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Japanese Research Report for 1996

by

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The total nominal catch by Japanese trawlers from the NAFO waters decreased (10%) to 3,900 tons in 1996 from 4,300 tons in 1995. This was mainly due to a decrease in Greenland halibut (19%). The catch of Greenland halibut was down to 2,500 tons in 1996 from 3,100 tons in 1995. Part of the Greenland halibut catch (500 tons) were obtained from the joint venture (JV) fishery with Canada (Div. 0B). The catch of Atlantic redfish was up to 1,200 tons in 1996 from 850 tons in 1995. There were no fisheries in Subareas 1, 2 or 4 in 1996. There were little catches of capelin and Illex in 1996. One of the trawlers conducted a stratified random survey in Divs. 2GH.

The number of Japanese trawlers operated in the NAFO waters decreased to two in 1996 from three in 1995. They were one 3,000 and one 300 GRT class stern trawlers. Total fishing effort increased (5%) to 7,100 hours fished in 1996 from 6,700 hours in 1995. This was mainly due to an increase in NAFO regulatory area.

The fishing grounds of Japanese trawlers were located on the continental slopes off Baffin Island (0B), Flemish Pass (3L), Flemish Cap (3M) and Grand banks (3O). The fishery off west Greenland ceased in 1996.

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 June to August. The catch of Greenland halibut was 500 tons. Mesh sizes of the cod-end used was 140 mm.

II. Subarea 1

A. Status of the Fisheries

The fishery off west Greenland ceased in 1996.

III. Subarea 2

B. Special Research Studies

Under the cooperation between Japan and Canada, a stratified random bottom trawl survey was conducted by the R/V Shinkai Maru in August 1996 in Divs. 2GH. The catch of Greenland halibut in this survey was 18.3 tons. The results are reported in a research document in this meeting.

IV. Subarea 3

A. Status of the Fisheries

The directed fishery for Greenland halibut was conducted mainly in Div. 3L at depths of 900-1100m all year around. The Greenland halibut catch increased (73%) to 1,900 tons in 1996.

The redfish directed fishery was conducted in Divs. 3MO during February and September-October. Of the total 1,200 tons of Japanese redfish catch, about 60% was obtained in Div. 3M. Mesh sizes of the cod-end used were 130-140 mm.

Table 1. Fishing efforts and catches (tons) by species of Japanese trawl fishery in each NAFO Division in 1995 and 1996.

Year	1995														Total	
	OB	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	2G	2H	2J	3K	3L	3M	3N		3O
Division	1,907	78	5	348	14	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,576	2,765	-	49	6,742
Hours fished	1,092	15	1	390	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	780	1,769	-	266	4,318
Total catch	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	2	-	-	2
Cod	0	-	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	538	-	264	851
Redfish	1,031	13	1	354	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	614	1,099	-	-	3,114
Greenland halibut	38	-	-	11	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	32	27	-	-	109
Roundnose grenadier	11	2	-	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27	21	-	-	71
Sharks & Rays	11	0	0	16	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	59	84	-	2	173
Others																

Year	1996														Total	
	OB	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	2G	2H	2J	3K	3L	3M	3N		3O
Division	1,121	-	-	-	-	-	-	41	30	-	-	4,791	988	-	103	7,073
Hours fished	521	-	-	-	-	-	13	15	0	-	-	2,091	814	-	426	3,880
Total catch	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	0	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1
Cod	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	0	-	-	-	72	678	-	417	1,169
Redfish	500	-	-	-	-	-	8	10	-	-	-	1,899	113	-	0	2,531
Greenland halibut	9	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	21	3	-	0	35
Roundnose grenadier	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	9	11	-	4	30
Sharks & Rays	6	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	-	-	-	90	9	-	4	114
Others																