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Cuban Research Report for 1984

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STATUS OF THE FISHERIES.

The fishing operation of the Cuban Fishing Fleet in the area of the Northwest Atlantic was developed in sub-areas 3 and 4 and it was directed towards redfish and silver hake.

The total nominal catch reached 20,521 MT, which is an increase of 5735 MT, 139 % over the catch for 1983 (table No. 1), this increase is mainly due to the very good results obtained in the silver hake fishery.

The fishing operation was carried out by 8 stern trawlers, all of them of category 7. The fishing effort in 1984 was 826 fishing days, 8 % decrease from 1983.

No directed fishing effort was developed in the squid fishery, since there was no evidence of its' presence in any of the sub-areas (3 and 4) fished by the Cuban vessels.

Bottom trawls were used in the silver hake fishery and mid-water trawls in the redfish fishery.

SUB-AREA 3.

The directed fishery in this sub-area was for redfish. It was carried out in Divs. 3M, 3N and 3O. Operations in Divs. 3N and 3O took place totally outside the Canadian 200 mile zone.

The total nominal catch in sub-area 3 for 1984 was 5258 MT, which represents 26 % of the Cuban total nominal catch in the Northwest Atlantic fishery. This is a 16 % decrease in the nominal catch in this sub-area from 1983 (table No. 1).

The nominal catches and percents per species obtained by Cuban vessels in their operation during years 1983 and 1984 are shown in table No. 2. Redfish was 98,8 % of the total catch, resulting in almost a totally clean fishery in 1984, showing a very similar pattern to those of 1982 and 1983.

The nominal catch and percent per Div. for 1983 and 1984 are shown in table No. 3. In all Divs. the catches for 1984 were smaller than the ones obtained in 1983. The results for both years in Divs. 3N and 3O were similar. A larger difference is shown for Div. 3M because of a decrease in the total allocation.

SUB-AREA 4.

Silver hake was the directed fishery in this sub-area. The total nominal catch reached 15,263 MT, this means an important increase of 78 % (6,709 MT) in regards to 1983 (table No. 1).

The Cuban vessels started the silver hake fishery in the first week of April obtaining very good silver hake catches and very low catches for by-catch species.

At the end of June, there was a sharp decrease in the silver hake catches and o. p. u. e.'s, and at the same time there was an increase in by-catch, specially haddock. As the Cuban allocation for silver hake was almost totally caught at that time and there was not any squid evident, the Cuban vessels changed to the redfish fishery in sub-area 3.

The nominal catches and percents per species obtained in the silver hake fishery for both 1983 and 1984, are shown in table no. 4.

All the operations in this sub-area were carried out in Div. 4W.

SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES.

Biological sampling was carried out on the silver hake fishery in Div. 4W in April and May of 1984 on board the commercial vessel Río Almendares. Twenty six samples were taking with 8842 fish measured (total length) and sexed. The length classes most represented ranged between twenty seven and 34 cms inclusive.

Table 1. Nominal catch per subarea for 1983 and 1984

Subarea	1983		1984	
	Metric ton	Percent(%)	Metric ton	Percent(%)
3	6,232	42	5258	26
4	8,554	58	15263	74
Total	14,786	100	20521	100

Table 2. Nominal catcher species and % for subarea 3 in 1983 and 1984

Subarea	1983		1984	
	Metric ton	Percent(%)	Metric ton	Percent(%)
Atlantic cod	1	0,0	16	0,3
Atlantic redfish	6154	98,8	5198	98,9
Flatfishes	53	0,8	-	-
Groundfishes	13	0,2	8	0,2
Red hake	1	0,0	2	0,0
Haddock	4	0,1	7	0,1
Skates n.e.i.	6	0,1	-	-
American Plaice	-	-	11	0,2
Yellowtail flounder	-	-	11	0,2
Atlantic halibut	-	-	4	0,1
Atlantic argentina	-	-	1	0,0

Table 3. Catch per division for Subarea 3 during 1983 and 1984

Years	3M		3N		3O		Total	
	Mt	%	Mt	%	Mt	%	Mt	%
1983	2324	37,3	2,408	28,6	1,500	24,1	6,232	100
1984	1567	29,8	2,373	45,1	1,318	25,1	5,258	100

Table 4. Nominal catches per species and percentage for Subarea 4 in 1983 and 1984.

Species	1983		1984	
	MT	%	MT	%
Silver hake	7,418	86.7	14,496	95.0
Atlantic redfish	20	0.2	11	0.07
Argentine	364	4.3	151	0.9
Red hake	188	2.2	106	0.7
Groundfishes n.e.i.	60	0.7	42	0.3
Atlantic cod	59	0.7	24	0.1
Haddock	126	1.5	229	1.5
Mackerel	1	0.0	32	0.2
Squid	3	0.0	34	0.2
Flatfishes n.e.i.	16	0.2	-	-
Pollock	261	3.0	123	0.8
Atlantic halibut	5	0.1	-	-
Dogfish, sharks n.e.i.	8	0.1	-	-
Skates n.e.i.	18	0.2	-	-
American plaice	7	0.1	9	0.05
Yellowtail flounder	-	-	3	0.02
Summer flounder	-	-	3	0.02
Total			15,263	5.86

