to 1982 (see Table 1).

The Cuban vessels started their silver hake fishery on the 20 April in 1983, when they were able to obtain acceptable results and low catches of by-catch species.

The fishery operation for this species was suddenly affected by an unexpected decrease of the yields, starting from the end of June. This situation was worse in July and this happened together with the increase of the by-catch. Table 4 shows the nominal catches per species obtained in the silver hake fishery of Divisions 4VWX for 1982 and 1983.

In spite of having dedicated a great number of days to searching for squid, the Cuban vessels could not carry out this fishery due to the total absence of this species from its traditional grounds in the regulatory area of the Scotian Shelf.

Special Research Studies

There were no special research studies in 1983.

Table 1. Nominal catch per subarea for 1982 and 1983.

Subarea	1982		1983	
	Metric ton	Percent (%)	Metric ton	Percent (%)
3	6,152	33	6,232	42
4	12,413	67	8,554	58
Total	18,565	100	14,786	100

Table 2. Nominal catch per species and percentages for Subarea 3 in 1982 and 1983.

Species	1982		1983	
	Metric ton	Percent (%)	Metric ton	Percent (%)
Atlantic cod	3	0.0	1	0.0
Atlantic redfish	6,125	99.7	6,154	98.8
Flatfishes	0	0.0	53	0.8
Groundfishes	0	0.0	13	0.2
Silver hake	1	0.0	-	-
Red hake	0	0.0	1	0.0
Pollock	1	0.0	-	-
Atlantic halibut	1	0.0	-	-
Haddock	-	-	4	0.1
Pelagic fishes	20	0.3	-	-
Argentines	1	0.0	-	-
Skates n.e.i.	-	-	6	0.1

Table 3. Catch per division for Subarea 3 during 1982 and 1983

Years	3M		3N		3O		Total	
	Mt	%	Mt	%	Mt	%	Mt	%
1982	1,870	30.4	2,629	42.7	16,530	26.9	6,152	100
1983	2,324	37.3	2,408	28.6	1,500	24.1	6,232	100

Table 4. Nominal catches per species and percentages for Subarea 4 in 1982 and 1983.

Species	1982		1983	
	Metric ton	Percent (%)	Metric ton	Percent (%)
Silver hake	11,969	96.4	7,418	86.7
Atlantic redfish	17	0.1	20	0.2
Argentine	53	0.4	364	4.3
Red hake	93	0.8	188	2.2
Groundfishes n.e.i.	22	0.2	60	0.7
Atlantic cod	33	0.3	59	0.7
Haddock	41	0.3	126	1.5
Mackerel	-	-	1	0.0
Squid	93	0.8	3	0.0
Flatfishes n.e.i.	3	0.0	16	0.2
Pollock	84	0.7	261	3.0
Atlantic herring	1	0.0	-	-
Atlantic halibut	-	-	5	0.1
Witch flounder	2	0.0	-	-
Yellowtail flounder	2	0.0	-	-
Dogfish, sharks n.e.i.	-	-	8	0.1
Skates n.e.i.	-	-	18	0.2
American plaice	-	-	7	0.1