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Redfish Stock Size in Division 3M in 1990 and Estimated TAC for 1992

by

Gasukov P.S., and R. S. Dorovskikh

Atlantic Scientific Research Institute of Marine Fisheries and  
Oceanography (AtlantNIRO), 5, Dm. Donskoy Str.,  
Kaliningrad 236000, USSR

and

A.K. Chumakov

Murmansk Marine Biological Institute of the USSR Academy  
of Sciences, 17, Vladimirskaya St., 183023 Murmansk, USSR

INTRODUCTION

The assessment of the redfish stock state in the 3M divisions is a traditional problem which is carried out for many years. The 1991 TAC was established by Scientific Council at 43,000 t based on F 0.1, as applied to average biomass for the recent 3 years resulted from the USSR trawl and acoustic surveys.

Further studies aimed at the stock assessment and TAC estimates were recommended to be assisted by a sequential population analysis.

The paper attempts at making the above assessment using data since 1968 and involving standardization of fishing effort, VPA's tuning, determination of optimum fishing parameters and TAC estimate for 1992.

2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

2.1. Fishery

Fishery pattern for redfish since 1990 was described by Power and Atkinson (1989). The 3m redfish catch amounted to 39456 tons in 1990.

2.2. Age composition of catches and  
average weight of redfish

VPA was made on the basis on catch at age date in 1968-1990. The 1968-1977 data were obtained from PINRO and information for 1978- 1989 was derived from the paper by Vaskov et al (1990). Catch at age data were obtained from age determinations made by the scientists from PINRO (table 1). Table 2 provides information on average weight at age. Average weight in 1990 was assumed as the average long-term value.

2.3. Standardized catch rate and fishing effort

Data on catch and catch rate were obtained from Statistical Bulletins of ICNAF and NAFO of 1968-1987. Information for 1988-1990 was provided by the Soviet fishing fleet exclusively.

The above data were broken down by years and months with account taken of fishing States, types of gear and vessel tonnages. Catch rate was determined as hours of trawlings, due to which the information devoid of these parameters was omitted. The criterion of data selection was the redfish catch exceeding 2/3 of the total 3M yield, which comprised 402 entries.

Standardization was based on a multiplicatiel model developed by Gavaris (1980). The model parameters were calculated using an algorithm of multiple regression without weighing. Results of estimates are presented in Tables 3, 4 and 5. The multiple correlation coefficient appeared to equal 0.66.

The temporal dynamics of standardized catch rate values is presented on Fig.1. The data analysis has shown that the catch rate viewed as an indicator of stock size demonstrates a stable of redfish population with a certain upward trend since 1985, which was noted by Power and Atkinson (1990).

A certain deviation from the stable state recorded in 1970-1971, seemed to be related to spatial distribution pattern of redfish. The curve shape Fig.1 is in a good agreement with the results obtained by Power, Atkinson(1989)

Figure 2 and 3 provide a diagram of the multiplicative model remainders and a graph of expected normal values.

### 3. POPULATION PARAMETERS

Natural fishing mortality rate of 3M redfish is assumed as age-constant and it equals 0.1 (Power & Atkinson, 1989).

### 4. SEQUENTIAL POPULATION ANALYSIS

A great variety of methods can be involved in the analysis, the most common of which are adaptive approach developed by Gavaris (1988) and VPA's tunings on the basis of catch rate (Pope & Shepard, 1985).

Adaptive approach presents difficulties in catch rates during the period examined.

The stability of redfish stock size as evidenced from temporal dynamics of standardized catch rates is indicative of the applicability of method described by Pope and Shepard (1985).

However long-term data should be interpreted with account taken of catch rate and temporal dynamics.

Based on the results of a number of original calculations accompanied by the analysis of some statistical parameters such as correlation coefficient between fishing mortality at individual age and fishing effort and comparison between biomass estimates derived from VPA and from trawl and acoustic surveys it is concluded that redfish population analysis demands the approach which involves catchability rate.

Based on fitting an equation of regression between logarithms of catchability rate and values of fishing effort followed by calculating of catchability rate values in the terminal year. This method was implemented in the Lowestoft laboratory programme ( Flatman, Stevens, 1988).

Taking into account that the standardized values of catch rate in 1970-1971 are apparently abnormal the VPA adjustment was made using the 1972-1990 data. The final VPA analysis, however, covers the entire time period beginning from 1968.

The rates of fishing mortality, abundance and biomass by ages and fishing years resulting from the estimations are given in Tables 6, 7 and 8.

Some numbers in tables were corrected. In particular, the abundance, biomass and fishing mortality rates for age group 5 in 1989 and 1990 were corrected; as a consequence, similar parameters for age group 6 in 1990 were corrected too. The correction included substitution of estimated abundances with the mean geometrical value respectively for 1968-1987 and 1968-1988. This was done because there were unbelievable high values of estimates obtained ( $N = 637155$ ,  $N = 2184146$ ,  $N = 570705$ ). After the correction, fishing mortality rates and biomass by the beginning of the year were separately recalculated.

Table 9 shows statistical characteristics of catchability rate determination, and correlation coefficients between fishing mortality rates by age groups and fishing effort. High values of correlation coefficients for age groups 12-16 are notable.

The degree of relationship between the average weighted fishing mortality rate and fishing effort can serve as another characteristic of VPA adjustment. The curve of such relationship for age groups 10-16 is given in Figure 4; its degree for this case expressed by correlation coefficient of 0.92. Figure 5 shows the curve of such relationship for age groups 6-17; correlation coefficient for this case is 0.73.

It may be concluded from the above facts the VPA adjustment using the suggested method was done satisfactorily. It can be concluded therefore that the 3M redfish stock was stable indeed beginning from 1968, and that there was some increase in its biomass and abundance after 1985. The stock size by the beginning of 1990 was 1840902 thousand which corresponds to biomass of 434.8 thousand tons.

### 5. YIELD-PER-RECRUIT ANALYSIS

Partial recruitment rates were found by the method of separable Virtual Population (Pope, Shepherd, 1982). Using the results of VPA adjustment we chose age group 12 for which the age selectivity coefficient was assumed to be 1 while the overall fishing mortality rate was taken as 0.263.

Separable VPA estimations (Flatman, Stevens, 1988) gave the following characteristics:

- initial sum of residuals squares - 388.68;
- final sum of residuals squares - 235.16;

there were 123 iterations made there. The calculated values of age selectivity are given in Table 10. As their analysis indicates, the curve of age selectivity of redfish is dome-shaped.

After calibration these values were used to assess yield-per-recruit by Thompson and Bell technique (Ricker, 1975). The average multiannual weights of fish needed for calculations are given in Table 11. The results of estimations made with the aid of a set of programmes (Rivard, 1982) are given in Tables 11 and 12.

Thus it is assumed that  $F_{0.1} = 0.2514$ ,  $F_{msy} = 0.4759$ .

#### 6. ESTIMATED TAC FOR 1992

The TAC for 1992 was estimated under the following assumptions:

- the average weight of fish will be on the level of average multiannual values;
- partial recruitment rates correspond to those given in Table 11;
- the abundance of age group 5 in 1991 and 1992 will remain on the level of the mean geometrical value for the past ten years;
- the total catch of redfish in 1991 will be on the level of recommended TAC reaching 43 thousand tons;
- fishing intensity in 1992 will correspond to values  $F_{1990}$ ;  $F_{0.1}$  and  $F_{msy}$ .

The results of calculations of TAC are given in Tables 13, 14 and 15. They indicate that the estimated stock of 3M redfish by the beginning of 1992 will be 451.4 thousand tons, TAC - 32.5-58.9 thousand tons.

These results have to be examined more thoroughly. If the 1991-1992 fishing regimes are compared, might point out a rather low value of TAC for 1992 corresponding to  $F_{0.1}$ . At the same time fishing intensity assumed for 1991 exceeds  $F_{0.1}$  providing for a TAC of 43 thousand tons which nevertheless does lead to a stock decrease by early 1992. This indicates that under a stable population  $F_{0.1}$  regime is too "sparing", and could be somewhat increase. That is why the standard set of TAC estimations was supplemented by another set which would correspond to fishing regime determined by the following rate of fishing mortality:

$$F^* = \frac{F_{0.1} + F_{msy}}{2} = 0.364$$

The results are shown in Table 16. Under such a fishing regime the TAC will be 46 thousand tons.

Table 17 provides TAC values for 1992 under various regimes of 1993. These results show that virtually no biomass decrease occurs when the recruitment is on the level of the mean geometrical value. This makes it possible for us recommend TAC for 1992 in the amount of 46 thousand tons.

#### 7. CONCLUSION

Standardization of fishing effort at NAFO 3M redfish fishery, sequential analysis of the catch at age resulted in stock assessment and optimal fishing mortality estimation ( $F_{0.1} = 0.2514$ ,  $F_{msy} = 0.4759$ ). Given those fishing mortality and current (1990) fishing exploitation rate the TAC is estimated at 32.5-58.9 thousand tons. Additional calculations showed that even MSY level of exploitation rate would not cause a decrease in biomass by the beginning of 1993. It is suggested to utilize a regime of fishery that would correspond to the average value of fishing mortality rate between  $F_{0.1}$  and  $F_{msy}$  which makes it possible to recommend TAC of 46000 tons.

#### REFERENCES

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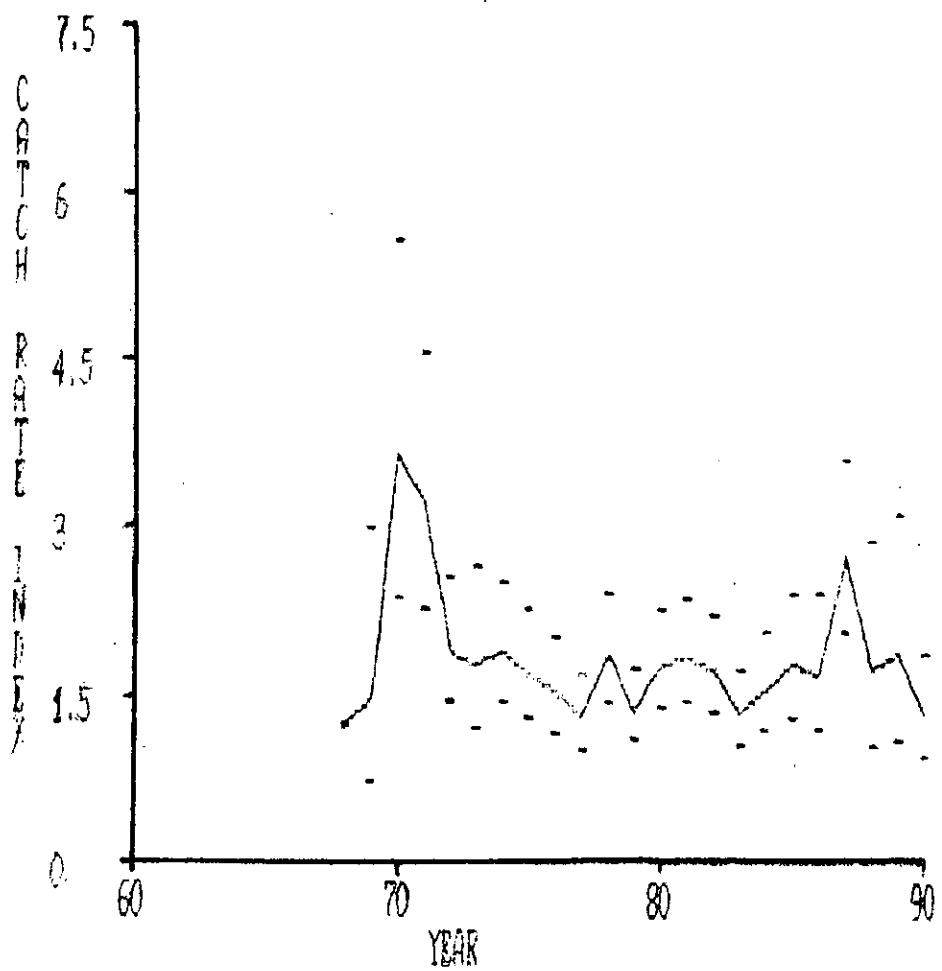












**Fig. 1. Temporal dynamics of standardized catch rates of  
3 M redfish.**

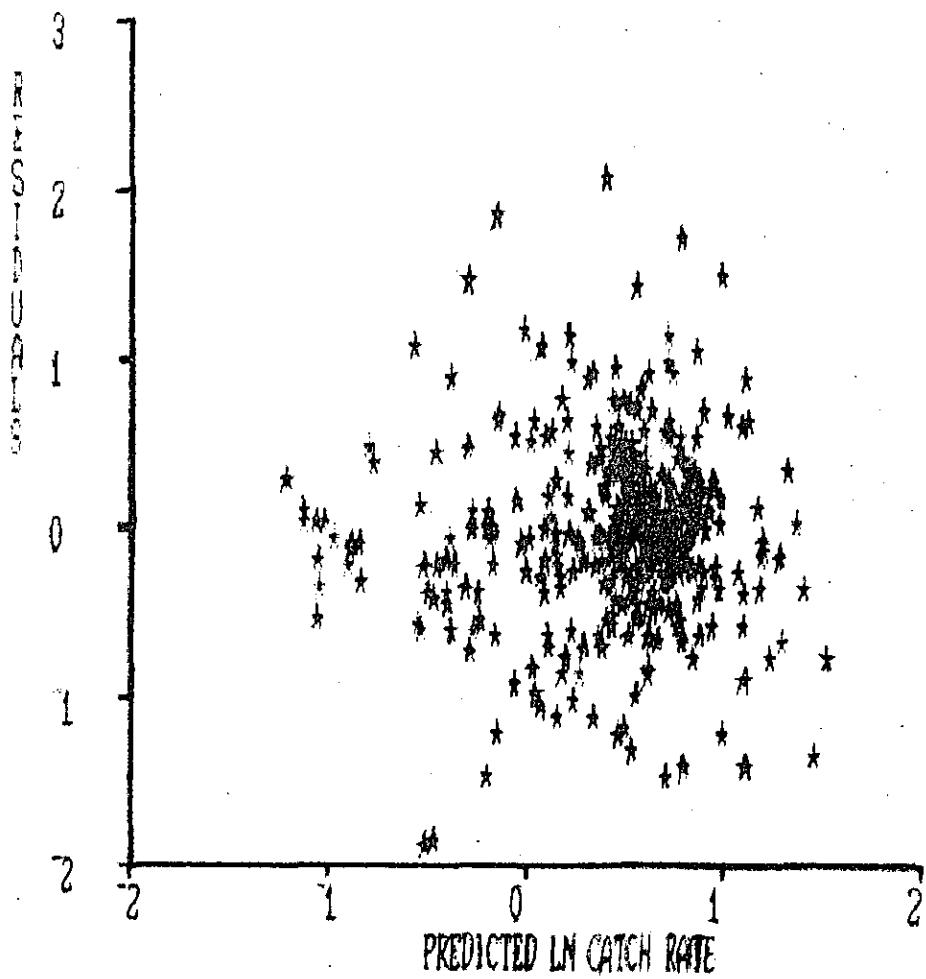


Fig. 2. Remainders in the multiplicative model.

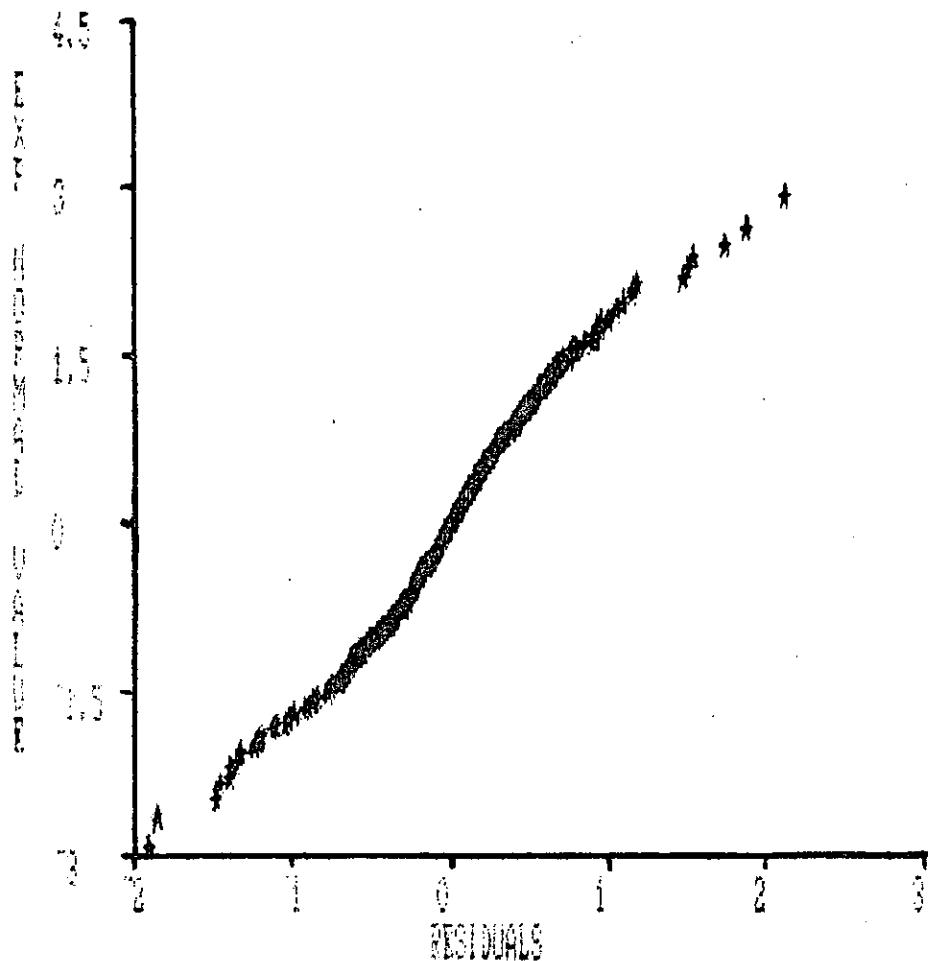


Fig. 3. Expected normal residuals in the multiplicative model.

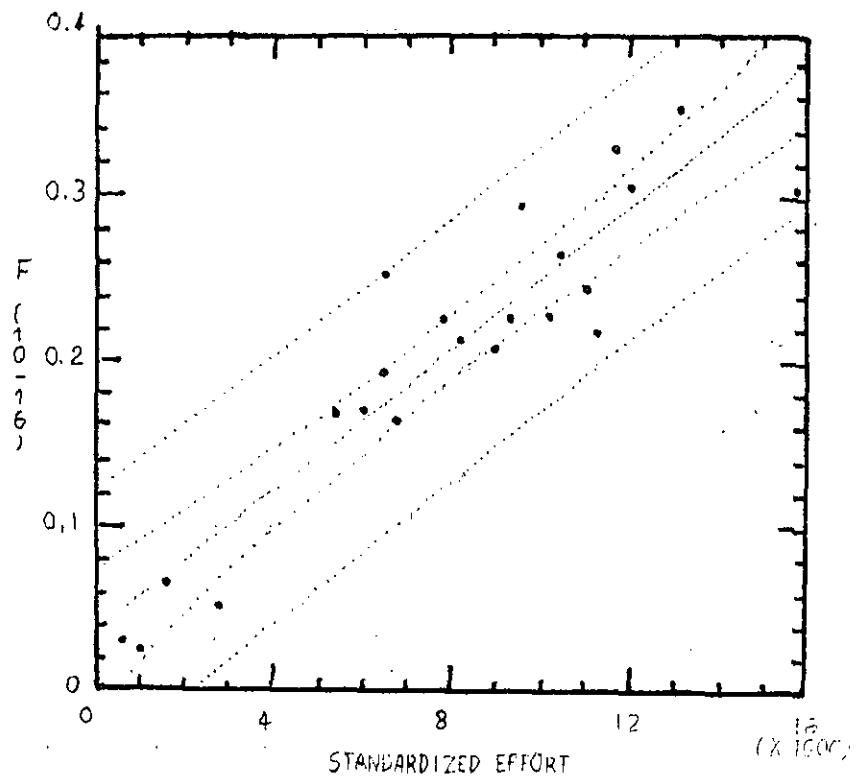


Fig. 4. Relationship between the average weighted fishing mortality rate (for age groups 10-16) and fishing effort.

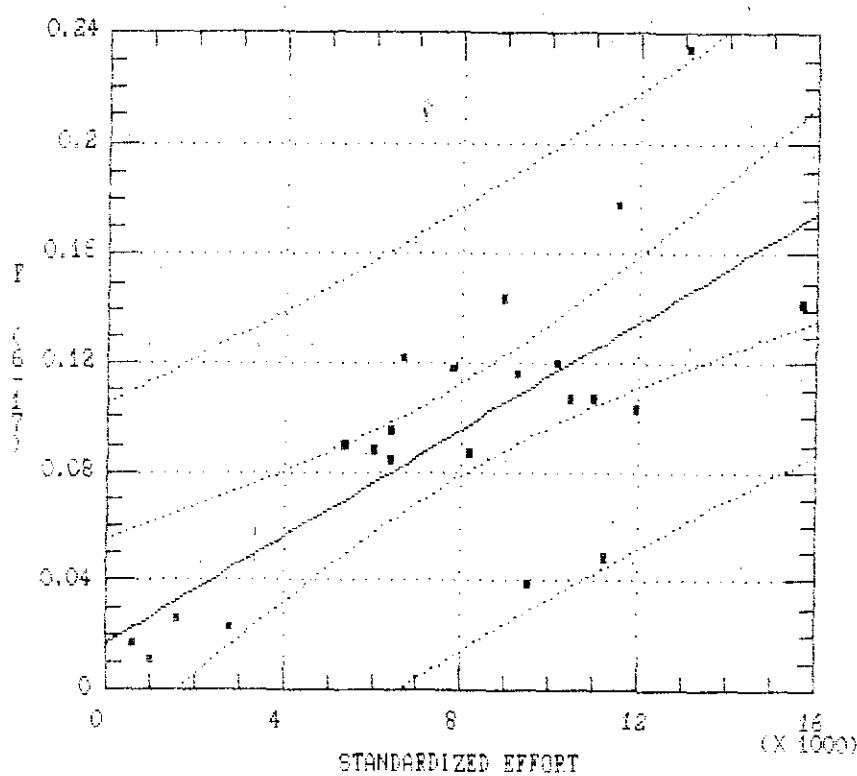


Fig. 5. Relationship between the average weighted fishing mortality rate (for age groups 6-17) and fishing effort.