

ANNUAL MEETING - 1965Summary of the 1964 Spanish Fishing Season

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SUBAREA 1

During 1964, the Spanish trawlers did not conduct much fishing activities in this subarea.

SUBAREA 2Cod

Following the pattern of 1963, this subarea and especially Div. 2J was one of the most fished during 1964.

Fishing was resumed by some trawlers at the end of February but not until the beginning of spring did the bulk of the fleet arrive. Ice conditions frequently hampered fishing operations. The statistics will not show properly the relation between the total catches and the effort due to the interference of the ice. The spring fishery was good, but, during most of the summer and the first part of the autumn it was generally poor. Catches were less than half for the same effort during the summer than during the spring. The last part of the autumn showed improvement, but the fleet abandoned the subarea to proceed home for Christmas.

SUBAREA 3Cod

Cod fishing was started in this subarea at the same time as in Div. 2J. The main fishing activities were in Div. 3L for the large trawlers and in Div. 3K for pair trawlers.

Cod was abundant at the beginning of the season but declined steadily during the summer in Div. 3L. Div. 3K was more successfully fished during the summer by the pair trawlers which harvested a good catch and the largest size of all the fish landed at home. In contrast the 3L cod was generally small and somewhat smaller than the year before.

The western edges of this subarea were also fished during the whole season, the north part more actively during the winter and spring and the centre and south during the summer and fall. The average length of cod captured from the eastern part of the subarea was greater than that from the western side.

Oceanographic research was conducted by two oceanographers from the trawler VIRAZON. Independently of this research and with the purpose of verifying a statement made about the low temperatures on the bottom of the Avalon Channel, temperatures were taken between 30 and 40 miles off the Avalon Peninsula at the bottom. The readings were between 0.5° and 1°C. At 15 miles SE of Wittles Bay in August, temperatures dropped below 0°C and were found as low as -0.5°C.

SUBAREA 4

Many pair trawlers and some of the large size trawlers started fishing in this subarea at the beginning of February. Cod was abundant but small. During the summer, cod was more scarce but larger in size. Some of the pair trawlers conducted nearly all their activities in this subarea during 1964, changing once in a while to the western edge of Subarea 3.

In the three subareas mentioned a large number of tags were recovered. Acknowledgement of all the Canadian tags was received.

Generally speaking there was less time lost due to bad weather than in previous years especially in Subarea 2 and north of Subarea 3. During the autumn, time lost by bad weather in Subarea 4 was more than twice that in the other Subareas.

NOTE

This information is based on conversations held during the year with the skippers of the trawlers, especially, with those of the PYSBE Company.