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Japanese Research Report for 1992

by

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The total nominal catch by Japanese trawlers from the NAFO waters increased (20%) to 9,200 tons in 1992 from 7,600 tons in 1991 (Tables 1). This was mainly due to an increase (95%) in Greenland halibut which was up to 8,300 tons from 3,200 tons in 1991. The catch of redfish decreased (30%) to 1,600 tons from 2,300 tons in 1991. The catch of capelin was none and the catch of *Illex* was small, as in 1991. There were no squid jigging fisheries in 1992.

The number of Japanese trawlers operated in the NAFO waters was decreased to five in 1992 from six in 1991. They were one 3,000, one 500 and three 300 GRT class stern trawlers. Total fishing effort increased (17%) to 13,000 hours fished from 11,000 hours in 1991. Remarkable increases were noted for Divisions 1C, 3L and 3M. Remarkable decreases were noted for Divisions 0B and 2G.

The fishing grounds of Japanese trawlers were located on the continental slopes off Baffin Island(0B), West Greenland (1ABCD), Labrador (2GH), Newfoundland (3L-3O), Flemish Cap (3M) and Nova Scotia (4WX). Japanese trawlers moved among these fishing grounds, as done in the previous years.

I. Subarea 0

A. Status of the Fisheries

The directed fishery for Greenland halibut was conducted at depths around 1000 m in Div. 0B during September-November. The catch of Greenland halibut decreased significantly (66%) to 300 tons in 1992 from 800 tons in 1991. Mesh sizes of the cod-end used were 130-140 mm.

II. Subarea 1

A. Status of the Fisheries

Exploratory fishing was conducted by R/V Shinkai Maru at depths of 900-1,200 m in Div. 1CD during 17 September-19 November. Most of the catches were Greenland halibut (1000 tons). A mesh size of the cod-end used was 140 mm.

The directed fishery for Greenland halibut was conducted at depths of 1000-1200 m in Div. 1CD during September-November. The catch of Greenland halibut was 600 tons. Mesh sizes of the cod-end used were 140-160 mm.

#### B. Special Research Studies

##### A Japan and Greenland Joint Research on Groundfish off Greenland

Under an agreement between the Japan Marine Fishery Resource Research Center (JAMARC) and the Greenland Trawling Company of the Greenland Home Rule (GTC), two types of trawl surveys, stratified bottom trawl survey and exploratory survey for the deepwater and pelagic resources, have been continued off Greenland since 1987 by using R/V *Shinkai Maru*.

In 1992, stratified random bottom trawl surveys were conducted in Div. 1ABCD during 8 August-28 August and 25 November-7 December. The results will be reported in a research document of this meeting. Midwater trawl survey on the vertical distribution of Greenland halibut was conducted in Div. 1B during 29 August-12 September.

### III. Subarea 2

#### A. Status of the Fisheries

The directed fishery for Greenland halibut was conducted at depths of 800-1,200 m in Div. 2GH during August-November. The catch of Greenland halibut decreased (57%) to 600 tons in 1992 from 1,400 tons in 1991. Mesh sizes of the cod-end used were 130-140 mm.

### IV. Subarea 3

#### A. Status of the Fisheries

The directed fishery for Greenland halibut was conducted mainly in Div. 3LM at depths of 600-1200 m all the year around. The Greenland halibut catch increased significantly (8.7 times) to 3,800 tons in 1992 from 440 tons in 1991. Mesh sizes of the cod-end used were 130 and 142 mm. The redfish-directed fishery was conducted between 400-750 m in Div. 3LMO all the year round. The redfish catch decreased (11%) to 1,600 tons in 1992 from 1,800 tons in 1991. Mesh sizes of the cod-end used were 130-142 mm. There was no capelin-directed fishery in 1992.

### V. Subarea 4

#### A. Status of the Fisheries

In Div. 4WX, the silver hake-directed fishery was conducted in May and June. The catch decreased (33%) to 500 tons in 1992 from 800 tons in 1991. A mesh size of the cod-end used was 65 mm. The catch of *Illex* was still at the lowest level in 1992, as by-catch of the silver hake fishery.

Table 1. Fishing efforts and catches (tons) by species of Japanese trawl fishery in each NAFO Division in 1991 and 1992.

Year		1991																	
Division	OB	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	2G	2H	2J	2K	3L	3M	3N	3O	4Va	4Vb	4W	Total
Hours fished	1,453	21	62	829	109	-	-	2,375	128	12	212	1,958	2,952	169	317	-	538	197	11,030
Total catch	775	4	10	853	128	-	-	1,575	48	3	85	487	2,080	104	238	-	587	884	7,848
Cod	-	0	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	54	78	0	-	4	0	140
Redfish	-	0	1	0	0	-	-	1	1	2	63	83	1,432	5	228	-	500	0	2,314
Silver hake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	781	781
Greenland halibut	878	1	3	587	105	-	-	1,400	41	0	8	302	128	-	3	-	1	-	3,239
Capelin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Squid-//er	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	87	3	6	88	21	-	-	174	4	0	14	98	483	21	5	-	43	85	1,117

  

Year		1992																	
Division	OB	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	2G	2H	2J	2K	3L	3M	3N	3O	4Va	4Vb	4W	Total
Hours fished	632	128	5	1,708	301	-	-	1,281	7	-	-	3,668	4,620	75	178	-	353	34	12,887
Total catch	284	8	1	1,547	187	-	-	708	5	-	-	1,883	3,874	21	137	-	683	79	9,184
Cod	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	0	0	3
Redfish	0	2	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	138	1,353	1	128	-	0	0	1,621
Silver hake	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	480	63	523
Greenland halibut	235	3	1	1,455	170	-	-	811	4	-	-	1,842	2,184	18	2	-	-	-	6,324
Capelin	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Squid-//er	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	67	1	68
Others	29	2	0	92	17	-	-	87	1	-	-	103	134	2	10	-	158	14	856