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Spanish Research Report for 1995

by

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Spanish Fishery in the NAFO Regulatory Area

The Spanish fishery during 1995 took place in Divisions 3LMNO. The total Spanish catch in the area was around 19500 t.

Only three pair trawlers worked in NAFO in 1995, two of them directed to Greenland halibut and the remainder directed to cod. All the activity of this fleet was developed in the first half of the year.

Small freezers were also directed to the deep water fishery, during the first half of the year. An average of 9 vessels per month worked until June. All these vessels leave the area by this month.

Large freezers extends its activity to October, but it was also concentrate in the first half of the year, when an average of 18 vessels per month worked in the deep water fishery. This number decreased to 4 ships for the period from July to September.

Unfortunately, the lost of the Spanish scheme of on board scientific observers at the beginning of the year, impede us to carry out any biological sampling of the catch, which implicates the lost of length distributions of commercial catches for 1995. However, this problem was solved in part since February 1996 by the starting of a minimal sampling scheme of two scientific observers.

Special research

A total of three research surveys were conducted by Spain, two of them in association with Portugal during 1995.

A survey took place in February directed to analyze the legal mesh size selectivity for the trawl gear, with the aim to assess NAFO on the minimum landing sizes for different species. The results of this survey were presented to NAFO in the paper SCR Doc. 95/47, last June.

Another cruise took place in May 1995. This was an stratified random bottom trawl survey covering Divisions 3N and 3O of the NAFO regulatory area. The aim of the survey was to obtain abundance indices for the commercial flatfish stocks in the area. The results were presented to NAFO last June in the paper SCR Doc 95/55.

The traditional EU Flemish Cap bottom trawl survey took place in July, with the aim of obtaining abundance indices of the Flemish Cap stocks. The results of this survey will be presented at this meeting.