

Northwest Atlantic



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SCIENTIFIC COUNCIL MEETINGS

General Fishery Trends for the Northwest Atlantic in 1993

by

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Introduction

The Scientific Council at its meeting during 8-22 June 1994 observed that many countries had not submitted STATLANT 21A data for 1993, and that it was not possible to prepare a meaningful tabulation of the 1993 data and to allow a general review of the fishery trends. It was therefore agreed that the fishery trend analysis would not be done for the June Assessment Meeting, although the analysis was considered a valuable annual overview of the fisheries in the Northwest Atlantic in Subareas 0 to 6.

Noting that the tabulations and the description of the general fishery trends have been routinely published in the Scientific Council Meeting Reports, and the data have become available since the decision was made at the June Meeting, the Secretariat in its own initiative undertook to prepare the annual summary before the year-end of 1994. This document is accordingly presented in the format as normally found in the Scientific Council June Meeting Reports, and offers a continuity to the annual compilation.

General Fishery Trends

It was noted that provisional nominal catch data for 1992 and 1993 were not available for EU-France and France (St. Pierre et Miquelon). The following general trends, however, were noted in the absence of those data. The percentages listed are taken from the catch numbers published in SCS Doc. 94/24.

From provisional statistics for 1992 and 1993, the nominal catch (round fresh weight) of all fish and invertebrate species in the Northwest Atlantic (Subareas 0 to 6) decreased (6%) from 2.46 million tons in 1992 to 2.32 million tons in 1993 (Table 1). Decreases were noted for "groundfish" (28%) from 765 000 in 1992 to 549 000 in 1993. However all other groups recorded increases, including "pelagics" (1%) to 615 000 tons in 1993 from 608 000 tons in 1992 "finfish" (26%) from 93 000 tons in 1992 to 117 000 tons in 1993, "invertebrates (4%) from 997 000 tons in 1992 to 1 036 000 tons in 1993. With respect to nominal catches by Subarea, increases were noted only for Subarea 6 (880 000 tons in 1993 from 816 000 tons 1992), while all other Subareas recorded decreases; Subarea 0 (13 000 tons in 1993 from 21 000 tons in 1992), Subarea 1 (96 000 tons in 1993 from 107 000 tons in 1992), Subarea 2 (18 500 tons in 1993 from 22 000 tons in 1992), Subarea 3 (347 000 tons in 1993 from 349 000 tons in 1992), Subarea 4 (554 000 tons in 1993 from 692 000 tons in 1992) and Subarea 5 (409 000 tons in 1993 from 457 000 tons in 1992).

General Trends for the Northwest Atlantic

While recognizing EU-France (M) and France (SP) data for 1992 and 1993 were missing, the following observations from STATLANT 21A reports were noted in the reported catches (Table 1). The provisional overall nominal catch (round fresh weight) of all finfish and invertebrate stocks was 2.32 million tons in 1993, a decrease (6%) from the 1992 catch of 2.46 million tons. The total "groundfish" catch, which represented 24% of the overall catch in 1993 was 28% less than in 1992 (765 000 tons and 549 000 tons in 1992 and 1993, respectively). Decreases were noted for cod (52%), haddock (43%), redfishes (11%), silver hake (19%), pollock (35%), American plaice (36%), Greenland halibut

(9%) and white hake (17%), with increases noted for anglers (14%) and wolffishes (11%). The total "pelagic" catch which represented 26% of the overall catch in 1993 increased slightly (1%) from 608 000 tons in 1992 to 615 000 tons in 1993. Increases were noted for menhaden (11%), butterfish (72%), swordfish (20%), bluefin tuna (9%) but decreases were noted for herring (7%) and mackerel (18%). The total "other finfish" catch, which represented 5% of the overall catch in 1993 increased (26%) in 1993 to 117 000 tons from 93 000 tons in 1992. This was due mainly to an increase in capelin (56%) although increases were noted for many other species. The total catch of "invertebrates" which represented 45% of the overall catch in 1993 increased 4% to 1.04 million tons from 997 000 tons in 1992. Increases were noted for squids (15%), crabs (61%), oysters (87%), shrimp (10%) and clams (3%) but decreases were noted for scallops (28%) and mussels (17%).

Fishery Trends by Subarea

Noting that catches in 1992 and 1993 do not include the French data, the following trends were observed.

a) **Subarea 0**

The overall nominal catch in 1993 was 13 000 tons, a decrease (38%) from 1992. Greenland halibut and shrimp posted decreases of 35% and 38%, respectively.

b) **Subarea 1**

The nominal catch decreased 10% in 1993 from 1992. This was due mainly to a reduction in cod catches from 6 000 tons to 1 000 tons and a 10 000 ton decrease in the catch of shrimp. Greenland halibut however remained consistent at 18 000 tons in 1993 compared to 17 000 tons in 1992.

c) **Subarea 2**

The overall nominal catch decreased 15% in 1993. This due mainly to a decrease in shrimp (20%). A decrease in Greenland halibut (44%) was offset by an increase was (54%) in crab catches.

d) **Subarea 3**

The catch remained relatively constant this year with a decrease of only 0.5%. Decreases were noted for cod (50%), flounders (16%), herring (44%), redfish (5%), and increases noted for capelin (75%), clams (63%), crabs (48%) and shrimp (276%).

e) **Subarea 4**

The overall nominal catch decreased (20%) in 1993. Decreases were noted for cod (64%), haddock (50%), redfishes (36%), silver hake (30%), pollock (46%), flounders (32%), and herring (4%). Increases were noted for capelin (15%) and for total invertebrates (10%).

f) **Subarea 5**

The nominal catch decreased (11%) in 1993 from 1992. Decreases were noted for cod (21%), herring (7%) and scallops (29%), although an increase was noted for quahogs (90%).

g) **Subarea 6**

The nominal catch increased (8%) in 1993 mainly due to increases in menhaden (11%) and crabs (97%), and "other molluscs" (87%). A decrease was noted for scallops (43%).

Table 1. Provisional nominal catches ('000 tons) by Subarea for 1992 and 1993. (+ indicates less than 500 tons. **N.B.** the 1992 and 1993 data exclude EU-France (M) and France (SP)).

Species	SA 0		SA 1		SA 2		SA 3		SA 4		SA 5		SA 6		Total	
	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993	1992	1993
Cod	-	+	6	1	+	+	79	40	112	40	39	31	2	+	237	113
Haddock	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	17	8	6	5	-	-	24	14
Redfishes	+	+	+	1	+	-	78	89	76	48	1	1	+	-	155	138
Silver hake	-	-	-	-	-	-	+	+	42	30	11	9	4	8	58	47
Pollock	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	31	17	10	10	+	+	42	27
American plaice	-	-	-	+	+	-	14	9	7	3	7	6	+	+	28	18
Witch flounder	-	-	-	-	+	-	9	6	3	2	2	3	+	+	14	10
Yellowtail flounder	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	7	2	2	5	4	+	+	18	12
Greenland halibut	12	7	17	18	3	2	55	52	3	3	-	-	-	-	90	82
Other flounders	-	+	-	+	+	1	2	2	9	8	10	8	5	4	27	22
Roundnose grenadier	+	+	+	+	+	+	7	4	-	1	-	-	-	-	8	6
White hake	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	9	6	10	9	+	+	21	18
Wolffishes	+	+	+	-	+	-	2	3	1	1	1	1	+	-	4	4
Other groundfish	+	+	2	3	+	+	1	1	6	4	21	21	8	8	39	38
Atlantic herring	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	205	197	51	48	4	1	271	251
Atlantic mackerel	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	23	22	5	3	6	2	38	31
Atlantic menhaden	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	12	275	305	286	317
Other pelagics	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	2	5	6	7	6	14	15
Capelin	-	-	+	+	-	+	20	35	9	11	-	-	-	-	30	46
Other finfish	+	+	+	+	+	+	14	12	12	18	23	24	14	17	64	71
Squids	-	-	-	+	-	-	1	+	1	3	5	8	31	33	38	44
Clams	-	-	2	2	-	-	13	21	5	4	38	42	364	365	421	434
Scallops	-	-	-	-	+	+	6	2	34	35	128	91	41	23	210	151
Other molluscs	-	-	-	-	+	-	+	+	5	6	26	21	22	42	53	69
Shrimp	9	6	80	70	17	13	2	29	15	18	3	2	-	+	126	139
Crabs	-	-	+	+	1	2	13	20	22	27	3	3	30	59	69	112
Lobsters	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	40	39	23	23	2	3	66	66
Other invertebrates	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	12	20	1	1	14	22
Total	21	13	107	96	22	19	349	347	692	554	457	409	816	879	2 463	2 317