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The Catch Statistics of the Shrimp Fishery (*Pandalus borealis*)
in the Denmark Strait in the Years 1980-1991

by

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Abstract

In this paper all data available on the catch effort and CPUE from the shrimp fishery in the Denmark Strait for the year 1991 and the years 1987-1990 are combined. Total effort and mean CPUE of all countries combined has been calculated using the figures for nominal catch for every country. It is considered here that the shrimp stock is the same on both sides of the midline between Iceland and Greenland.

There is a continued downward trend in the catch rates or from 111 kg per trawling hour in 1990 to 91 kg in 1991 in spite of the slight decrease in the total catch from over 12 thous. tonnes in 1988 and 1989 to about 10 thous. tonnes in 1990 and over 8 thous. tonnes in 1991.

Introduction

The Denmark Strait area was first found in September 1976 but a fishery was first commenced in 1978 by Iceland. In the following year the Norwegians started to fish in the area. The fishery increased immensely in the year 1980 by the participation of Greenland, Denmark, Faroe Islands and France. From then on the fishery was carried out by all these 6 countries.

In this paper all data available on the catch, effort and the CPUE, are gathered by months for all strata within the traditional area combined for the years 1987-1991.

Material and Methods

For most of the countries there are data presented from logbooks, namely catch and effort. The individual authors have also calculated the CPUE by dividing the catch per month (in kg) by the corresponding effort (in trawling hours). In order to assess the overall CPUE per every half year, all the effort in the period January to June was summed. Then only the catches that correspond to stated effort are summed by every half year. The subtotal sum of the catch is divided by the subtotal sum of effort to get the CPUE per every half year. In order to assess the total effort exerted by each country in the area, the nominal catch per month is summed by every half year. The nominal catch is often higher than the catch reported in logbooks. Therefore the effort was corrected by every half year by dividing the nominal total catch by the CPUE of the same half year. It has been assumed here that the gear and the efficiency of all vessels of a country is more like that of the ones not reporting of the same country than that of other countries. Therefore the effort was first corrected by individual countries.

Results and Discussion

The effort, catch and nominal catch as well as calculated CPUE are presented in tables 1 to 6 for the six countries. For the first years the CPUE and effort was taken from the NAFO Scientific Council Reports 1979, 1980 and 1983 (Skúladóttir 1991). Later the CPUE and effort data were obtained from the scientists of the respective countries. For Norway the data come from Smedstad and Torheim (1989, 1991). For France the data come from Bertrand, Battaglia and Poulard (1988). The nominal catch data were obtained mostly from Carlsson (1988, 1989, 1990, 1991). When authors published later different figures for effort and CPUE where effort was higher than in the previous year these were preferred, taking into account that most of the NAFO meetings on the Denmark Strait shrimp took place in January which in some cases led to preliminary figures being given by respective countries. Sometimes

there was discrepancy between the nominal catch figures by month, by Carlson and the respective authors. In that case the higher figure was believed to be the nominal catch. The data published in 1991 (Skúladóttir 1991) are here reprinted for the individual countries except for the years 1980-1986 which are shown there. Table 7 however goes right back to year 1980. The data for 1991 are obtained from Smedstad and Torheim (1992), and Poulard (personal communication 1992) and Carlson (1992).

From table 7 it is notable that there is considerable variation in the CPUE of the different countries. This could be due to different gear sizes and the difference in power of the respective vessels. For the Icelandic boats it is known that gear size peaked in 1987 and has been rather stable since then. There is also a fall in CPUE in the latter half of the year. However a second peak in catch rates can occur in September or December. The yearly catch rate is calculated in table 8. The yearly CPUE has been falling gradually since the year 1980 and 1981 or from 245 kg per hour to 91 kg in 1991. In spite of doubling the effort there is little gain in addition to the 11 thousand tons fished in 1986. The total catch is listed in Table 9 as well as advised TAC by the Scientific Council of NAFO, by years. Through the years the effective TAC has usually been moderate and similar to the advised TAC. However from the year 1990 onwards the effective TACs have been far too high. Fortunately neither the effective TACs of 14100 and 14500 tonnes were reached in 1990 and 1991 respectively, perhaps because of failing catches at times throughout the two years. The total catch was only 8465 tonnes in 1991.

Conclusion

The fishery in the Denmark Strait appears to have reached the stage where stock level as judged by CPUE is well below half of what it was in the early eighties.

The annual removals from the shrimp stock in the Denmark Strait seems to have reached the limit whereby further increase in effort does not seem to give any larger yield for the long run. The CPUE seems to be declining further. For a while the total allowable catch should not be increased above the present level of catch.

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Table 1. Catch rates (kg per hour trawling) corresponding effort (hours trawling) and catch (tons) from the shrimp fishery in Denmark Strait by Greenland, in two periods of the year.

Year	January - June				July - December			
	Month	Cpue	Effort	Catch	Month	Cpue	Effort	Catch
1987	Jan	348	3608	1257.3	Aug	113	81	9.2
	Feb	322	4471	1439.0	Sep	253	400	101.4
	Mar	296	2965	878.6	Oct	199	753	149.7
	Apr	208	951	197.6	Nov	162	1915	309.6
	May	298	406	121.0	Dec	115	4067	468.9
	Subtotal	314	12401	3893.5	Subtotal	144	7216	1038.8
	Total	314	17666	5547.0	Total	144	7502	1080.0
	1988	Jan	301	6951	2089.8	Aug	117	1019
Feb		226	7950	1793.2	Sep	121	1487	179.4
Mar		152	6408	975.1	Oct	105	2586	270.5
Apr		104	1121	116.0	Nov	157	3207	503.3
May		114	550	62.9	Dec	203	4903	995.1
Subtotal		219	22980	5037.0	Subtotal	157	13202	2067.9
Total		219	24111	5285.0	Total	157	13822	2165.0
1989		Jan	249	6865	1707.5	Jul	27	15
	Feb	214	6361	1361.0	Aug	44	713	31.3
	Mar	131	3905	512.1	Sep	59	2290	135.3
	Apr	197	3505	690.6	Oct	96	2600	248.7
	May	68	2322	157.5	Nov	67	7031	474.1
	Jun	39	137	5.4	Dec	84	7107	598.9
	Subtotal	192	23095	4434.1	Subtotal	75	19756	1488.7
	Total	192	23287	4471.0	Total	75	20039	1510.0
1990	Jan	139	8602	1196.8	Jul	94	82	7.7
	Feb	185	8289	1533.1	Aug	59	352	20.6
	Mar	143	8299	1186.1	Sep	64	710	45.2
	Apr	473	1050	496.9	Oct	58	1734	101.4
	May	455	2133	971.5	Nov	65	2121	138.7
	Jun	45	116	5.2	Dec	79	5160	408.5
	Subtotal	189	28489	5389.6	Subtotal	71	10159	722.1
	Total	189	28956	5478.0	Total	71	10298	732.0
1991	Jan	141	6793	956.9	Jul	0	38	0.0
	Feb	128	7192	919.1	Aug	0	0	0.0
	Mar	101	6393	643.8	Sep	73	404	29.6
	Apr	128	7681	982.3	Oct	64	371	23.8
	May	85	5045	430.8	Nov	91	505	45.8
	Jun	72	471	33.9	Dec	105	892	93.8
	Subtotal	118	33575	3966.8	Subtotal	87	2210	193
	Total	118	33991	4016.0	Total	87	2256	197.0
1992	Jan	102	1005	102.4				
	Feb	168	317	53.2				
	Subtotal	118	1322	155.6				
	Total	118	6610	778.0				

Table 2. Catch rates (kg per hour trawling) and corresponding effort (hours trawling) and catch (tons) from the shrimp fishery in Denmark Strait by France in two periods of the year.

Year	January - June				July - December			
	Month	CPUE	Effort	Catch	Month	CPUE	Effort	Catch
1987	Apr	227	400	90.9	Sep			94.0
	May	250	578	144.7	Oct			59.0
					Nov			170.0
	Subtotal	241	978	235.6	Subtotal			323.0
	Total	241	2599	626.0	Total			405.0
1988	Apr	147	462	68.1	Aug			2.0
	May	136	473	64.2	Sept			48.0
	Subtotal	141	935	132.3				
	Total	141	3138	444.0	Total			50.0
1989	Mar	203	247	50.2	Jul	58	116	6.7
	Apr	192	907	174.2	Aug	59	409	24.0
	May	23	23	0.5				
	Subtotal	191	1177	225	Subtotal	58	525	30.7
	Total	191	1525	291.3	Total	58	1536	89.8
1990	Mar	126	172	23.3				
	Subtotal	126	172	23.3				
	Total	126	286	36.0	Total			15.0
1991	Feb	141	206	29.0				
	Mar	93	350	32.7				
	Apr	119	468	55.8				
	Subtotal	115	1024	117.5				
	Total	115	1024	117.5				

Table 3. Catch rate (kg per hour trawling) and corresponding effort (hours trawling) and catch (tons) from the shrimp fishery in Denmark Strait by Norway.

Year	January - June				July - December			
	Month	CPUE	Effort	Catch	Month	CPUE	Effort	Catch
1987	Feb	187	802	150.0	Aug	124	258	32.0
	Mar	140	4036	565.0	Sep	135	1659	224.0
	Apr	123	4886	601.0	Oct	91	2055	187.0
	May	133	1473	196.0	Nov	47	1213	57.0
	Subtotal	135	11197	1512.0	Subtotal	96	5185	500.0
	Total	135	11353	1533.0	Total	96	5261	507.0
1988	Jan	66	30	2	Jul	71	14	1
	Feb	112	2438	273	Aug	96	2271	218
	Mar	76	4013	305	Sep	86	3267	281
	Apr	74	4635	343	Oct	71	2479	176
	May	82	3939	323	Nov	61	295	18
	June	108	259	28				
	Subtotal	83	15314	1274	Subtotal	83	8312	693
Total		15314	1274	Total		9332	778	
1989	Jan	199	422	84	Aug	35	1600	56
	Feb	129	496	64	Sep	37	6459	239
	Mar	70	2300	161	Oct	55	7309	402
	Apr	88	4318	380	Nov	47	6106	287
	May	35	457	16	Dec	94	2883	271
	June	26	538	14				
	Subtotal	84	8532	719	Subtotal	52	24358	1255
	Total	84	8354	704	Total	52	27056	1394
1990	Jan	77	1584	122	July	38	368	14
	Feb	73	2425	177	Aug	37	2162	80
	Mar	70	3914	274	Sep	43	6465	278
	Apr	66	1848	122	Oct	52	6077	316
	May	237	1899	450	Nov	52	6981	363
	June				Dec	68	3500	238
	Subtotal	98	11671	1145	Subtotal	50	25553	1289
Total	98	11982	1176	Total	50	26247	1324	
1991	Jan	96	3198	307	Aug	37	270	10
	Feb	70	4886	342	Sep	49	1469	72
	Mar	58	4207	244	Oct	45	4711	212
	Apr	76	5632	428	Nov	55	6473	356
	May	48	5458	262	Dec	78	3218	251
	June	47	234	11				
	Subtotal	68	23614	1594	Subtotal	56	16141	901
	Total	68	23703	1600	Total	56	16195	904

Table 4. Catch rates (kg per hour trawling) and corresponding effort (hours trawling) and catch (tons) from the shrimp fishery in Denmark Strait by Iceland in two periods of the year.

Year	January - June				July - December				
	Month	CPUE	Effort	Catch	Month	CPUE	Effort	Catch	
1987					Jul	98	447	43.7	
					Aug	83	3399	283.6	
					Sep	92	3078	251.4	
					Oct	61	2012	123.3	
					Nov	75	1482	111.8	
					Dec	106	259	27.3	
					Subtotal	79	10877	841.1	
					Total	79	16835	1330.0	
1988	Jan	90	23	2.1	Jul	47	977	45.7	
	Feb	42	21	0.8	Aug	52	4596	238.1	
	Jun	108	1463	158.5	Sep	62	6257	386.1	
					Oct	52	7166	372.3	
					Nov	26	363	9.5	
		Subtotal	107	1507	161.4	Subtotal	54	19359	1051.7
		Total		1769	189.5	Total		22735	1234.5
	1989					Aug	51	3910	197.5
May		154	2234	344.9	Sep	41	4558	186.4	
Jun		84	4188	349.6	Oct	27	321	8.5	
		Subtotal	108	6422	694.5	Subtotal	45	8789	392.4
		Total		7835	847.3	Total		10722	478.7
1990		Jan	5	8	0.04	Jul	84	40	3.4
	Feb	44	11	0.5	Aug	69	168	11.7	
	Apr	12	9	0.1	Sep	65	835	54.2	
	Jun	81	2347	190.2	Oct	62	47	2.9	
		Subtotal	80	2375	190.8	Subtotal	66	1090	72.2
		Total	80	2538	203.901	Total	66	1165	77.1
	1991					Aug	24	9	0.2
		May	252	1536	387.7	Sep	68	64	4.4
Jun		85	394	33.4	Oct	112	350	39.2	
		Subtotal	218	1930	421.1	Subtotal	104	423	43.7
		Total	218	1930	421.1	Total	104	423	43.7

Table 5. Catch rates (kg per hour trawling) and corresponding effort (hours trawling) and catch (tonnes) from the shrimp fishery in the Denmark Strait by Faroe Islands.

Year	January - June		July-December	
	Month	Catch	Month	Catch
1987	Jan	84.0	Oct	1.0
	Feb	184.0	Nov	80.0
	Mar	70.0	Dec	139.0
	May	37.0		
	Total	375.0	Total	220.0
1988	Jan	228.0	Aug	10
	Feb	301.0		
	Mar	69.0		
	Apr	36.0		
	May	35.0		
Total	669	Total	10	
1989	Jan	150		
	Feb	86		
	Mar	99		
	Apr	103	Nov	24
	May	1	Dec	132
	Total	439	Total	156
1990	Jan	201		
	Feb	232		
	Mar	74		
	Apr	2	Nov	31
	May	176	Dec	127
	Total	685	Total	158
1991	Total	801	Total	206

Table 6. Catch (tonne) from the shrimp fishery in Denmark Strait by Denmark.

Year	January-June		July-December	
	Month	Catch	Month	Catch
1987	Feb	99.0	Sept	4
	Mar	173.0	Oct	26
	Apr	141.0	Nov	20
	May	18.0	Dec	74
	Total	431.0	Total	124
	1988	Jan	156	Sept
Feb		147	Oct	19
Mar		23	Nov	36
Apr		3	Dec	37
Total		329	Total	115
1989		Jan	92	Aug
	Feb	153	Sept	20
	Mar	36	Oct	19
			Nov	17
	June	1	Dec	19
	Total	282	Total	84
1990	Jan	75	Jul	12
	Feb	23	Aug	19
	Mar	100	Sept	14
	Apr	6	Oct	24
	May	98	Nov	16
	Total	302	Total	88
1991	Total	234	Total	124

Table 7. Catch rates (kg per hour trawling) and corresponding effort (hours trawling) and catch (tonnes) from the shrimp fishery in Denmark Strait by all nations combined in two periods of the year.

Year	Country	January-June			July - December		
		CPUE	Effort	Catch	CPUE	Effort	Catch
1978	Iceland	215	298	64.2	314	952	299.2
1979	Iceland	186	166	30.9	229	1982	454.4
1980	Greenland, Denm:	350	1665	582.0	129	2483	320.0
	France			50.0			
	Norway	468	3108	1455.0	124	8106	1006.0
	Iceland	125	1760	219.3	101	5318	539.4
	Faroe Islands	427	9115	3892.0			341.0
	Subtotal	393	15648	6148.3	117	15907	1865.4
	Total	393	15775	6198.3	117	18815	2206.4
1981	Greenland, Denm:	395	4013	1585.0			
	France	246	1436	353.0			
	Norway	216	9296	2006.0	43	232	10.0
	Iceland	99	688	68.0	67	848	56.9
	Faroe Islands			686.0			27.0
	Subtotal	260	15433	4012.0	62	1080	66.9
	Total	260	18072	4698.0	62	1516	93.9
1982	Greenland, Denm:	220	8432	1855.0			
	France	226	1833	414.0			
	Norway	203	9337	1894.0			
	Faroe Islands			737.0			
	Subtotal	212	19602	4163.0			
	Total	212	23072	4900.0			
1983	Greenland	255	5752	1467.0			
	France	192	1516	291.0			
	Norway	163	6830	1114.0	101	6100	613.0
	Iceland	99	52	5.1	161	238	38.3
	Denmark			204.0			
	Faroe Islands			443.0			
	Subtotal	203	14150	2877.1	103	6338	651.3
	Total	203	17332	3524.1	103	6338	651.3
1984	Greenland	340	6627	2250.0			
	France	256	1951	500.0			
	Norway	191	11141	2128.0			
	Iceland	42	53	2.2	103	7164	739.6
	Denmark			443.0			
	Faroe Islands			576.0			92.0
	Subtotal	247	19772	4880.2	103	7164	739.6
Total	247	23900	5899.2	103	8074	831.6	
1985	Greenland	270	6469	1744.0	251	3389	852.0
	France	194	2594	504.0	170	814	138.0
	Norway	166	12355	2051.0			
	Iceland	88	4485	396.0	94	14944	1398.0
	Denmark			353.0			
	Faroe Islands			404.0			270.0
	Subtotal	181	25903	4695.0	125	19147	2388.0
	Total	181	30079	5452.0	125	21312	2658.0

Table 7 continued

1986	Greenland	288	14285	4114.0	437	3811	1667.0
	France	175	3415	597.0	218	841	183.0
	Norway	145	12845	1861.0	123	1340	165.0
	Iceland	73	3205	234.0	103	8893	916.0
	Denmark			443.0			57.0
	Faroe Islands			506.0			221.0
	Subtotal	202	33750	6806.0	197	14885	2931.0
	Total	202	38456	7755.0	197	16297	3209.0
1987	Greenland	314	17667	5547.0	144	7502	1080.0
	Norway	135	11353	1533.0	96	5261	507.0
	Iceland				79	16835	1330.0
	France	241	2599	626.0			405.0
	Denmark			431.0			124.0
	Faroe Islands			375.0			220.0
	Subtotal	244	31619	7706.0	99	29598	2917.0
	Total	244	34926	8512.0	99	37198	3666.0
1988	Greenland	219	24111	5285.0	157	13822	2165.0
	Norway	83	15314	1274.0	83	9332	778.0
	Iceland	107	1769	189.5	54	22735	1234.5
	France	141	3138	444.0			50.0
	Denmark			329.0			115.0
	Faroe Islands			669.0			10.0
	Subtotal	164	41194	6748.5	91	45889	4177.5
	Total	164	49996	8190.5	91	47811	4352.5
1989	Greenland	192	23287	4471.0	75	20039	1510.0
	Norway	84	8354	704.0	52	27056	1394.0
	Iceland	108	7835	847.3	45	10722	478.7
	France	191	1525	291.3	58	1536	89.8
	Denmark			282.0			84.0
	Faroe Islands			439.0			156.0
	Subtotal	154	41001	6313.6	59	59353	3472.5
	Total	154	45683	7034.6	59	63455	3712.5
1990	Greenland	189	28956	5478.0	71	10298	732.0
	Norway	98	11982	1176.0	50	26247	1324.0
	Iceland	80	2538	203.9	66	1165	77.1
	France	126	286	36.0			15.0
	Denmark			302.0			88.0
	Faroe Islands			685.0			158.0
	Subtotal	158	43762	6893.9	57	37710	2133.1
	Total	158	50027	7880.9	57	42324	2394.1
1991	Greenland	118	33991	4016.0	87	2256	197.0
	Norway	68	23703	1600.0	56	16195	904.0
	Iceland	218	1930	421.1	104	423	43.7
	France	115	1024	117.5			
	Denmark			234.0			124.0
	Faroe Islands			801.0			206.0
	Subtotal	101	60648	6154.6	61	18874	1144.7
	Total	101	70847	7189.6	61	24315	1474.7

Table 8. Catch rates (kg per hour trawling) and corresponding effort (hours trawling) and catch (tons) from the shrimp fishery in Denmark Strait by years .

Year	Periods	CPUE	Effort	Catch
1980	Jan-Jun	393	15775	6198.3
	Jul-Dec	117	18815	2206.4
	Mean/Total	243	34590	8404.7
1981	Jan-Jun	260	18072	4698.0
	Jul-Dec	62	1516	93.9
	Mean/Total	245	19588	4791.9
1982	Jan-Jun	212	23072	4900.0
	Jul-Dec			
	Mean/Total	212	23072	4900.0
1983	Jan-Jun	203	17332	3524.1
	Jul-Dec	103	6338	651.3
	Mean/Total	176	23670	4175.4
1984	Jan-Jun	247	23900	5899.2
	Jul-Dec	103	8074	831.6
	Mean/Total	211	31974	6730.8
1985	Jan-Jun	181	30079	5452.0
	Jul-Dec	125	21312	2658.0
	Mean/Total	158	51391	8110.0
1986	Jan-Jun	202	38456	7755.0
	Jul-Dec	197	16297	3209.0
	Mean/Total	200	54753	10964.0
1987	Jan-Jun	244	34926	8512.0
	Jul-Dec	99	37198	3666.0
	Mean/Total	169	72124	12178.0
1988	Jan-Jun	164	49996	8190.5
	Jul-Dec	93	47811	4352.5
	Mean/Total	128	97808	12543.0
1989	Jan-Jun	154	45683	7034.6
	Jul-Dec	59	63455	3712.5
	Mean/Total	98	109138	10747.1
1990	Jan-Jun	158	50027	7880.9
	Jul-Dec	57	42323	2394.1
	Mean/Total	111	92350	10275.0
1991	Jan-Jun	101	70847	7189.6
	Jul-Dec	61	24315	1474.7
	Mean/Total	91	95162	8664.3

Table 9. Nominal catch (tons) of shrimp in the Denmark Strait.

Country	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Denmark	-	-	702	581	740	204	443	353	500	555	444	366	390	358	
Faroe Islands	-	-	4233	713	737	443	668	674	727	595	679	595	843	1007	
France	-	-	50	353	414	291	500	642	780	1030	494	381	51	118	
Greenland	-	-	200	1004	1115	1467	2250	2596	5781	6627	7456	5976	6211	4202	
Iceland	363	485	759	125	0	43	742	1794	1150	1330	1424	1326	281	465	
Norway	-	800	2461	2016	1896	1727	2128	2051	2026	2041	2052	2098	2500	2504	
Total catch	363	1285	8405	4792	4902	4175	6731	8110	10964	12178	12549	10742	10276	8654	
Total catch eastern side	363	485	759	125	0	43	742	1794	1150	1330	1424	1326	281	465	
Total catch western side	0	800	7646	4667	4902	4132	5989	6316	9814	10848	11125	9416	9995	8189	
Advised TAC	-	-	-	-	4200	4200	4200	5000	-	-	-	10000*	10000*	10000*	8000
Effective TAC western side	-	-	-	8000	4500	5725	5245	6090	7525**	7725**	8725**	9025**	14100	14500	13000

* Advised for a few years as a precautionary measure.

** Not including Greenland fishery north of 66° 30' N.

*** Preliminary.