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French Research Report for 1998

by

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1. The fishery

a - Greenland Halibut in Divisions 2+3

A trawl fishery directed to Greenland Halibut took place in 1998. Tables 1 and 2 give the detailed catches, effort and raw cpue concerning that fishery. The fishery was carried by one stern trawler in the divisions 2J, 3L and 3M. Most of the effort (43 % in days of fishing) took place in division 3L.

The total catches for the Subareas 2+3 was of 1418 t, 41% of it was taken in the second half of the year and in division 2J, the rest in the late winter and spring and mostly in division 3L. In Subarea 3, the fishery took place in depth ranging from 800 to 1300 m.

The cpue per month is presented in figure 1. The figure shows two distinct increasing trends for each half year around a roughly similar average of about 500 Kg/hour. In each of these two periods, the fishery took place in different areas, mostly in 3L and 3M in the first half of the year, in 2J in the second half.

b - Cod in subdivision 3Ps

The fishery for cod in Subdivision 3Ps was reopened in 1997 with a TAC of 10 000 t and this TAC was set at 20 000 t for 1998. In view of the 1994 Canada-France agreement, France has been allocated a share of 15.6 % of the TAC corresponding to 3120 t. 70 % of this quota would be allocated to Canadian fishing companies to be landed in St-Pierre and Miquelon. However due to the delay in the official settings of the TACs and the delivery of fishing licences, the directed fishery started the last week of May 1998 for the hand line and the gillnet fishery and in June for the trawlers. Some by catches in the redfish fishery were reported by the trawlers from January to March.

Table 3 gives the total reported French cod catches (provisional) per month and gear. In 1998 the gillnet fishery involved 7 boats of sizes of 10 to 11 meters mostly fishing in an area located between 40 to 50 miles in the Southwest of the island of St-Pierre. 15 boats of less than 10 m fished with handline by Dantzig and Fairbanks. By the end of September it was estimated that the part of the quota (30 %) devoted to those gears could not be entirely caught by the end of the year so the rest of the quota was left to be caught independently of the gear. The trawler catches was made by 2 Canadian boats and landed in Saint-Pierre as part of the Canada-France agreement.

c – Iceland scallop in Subdivision 3Ps

There was no directed fishery for Iceland scallop by France in 1998.

2. Biological sampling data

a - Greenland Halibut in Subdivision 2+3

Length samples have been collected by French observer on board the vessels in Divisions 3K and 3L. The level of sampling is given in table 1. The length composition of catches per month and division are given in tables 4 and 5 and figures 2 and 3. The bulk of the catch in division 3L is made mostly of individuals of sizes between 36 and 50 cm. Larger individuals were caught in division 3M as the fishery typically takes place in deeper waters (more than 1000 m in average).

b - Cod in subdivision 3Ps

All the different components of the fishery has been sampled for length monthly except where the low level of catches could not provide sufficient sampling. The ageing material was collected for all gears.

3. Research Surveys

France conducted a survey of Iceland scallop in Subdivision 3Ps using the Canadian research vessel CCGS TELEOST July 10-16, 1998 in collaboration with Canadian scientists. A total of 100 sets were made using a 12ft offshore dredge.

Catches (t)	Greenland Halibut				Witch Flounder				Redfish				Roundnose Grenadier				Catfish				Total			
	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL
Jan.		3		3																		3		3
Feb.																								
Mar.		147	46	193			1	1		6	2	8										153	49	202
Apr.		102	52	154						1		1										103	52	155
May		114	122	236						1		1										115	122	237
June		201		201						2		2										203		203
July																								
Aug.	75			75																		75		75
Sept.	123	26		149						3		3										123	29	152
Oct.	125	24		149																		125	24	149
Nov.	147			147		2		2														149		149
Dec.	111			111																		111		111
TOTAL	581	617	220	1418		2	1	3		13	2	15										583	630	1436

Table 1 - French Greenland halibut trawl catches by species and division for 1998.

	Effort (days)				Effort (Hrs)				GHL c.p.u.e. (t/hr)			
	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL	2J	3L	3M	TOTAL
Jan.		1		1								
Feb.												
Mar.		27	8	35		402	91	493	0.366	0.505	0.391	
Apr.		10	12	22		158	176	334	0.646	0.295	0.461	
May		10	18	28		150	305	455	0.760	0.400	0.519	
June		22		22		308		308	0.653			0.653
July												
Aug.	10			10	153			153	0.490			0.490
Sept.	18	9		27	292	72		364	0.421	0.361		0.409
Oct.	14	5		19	168	78		246	0.744	0.308		0.606
Nov.	18			18	288			288	0.510			0.510
Dec.	12			12	180			180	0.617			0.617
TOTAL	72	84	38	194	1081	1168	572	2821	0.537	0.528	0.385	0.503

Table 2 - French Greenland halibut trawl effort and catch rates in 1998.

Catches (t)	Cod			TOTAL
	GN	HL	OTB5	
Jan.			2	2
Feb.			1	1
Mar.			16	16
Apr.				
May	3	1		4
June	16	38	17	71
July	100	35	126	261
Aug.	242	1	110	353
Sept.	97	1	450	548
Oct.	38	1	638	677
Nov.	33		699	732
Dec.	4		453	457
TOTAL	533	77	2512	3122

Table 3 - French cod catches in Subdivision 3Ps in 1998.

	GHL	GHL	GHL	COD	
Quarter	2J	3L	3M	3Ps	TOTAL
I					
II		4271	584	1323	6178
III				4824	4824
IV				2466	2466
TOTAL		4271	584	8613	13468

Table 4 - Length sampling by France (SPM) in 1998 (Number of fishes measured).

	GHL	GHL	GHL	COD	
Quarter	2J	3L	3M	3Ps	TOTAL
I					
II				175	175
III				668	668
IV				304	304
TOTAL				1147	1147

Table 5 - Age sampling by France (SPM) in 1998
(Number of fish aged).

3L	Greenland Halibut Numbers caught ('000s)												
Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Lt (cm)													
30					0.32	2.73							4.51
32					0.64	4.66							7.84
34				5.17	2.22	10.42							26.35
36				11.62	7.01	18.01							54.23
38				20.66	11.60	28.49							89.89
40				43.91	8.40	25.23							114.72
42				20.66	10.91	25.26							84.08
44				21.95	10.79	22.54							81.80
46				11.62	9.55	20.95							62.32
48				11.62	9.14	16.97							55.84
50				7.75	6.86	18.37							48.80
52				2.58	8.05	13.42							35.58
54				1.29	6.57	8.78							24.63
56				1.29	3.98	7.67							19.15
58					4.61	4.50							13.49
60					3.43	3.75							10.63
62					1.18	2.22							5.03
64					4.18	1.62							8.58
66					1.93	1.20							4.64
68					0.75	0.68							2.11
70					0.00	0.61							0.90
72					0.75	0.59							1.98
74						0.37							0.55
76						0.09							0.13
78						0.07							0.10
80						0.04							0.06
82													
84													
86													
88													
90													
92													
94													
96													
98													
100													
Total				160.13	112.89	239.23							757.92
N meas.	0		0	124	303	3844			0	0			4271
Catch (t)	3		147	102	114	201			26	24			617

Table 6 - Length composition of French Greenland Halibut catches in Division 3L in 1998.
N.B. The Annual total is raised to the total catch.

3M	Greenland Halibut Numbers caught ('000s)												
Month	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Lt (cm)													
30													
32													
34													
36				0.25									1.04
38				0.35									1.47
40				1.48									6.27
42				2.07									8.74
44				2.04									8.62
46				1.56									6.60
48				3.33									14.08
50				7.60									32.16
52				4.91									20.79
54				5.07									21.44
56				3.00									12.69
58				1.30									5.49
60				2.82									11.95
62				1.46									6.17
64				0.79									3.36
66				0.76									3.20
68				0.17									0.72
70				0.08									0.36
72													0.00
74				0.17									0.72
76													
78													
80													
82				0.08									0.36
84													
86				0.08									0.36
88													
90													
92													
94													
96													
98													
100													
Total				39.37									166.57
N meas.				584									584
Catch (t)			46	52	122								220

Table 7 - Length composition of French Greenland Halibut catches in Division 3M in 1998.

N.B. The Annual total is raised to the total catch.

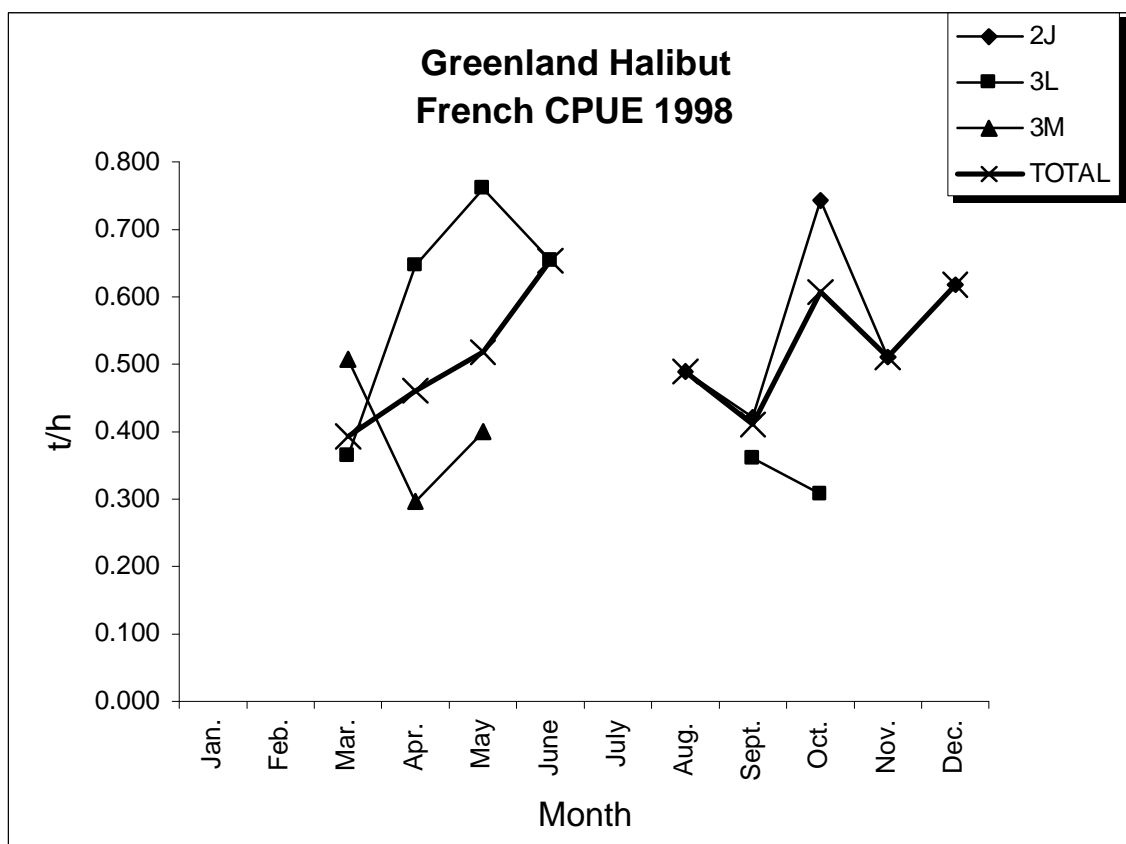


Figure 1. French Greenland Halibut cpue per month and division in 1998.

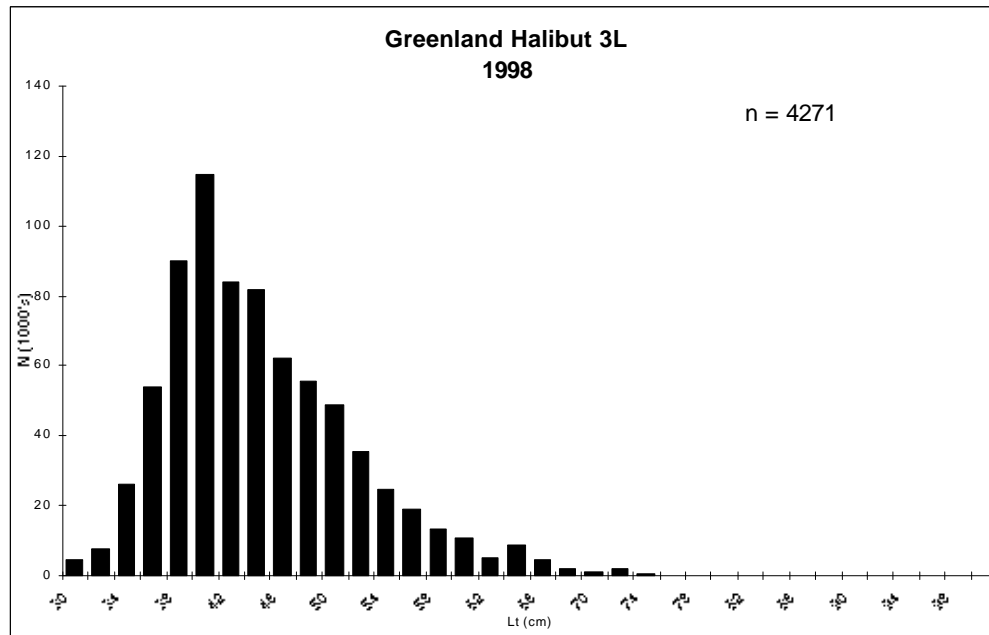


Fig. 2 - Length distribution of Greenland Halibut catches by the French trawl fishery in division 3L for 1998.

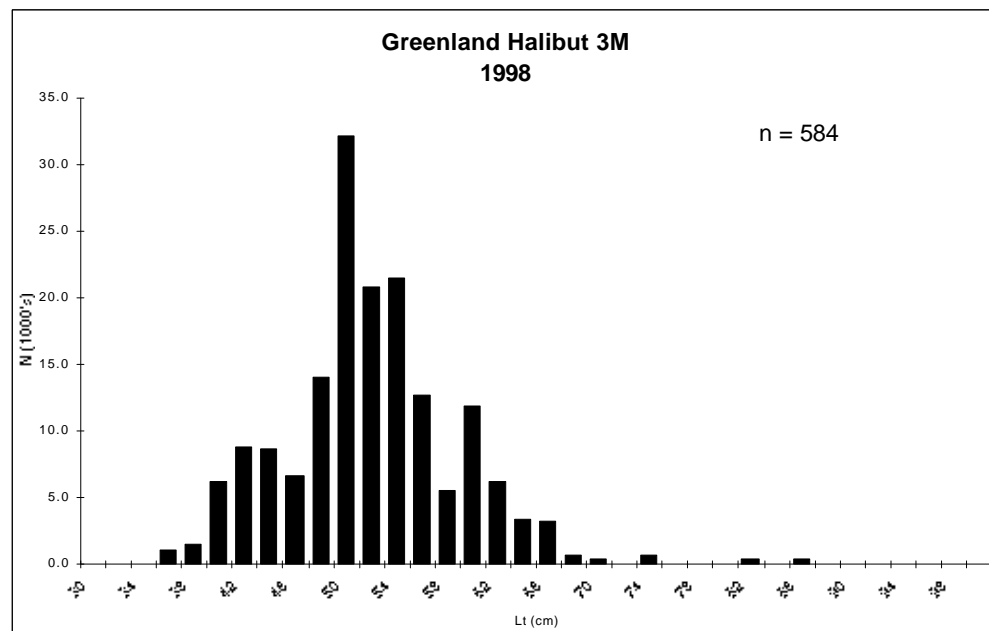


Fig.3 - Length distribution of Greenland Halibut catches by the French trawl fishery in division 3M for 1998.