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Size Categories in Commission Statistics on Landings

One of the statistical requirements of the Commission is that countries report their landings according to commercial size categories of fish commonly culled and that the definitions of these size categories accompany the statistics reported to the Commission. The recommendation to that effect is as follows:

"That, in view of the usefulness of such information, the participating Governments report statistics of landings to the Commission according to commercial size categories already in use by the industry and report annually the definition of such categories of fish sizes. (This amends Recommendation No. 2 by the Committee at the Second Annual Meeting.)"

The statistics on landings reported to the Commission are broken down according to the broad size categories (Large, Medium and Small) which are not defined. All countries do not report their statistics according to a classification however. Definitions of commercial size categories are available from a few countries. These definitions show that different methods in the classifications of landings are used. These methods vary from counting the fish of various sizes contained in boxes or bundles of a certain weight and grouping them, to weighing and measuring the fish and grouping them. These methods are used at various stages of dressing, differing from country to country. Establishing the relations between the results of these various methods leaves too much to speculation. However, after the list of classifications given immediately for a few countries, a table will follow which is an attempt to group in comparable terms, classifications used by a few countries. That table will show to a certain degree how wide the differences are in the classifications used by a few countries.

Canada

(excluding Newfoundland and Province of Quebec)

Cod

Steak - over 8lb. (3.6kg) to 10lb. (4.5kg)  
 Market - 2½lb. (1.1kg) - 8lb. (3.6kg) to 10lb. (4.5kg)  
 Scrod - 1½lb. (.6kg) - 2½lb. (1.1kg)

Haddock

Large - over 2½lb. (1.1kg)  
 Scrod - 1½lb. (.6kg) - 2½lb. (1.1kg)

Halibut

Large - over 85 lb. (38.5kg)  
 Medium - 10lb. (4.5kg) to 12lb. (5.4kg) - 85lb. (38.5kg)  
 Chicken - 5lb. (2.2kg) to 8lb. (3.6kg) - 10lb. (4.5kg) to 12lb. (5.4kg)  
 Snapper - 2½lb. (1.1kg) - 5lb. (2.2kg) to 8lb. (3.6kg)

In all cases, market culls refer to head on, gutted weights. In Cod, the division between market and steak sizes is at 8lb. (3.6kg) for offshore landings and at 10lb. (4.5kg) for inshore

landings. In halibut, the division between chicken and medium size is generally at 12lb. (5.4kg); that between snapper and chicken size is at 5lb. (2.2kg) to 6lb. (2.7kg) for offshore landings, and at 7lb. (3.1kg) for inshore landings.

Denmark

Relative to culling at West Greenland and that for salted cod, the size categories are given as follows for bundles of 50 kg.

No. of cullings	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	5/7
No. of fish per bundle of 50 kgs.	10-20	20-30	30-40	40-50	50-60	60-70	70-80	Small 50-80

Portugal

Cod-salted  
Per quintal of 60 kgs.

Large - 20-30 cod  
Medium - 31-70 "  
Small - over 70 "

The above classification is for cod having no defects. For cod with defects there is a classification: cod 2nd and 3rd class.

Spain

Cod-salted  
Presumably per bundle of 60 kgs.

Large - 6-32 cod  
Medium - 40-60 "  
Small - 80-100 "

Haddock  
Presumably per bundle of 60 kgs.

Large - 80-100 haddock  
Small - 100-120 "

The above classification refers to fish landed. Cullings of the round fresh cod aboard the ships by the same company is made according to the following classification:

Large - 95 cm and over  
Medium - 70 cm to 94  
Small - up to 69 cm

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has furnished last year a long and detailed list giving the grading of the fish at various ports of landings and for various species. These classifications are in terms of length in inches and in terms of weight. It includes also classifications according to regional expressions employed in reference to fish sizes. That list is not included here. In the 1953 statistical information, the United Kingdom gives the following classification made as a test by scientists at the port of Hull and Grimsby for cod graded.



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From the list of classifications, however meagre the details are, and from the table can be seen that the recommendation mentioned earlier can lead to serious difficulties in the statistics. That recommendation was made in the light of the categories "Small, Medium and Large", which were not defined. It might be easier for the Commission and also for those responsible for reporting the statistics to the Commission, that the sizes "Small, Medium and Large" be established under a definition for each and according to which data could be reported to the Commission. Cullings could be made aboard the vessels on a sampling basis by subarea subdivisions and the percentage applied to the catches reported from these subarea subdivisions. It is suggested that the recommendation mentioned warrants further consideration.

Commission Statistician

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