

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1954Indices of Relative Abundance and the Statistics Requested by the Commission and Reported According to the Form Prescribed by the Commission

At the Third Annual Meeting of the Commission, the following recommendation was made:

"That in order to provide indices of relative abundance, the Commission Secretariat be requested to arrange for the collection of more refined fishing effort data for representative types of vessels and method of fishing."

This recommendation was mentioned in the Document "Statistical Requirements of the International Commission for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries" dated and distributed Sep. 1, 1953. In that document, it was stated that the recommendation would be the subject of special discussion between the Executive Secretary and the Statistician of the Commission with the persons responsible.

At the time the recommendation was made, the characteristics of fishing by each country in the Convention Area were not as well known as now. There had not yet been real opportunity to appraise the degree to which the statistics as requested could yield indices of relative abundance. It is now believed that the statistics requested can yield indices of relative abundance in most cases and for that reason, the recommendation was acted upon only in the form of a circular letter asking for possibly more refined information. In difficult cases, that is, in cases of countries fishing various species with various gears and types of vessels or boats, supplementary data to those already requested are necessary.

To help in discussing the above problem and also to show to which degree the statistics as requested can yield indices of abundance, a short description of the characteristics of fishing by each country in each subarea is given below on the basis of the 1952 statistics:

SUBAREA 1

- Canada: landed a negligible quantity of cod with otter trawlers.
- Denmark: West Greenland and Faroese fishermen landed almost exclusively cod. Various methods of fishing and types of boats and vessels were used.
- France: landed exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.
- Iceland: landed exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.
- Italy: landed exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.
- Norway: landed almost exclusively cod and used mainly long liners and a few otter trawlers.
- Portugal: landed exclusively cod and used dory schooners and otter trawlers.
- Spain: landed almost exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.
- United Kingdom: landed almost exclusively cod and used otter trawlers and long liners.

Germany: landed almost exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.

In 1952 nearly 100% of the catch was made up of cod. There would not be any advantages in separating the fishing effort by species caught.

#### SUBAREA 2

The countries fishing in Subarea 2 are: Canada, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom.

Canada: landed exclusively cod and used small boats and a few otter trawlers.

France: landed exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.

Italy: landed exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.

Portugal: landed exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.

Spain: landed exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.

United Kingdom: landed negligible quantities of cod, halibut and other groundfish.

In this subarea also, catches are nearly 100% cod and there would be no advantages in breaking down the effort according to species caught.

#### SUBAREA 3

The countries fishing in Subarea 3 are: Canada, France, Italy, Portugal, Spain and the United States (the United Kingdom also fishes in Subarea 3, but at intermittent years. Its catch in 1953 was very negligible).

Canada: landed various species and used various gears and types of boats and vessels.

France: landed exclusively cod and metropolitan vessels used are otter trawlers. Fishing from St. Pierre and Miquelon is made with dories and long liners and one otter trawler for a total of less than 4,000 metric tons of cod.

Italy: landed exclusively cod and used otter trawlers.

Portugal: landed almost exclusively cod and used dory schooners and otter trawlers.

Spain: landed cod and important quantities of haddock and negligible quantities of other species and used pair trawlers and otter trawlers.

United States: landed mostly redfish.

In this subarea, landings are diversified for Canada, Spain and the United States. For Canada, supplementary data to those reported as requested would be helpful. For Spain, catches by otter trawlers over the years are fifty fifty cod and haddock and supplementary data may be necessary. In the case of the United States there would not be any advantage in breaking down the fishing by species caught as nearly 100% of the catch is redfish.

SUBAREA 4

The countries fishing in Subarea 4 are: Canada, Portugal, Spain and the United States.

Canada: Landed various species and used various gears, and types of boats and vessels.

Portugal: Landed negligible quantities from Subarea 4.

Spain: Landed small quantities with otter trawlers.

United States: Landed various species.

In this subarea, landings are diversified in the case of Canada and the United States and supplementary data are necessary.

SUBAREA 5

Only the United States are fishing in this subarea for various species and supplementary data may be necessary.

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From the above, it appears that the statistical requirements of the Commission as they are made and the statistics as they are reported according to an accepted form can generally yield indices of relative abundance. In the few cases where fishing is much diversified, statistics could continue to be reported as requested and published accordingly and yields indicated, with the exception that supplementary data for cases mentioned would be necessary in addition.

The above is for the consideration of the Committee on Research and Statistics and is merely intended to show that there is more progress made relative to indices of abundance than thought or expected at the time the recommendation mentioned was made.

- THE END -

