



ANNUAL MEETING - MAY 1957

ICELANDIC RESEARCH REPORT 1956

A. Cod. - by Jon Joansson

The Icelandic research in the Convention area has been limited to sampling catches from commercial trawlers fishing on the West-Greenland banks.

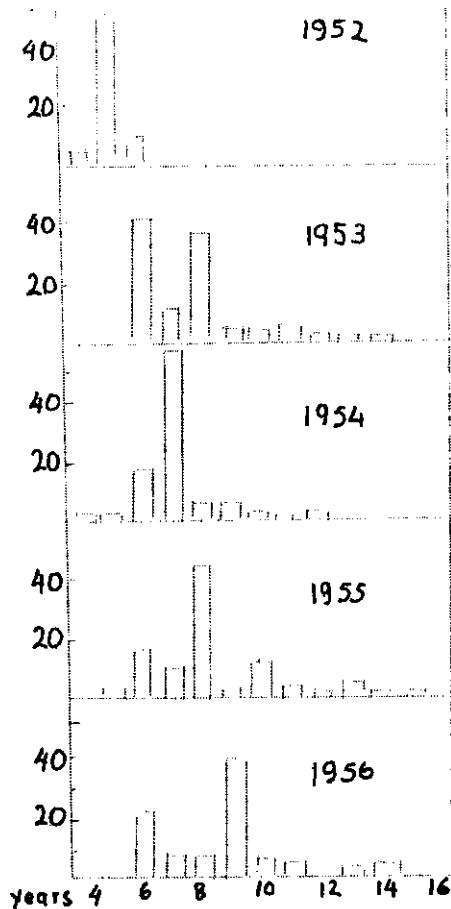


Fig. 1. Age distribution of trawl-caught cod in West Greenland waters, 1952-1956.

Fig. 1 shows the age-distribution of the trawler caught cod in the years 1952-56. The figure shows that in this period the trawl fishery has for a great part been based upon one single year-class, that of 1947. In 1952 and 1953 the year-class of 1945 also constituted a considerable part of the catches and in 1956 the year-class of 1950 had entered into the commercial fishery. After 1953 however, the year-class of 1945 has been lacking in our material from Greenland.

Danish marking experiments have shown that a number of fish belonging to this year-class have been recaptured on the Icelandic spawning grounds since 1951. The year-class of 1945 in Icelandic waters has shown some sign of mixture with a slower growing fish, which is indicated in Table 1.

The growth of the 1945 year-class in Icelandic waters was fairly normal until its seventh year, but from that year its growth has been far below the present average. The growth of the 1945 year-class in Greenland is calculated from our trawl samples. The difference in length between these two areas as regards age-groups 7 and 8 is in fact greater than indicated by the table, as the Greenlandic values are taken from autumn observations, but the Icelandic ones from spring observations.

It is not easy to distinguish between these two stocks on the Icelandic spawning grounds, for instance by their otoliths, but the decrease in the average length surely indicates a certain admixture.

In 1957 we are expecting our catches on the West-Greenland banks to be mainly composed of seven and ten year old fish.

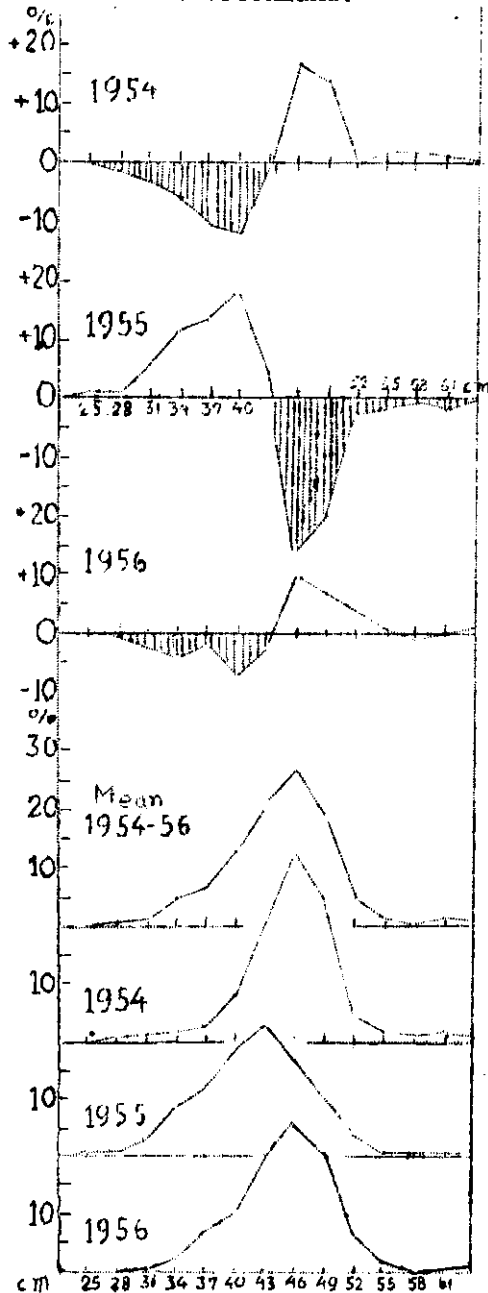
TABLE 1

Age-Groups	7	8	9	10	11
Average 1928-51 Iceland	79.2	81.8	85.6	87.3	90.6
Average in 1955 Iceland	84.8	87.2	90.0	86.4	93.8
1945 year-class Iceland	76.9	80.2	81.7	86.4	85.4
1945 year-class Greenland	71.5	74.5		77.0	77.0

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B. Redfish - by Jakob Magnússon

The Icelandic redfish fishery in Greenland waters is quite new. Before 1954 the fishing was exclusively carried out in West-Greenland waters, but in that year, fishing for redfish in the East-Greenland area was started. This area soon became the most important one as regards the Icelandic redfish fishery. However, notable catches are still taken at the West-Greenland coast. Thus about 14.5 thousand tons were taken in the Convention Area in 1954. During the following year about 18 thousand tons were taken while in 1956 only 7 thousand tons were landed. This smaller quantity in 1956 is due to more intensive fishing in the East-Greenland area during the main redfish season at West-Greenland.



Measurements were made from the commercial catches in 1954 to 1956. Only two to three samples were taken each year, a total number of 3,271. All samples from the same year revealed a very similar length distribution and in all three years the catches mainly consisted of the medium sizes, i.e. 40 - 50 cm. In 1955 the catches were composed of smaller redfish than in the years 1954 and 1956 as illustrated in Figure 2. The mean lengths in 1954 to 1956 were 46.97 cm., 43.16 cm. and 46.30 cm. respectively.

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Fig. 2. Length distribution of redfish in 3 cm. groups, West Greenland, Subarea 1, 1954-56; with annual deviation.