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By-catch in Shrimp Catches Using Sorting Grade

by

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Introduction

In exploratory fishing with two Faroese trawlers in Div 3M and 3L the effect of the sorting grade was investigated.

Material and methods

For 459 hauls mean catch of non-target species, *i.e.* redfish, cod and unsorted catch, was calculated for each size of spacing in the sorting grade and each division (Tab. 1).

Bycatch

In general the 19 mm spacing catches less fish than 28 mm.

In Div 3L catches of redfish are small but some cod is caught. This exercise did not look into whether differences in mean values were significant or not but it looks like more cod is caught by 19 mm spacing than 28 mm. The length distribution of cod caught in three hauls in Div 3L is show in Fig. 1. The data are pooled together unweighted.

In Div 3M no cod is recorded. There is a considerable difference in redfish catches in the two cases in favour of the smaller spacing.

Table 1 Variation in mean bycatch (kg) with different spacing in sorting grade

Div	Space in sorting grade mm	Mean catch All species	Mean catch Redfish	Mean catch Cod	Mean catch Mixed species	Number of hauls
3L	19	13.584	.000	7.212	6.372	113
	28	25.574	1.366	4.809	19.399	183
3M	19	38.462	38.462	.000	.000	26
	28	338.102	322.409	.000	12.409	137

Northern shrimp, NAFO Div 3L
Length distribution of cod in bycatch

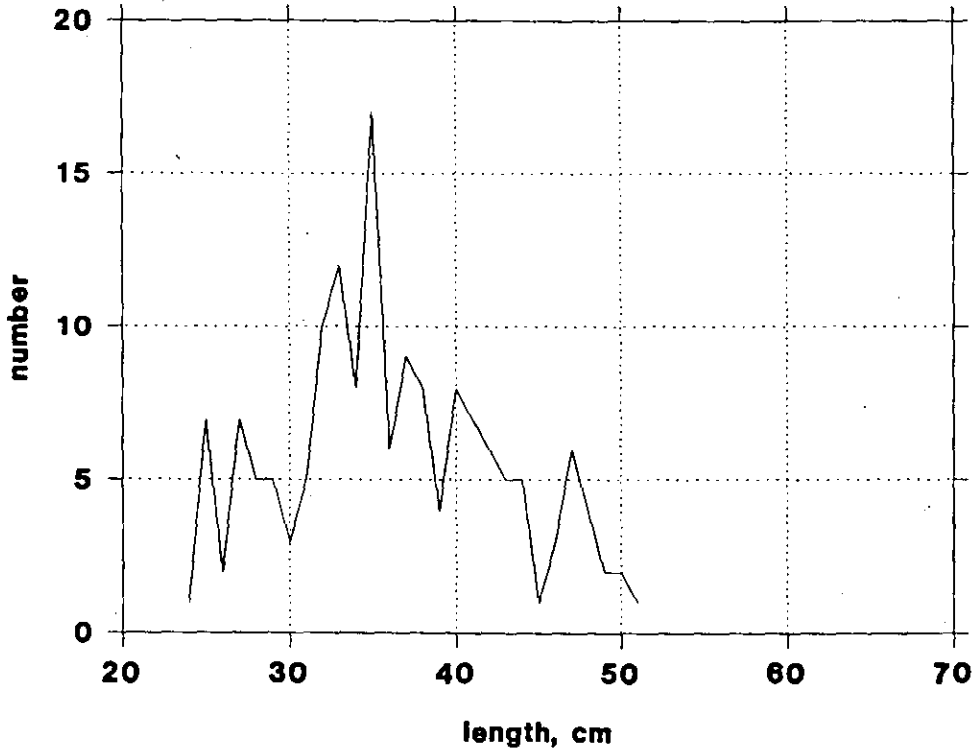


Figure 1 Length distribution of cod in bycatch in Div 3L caught with 19 mm spacing in sorting grade.