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Update of the Assessment of the Cod Stock in NAFO Divisions 3NO

by

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An assessment for cod in Divisions 3NO was completed in February 1994 (Davis *et al.* 1994). This paper is an update of that assessment and incorporates Portuguese sampling data made available since February and presents preliminary results from the 1994 Canadian spring research vessel survey.

Provisional landings data for 1993 have not changed since the last assessment (Table 1). Over the past several years, catches from the Regulatory Area have been those reported by contracting parties combined with estimates from Canadian surveillance authorities. Landings by Spain and Portugal are those reported by the EU. Other catches (Russia and non-contracting parties) are those estimated by Canadian surveillance.

Between the years 1953-93, the highest catch of cod occurred during 1967 with approximately 227,000 tonnes taken. The lowest catch of 9728 tonnes occurred during 1993. The next lowest catches had been in 1992 and 1978 (Table 1). The fishery has been closed for the remainder of 1994.

Sampling data available for the 1993 Canadian fishery, obtained from Canadian port samplers and observers, were used to generate estimates of catch-at-age by Canada. Catch-at-age data for the Spanish fleet fishing in the Regulatory Area and obtained by Spanish authorities were provided by the EU. Since the February 1994 assessment, sampling data for the Portuguese otter trawl and gill net fleets have become available and have been incorporated in the catch-at-age matrix. The previous assessment had applied catch-at-age data from the Spanish pair trawl fleet to adjust the Portuguese otter trawl catches. The previous assessment also adjusted the Portuguese gill net catches using the age composition estimated for the Canadian gillnet fleet. Catch-at-age data from the Spanish pair trawl fleet continues to be used to adjust the estimated otter trawl catches from other fleets fishing in the Regulatory Area. The impact of the Portuguese data was to increase the total number of fish caught mostly from ages 2-4 years.

Catch-at-age, mean weights-at-age and catch biomass-at-age for the 1959-93 period are presented in Tables 3-5. During recent years, the 1981 and 1982 year-classes have been abundant in the Division 3NO cod catches. The 1981 (age 12) year-class is now dominant only in the Canadian gillnet catch. The most abundant year-classes in 1993 were the 1989 and 1990 or age 3 and 4. This is the third consecutive year where cod aged 4 and younger have dominated the catch.

The inclusion of the additional sampling data in the ADAPT formulation only slightly increases the fishing mortalities ( $F_s$ ) on all ages with the exception of age 6 which decreases slightly.

The log residual patterns for the Canadian spring and Russian surveys are positive while the Canadian autumn and juvenile groundfish surveys are mostly negative. This lack of coherence in the residual patterns suggests a cautious interpretation of the results. In addition, the population estimate has wide confidence limits given that most fish caught in the 1993 Canadian Spring survey came from two strata in Division 3O.

Preliminary survey abundance and biomass estimates from the 1994 Canadian Spring survey in Div. 3NO are presented in Tables 6-9. Abundance and biomass have dropped dramatically since the 1993 survey and suggests that the 1993 estimates may have been optimistic.

Summary

The report from the Special Meeting of Scientific Council in February 1994 (NAFO SCS Doc. 94/2) indicated that the 1993 cod population in Div. 3NO was comprised mainly of the 1989 and 1990 year classes and concluded that any fishery would concentrate on these ages. It was also noted that there was some uncertainty as to the strength of the year classes. The 1993 Canadian and Russian spring survey indices suggest a high abundance of young fish. However, the Canadian autumn and juvenile groundfish surveys gave less optimistic views.

Preliminary results from the 1994 Canadian spring survey now suggest that cod population numbers are in fact quite low. Since the 1989 and 1990 year classes are the only fish available to provide significant stock rebuilding potential in the coming years, and these year classes may now be present in lower numbers than previously considered.

Table 1. Catch (tonnes) of cod in NAFO Divisions 3NO.

Year	Canada	Spain	Portugal	Russia	Others	Total	TAC
1953	39884	12633	7919		5761	66197	
1954	17392	88674	24045		4650	134761	
1955	6053	64987	27711		15605	114356	
1956	5363	42624	15505		1390	64882	
1957	9641	51990	21740		6819	90190	
1958	4812	29436	11605		2195	48051	
1959	3687	39994	17730	48	2911	64370	
1960	3408	33972	14347	24204	3746	79677	
1961	5428	32284	9059	22354	3099	72724	
1962	3235	17413	3653	7971	2712	34984	
1963	5079	37652	10004	10184	6843	69742	
1964	2882	37185	8095	9510	6789	64461	
1965	4229	64651	1692	17166	11448	99187	
1966	6501	52533	5070	39023	5792	108919	
1967	3446	77948	9703	118845	16842	226784	
1968	3287	69752	6752	78820	6900	165511	
1969	3664	71160	4940	29173	8768	117705	
1970	4771	67034	3185	28338	8233	111561	
1971	2311	89915	6589	19307	8174	126296	
1972	1736	76324	11537	12198	1579	103574	
1973	1832	42403	7759	27849	586	80429	103000
1974	1360	38338	6602	26911	176	73389	101000
1975	1189	16616	5560	20785	24	44174	88000
1976	2065	9880	2620	3992	726	24283	43000
1977	2532	8827	1742	4041	462	17604	30000
1978	6246	5813	641	1819	199	14718	15000
1979	9938	13782	1140	2446	545	27851	25000
1980	5589	8999	1145	3261	997	19991	26000
1981	6096	13299	1091	3187	671	24344	26000
1982	10185	14361	2466	3985	608	31605	17000
1983	11374	12320	1109	3238	778	28819	17000
1984	8705	13590	1071	3306	431	27103	26000
1985	18179	13682	608	3968	462	36899	33000
1986	18035	23395	6890	1181	1144	50645	33000
1987	18652	15788	4108	764	2307	41619	33000
1988	19727	15889	3927	2973	634	43150	40000
1989	13433	17904	913	108	857	33215	25000
1990*	10620	4678	2145	18	11385	28846	18600
1991*	12056	3976	1061	-	12296	29389	13600
1992*	7684	1927	448	51	2450	12561**	13600
1993*	5326	3031	521	150	700	9728**	10200

\* Provisional

\*\* Includes Surveillance Estimates and NAFO Scientific Council Estimates

Table 2. Catch numbers (000's) and average weight at age of cod from the fisheries in NAFO Divisions 3NO during 1993.

Age	Canada			Spain			Portugal			Other			Total	Mean	
	OT	LL	GN	Pair Trawl	GN	OT	Number	t (Kg)	Wt(Kg)	Number	t (Kg)	(000's)	Number	Weight (Kg)	
2					6	0.26				25	0.12	33	0.16		
3	21	0.46			755	0.40	0	0.32		326	0.24	212	0.40	1314	
4	422	0.99	3	0.97	2002	0.77	1	0.99		219	0.50	562	0.77	3209	
5	225	1.40	2	1.47	306	1.34	1	2.16		17	1.00	86	1.34	637	
6	187	1.80	9	1.74	215	1.88	1	2.88		6	1.37	60	1.88	479	
7	163	2.87	15	2.93	99	2.80	12	3.92		3	1.66	28	2.80	321	
8	38	4.46	7	4.18	16	3.62	8	4.63		0	2.96	4	3.62	74	
9	16	6.24	4	6.70	1	4.20	2	6.16		0		0.28	4.20	25	
10	23	7.82	4	7.24	8	8.64	1	5.43		2	7.46	0	4.40	5.43	
11	30	8.80	5	8.23	9	9.40				5	9.21	0	5.51	49	
12	32	8.55	7	8.69	10	8.72				4	10.5	0		53	
13	20	11.8	3	9.66	9	12.1				2	11.04	0	6.14	34	
14	17	12.4	4	11.0	8	12.6				1	11.87			30	
15	20	13.1	4	12.3	9	12.8				1	12.93			34	
16	10	13.8	2	16.0	4	12.7				1	14.77			17	
17	10	11.0	3	14.1	1	16.1				1	15.05			15	
18	12	13.6	5	16.4	2	13.4				1	15.12			20	
19	5	15.6	3	15.8	1	15.6				0	19.03			9	
20+			1	19.5						0	17.16			1	16.0
Number	1251		81		65		3401		43		597		955		6393
Weight (	3895		681		750		3031		296		225		850		9728
Av. Wt.	3.11		8.41		11.5		0.89		6.88		0.38		0.89		1.52







Table 6. Cod biomass (t) from Canadian (Spring) RV Surveys in Division 30.  
Numbers in italics are estimates for non-sampled strata.

		Vessel	WT 82	WT 94/95	WT 105/106	WT 119/120	WT 136/137	WT 152/153
Depth range (fath)	Area Strata	Sq. mi	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
31-50	330	2089	1713	2262	90	2	11	0
	331	456	183	<i>848</i>	98	97	0	0
	338	1898	14874	5475	6271	8466	2959	1009
	340	1716	2977	6338	70	4	979	45
	351	2520	11619	<i>16567</i>	3890	1128	696	30
	352	2580	34373	28930	16762	9958	4879	944
	353	1282	2371	3544	688	972	2222	0
51-100	329	1721	682	1611	1627	10	17	4456
	332	1047	1369	8728	4097	960	30014	0
	337	948	2787	1997	2373	17045	19121	370
	339	585	146	103	3	7	3	0
	354	474	25	317	2312	39	540	0
101-150	333	151	1040	225	500	53	916	7242
	336	121	23	191	40	438	147	298
	355	103	195	96	86	3	58	11
151-200	334	92	136	425	776	514	781	467
	335	58	7	63	2	44	2088	248
	356	61	74	142	11	45	154	79
31-50		12541	68110	63964	27869	20627	11746	2028
51-100		4775	5009	12756	10412	18061	49695	4826
101-150		375	1258	512	626	494	1121	7551
151-200		211	217	630	789	603	3023	794
201-300		245	-	-	-	1516	1212	896
301-400		309	-	-	-	41	78	499
Mean wt./tow			55.51	57.84	37.22	29.84	48.27	
Adjusted total			74594	77862	39696	39785	65585	15199
Unadjusted total			74595	77016	39697	41342	66875	16594
Upper limit			134314	101143	55540	91139	353969	
Lower limit			14876	52888	23854	-8454	-220218	

\* Adjusted totals are for strata to 200 fathoms, a multiplicative model is used to fill missing strata.

\*\* Unadjusted total is for all strata fished.

Table 7. Cod abundance (1000's) from Canadian (Spring) RV Surveys in Division 30  
Numbers in italics are estimates for non-sampled strata.

Depth range (fath)	Strata	Area Sq. mi.	Vessel					
			WT 82	WT 94/95	WT 105/106	WT 119/120	WT 136/137	WT 152/153
			1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
31-50	330	2089	342	949	86	16	45	0
	331	456	137	<i>186</i>	34	17	0	0
	338	1898	3818	1371	1382	855	356	71
	340	1716	615	873	186	26	64	77
	351	2520	1470	2033	315	151	63	54
	352	2580	3769	4320	1439	775	443	121
	353	1282	385	529	69	192	144	0
51-100	329	1721	388	1200	1608	48	108	3385
	332	1047	393	1556	<i>19059</i>	1305	49906	0
	337	948	1281	285	939	1583	37573	47
	339	585	15	132	44	44	22	0
	354	474	36	53	368	71	267	0
101-150	333	151	283	74	193	130	176	986
	336	121	5	59	27	763	132	195
	355	103	178	50	97	27	66	12
151-200	334	92	52	235	483	173	414	193
	335	58	4	26	4	131	234	72
	356	61	37	40	44	135	130	124
31-50		12541	10536	10261	3511	2032	1115	323
51-100		4775	2113	3226	<i>22018</i>	3051	87876	3432
101-150		375	466	183	317	920	374	1193
151-200		211	93	301	531	439	778	389
201-300		245	-	-	2347	6369	752	539
301-400		309	-	-	4	102	46	270
Mean wt./tow			9.83	10.4	19.63	9.32	65.65	
Adjusted total*			13208	13971	26377	6442	90143	5337
Unadjusted total **			13206	13786	26375	12914	90953	6146
Upper limit			19586	17170	72880	92671	650816	
Lower limit			6827	10401	-20130	-66842	-46909	

\* Adjusted totals are for strata to 200 fathoms, a multiplicative model is used to fill missing strata.

\*\* Unadjusted total is for all strata fished.

Table 8. Cod biomass (t) from Canadian (Spring) RV Surveys in Division 3N.

Depth (fath)	range	Area Strata	Vessel	WT 82	WT 94/95	WT 105/106	WT 119/120	WT 136/137	WT 152/153
			Sq. mi.	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
0-30	375	1593		20104	10230	1141	1391	678	0
	376	1499		745	2745	751	0	0	0
31-50	360	2992		1202	9486	581	842	1	0
	361	1853		12722	20240	11883	278	2232	21
	362	2520		16464	24747	2361	446	873	0
	373	2520		6090	3441	392	0	0	0
	374	931		489	3296	361	3	0	0
	383	674		335	326	113	0	0	0
51-100	359	421		21	6	15	3	51	0
	377	100		9	0	0	0	1	1
	382	647		419	40	0	0	0	0
101-150	358	225		486	159	56	284	450	87
	378	139		81	62	82	62	68	11
	381	182		39	212	232	1	0	37
151-200	357	164		22	62	59	158	17	68
	379	106		22	61	204	633	60	42
	380	116		176	180	110	56	3061	0
0-30		3092		20849	12975	1892	1391	678	0
31-50		11490		37302	61536	15691	1569	3106	21
51-100		1168		449	46	15	3	52	1
101-150		546		606	433	370	347	518	135
151-200		386		220	303	373	847	3138	110
201-300		420		-	-	351	802	58	34
301-400		196		-	-	6	5	4	4
Mean wt./tow				47.46	60.13	14.65	3.79	5.77	
Adjusted total *				59426	75293	18341	4157	7492	267
Unadjusted total **				59426	75293	18698	4964	7554	305
Upper limit				81925	98258	33620	7761	48311	
Lower limit				36925	52329	3064	2120	-33203	

\* Adjusted totals are for strata to 200 fathoms, a multiplicative model is used to fill missing strata.

\*\* Unadjusted total is for all strata fished.

Table 9. Cod abundance (1000's) from Canadian (Spring) RV Surveys in Division 3N

Depth range (fath)	Strata	Area Sq. mi.	Vessel		WT	WT	WT	WT	WT	WT
			82	94/95	105/106	119/120	136/137	152/153		
			1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994		
0-30	375	1593	1674	1226	60	80	40	0		
	376	1499	113	177	48	0	0	0		
31-50	360	2992	165	569	56	112	20	0		
	361	1853	1904	2380	817	35	226	28		
	362	2520	2605	3443	170	32	63	0		
	373	2520	822	227	52	0	0	0		
	374	931	28	210	14	14	0	0		
	383	674	84	25	34	0	0	0		
51-100	359	421	95	47	32	47	190	0		
	377	100	19	0	0	0	4	4		
	382	647	81	130	0	0	0	0		
101-150	358	225	709	456	59	1478	709	34		
	378	139	198	172	122	172	89	31		
	381	182	102	273	55	7	0	7		
151-200	357	164	18	123	148	302	12	105		
	379	106	44	139	406	1126	56	44		
	380	116	118	270	300	57	4119	0		
0-30		3092	1787	1403	108	80	40	0		
		11490	5608	6854	1143	193	309	28		
51-100		1168	195	177	32	47	194	4		
101-150		546	1009	901	236	1657	798	72		
151-200		386	180	532	854	1485	4187	149		
201-300		420	-	-	539	1982	138	67		
301-400		196	-	-	14	14	5	4		
Mean wt./tow			7.01	7.88	1.90	3.94	4.33			
Adjusted total*			8779	9867	2373	3462	5528	253		
Unadjusted total**			8779	9867	2926	5458	5671	324		
Upper limit			11226	17170	3550	92671	650816			
Lower limit			6330	10401	1193	-66842	-46909			

\* Adjusted totals are for strata to 200 fathoms, a multiplicative model is used to fill missing strata.

\*\* Unadjusted total is for all strata fished.

**Table 10. Results from ADAPT using Canadian Spring and Fall RV Surveys and Russian Surveys: Estimated Parameters with associated CVs.**

APPROXIMATE STATISTICS ASSUMING LINEARITY NEAR SOLUTION

ORTHOGONALITY OFFSET..... 0.000256  
MEAN SQUARE RESIDUALS ..... 0.824870

PARAMETER	AGE	ESTIMATE	STD. ERR.	T-STAT	C.V.
<b>NUMBERS</b>					
	3	27816	13348	2.084	0.480
	4	30720	11330	2.711	0.369
	5	3808	912	3.081	0.325
	6	1546	450	3.438	0.291
	7	1428	433	3.300	0.303
	8	583	191	3.053	0.328
	9	178	59	3.004	0.333
	10	239	80	2.978	0.336
	11	283	100	2.839	0.352
<b>INDEX 1: RV1</b>					
	3	1.67Be4	3.88Be5	4.310	0.232
	4	2.13Be4	4.90Be5	4.340	0.230
	5	2.13Be4	4.91Be5	4.341	0.230
	6	2.04Be4	4.72Be5	4.335	0.231
	7	2.30Be4	5.81Be5	4.325	0.231
	8	2.52Be4	5.83Be5	4.315	0.232
	9	3.45Be4	3.02Be5	4.303	0.232
	10	4.78Be4	1.11Be4	4.294	0.233
	11	6.46Be4	1.50Be4	4.296	0.233
<b>INDEX 2: RV2</b>					
	3	4.31Be4	9.93Be5	4.341	0.230
	4	4.06Be4	9.30Be5	4.360	0.229
	5	3.95Be4	9.07Be5	4.360	0.229
	6	3.96Be4	9.09Be5	4.357	0.230
	7	3.35Be4	8.34Be5	4.352	0.230
	8	3.38Be4	8.93Be5	4.347	0.230
	9	5.16Be4	1.19Be4	4.340	0.230
	10	7.24Be4	1.67Be4	4.338	0.231
	11	9.51Be4	2.20Be4	4.327	0.231
<b>INDEX 3: RV3</b>					
	3	2.11Be4	1.04Be4	2.033	0.492
	4	3.64Be4	1.76Be4	2.073	0.482
	5	4.69Be4	2.26Be4	2.074	0.482
	6	5.25Be4	2.54Be4	2.068	0.483
	7	3.82Be4	1.85Be4	2.068	0.484
	8	3.08Be4	1.49Be4	2.068	0.484
	9	2.82Be4	1.37Be4	2.051	0.488
	10	2.63Be4	1.29Be4	2.035	0.491
	11	7.31Be4	3.59Be4	2.037	0.491
<b>INDEX 4: RV4</b>					
	3	8.31Be4	3.60Be4	2.304	0.434
	4	6.86Be4	2.92Be4	2.346	0.426
	5	6.25Be4	2.66Be4	2.348	0.426
	6	4.57Be4	1.95Be4	2.340	0.427
	7	4.11Be4	1.76Be4	2.339	0.428
	8	3.12Be4	1.34Be4	2.331	0.429
	9	2.19Be4	9.48Be5	2.312	0.433
	10	2.00Be4	8.73Be5	2.294	0.436
	11	6.93Be4	3.01Be4	2.299	0.435

RV1 - Canada Spring  
RV2 - Russia  
RV3 - Canada Fall  
RV4 - Canada Juvenile



**Table 12. Results from ADAPT using Canadian Spring and Fall RV Surveys and Russian Surveys: Population numbers and Fishing Mortalities.**

POPULATION NUMBERS (000s)															2/ 6/94		
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
3 f	45461	40577	17548	19975	27761	22098	35997	42297	33326	9265	6752	13660	14230	6256	7769	42365	27745
4 f	18878	36671	32389	14302	16114	22272	17817	28405	34578	27233	7447	5061	10933	9916	4160	5363	30607
5 f	7956	13222	26099	23055	10755	12205	16445	14002	22351	25638	19704	5716	3856	6977	4042	2797	2790
6 f	4168	4224	8547	13037	15427	7664	3553	11751	10187	12687	15179	12974	3298	1798	1784	2409	1532
7 f	1295	2056	2718	4478	3615	10552	5359	5914	7518	5593	6433	9310	4879	1560	662	969	1419
8 f	469	543	1363	1426	2978	5332	7257	3767	3738	3876	3211	4169	4044	2287	895	287	580
9 f	487	224	352	876	967	1919	3016	4899	2432	2339	2316	2038	2501	2149	1220	400	177
10 f	133	210	131	236	634	618	1033	1769	3180	1576	1410	1131	1156	1608	1234	485	238
11 f	73	50	125	92	165	434	315	630	950	2121	953	708	542	735	920	556	281
12 f	57	23	34	92	68	98	209	185	420	541	1421	420	354	291	466	406	317
3+f	78977	97798	39306	77569	83483	33192	95999	113617	118679	90870	64327	55187	45792	33579	23153	56037	65686

ADAPT (6 INDEX) TUNING JUNE 1991

SNO CODS 6/02/94 16:07

FISHING MORTALITY															2/ 6/94		
	1977	1978	1979	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993
3 f	0.015	0.025	0.005	0.015	0.020	0.015	0.037	0.002	0.018	0.088	0.023	0.161	0.208	0.171	0.125	0.054	
4 f	0.156	0.140	0.140	0.085	0.078	0.103	0.041	0.040	0.099	0.124	0.065	0.072	0.249	0.697	0.197	0.453	0.123
5 f	0.433	0.236	0.494	0.202	0.139	0.156	0.136	0.118	0.366	0.324	0.218	0.350	0.563	1.164	0.318	0.402	0.289
6 f	0.507	0.241	0.446	0.214	0.180	0.158	0.169	0.247	0.400	0.479	0.289	0.778	0.549	0.799	0.411	0.330	0.419
7 f	0.669	0.211	0.445	0.208	0.280	0.174	0.153	0.259	0.463	0.355	0.234	0.634	0.558	0.355	0.636	0.312	0.286
8 f	0.540	0.233	0.242	0.189	0.240	0.370	0.193	0.237	0.269	0.315	0.255	0.311	0.432	0.428	0.606	0.283	0.151
9 f	0.643	0.337	0.201	0.123	0.348	0.420	0.334	0.232	0.234	0.306	0.516	0.367	0.241	0.355	0.722	0.319	0.169
10 f	0.780	0.313	0.155	0.157	0.179	0.474	0.294	0.422	0.205	0.303	0.490	0.536	0.252	0.359	0.597	0.345	0.199
11 f	0.961	0.196	0.112	0.101	0.321	0.532	0.334	0.206	0.362	0.201	0.619	0.493	0.420	0.255	0.617	0.363	0.213
12 f	0.657	0.273	0.261	0.169	0.236	0.359	0.243	0.288	0.292	0.320	0.374	0.462	0.371	0.374	0.640	0.315	0.203

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