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Faroe Islands Research Report for 1990

by

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A. Status of the fisheries (Subareas 0-4 inclusive)

Total Faroese catches in Subareas 0-4 increased from 2,241 t in 1989 to 6,015 t in 1990 (Table 1). This increase is mainly due to the restart of the long line fishery for cod in Subarea 3, especially the exploratory fishery in 3M, and the trawl fishery for Greenland halibut in Subareas 0, 1 and 2. The observed changes in catches of porbeagle and shrimp, respectively, derive from good catches by the porbeagle long liner and a reallocation of a part of the shrimp quota from West to East Greenland waters.

In Table 2 the catches in 1990 are broken down by Subarea/Division and species. Atlantic cod, Greenland halibut, Porbeagle and shrimp, constitute more than 99% of the total catches.

Table 3 provides information on the catches of Atlantic cod broken down by Subarea/Division, gear and month. The same information for Greenland halibut is presented in Table 4 and for porbeagle, in Table 5.

B. Special Research Studies

2. Biological studies

a) The catches inside the EEZ of Canada are monitored by national observers and the data made available to the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, St. John's. These data are not included in this report.

b) An exploratory long line fishery for cod took place on Flemish Cap (3M) in 1990 with the main purpose to monitor the status of the stock. A more detailed description of the fishery and results are presented in SCR Doc. 91/25.

A brief summary of the observations and samples taken are provided here.

Catch and effort data

CPUE data for 1990 are given in Table 6 and Fig. 1 together with the Faroese long line catch series presented last year (SCR Doc. 90/43). It can be seen that the sharp decline in CPUE after 1985 has reversed, and the CPUE for 1990 is at the same level as in the period 1982-85. This could indicate, that the stock has recovered to some degree.

### Assessment data

In Table 7 the intensity of sampling in 1990 is shown. The catches were mainly of age 4-6, i.e. year-classes 1984-86, the 1985 year-class being the dominating one.

### By-catch

Observations in March and April showed, that Atlantic cod constituted about 80% of the catches, Atlantic wolffish about 12% and skates (mainly thorny skate) about 5%.

### Conversion of saltfish length and weight into ungutted values

Due to shortage of manpower and money it is not possible for the Fisheries Laboratory of the Faroes to have scientific observers on board every vessel every year. The usual way to overcome this is to sample the catches when landed. In such a case, where the fish is landed as wet salted cod fillets, the sampling is not straight forward.

This year, a number of cod specimen were measured for length and weight on board the exploratory long liner (ungutted as well as fresh fillets) and tagged individually before salting. The same saltfish fillets were then measured again at landing at the Faroes. The results will be used in the future to convert length and weight of saltfish fillets to ungutted fresh fish, when sampling the saltfish catches at landing.

Table 1. Faroese nominal catches (tonnes) by species in the NAFO area in 1989 and 1990.					
Species		1989		1990	*
		tonnes		tonnes	
Cod				2238	
Greenland halibut		1428		3000	
Atlantic halibut				31	
Groundfishes n.e.i				9	
Porbeagle		333		502	
Skates n.e.i.				2	
Shrimp		480		233	
Total all species		2241		6015	

Table 2. Faroese nominal catches (tonnes) by species by Subarea/Division in NAFO area in 1990 (according to logbooks)

Species	OB	O	1C	1D	1	2G	2	3K	3L	3M	3N	3O	3	4V-N	4V-S	4W	4X	4	Total
Cod	175	175				16	16	96	227	1319	405		2047						2238
Greenland halibut	2425	2425				570	570		1		4		5						3000
Atlantic halibut									2	2	27		31						31
Groundfishes n.e.i.	9	9																	9
Porbeagle									68		38	17	123	3	3	182	191	379	502
Skates n.e.i.				231	233						2		2						2
Shrimp			2																233
Total all species	2609	2609	2	231	233	586	586	96	298	1321	476	17	2208	3	3	182	191	379	6015

Table 3. Faroese nominal catches (tons) of cod by Area/Division, month and gear in NAFO Area in 1990 (according to logbooks).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
OB Trawl									20.5	0.2	114.0	40.3	175.0
O Total									20.5	0.2	114.0	40.3	175.0
2G Trawl											16.0		16.0
2 Total											16.0		16.0
3K Longline											26.3	69.7	96.0
3L Longline					0.9	64.5			59.4	47.3	41.7		226.9
3M Longline		2.6	10.1	0.4	154.2	217.3		168.2	199.9	155.4	84.9	35.3	1318.9
3N Longline		26.6	125.9	151.2	218.5								405.0
3 Total		29.2	163.8	310.3	373.6	281.8		168.2	279.8	202.9	282.9	145.3	2046.8
Total NAFO area	29.2	163.8	310.3	373.6	281.8			168.2	279.8	202.9	282.9	145.3	2237.8

Table 4. Faroese nominal catches (tons) of Greenland halibut by Area/Division, month and gear in NAFO Area in 1990 (according to logbooks).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
OB Longline						24.8	22.6	31.2	113.6	298.7	296.6	24.7	812.2
OB Trawl									142.5	933.6	536.6		1612.7
O Total						24.8	22.6	31.2	256.1	1232.3	833.2	24.7	2424.9
2G Longline						1.6	310.5	161.8	64.4				538.3
2G Trawl										31.3	0.4		31.7
2 Total						1.6	310.5	161.8	64.4	31.3	0.4		570.0
3L Longline			2.2	1.1									1.1
3N Longline			2.2	2.1									4.3
3 Total			2.2	3.2									5.4
Total NAFO Area			2.2	3.2		26.4	333.1	193.0	320.5	1263.6	833.6	24.7	3000.3

Table 5. Faroese nominal catches (tons) of Porbeagle by Area/Division, month and gear in NAFO Area in 1990 (according to logbooks).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
3L Porbeagle line									61.0	7.0			68.0
3N Porbeagle line										11.3	26.3		37.6
3O Porbeagle line										14.5	3.3		17.8
3 Total									61.0	32.8	29.6		123.4
4Vn Porbeagle line										3.0			3.0
4Vs Porbeagle line				41.2	21.9	118.9				3.3			3.3
4W Porbeagle line			0.9	64.3	84.2	41.5							182.0
4X Porbeagle line			0.9	105.5	106.1	160.4				6.3			190.9
4 Total			0.9	105.5	106.1	160.4				6.3			379.0
Total NAFO Area			0.9	105.5	106.1	160.4			61.0	39.1	29.6		502.6

Table 6. Faroese long line fishery in 3M 1973-90.  
Mean CPUE of cod for 3 longliners 1973-87  
and for 1 longliner in 1988 and 1990.  
CPUE = kg ungutted weight/1000 hooks

Year	CPUE
1973	267
1974	255
1975	212
1976	299
1977	403
1978	333
1979	312
1980	251
1981	273
1982	187
1983	199
1984	206
1985	218
1986	124
1987	89
1988*	118
1989**	
1990	210

\* Fishery only in 2. part of the year

\*\* No fishery this year

Table 7. The Faroese exploratory long line fishery in 3M 1990.  
Sampling data for cod.

Division	Season	No. of fish measured	No. of fish aged
3M	1	13375	366
	2	39950	595
	3	11756	349
	4	13116	251

# Faroese long line fishery for cod in 3M

CPUE 1973-90 (kg/1000 hooks)

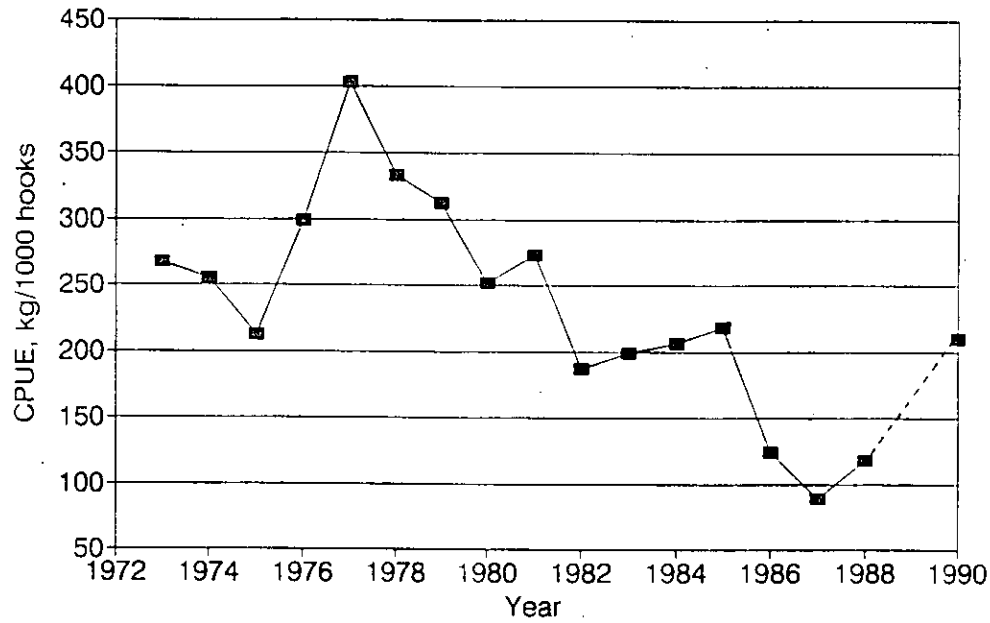


Fig. 1.