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Icelandic Research Report for 1961

1. Cod at West Greenland
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The Icelandic fishery for cod at West Greenland is exclusively carried out by trawlers. In 1961 the total Icelandic catch of cod in this area amounted to 10,600 tons compared to 4,700 tons in 1960.

The greatest part of the annual catch was taken in the months July-August. The number of fishing voyages in 1961 was substantially lower than in 1960, or 61 compared to 105 in 1960. The increase in the catch of cod in 1961 is mainly due to greater fishing effort for this species.

In 1961 a total of 1600 otoliths were collected in 8 samples of trawler caught cod from the West Greenland fishing banks.

Three samples were taken from the landed catch, therefore sex and maturity are listed in only few cases.

Table I shows the age distribution and the mean lengths of the various age-groups. The age and length distribution of these samples is also shown in Fig. 1.

The samples cover the area from Cape Farvel to Fyllas Bank (Divisions 1D-1F) and can be divided into three groups according to season sampled.

Five samples were taken in April, and four of these show a marked and stable dominance of the 1953 year-class. The average length of this year-class as 8 years old was about 77 cm.

This year-class seems to have been fairly evenly distributed in the area sampled and shows a very uniform rate of growth.

The sample from the Fiskenaes Bank in the beginning of April shows a great dominance of the 1956 year-class, and this year-class is also very pronounced in the two samples from September. In these samples the 1953 year-class is much less prominent, but in the sample from December these two year-classes were found in almost the same quantities.

The good year-classes from 1947 and 1950 can also be traced in the samples, but they were of no importance to the fishery.

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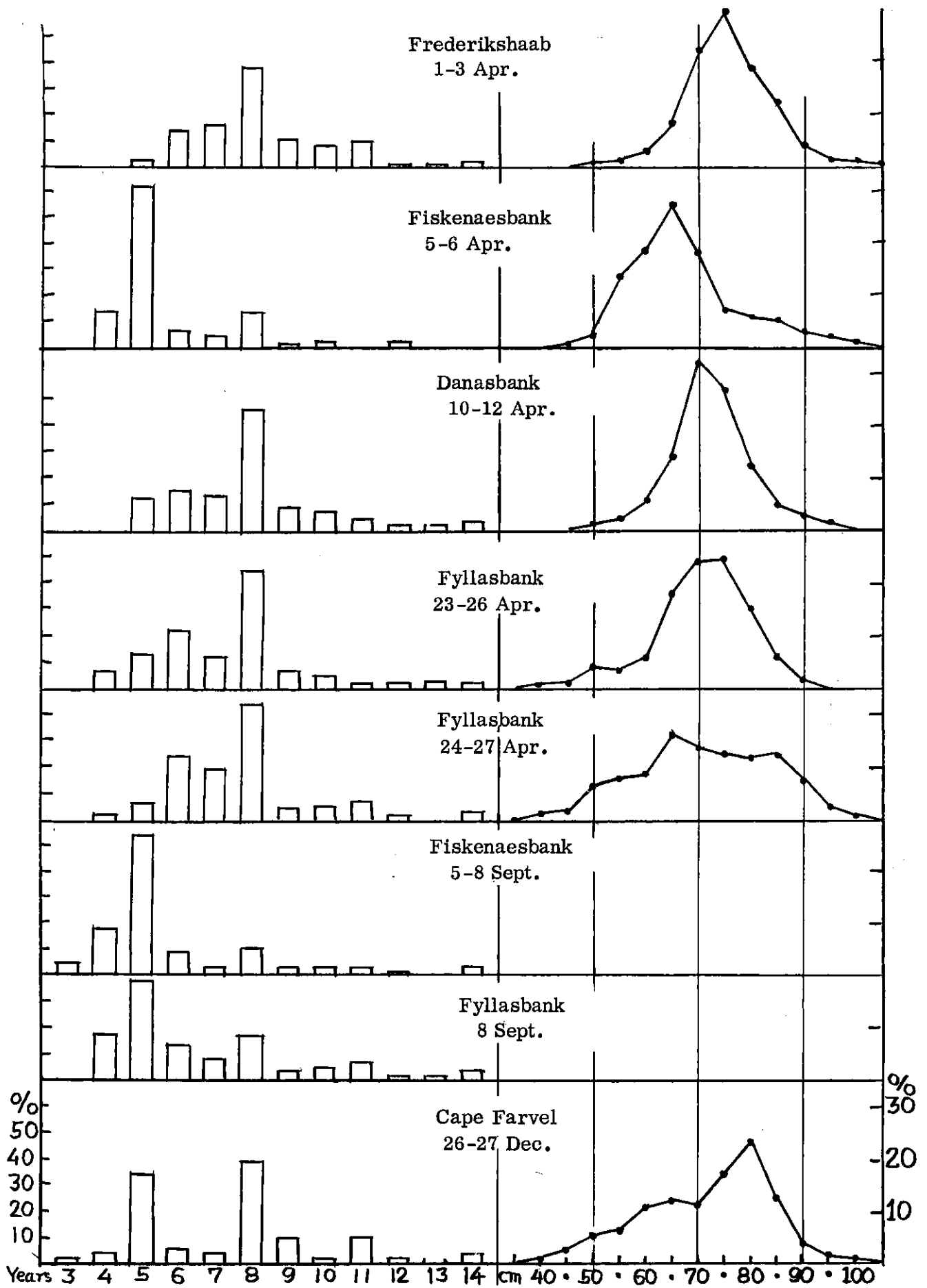


Fig. 1 : Age distribution of cod at West Greenland, 1961.

TABLE I

Age and lengths of Icelandic trawl caught cod in West Greenland 1961

Age Groups	Frederiks- haab 1-3 April		Fiskenaes Bank 5-6 April		Danas Bank 10-12 Apr.		Fylla Bank 23-26 Apr.		Fylla Bank 24-27 Apr.		Fiskenaes Bank 5-8 Sept.		Fylla Bank 8 Sept.		Cape Farval 26-27 Dec.	
	%	cm	%	cm	%	cm	%	cm	%	cm	%	cm	%	cm	%	cm
3																
4	2.0	59.8	14.6	49.6	10.1	63.3	5.1	54.7	0.5	47.0	3.1	48.5	16.4	55.9	0.5	47.0
5	14.3	69.5	62.3	58.3	13.1	69.9	11.1	64.6	5.1	61.0	16.3	53.9	36.9	67.1	3.0	55.5
6	15.3	73.6	5.5	65.5	10.6	73.7	19.7	68.6	21.3	68.7	55.1	63.5	10.3	73.9	32.5	62.9
7	38.3	77.0	3.5	71.9	46.0	76.2	9.1	75.0	16.2	72.5	2.0	79.3	5.6	78.9	4.6	72.7
8	10.7	75.7	11.6	78.1	7.1	79.0	44.4	76.8	43.1	76.5	9.2	77.9	14.9	81.5	3.6	79.1
9	7.1	83.5	0.5	82.0	5.1	89.4	5.6	79.4	3.6	80.3	1.0	87.0	2.1	91.8	7.6	81.5
10	8.2	86.6	1.0	88.5	2.0	81.3	3.0	84.2	3.6	80.3	1.0	103.5	3.1	82.7	0.5	83.2
11	1.0	89.5	1.0	84.5	1.0	84.0	0.5	96.0	4.6	84.3	1.0	90.0	5.1	87.2	7.6	86.0
12	0.5	86.0			0.5	88.0	0.5	77.0	0.5	96.0	0.5	57.0	0.5	102.0	0.5	88.0
13	1.5	82.7			1.0	87.0	0.5	84.0	1.5	89.0	2.6	81.8	1.0	97.5	3.0	80.3
14					0.5	83.8	0.5	84.0					3.1	86.3		
15					1.0	87.0					0.5	81.0	0.5	100.0		
16					0.5	87.0										
17																
18	1.0	95.0														
19																
Total	196		199		198		198		197		196		195		197	