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Polish catches from the ICNAF area amounted to 23,248.1 metric tons in 1963, an appreciable increase from the 9,120.6 tons taken in 1962 and the 3,923.1 tons taken in 1961.

As in other years, fishing was carried out mainly in Subarea 3 (88% in 1963, 75% in 1962 and 85% in 1961) followed by Subarea 2 (10% in 1963) and Subareas 1 and 4 (1% each in 1963). Catches by major species in 1963 and 1962 were as follows:

	<u>1963</u> (metric tons)	<u>1962</u> (metric tons)
Redfish	12,974.9 (56%)	4,104.3 (45%)
Cod	7,736.5 (33%)	4,195.5 (46%)
Flatfish	2,193.1 (9%)	456.0 (5%)
Other groundfish and herring	<u>343.6 (2%)</u>	<u>364.8 (4%)</u>
Total	23,248.1	9,120.6

The catches were obtained mainly by five factory trawlers which made 14 landings from the ICNAF area. The total number of fishing days of those trawlers was 850 in 1963, compared with the corresponding data for 1962: 6 landings from that area with 409 fishing days, and 1961: 3 landings with 236 fishing days.

The above data show that the increase of Polish catches was due mainly to the increase in fishing effort, though there was as well in those years an increase in the catch per day fishing and catch per one hour trawling. This is illustrated by the following data on the exploitation of the factory trawlers:

Year	Total catch (tons)	Days fished	Hours fished	Yield	
				per 1 day fished (tons)	per 1 hour's trawling (tons)
1961	3,923.1	236	2,488	16.6	1.58
1962	8,677.4	409	5,243	21.1	1.65
1963	22,991.6	850	10,733	27.0	2.15

The increased yield achieved by the factory trawlers, was due to better use of fishing gear on those new vessels, and to better acquaintance with the new fishing grounds.

In addition to the factory trawlers, there was in 1963 one trip of a side trawler to the ICNAF area, compared with 3 such trips in 1962.

Sampling was carried out on board the factory trawler "Dalmor" as follows:

	<u>Cod</u>	<u>Redfish</u>	<u>Flatfish</u>
<u>Winter</u> (Jan-March)			
Nos. for Lengths only	13,727	9,043	2,623
No. for size, sex, maturity and age	1,622	969	610
<u>Autumn:</u> (Sep. -Nov.)			
Nos. for Lengths only	-	2,822	382 (322 Am. plaice, 160 witch flounder)
Nos. for size, sex, maturity and age	-	682	721 (215 Am. plaice, 498 Greenland halibut, 8 halibut)

Data collected on the biological characteristics of cod have been analysed and presented to the 14th Annual Meeting as Meeting Document No. 28. In addition, data on catches (amount and composition) in relation to trawl depths have been analysed and presented to the 14th Annual Meeting as Meeting Document No. 32.

Observations from the "Dalmor" compared catches made by day and night. Best catches of redfish were made in daytime (10 a. m. to 4 p. m.). Cod catches were apparently not so closely related to the time of day, although some very good catches were made at night.

This report was prepared by F. Chrzan and S. Laszezynski.

#### SUBAREA 2

##### I. Redfish

Catches amounting to 12% of total redfish catch were made in Div. 2J, mainly in April. Samples taken in the winter period showed the average length of redfish to be 35.8 cm.

##### II. Cod

Samples taken by the factory trawler "Dalmor" between 8 January and 29 March in Div. 2J showed the average length of cod to be 53.6 cm.

#### SUBAREA 3

##### I. Redfish

Over 74% of the redfish catches came from Div. 3K with over half of that quantity being caught during July and August. About 12% of the catches came from Div. 3L mainly in July. Average lengths of redfish taken from January to March were 35.1 cm in Div. 3L, 37.7 cm in Div. 3K in February, and 33.5 cm in 3M in March. In November in Div. 3K the average length was 38.7 cm.

##### II. Cod

Over 56% of the cod catch came from Div. 3K mainly in February, April and August. About 54% came from Div. 3M, mainly in March. Average lengths of cod sampled from January to March were 41.2 cm in Div. 3L, 51.7 cm in Div. 3K in February and 56.9 cm in Div. 3M in March.

##### III. Flatfish

About 55% of these fish were taken in Div. 3K mainly in May and about 36% in Div. 3L mainly in November. Average lengths of fish taken from January to March were 25.3 cm for American plaice, 52.1 cm for witch in Div. 3L; 33.1 cm for American plaice and 50.2 cm for witch in Div. 3K and 45.1 cm for American plaice in Div. 3M.

#### SUBAREA 4

##### I. Herring

About 1% of the total catch of all species were herring and came from Div. 4W in May and June.