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Notes On Groundfish Discards Data, Canada (Maritimes)

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Discards data available for the 1962 Canada (Maritimes) fishery have been applied to 1962 Canada (Maritimes and Quebec) landings and are reported on the ICNAF Statistics 4 forms and reproduced in Document No. 17 entitled "Statistics On Discards And Industrial Fish". Discard data were available for the groundfish fishery in five regions as follows:

<u>ICNAF Division</u>	<u>Gear</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Tonnage Class</u>
3L	Otter trawl	June	151-500
4X	Otter trawl	June	0-25
4T	Otter trawl	July	26-50
4Vn-4W	Otter trawl	July	151-500
4W	Otter trawl	July	151-500

Most of the data were collected by a summer assistant who made trips to sea to sample the catch for discards. Methods of sampling are outlined by Jean (1963). A small part of the data was derived from estimates of discards kept by boat captains in log books supplied by the Fisheries Research Board. Complete coverage of the Canadian fleet for discards will likely be impossible to obtain since there is such a diversity of gears, boat sizes, areas fished, etc. An approximation of the amount of data and Statistics 4 sheets needed to cover the whole Canadian fishery accurately might be made as follows:

6 Divisions (3L, 4T, 4V, 4W, 4X, 5Z) X 2 gears (longline and otter trawl; Danish seine and traps not included here) X 2 boat size groups (at least) X 4 quarters of year (changing sizes of fish available)
= 96 Statistics 4 sheets

Such extensive coverage cannot be expected from year to year. The only solution to the problem of supplying complete estimates for the year is to look for means of extrapolating from the data available. Detailed studies of the type reported by Jean (1963) will provide a basis for this extrapolation. For instance, average cod discards in Division 4T do not appear to change much during the yearly fishing season (May-October). Thus discard estimates from a relatively small number of trips may provide a fairly accurate estimate of percentage discards for 4T. Such a detailed study would have to be extended to other Divisions in order to provide a basis for extrapolation there.

Unless the deadline for submission of Statistics 4 forms is delayed to about the end of June, the Canadian submission on discards will be one year behind that on landings. This is because our detailed landing statistics are not available soon enough before the Annual Meeting to provide time to apply discards estimates to them.

Reference

Jean, Yves. 1963. Discards of fish at sea by northern New Brunswick draggers. J. Fish. Res. Bd. Canada, 20(2) : 497-524.