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The Shrimp Fishery in NAFO Subarea 1 in 1987

by

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**INTRODUCTION**

The scientific advice for the offshore catch of shrimp in NAFO Subareas 0 and 1 (not including Subarea 1 north of 71°N) was 36,000 tons for 1987. The effective TAC for offshore Subarea 1 in the area considered by STACFIS was for 1987 fixed by the Greenland Home Rule Authorities at 34,000 tons, including a Greenland allocation of 31,975 tons. Trawlers above 80 GRT reported a total catch in the Subarea of 48,213 tons, including 10,626 tons taken north of the area considered by STACFIS. Catches of smaller vessels including inshore catches are estimated to about 21,000 tons.

Logbooks from the fishery of nine trawlers owned by the Greenland Home Rule Administration have been available to the Greenland Fisheries and Environmental Research Institute since 1975. In 1987 also logbooks from private vessels have been available, covering, together with logbooks from the state vessels, a total of about 76,000 hours of shrimp trawling and a total catch of 33,032 tons of shrimp in Subarea 1, i.e. about 69% of the total offshore catch by vessels above 80 GRT.

The present paper updates earlier information on the geographical distribution, catch rates and by-catches in the offshore Subarea 1 shrimp fishery, compiled from the logbook data base. Also, results from an analysis of a series of commercial shrimp samples is presented.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Total catches and numbers of vessels in the shrimp fishery in NAFO Subarea 1 in 1987 were compiled by nation and month based on the compulsory weekly reportings to Greenland authorities by all vessels above 80 GRT. Logbook data were analysed to show the yearly and monthly distribution of fishing effort and mean catch-rates.

Monthly mean catch rates in Division 1B from 1975 to December 1987 and the corresponding numbers of hours trawled were calculated from the logbook data base. Indices of mean catch rates for the July-September period used to evaluate the status of the shrimp stock in Division 1B in recent years were derived from the same data base, as were the levels of by-catches in the shrimp fishery in Subarea 1.

A series of shrimp samples from the commercial shrimp fishery in Division 1B was sorted by stages of sexual development, and shrimps were measured to nearest 0.1 mm carapace length. Length-frequencies were analysed to evaluate the occurrence of sexual stages.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Reported catches in 1987.

Table 1 shows catches by division, nation and month in Subarea 1 in 1987 as reported by vessels above 80 GRT, and Table 2 shows the corresponding numbers of reporting vessels. The figures for Greenland include catches in the offshore fishery north of 71°N. In September, October, and November these catches constitute a substantial part of the total shrimp fishery by Greenland vessels in Subarea 1. Also catches from trial fisheries in northwest, west and southwest Greenland waters are included, totalling about 1,000 tons of shrimp.

The shrimp landings from Subarea 1 in 1987 by smaller Greenland vessels (below 80 GRT) are estimated to a total of about 22,000 tons, of which about 7,500 tons are estimated to be inshore catches.

The total nominal shrimp catch in Subarea 1 was thus more than 70,000 tons in 1987.

### Geographical distribution of the offshore fishery.

Figure 1 shows the distribution of fishing effort (in numbers of hours trawled) in 1987 as recorded in the logbook data base (the map does not include the fishing grounds north of 72°N - see Lund, 1988). The fishery concentrated in the Holsteinsborg Deep, on the northern and western slopes of the Store Hellefiske Bank and in the southernmost grounds in the Northwest Greenland area.

Figure 2 shows the monthly distribution of effort (numbers of hours trawled) and mean catch-rates from January 1987 through December 1987. Different from 1985 and 1986, but similar to the years before, ice hampered the access to the fishing grounds west and north of the Store Hellefiske Bank area in the beginning of the year (from February through April).

### Trends in catch rates.

Figure 3 shows the variation in mean catch rates by month from October 1975 through December 1987 in NAFO Division 1B based on logbook information of seven state-owned trawlers (630-857 GRT) - Table 3 shows the corresponding numbers of hours trawled. A spring peak in catch rate is found in April 1987, but - similar to 1986 - it is not followed by the typical decline throughout the year as has been the case in most years since the fishery started. Rather, it is followed by a decrease in May and an increase in June to almost the same level as in April. Catch rates decline again from June to September, and increase in November and December. While the development in the 1986 catch rates may reflect that favourable ice conditions in both 1985 and 1986 influenced the distribution of the fishery on the different components of the stock, the 1987-development may be explained by an improvement either in stock condition or more efficient trawling gears used in the fishery (see Carlsson and Kannevorff, 1987).

Table 4 shows the mean catch rates of eight state-owned trawlers by division and month in a north to south 7.5' latitude grid in 1987, and Table 5 shows the corresponding numbers of hours trawled. Different from 1986, but similar to previous years there is a northward shift in the fishery throughout the year.

Comparison of catch rates between years in the Davis Strait fishery has been based on mean catch rate indices of the state-owned trawlers (using the 1976 mean catch rate as reference point) for the period July-September in Division 1B. CPUE indices for seven Greenland trawlers (630-857 GRT) from 1976 to 1987 are shown in Figure 4, based on the following figures:

	1976	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981
Hours						
trawled	1,005	2,966	3,446	3,588	1,872	5,285
kg/hour	743	549	501	379	468	438
Index	1.00	0.74	0.67	0.51	0.63	0.59

	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987
Hours						
trawled	3,543	3,967	2,784	3,817	2,967	3,644
kg/hour	550	490	495	563	620	777
Index	0.74	0.66	0.67	0.76	0.84	1.05

As mentioned by Carlsson and Kannevorff (1987) CPUE indices since 1980 may not be directly comparable to those from earlier years due to the introduction of more efficient gears around 1980. In 1985 and 1986 even more efficient gears with vertical openings ranging up to 20 meters and electronic trawl positioning systems allowing better control with the performance of the trawl were taken into use. The increase in the cpue-index in 1987 may thus be explained partly by better gear performance, but increased shrimp density in the exploited areas cannot be excluded. The latter explanation would imply that the fishery at present is not overexploiting the shrimp stock.

Figure 6 shows the variation from 1976 to 1987 in CPUE of eight stat-owned trawlers in the July- September period in 30' latitude strips (see Figure 5). From 1982 to 1984, catch rates seem to have stabilized at 400-500 kg/hour in all strips. In 1985 all catch rates increased, while in 1986 they remained at the 1985-level with the exception of a drastic increase in strip no. 5 and a decrease in strip no. 6. In 1987 there is again a general increase in catch-rates except for strip no. 5, i.e. the increase in catch-rate-index as mentioned above applies to Division 1B as a whole excepting one strip-area.

By-catches in the shrimp fishery.

Table 6 shows by-catches as reported in the logbook data in 1987 compared to earlier years. The by-catch level in relation to total shrimp catch is similar to 1983, redfish being the dominant species except in Division 1A, where polar cod and Greenland halibut dominate, and Division 1D, where cod is reported as dominating species in the by-catch. This is the first time since 1982 that cod is reported as a dominating by-catch species in the shrimp fishery.

Biological samples.

Figure 7 shows length-frequency diagrams for a series of commercial shrimp samples collected on a diel basis in Division 1B in August 1987. The mesh size (stretched) used was about 44 mm, depth interval ranging from about 280 to about 360 meters. Similar to commercial samples from the same area in 1986 (Carlsson and Kannevorff, 1987) a significant diel variation in sample composition is seen, juveniles and males dominating the catch at mid-day, relative occurrence of multiparous females being highest during night.

Compared to a research shrimp sample from the same statistical unit (KZ014), but from more shallow water (about 270 meters depth - see Carlsson and Kannevorff, 1987, Figure 9), these samples show a higher frequency of juvenile and male shrimp, in spite of being from deeper water and having been fished with a larger mesh size (in the research sample a mesh size of about 20 mm stretched mesh was used). This might indicate a better recruitment to the fishery in this area, although the influence of possible changes in environmental parameters on the distribution of the different size-groups of shrimp is not well known.

#### CONCLUSIONS:

The nominal offshore catch of shrimp in NAFO Subarea 1 is estimated to be about 61,700 tons in 1987, including about 10,600 tons from the area north of 71°N.

As in earlier years, but different from 1985 and 1986, ice hampered the access to the the important shrimp fishing grounds on the slopes of Store Hellefiske Bank in spring time. The northward shift in the fishery as seen in earlier years was not found in 1986, but occurred again in 1987.

Mean catch rates of Greenland trawlers in Division 1B in the July-September period increased again in 1987 compared to preceeding years, reaching a level higher than the reference year of 1976. Introduction of new trawl technology in 1984-1986 is supposed to bias the index upwards, but the upward trend may also indicate a higher density of shrimp.

Reported by-catches in the shrimp fishery in 1986 were - similar to preceding years - low compared to 1978 and 1979 figures. Redfish is the dominant species except in Division 1A, where polar cod and Greenland halibut dominate, and in Division 1D, where cod is reported as dominating species.

Commercial shrimp samples from Division 1B in August 1987 showed - similar to samples from August 1986 - a significant diel variation in the relative occurrence of sexual stages, males and juveniles being most dominant in mid-day samples, when catch rates are known to be at the highest. More frequent occurrence of small shrimp (juveniles and males) compared to 1986-samples from the same area may indicate a better recruitment to the fishery.

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- Carlsson, D. M., Kannevorff, P., 1987. The shrimp fishery in NAFO Subarea 1 in 1985 and 1986. NAFO SCR Doc. 87/08, Ser.No. N1276.
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Table 1. Offshore catches of shrimp (tons) by division, nation and month in NAFO Subarea 1 by trawlers above 80 GRT as reported to Greenland authorities in 1987. Figures for Greenland include minor catches from trial fisheries.

NAFO DIVISION		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
1A NORTH	GREENLAND	-	-	-	-	-	246	1382	651	2936	2931	1838	642	10626
	TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	246	1382	651	2936	2931	1838	642	10626
1A SOUTH	GREENLAND	-	-	-	-	7	-	10	69	45	35	9	32	207
	TOTAL	-	-	-	-	7	-	10	69	45	35	9	32	207
1B	DENMARK	20	-	-	23	230	117	15	-	-	-	-	-	405
	FAROE ISL.	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	107	121	86	-	318
	FRANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	226	199	-	-	-	-	425
	GREENLAND	1526	681	2257	3633	3398	5013	4985	3425	1884	528	777	1567	29674
	NORWAY	-	-	-	83	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1546	681	2257	3739	3632	5136	5226	3624	1991	649	863	1567	30911	
1C	DENMARK	46	-	-	-	-	-	17	-	-	-	-	-	63
	FAROE ISL.	-	-	-	41	43	-	-	-	12	-	-	-	96
	FRANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	172	-	-	-	-	-	172
	GREENLAND	293	151	1330	1495	883	336	54	2	135	-	-	-	4679
	NORWAY	-	-	-	-	-	79	180	-	-	-	-	-	259
TOTAL	339	151	1330	1536	926	415	423	2	147	-	-	-	5269	
1D	DENMARK	-	26	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	28
	FAROE ISL.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	41	18	-	60
	GREENLAND	20	304	16	216	425	5	-	-	-	-	1	17	1004
	NORWAY	-	-	-	-	-	102	-	-	-	-	-	-	102
TOTAL	20	330	16	216	425	109	-	1	-	41	19	17	1194	
1E	DENMARK	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
	TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	6
TOTAL	DENMARK	66	26	-	23	230	125	32	-	-	-	-	-	502
	FAROE ISL.	-	-	-	41	47	-	-	1	119	162	104	-	474
	FRANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	398	199	-	-	-	-	597
	GREENLAND	1839	1136	3603	5344	4713	5600	6431	4147	5000	3494	2625	2258	46190
	NORWAY	-	-	-	83	-	187	180	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	1905	1162	3603	5491	4990	5912	7041	4347	5119	3656	2729	2258	48213	

Table 2. No. of vessels above 80 GRT by division, nation and month in the shrimp fishery in NAFO Subarea 1 as reported to Greenland authorities in 1987.

NAFO DIVISION		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	TOTAL
1A NORTH	GREENLAND	-	-	-	-	-	10	16	9	25	31	26	12	33
	TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	10	16	9	25	31	26	12	33
1A SOUTH	GREENLAND	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	5
	TOTAL	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	1	1	1	1	5
1B	DENMARK	1	-	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
	FAROE ISL.	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3	3	3	-	5
	FRANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2
	GREENLAND	16	14	26	34	31	34	26	24	20	11	15	19	45
	NORWAY	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	17	14	26	36	33	37	29	26	23	14	18	19	56	
1C	DENMARK	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	FAROE ISL.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	3
	FRANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	GREENLAND	9	10	15	18	17	9	5	2	4	-	-	-	35
	NORWAY	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL	10	10	15	19	18	12	10	2	6	-	-	-	43	
1D	DENMARK	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	FAROE ISL.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	3
	GREENLAND	2	11	1	9	-	2	1	-	-	-	1	1	22
	NORWAY	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
TOTAL	2	12	1	9	-	6	1	1	-	1	3	1	29	
1E	DENMARK	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
	TOTAL	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	DENMARK	1	1	-	1	1	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
	FAROE ISL.	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	1	3	3	3	-	5
	FRANCE	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	2
	GREENLAND	16	17	27	34	34	35	37	30	34	37	33	23	45
	NORWAY	-	-	-	1	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
TOTAL	17	18	27	37	36	40	43	33	37	40	36	23	58	





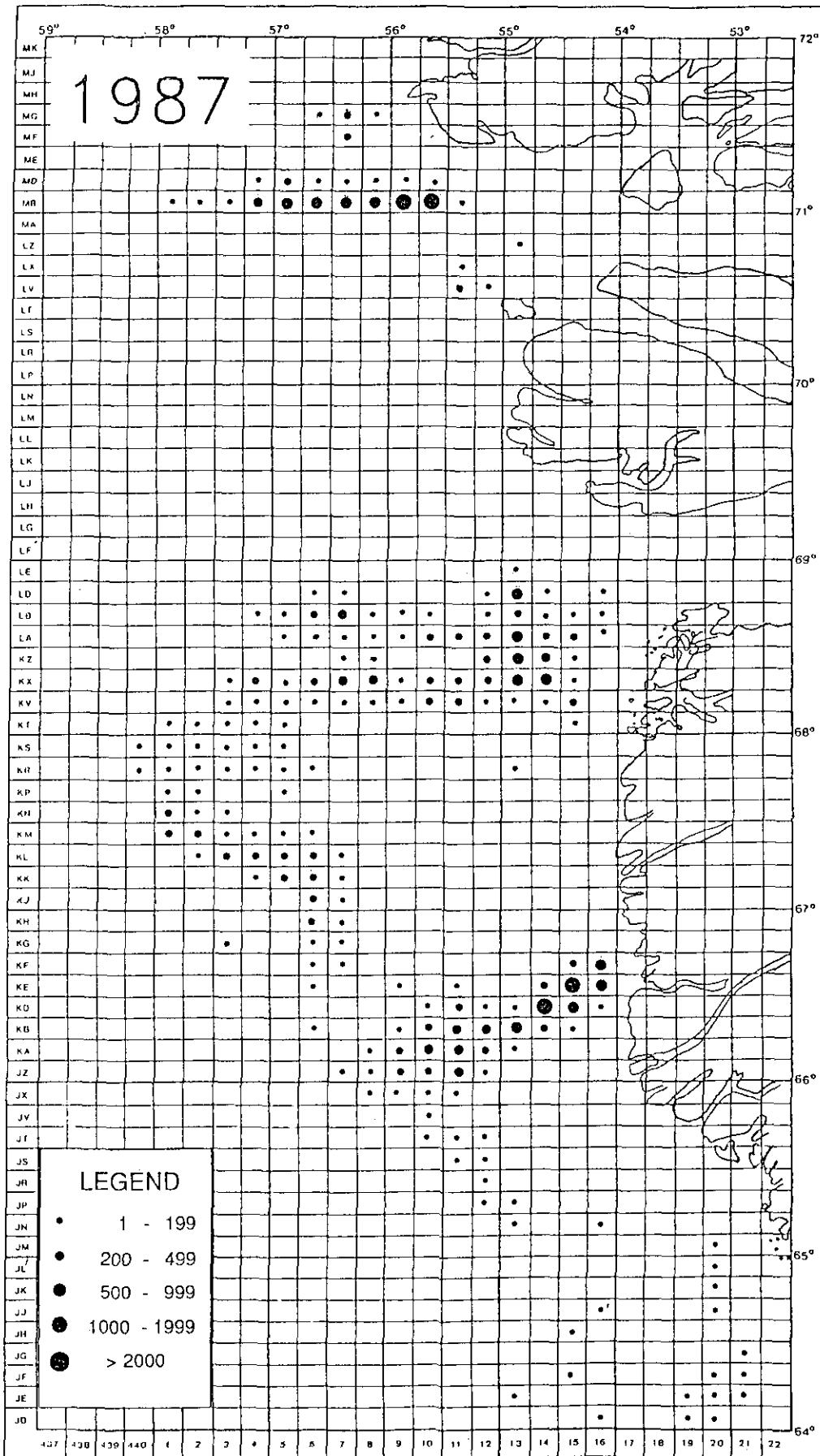
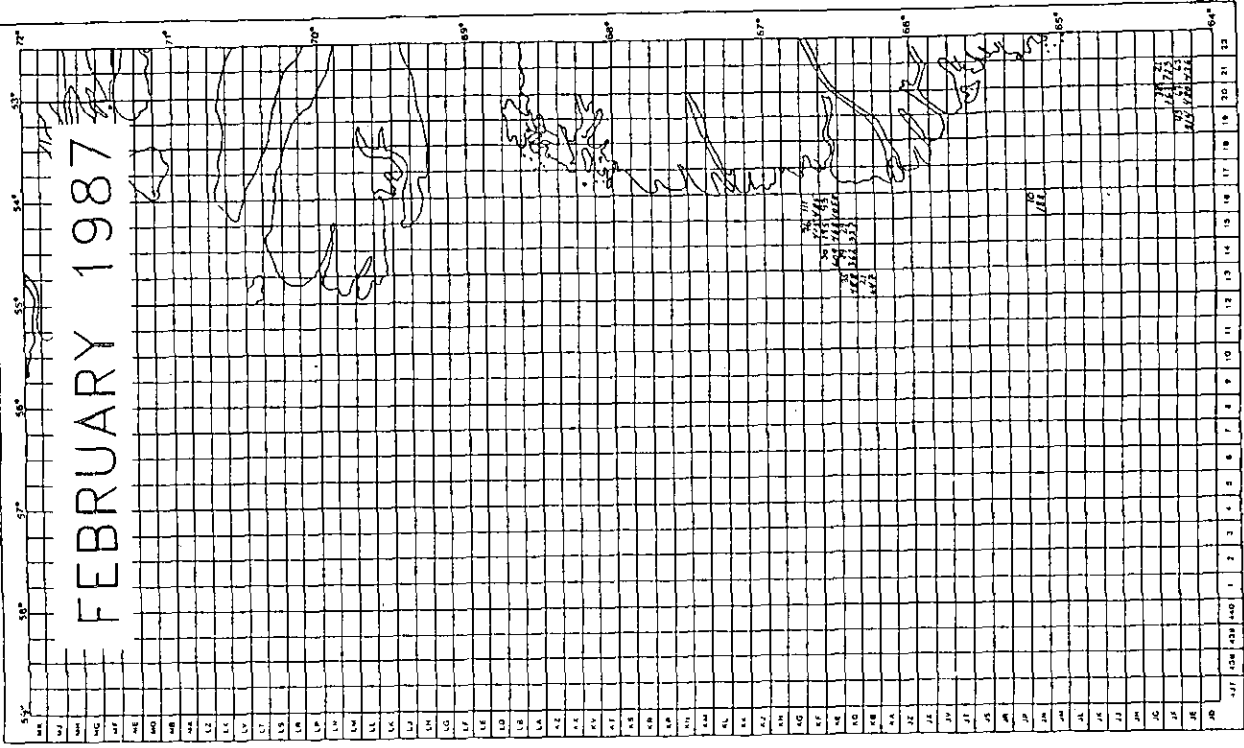
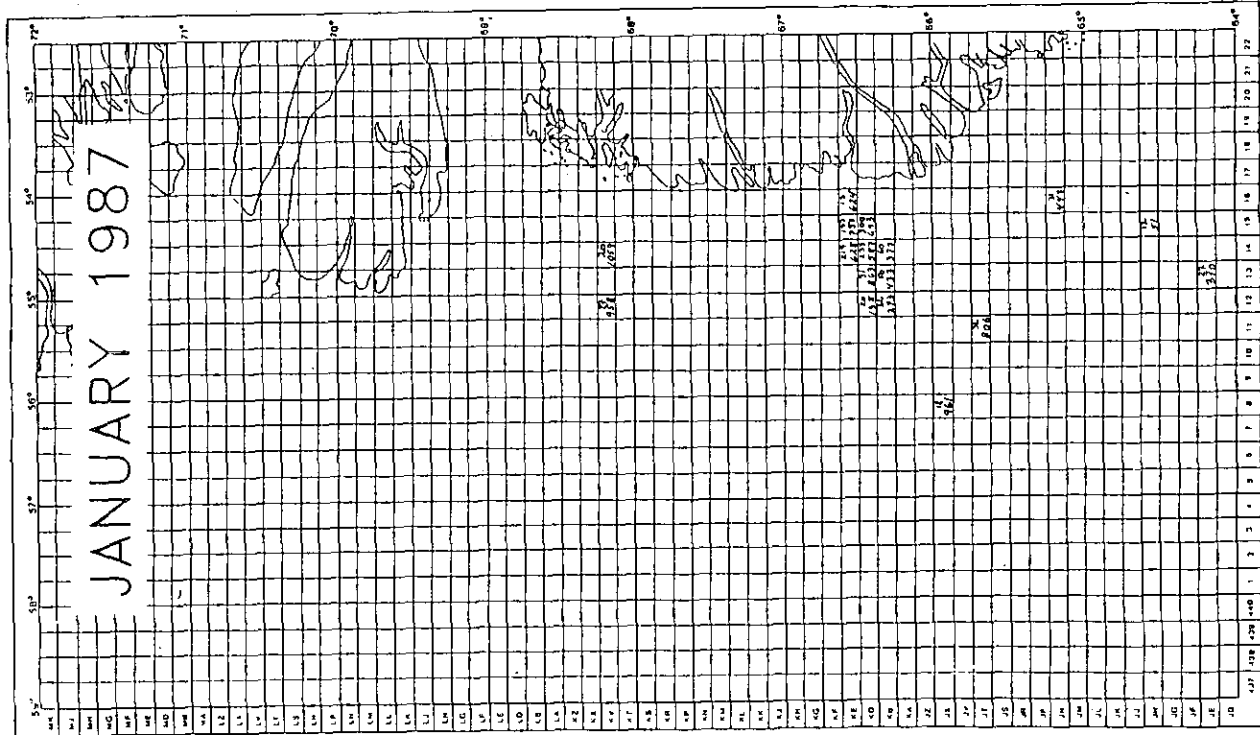


Figure 1. Distribution of effort (in no.s of hauls trawled) in 1987 in the shrimp fishery in NAFO Subarea 1 between 64°N and 72°N, based on logbooks from Greenland trawlers.





2. Distribution of effort and mean catch of shrimp in the shrimp fishery in NAFO Subarea 1 (from 64° to 72°N), based on logbooks from seven trawlers (473-857 GRT) of the Greenland Home Rule Administration. Upper figure in each statistical unit is no. of hours trawled, lower

Figure 2. Continued. February 1987.

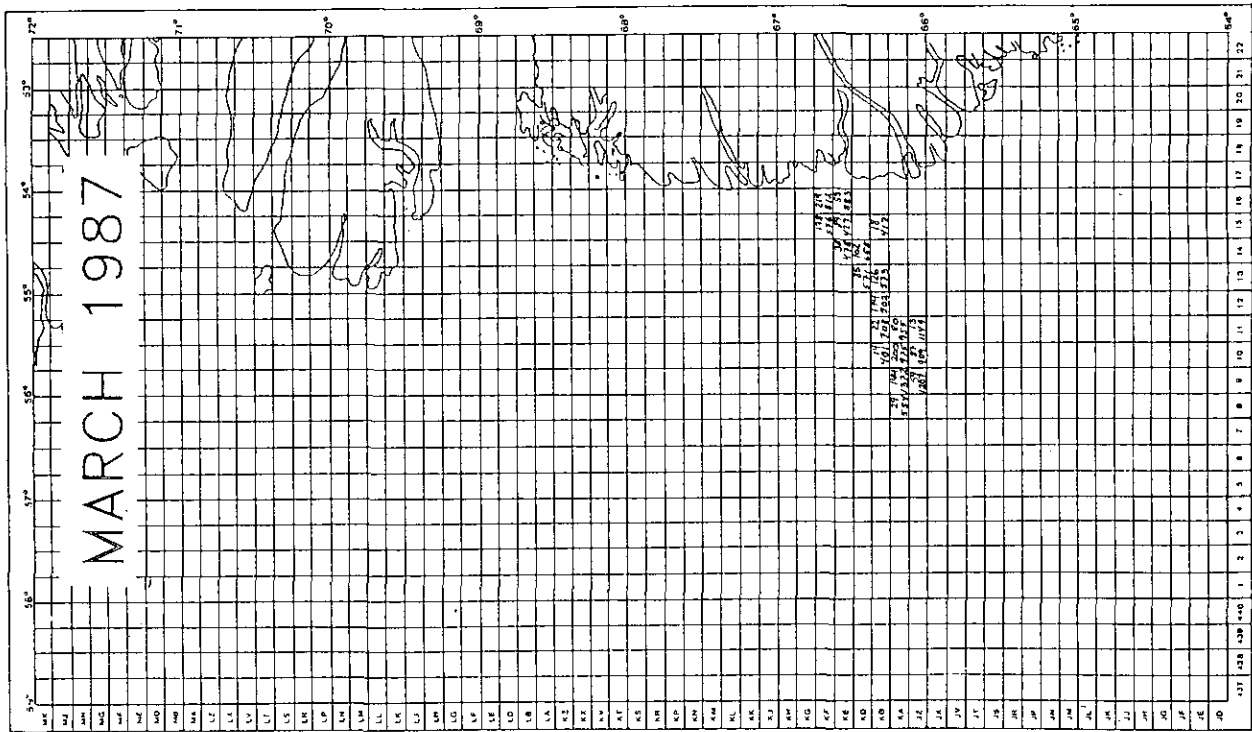


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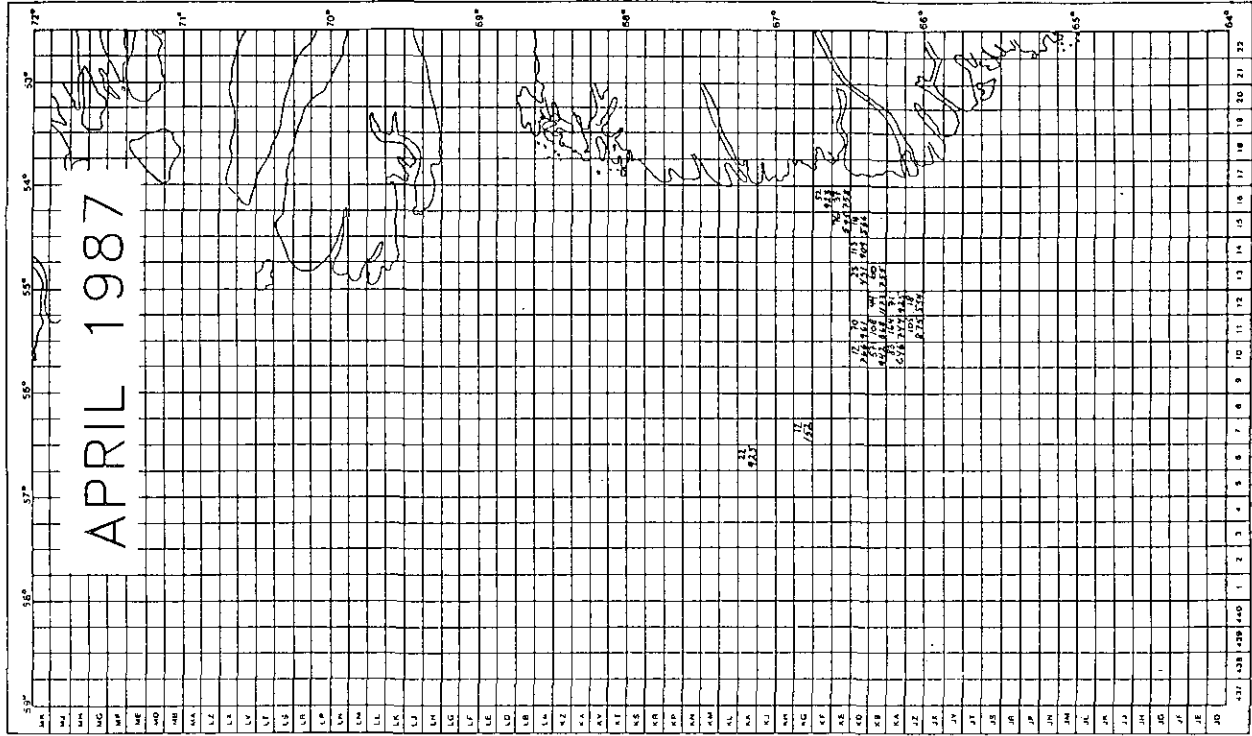


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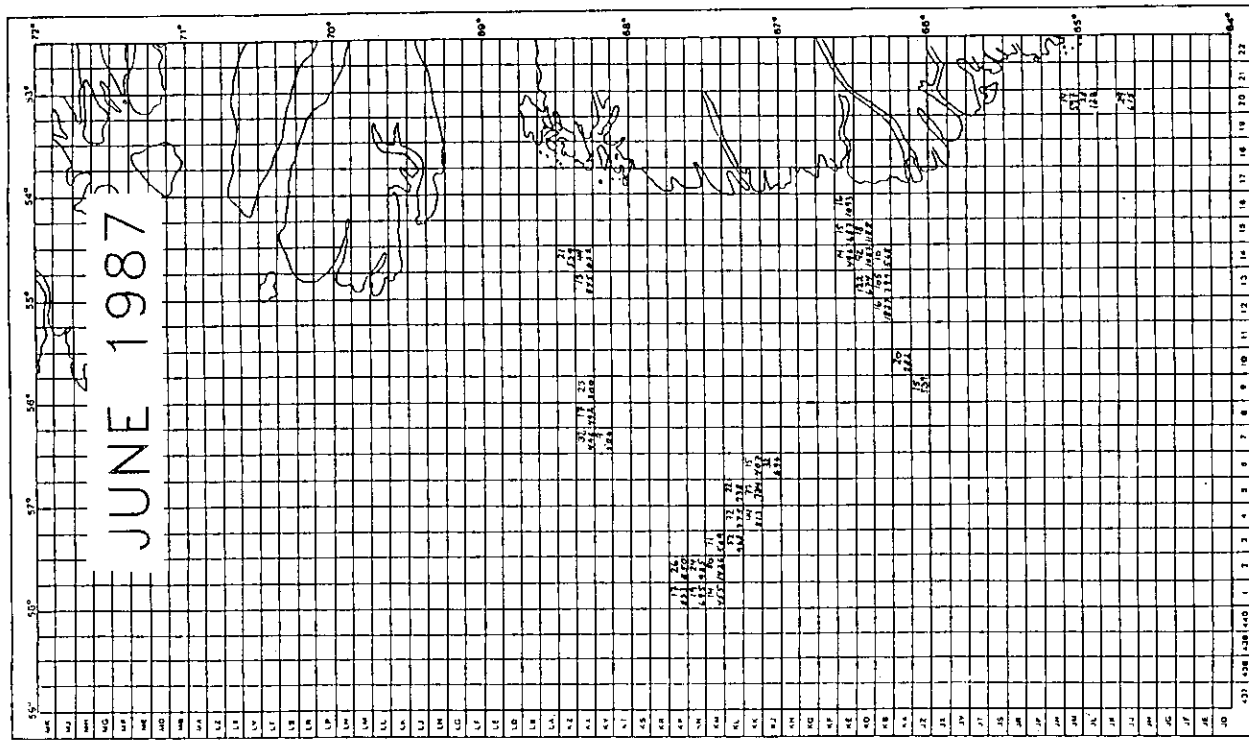


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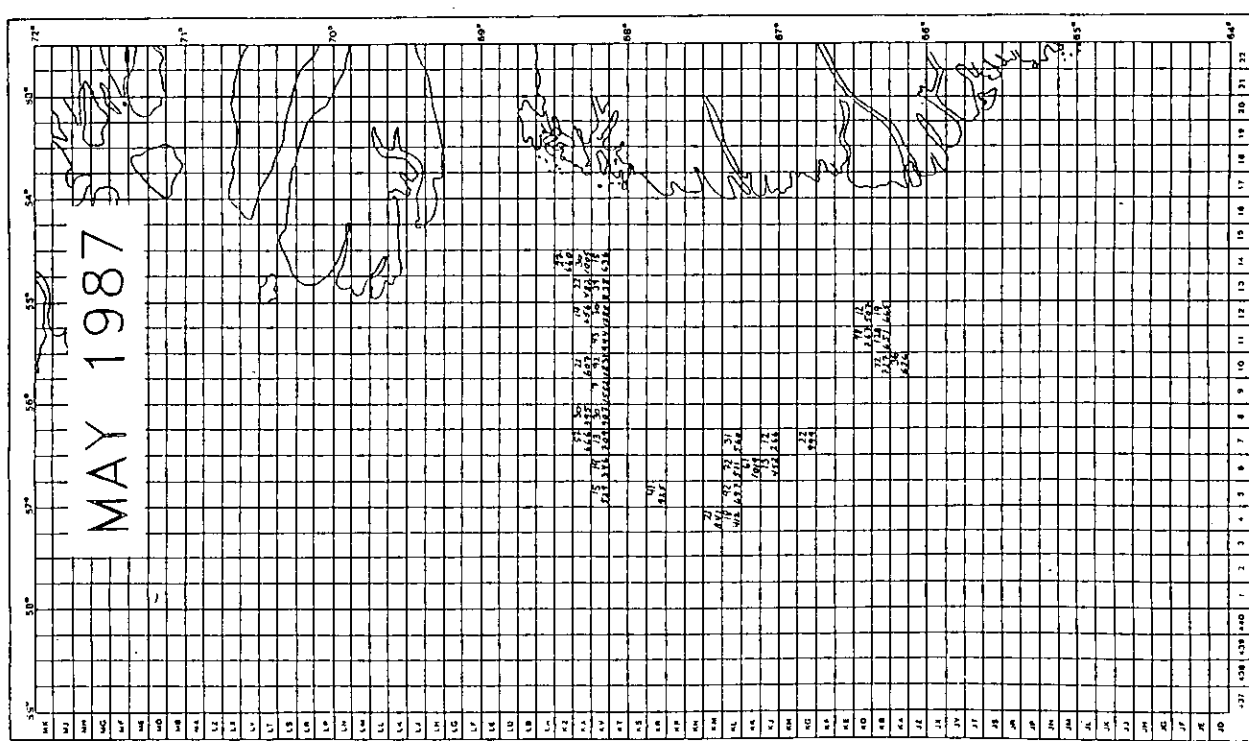


Figure 2. Continued. May 1987.



Figure 2. Continued. August 1987.

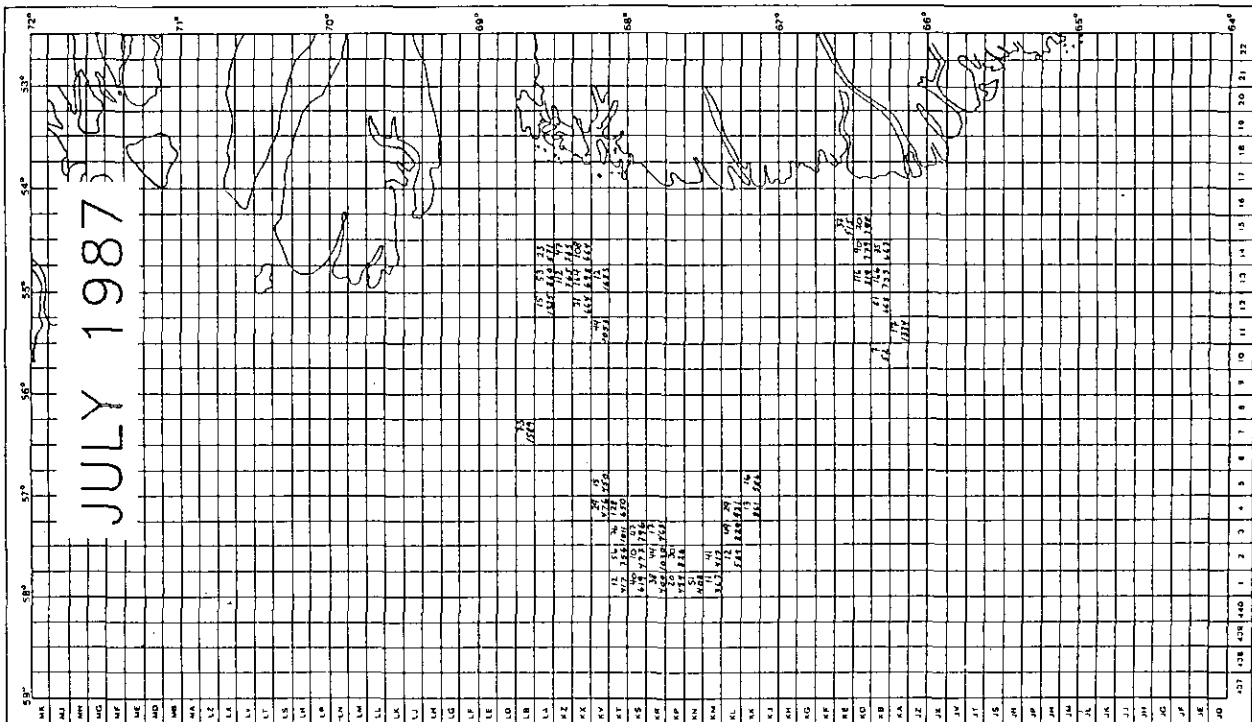


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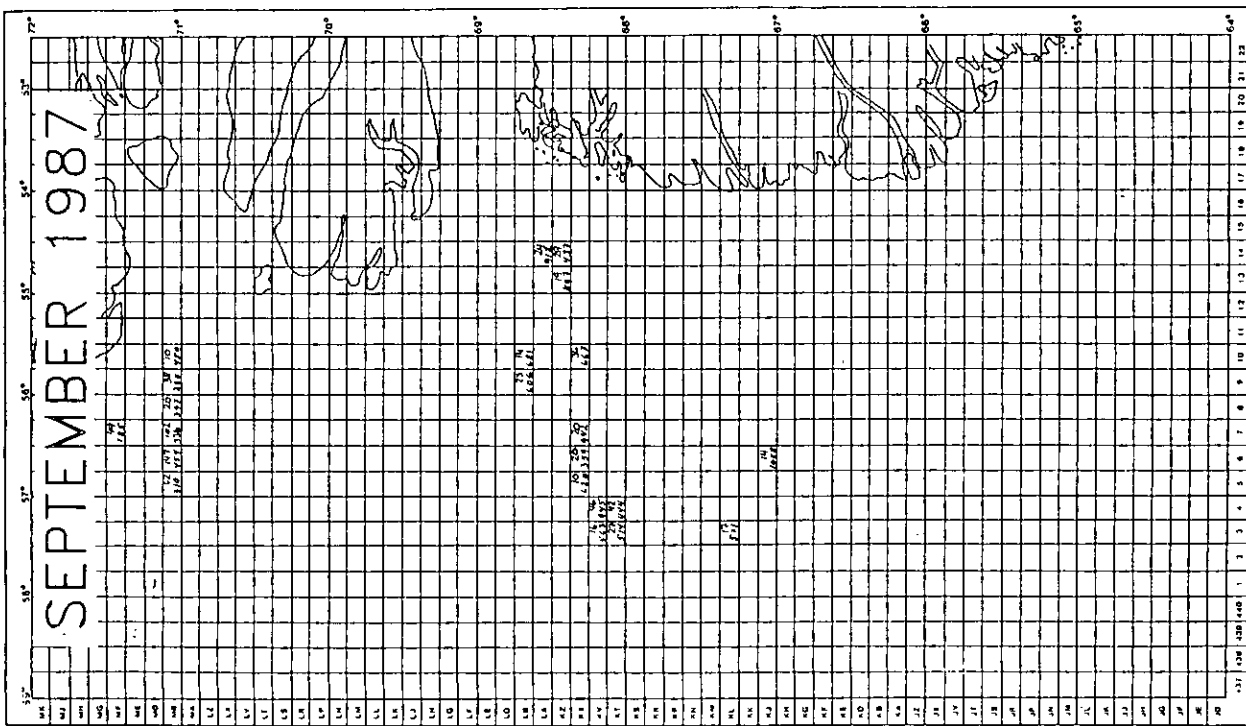


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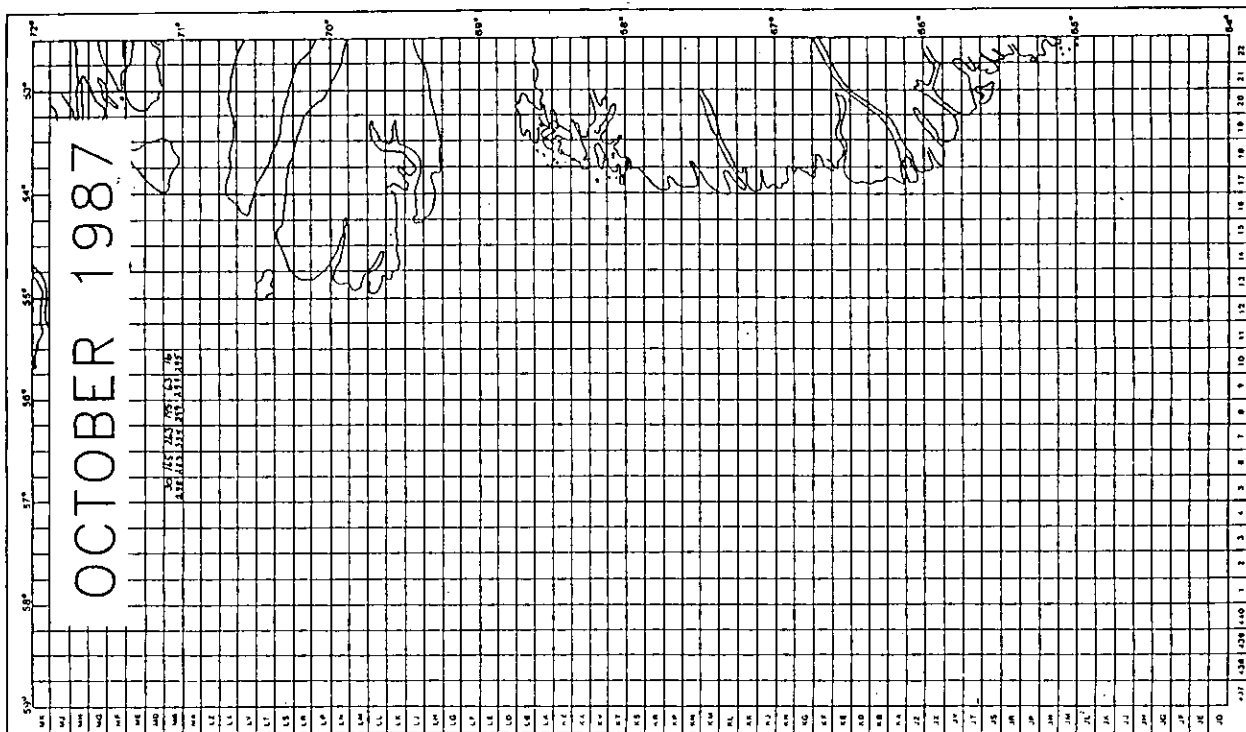


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Figure 2. Continued, December 1987.

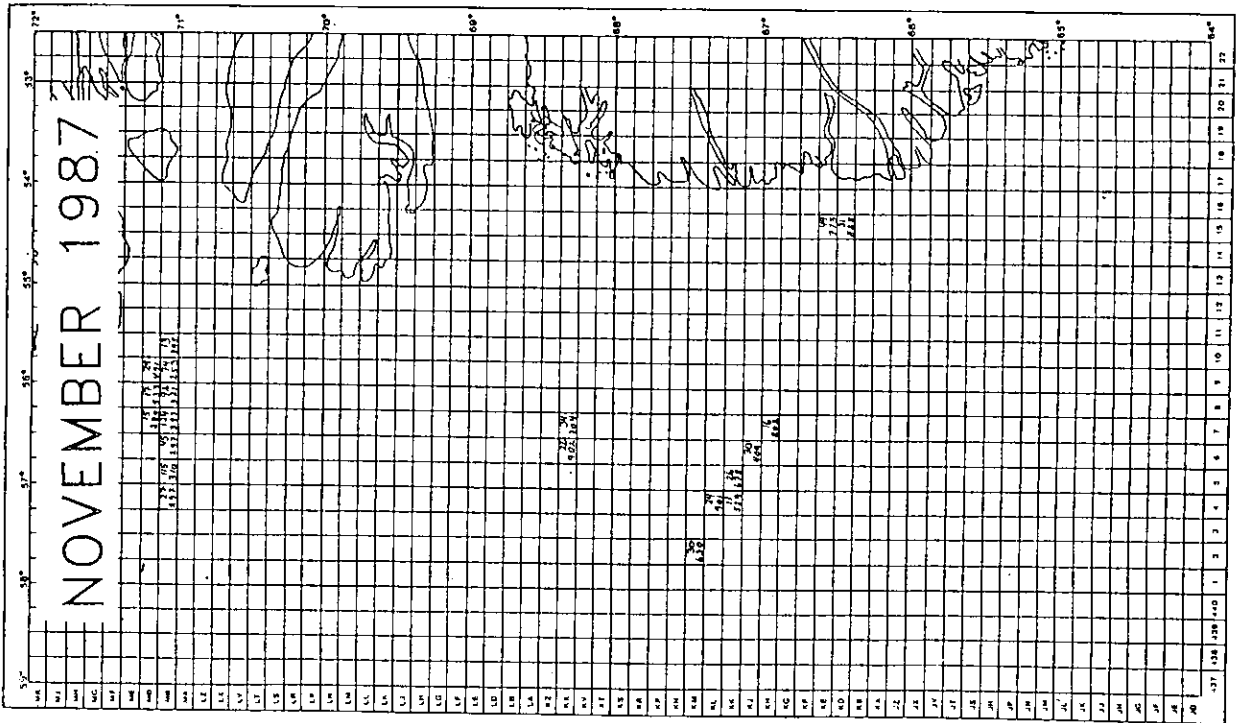


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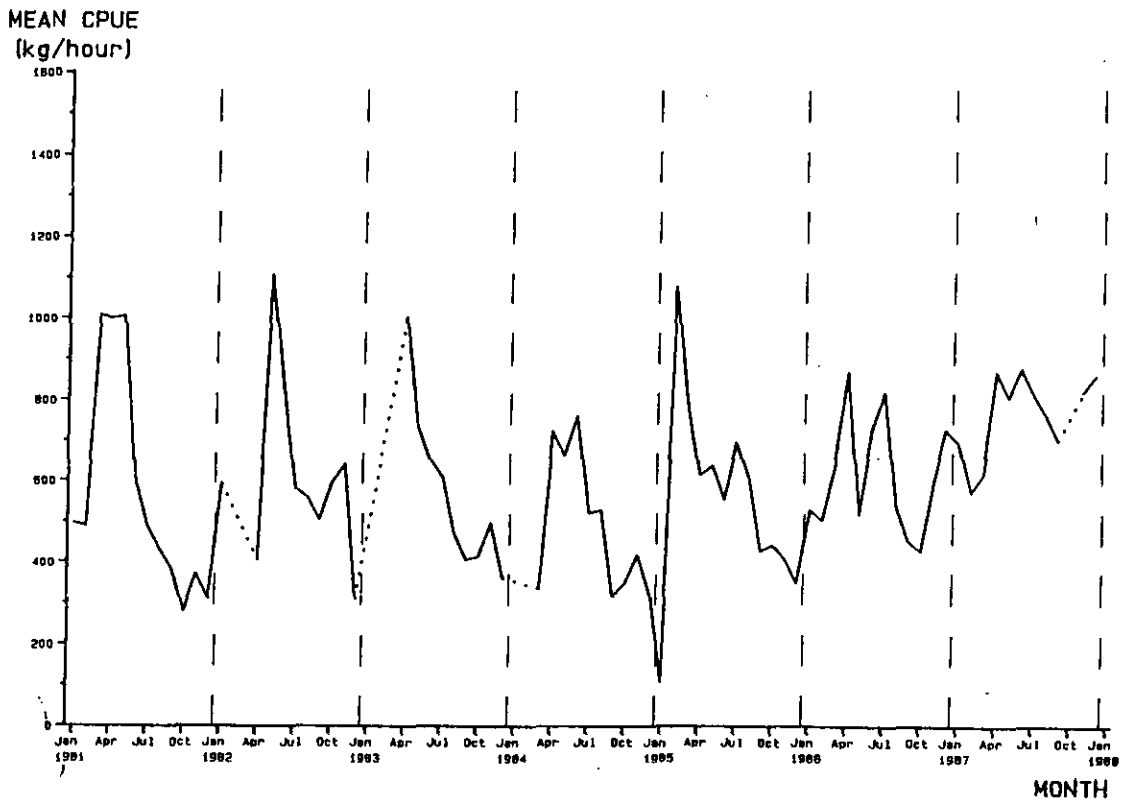
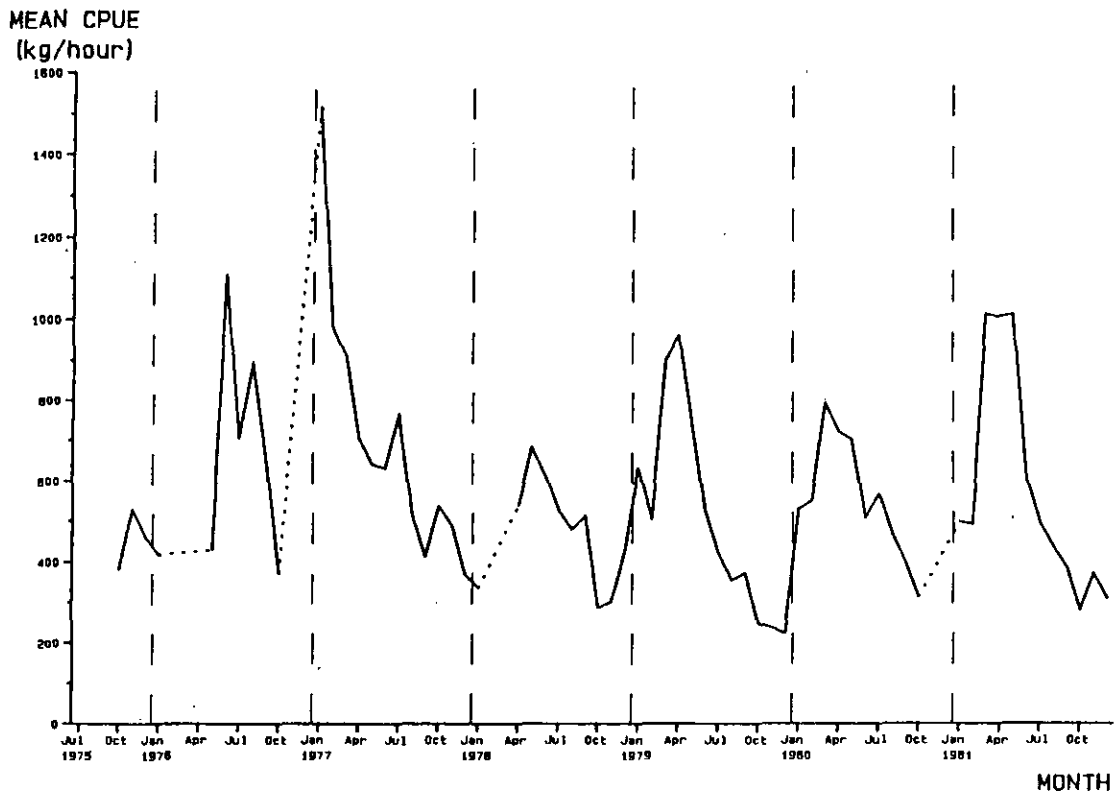


Figure 3. Monthly mean catch rate of shrimp (kg/hour) in NAFO Division 1B from October 1975 to December 1987 based on logbook information and landings from seven trawlers (630-857 GRT) of the Greenland Home Rule Administration (corresponding no. of hours trawled are given in Table 3).

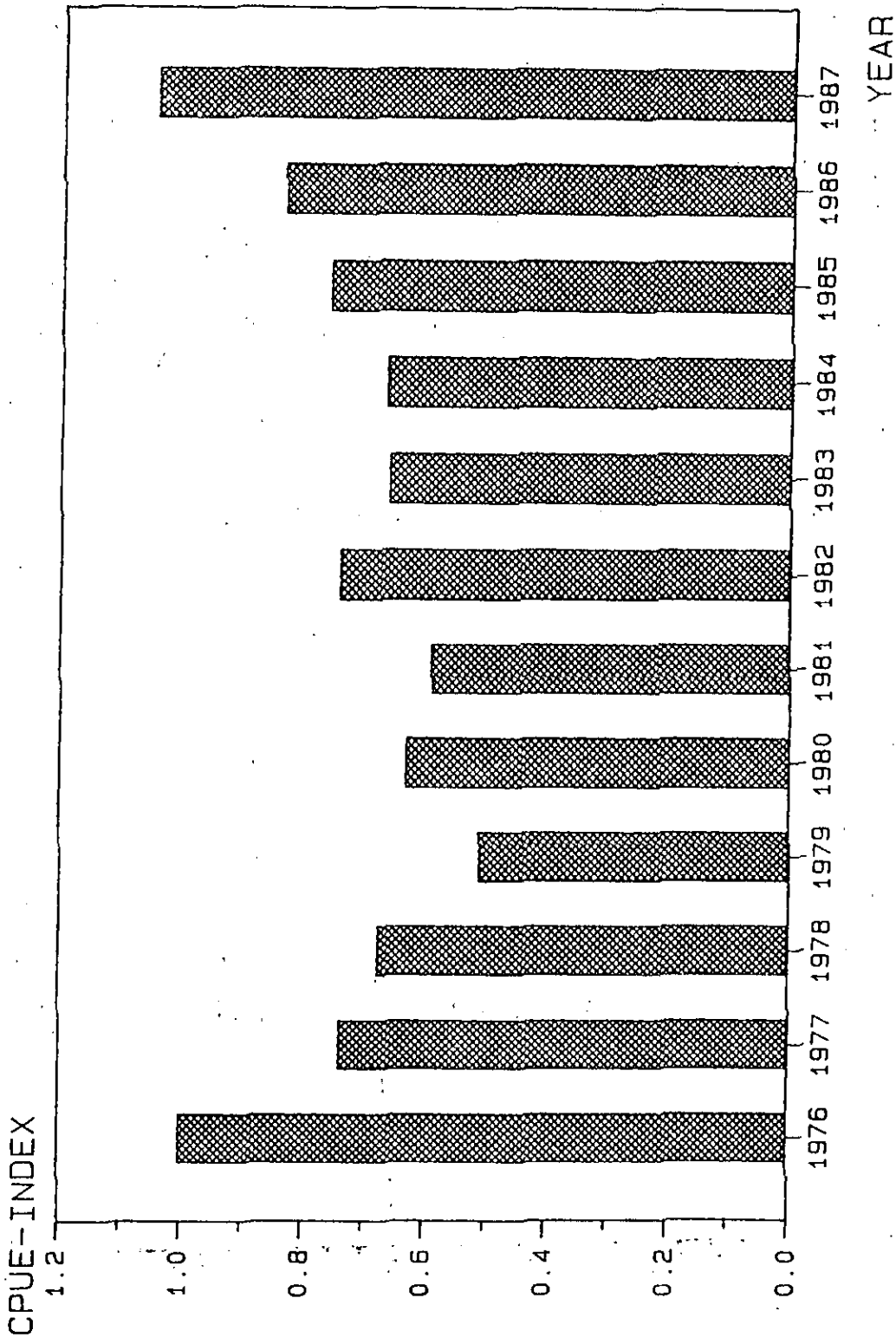


Figure 4. Indices of mean catch rates for the period July-September by year in NAFO Division 1B from 1976 to 1987, based on logbook information and landings of seven trawlers (630-857 GRT) owned by the Greenland Home Rule Administration. Indices are calculated relative to the mean catch rate for the period in 1976.



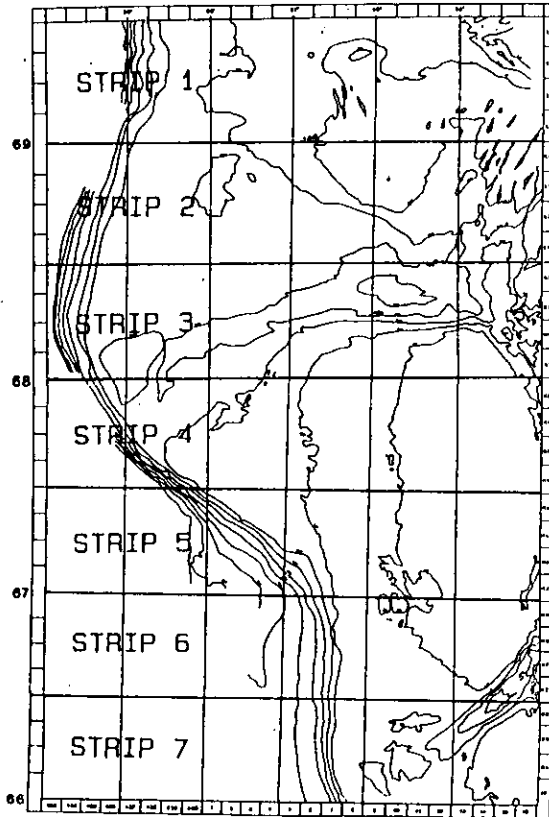


Figure 5. Map showing block-strips used in Figure 6.

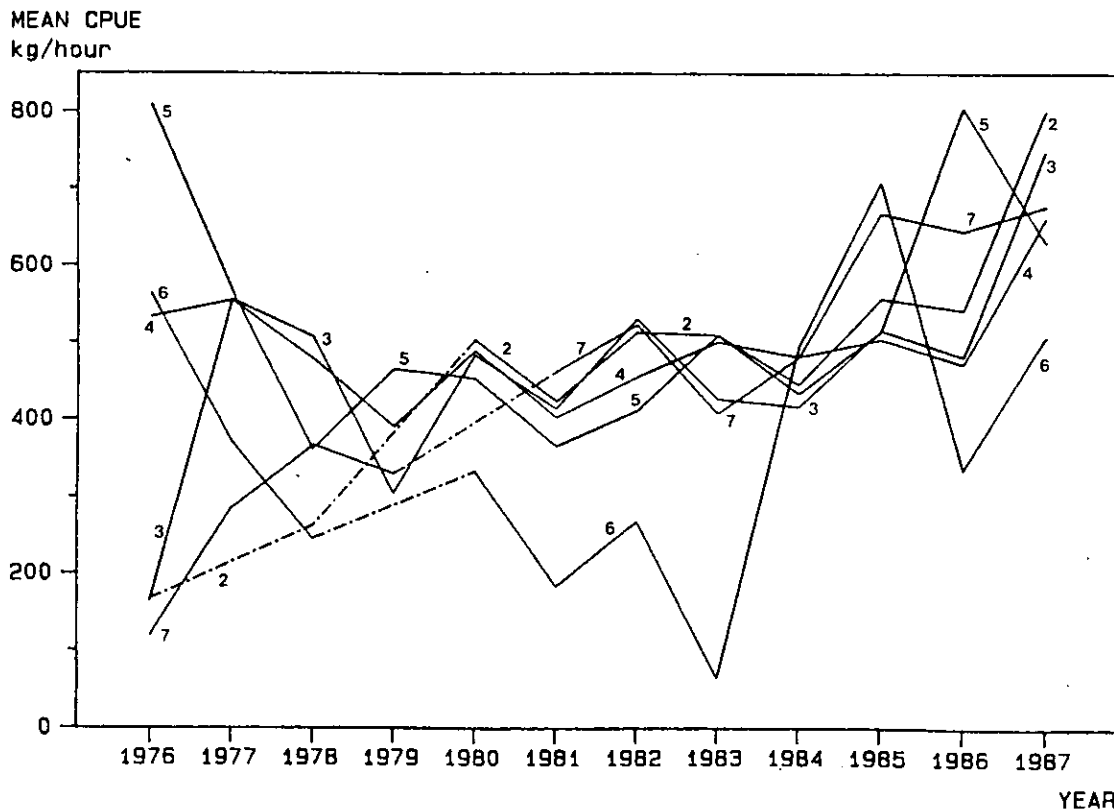
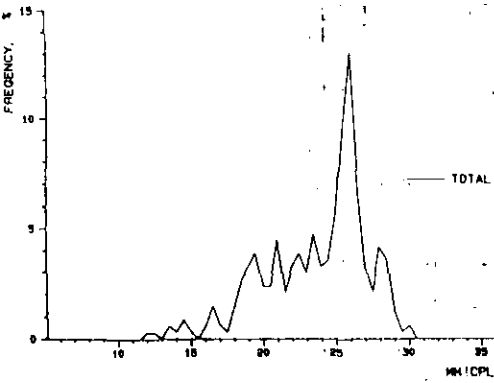
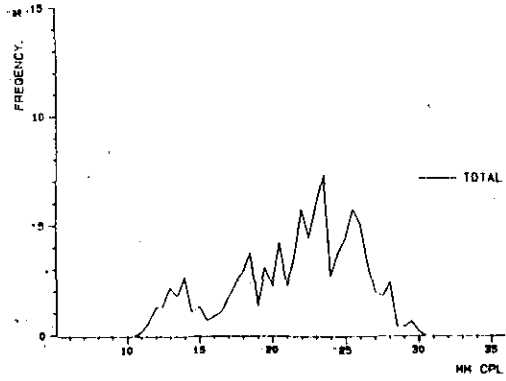


Figure 6. Mean catch rates (kg/hour) of shrimp for the period July- September in block-strips in NAFO Subarea 1 from 1976 to 1987, based on logbook information from eight trawlers (473-857 GRT) owned by the Greenland Home Rule Administration. Curve no.s refer to blockstrips shown in Fig. 5.

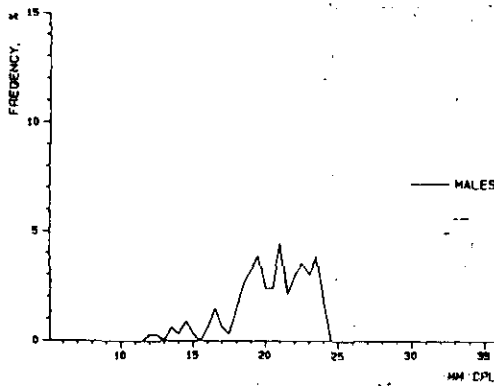
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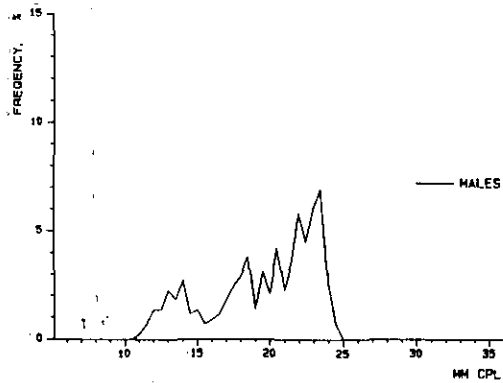
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1920 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 3.4 KG N= 448



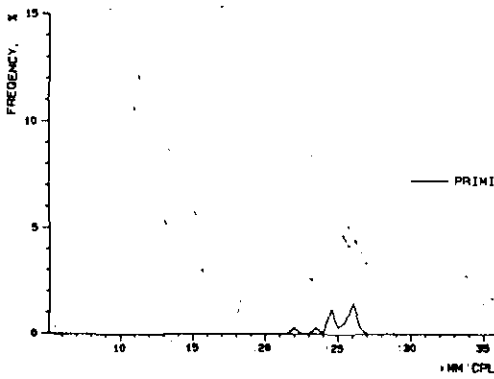
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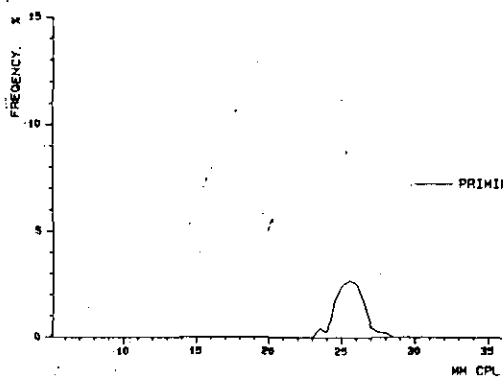
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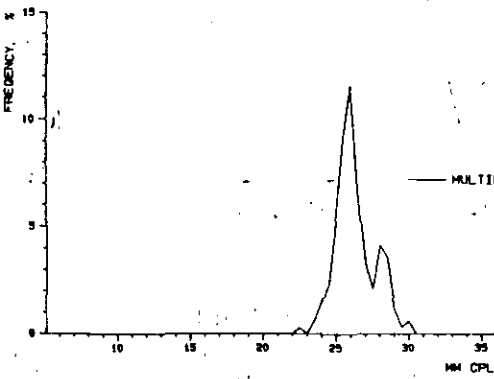
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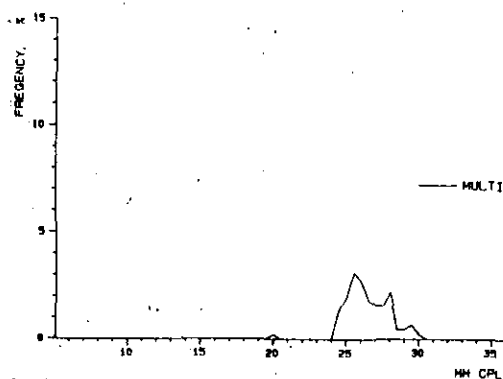
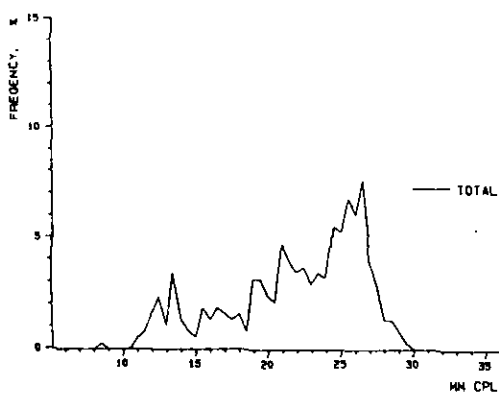
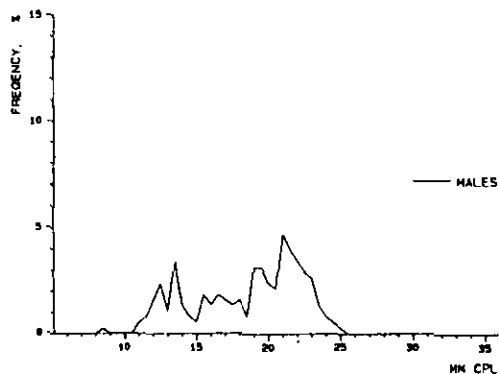


Fig. 7: Length-frequency diagrams for commercial shrimp samples from Div.

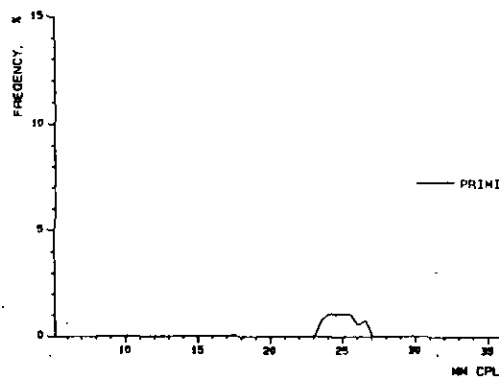
87EK0230730TR05 870730 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
KX014 0003 GMT MEAN DEPTH: 345 M.  
769 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 2.9 KG N= 383



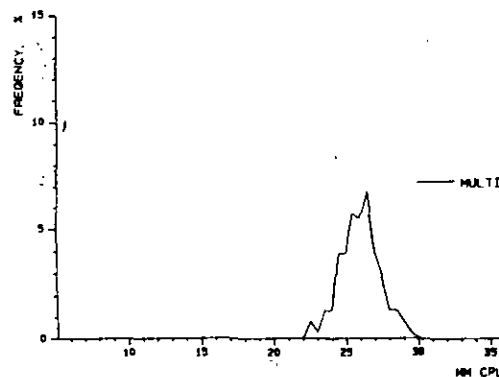
87EK0230730TR05 870730 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 206



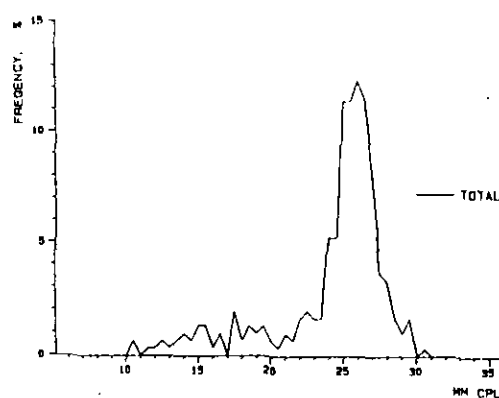
87EK0230730TR05 870730 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 24



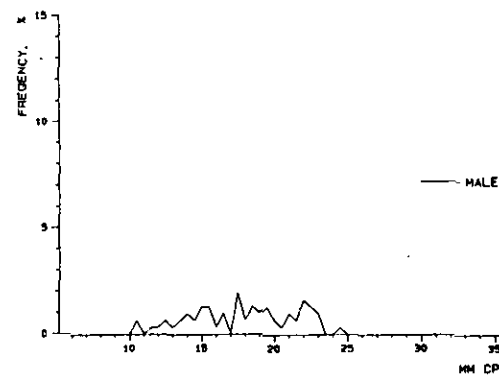
87EK0230730TR05 870730 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 153



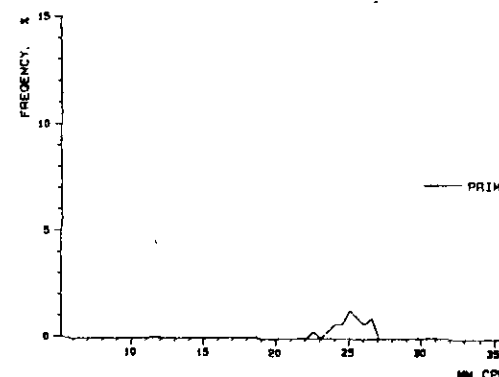
87EK0230731TR01 870731 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
KX014 0528 GMT MEAN DEPTH: 341 M.  
600 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 3.0 KG N= 308



87EK0230731TR01 870731 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 66



87EK0230731TR01 870731 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 18



87EK0230731TR01 870731 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 224

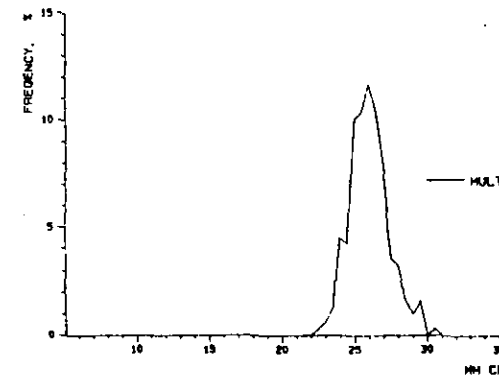
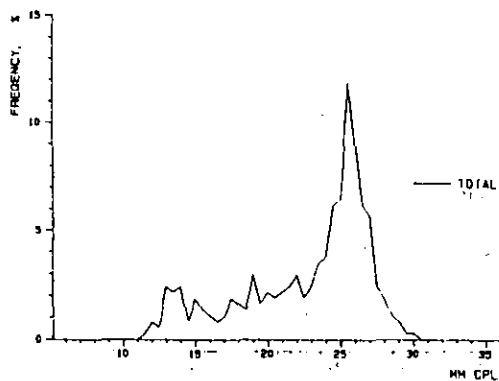
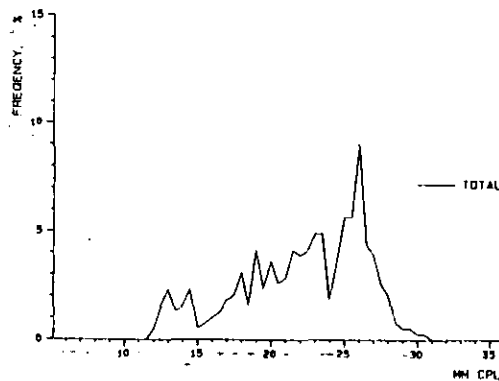


Fig. 7 (continued)

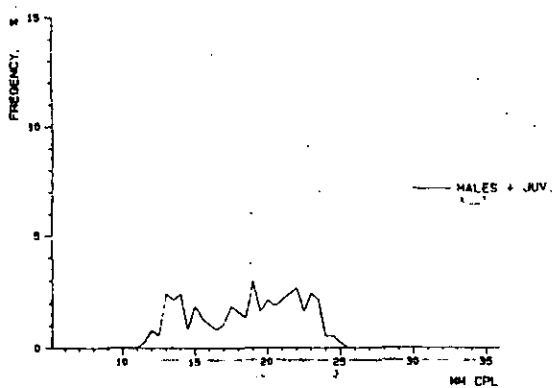
87EK0230731TR02-- 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
KX014 1043 GMT MEAN DEPTH: 335 M.  
894 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 3.0 KG N= 372



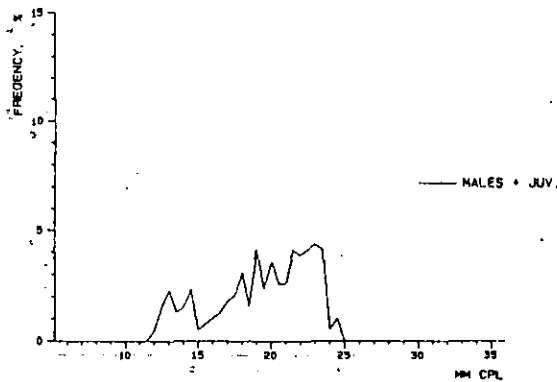
87EK0230731TR03 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
KX014 1638 GMT MEAN DEPTH: 355 M.  
1032 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 3.0 KG N= 388



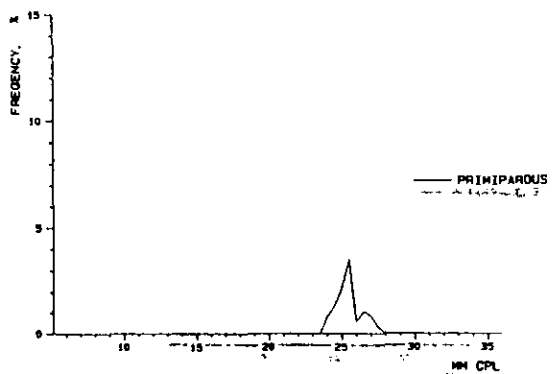
87EK0230731TR02 - 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 163



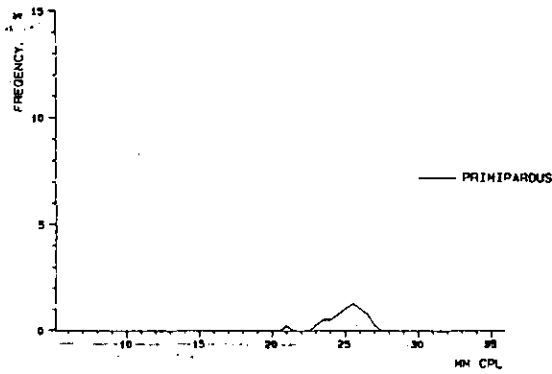
87EK0230731TR03 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 229



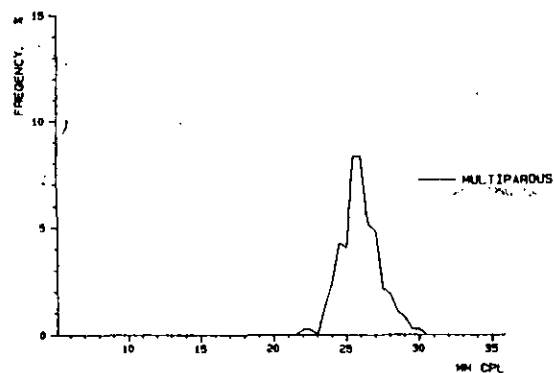
87EK0230731TR02 - 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 39



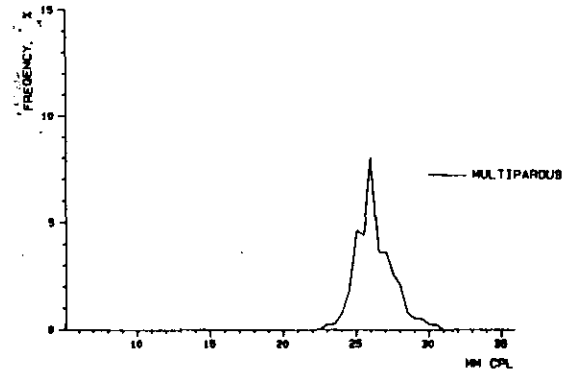
87EK0230731TR03 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 26



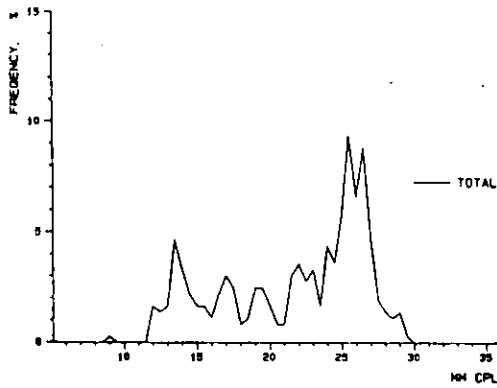
87EK0230731TR02 - 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 170



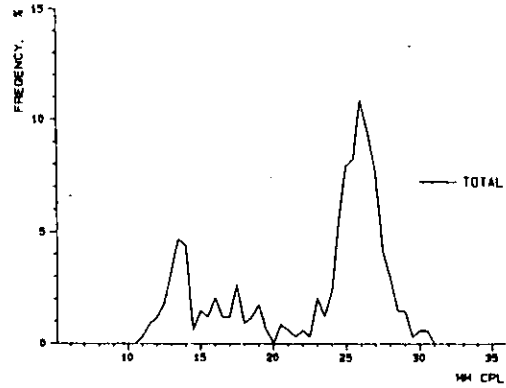
87EK0230731TR03 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 133



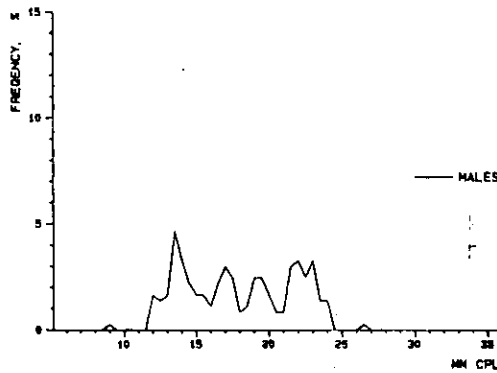
87EK0230731TR04 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
KX014 2148 GMT MEAN DEPTH: 346 M.  
710 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 2.6 KG N= 357



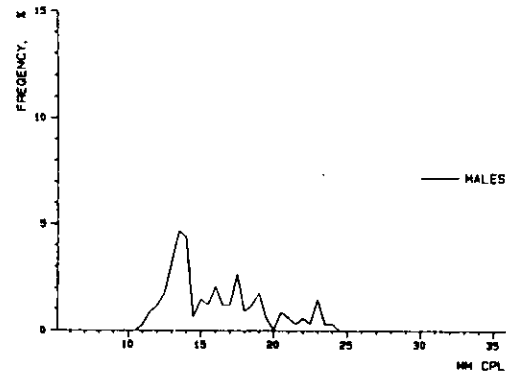
87EK0230801TR01 870801 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
KZ014 0305 GMT MEAN DEPTH: 318 M.  
258 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 2.8 KG N= 342



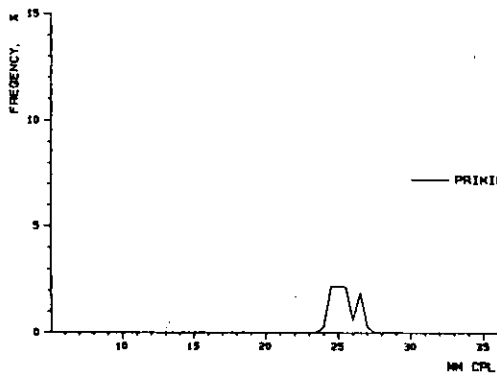
87EK0230731TR04 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 191



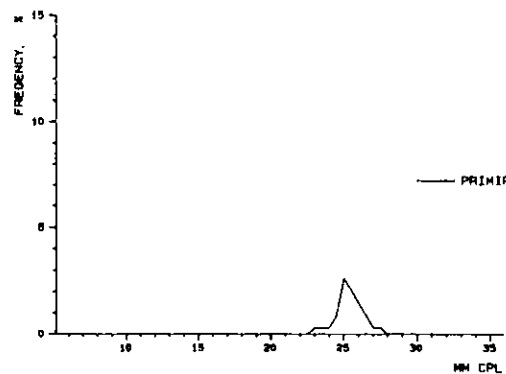
87EK0230801TR01 870801 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 122



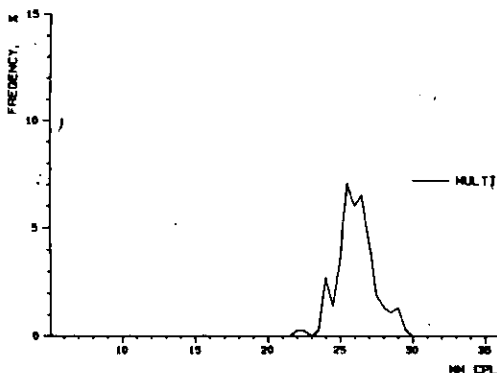
87EK0230731TR04 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 35



87EK0230801TR01 870801 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 32



87EK0230731TR04 870731 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 141



87EK0230801TR01 870801 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 188

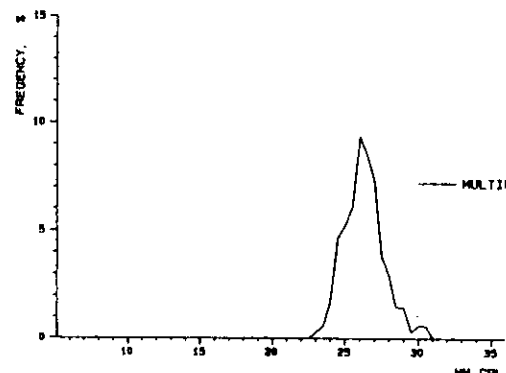
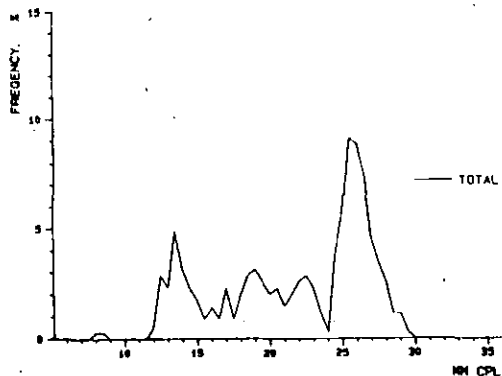
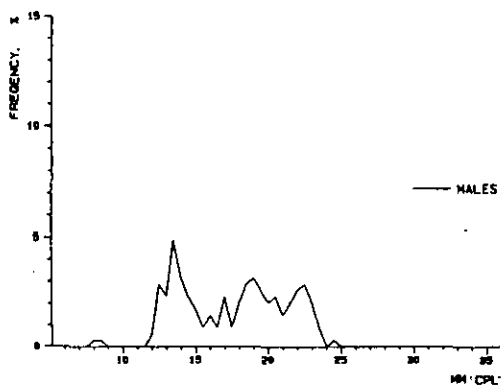


Fig. 7 (continued)

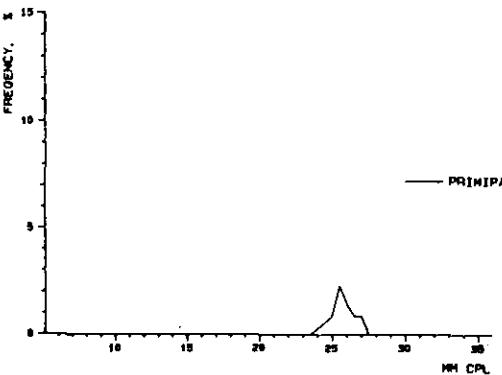
87EK0230801TR02 870801 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
KX014 0908 GMT MEAN DEPTH: 336 M.  
796 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 2.6 KG N= 350



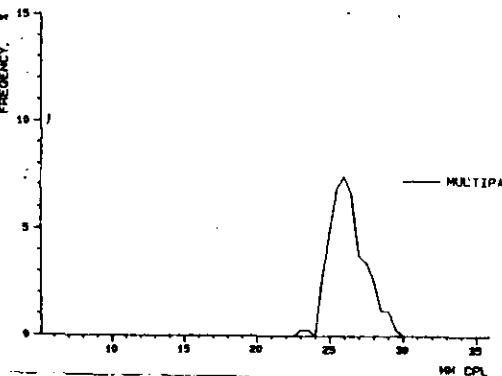
87EK0230801TR02 870801 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 180



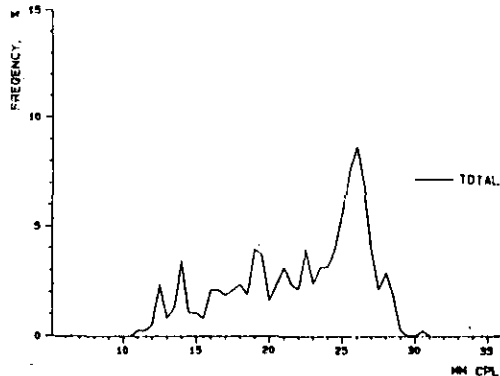
87EK0230801TR02 870801 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 25



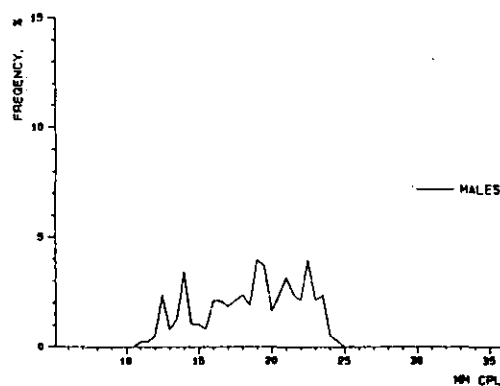
87EK0230801TR02 870801 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 145



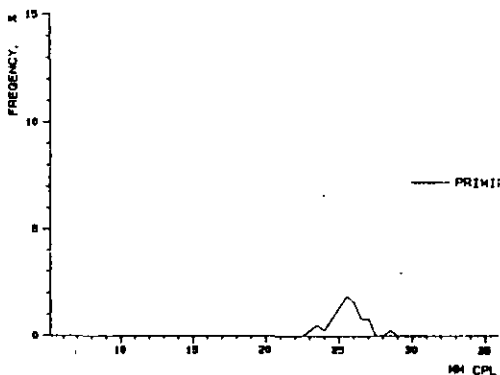
87EK0230801TR03 870801 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
KX014 1623 GMT MEAN DEPTH: 316 M.  
1001 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 2.9 KG N= 380



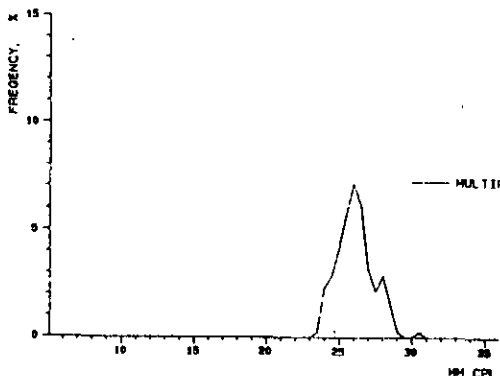
87EK0230801TR03 870801 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 200



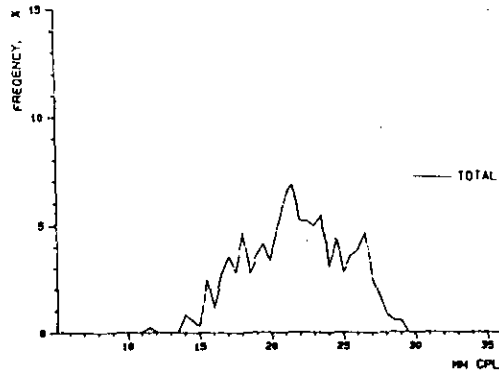
87EK0230801TR03 870801 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 32



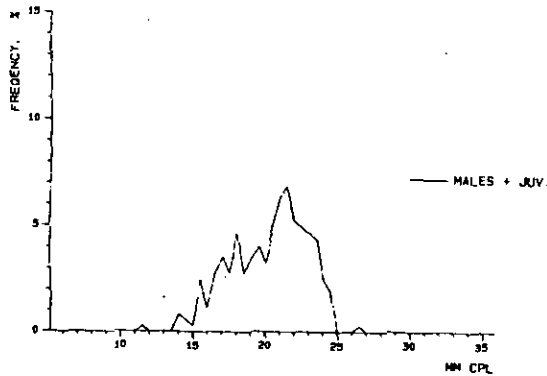
87EK0230801TR03 870801 FIX= 0 W.GREENLAND  
N= 148



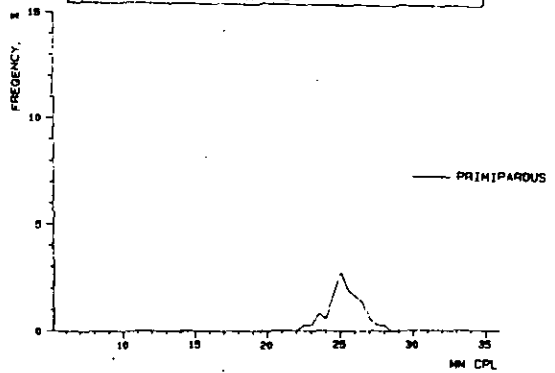
87EK0230802TR01 870802 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
KE016 1215 GMT MEAN DEPTH: 369 M.  
395 KG/HOUR SAMPLE WEIGHT 2.5 KG N= 365



87EK0230802TR01 870802 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 273



87EK0230802TR01 870802 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 45



87EK0230802TR01 870802 FIX= 0 W. GREENLAND  
N= 47

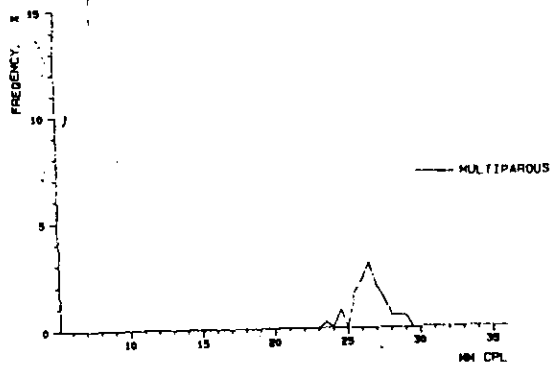


Fig. 7 (continued)