

Northwest Atlantic



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Spanish Research Report, 1984

by

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I. SUBAREA 3

A. Status of the Fisheries

Spanish catches (cod fisheries) in tons during 1984
were as follows:

| | 3L | 3M | 3N | Total |
|------------------|------|------|-------|-------|
| Cod | 8157 | 4724 | 13520 | 26401 |
| Haddock | - | 13 | 1105 | 1118 |
| Redfishes | 90 | 257 | 11 | 358 |
| American plaice | 722 | 184 | 867* | 1773* |
| Atlantic halibut | 19 | 13 | 53 | 85 |
| Wolffishes | 248 | 32 | 6 | 286 |
| Skates | 158 | 23 | 153 | 334 |

* Some catches of yellowtail flounder included.

The Spanish fishing effort (hours) during 1984 was:

| | 3L | 3M | 3N | Total |
|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| PTB-4 | 8994 | 3912 | 7798 | 20704 |
| PTB-5 | 1797 | 2123 | 2699 | 6619 |

Between 1983 and 1984 effort was 7% lower in PTB-4 and 36% higher in PTB-5. On the whole, the fishing effort of pair-trawls has increased 4% between 1983 and 1984.

According to these figures, and the preceding ones, the CPUE in tons of cod during the last three years has been:

| | <u>1982</u> | <u>1983</u> | <u>1984</u> |
|----|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| 3L | 0.81 | 1.23 | 0.74 |
| 3M | 0.52 | 0.55 | 0.75 |
| 3N | 0.57 | 0.83 | 1.25 |

There was an increase in Div. 3M and 3N and a decrease in Div. 3L. It must be taken into account that the Spanish fleet was fishing in a restricted zone of Div. 3L and 3N, and some factor of availability might be operating.

Cod fishery was especially successful in Div. 3L during April, May and December, in Div. 3M during April, August, November and December, and in Div. 3N during the second half of the year. Modal length classes were 60-62 cm in Div. 3L, 39-47 cm in Div. 3M and 90-104 cm in Div. 3N. In Div. 3N catches consisted of unusually large cod, especially during the third quarter. The most abundant age groups were 5-6 in Div. 3L, 3 in Div. 3M and 9 in Div. 3N.

Spanish pair-trawlers catch other species than cod as a by-catch. Data on these by-catches for the year 1984 are based on information from Spanish observers on board pair-trawlers. From these observations it appears that the real species composition (%) (not landings) of pair-trawl fishing during the last two years has been as follows:

| | 3L | | 3M | | 3N | |
|------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| | 1983 | 1984 | 1983 | 1984 | 1983 | 1984 |
| Cod | 91.21 | 86.83 | 75.27 | 90.05 | 78.33 | 86.03 |
| Haddock | - | - | - | 0.25 | 1.69 | 7.03 |
| Redfishes | 6.25 | 0.96 | 10.06 | 4.90 | 5.56 | 0.07 |
| American plaice | 0.95 | 7.69 | 7.41 | 3.51 | 9.83* | 5.52* |
| Atlantic halibut | - | 0.20 | 1.76 | 0.25 | 0.84 | 0.34 |
| Wolffishes | 0.05 | 2.64 | 4.66 | 0.61 | 0.41 | 0.04 |
| Skates | 1.53 | 1.68 | 0.83 | 0.44 | 3.34 | 0.97 |
| Total by-catch | 8.79 | 13.17 | 24.73 | 9.95 | 21.67 | 13.97 |

* Including significant quantities of yellowtail flounder.