



1950

International Commission
for the
Northwest Atlantic Fisheries



1970

RESTRICTED

Serial No.2393
(F.a)

ICNAF Res.Doc.70/57

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1970

Notes on catch statistics of North Atlantic halibut and Greenland halibut

prepared by

The Secretary
Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics
FAO Department of Fisheries

(Also FAO Fisheries Circular No.251)

NOTES ON CATCH STATISTICS OF NORTH ATLANTIC HALIBUT
AND GREENLAND HALIBUT

Prepared by

The Secretary
Coordinating Working Party on Atlantic Fishery Statistics
FAO Department of Fisheries



FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
Rome, April 1970

PREPARATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

This document has been prepared for presentation to the annual meetings of ICNAF, ICES and CWP in 1970/71.

MI/A1475

FAO Fisheries Circular (FAO Fish.Circ.)

A vehicle for distribution of short or ephemeral notes, lists, statistical tabulations, etc., including provisional versions of documents to be issued later in other series.

Halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus) and Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides): Catches in the North Atlantic

1. Introduction

1.1 The North Atlantic catches of Halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus) and Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides) are often not clearly identified in the records of the national statistical offices and, therefore, reported as such to international commissions, agencies, etc. However, it is important to obtain separate statistics for these two different species and, for this reason, the matter has been taken into special consideration by ICNAF members as described below.

2. ICNAF Recommendations

2.1 The Report of the 1968 meeting of the ICNAF Subcommittee on Statistics and Sampling included the following:

"The Subcommittee

recommends (28)

(v) that the Secretary of the CWP investigate through correspondence with national reporting offices the possibility of clarifying the North Atlantic catches reported as halibut. This action should establish clearly the extent to which the figures for the various fishing areas refer to either Hippoglossus hippoglossus or Reinhardtius hippoglossoides"

2.2 The Report of the 1969 meeting of the ICNAF Subcommittee on Statistics and Sampling included the following paragraph:

"The Subcommittee was informed that the CWP Secretary hopes to obtain replies from all countries on the problem of adequately distinguishing between "Halibut" Hippoglossus hippoglossus and Greenland halibut Reinhardtius hippoglossoides in the North Atlantic catch data reported to ICNAF, ICES and FAO. It

recommends (5)

that all countries investigate the halibut question thoroughly and, in addition to reporting through the CWP Secretary to the 1970 ICNAF meeting, try to distinguish in their statistics between the Halibut and Greenland halibut species."

3. Comments Made By National Statistical Offices

3.1 Belgium

At present, Belgium vessels do not land Greenland halibut.

3.2 Canada

Atlantic halibut and Greenland halibut (or turbot) have been reported separately in Canadian annual reports submitted to ICNAF in 1966, 1967 and 1968.

3.3 Denmark

Statistics reported from Denmark for 1968 and preceding years refer to Hippoglossus hippoglossus.

3.4 Finland

No "halibut" fishing in Finland.

3.5 France

The halibut catches of the French fishermen in the ICNAF area are practically negligible (11 metric tons in 1968 over a total production of 169,556 tons). However, the matter will be investigated to determine whether the catches recorded under "halibut" refer only to Atlantic halibut "Hippoglossus hippoglossus" or also to Greenland halibut "Reinhardtius hippoglossoides".

3.6 Federal Republic of Germany

The species "Atlantic halibut" and "Greenland halibut" are separately recorded in German statistics.

3.7 Greenland

The Greenland statistics already distinguish between halibut and Greenland halibut. This has been the case for all years when statistics have been reported to ICNAF, ICES and FAO.

3.8 Iceland

Icelandic statistics distinguish between Greenland halibut and Atlantic halibut.

3.9 Ireland

Few halibut are landed in this country and they are all Hippoglossus hippoglossus.

3.10 Netherlands

The landings of halibut in the Netherlands only concern the Atlantic halibut (Hippoglossus hippoglossus). Halibut caught near Iceland and Greenland is Greenland halibut (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides), but is hardly ever landed in the Netherlands. If landed at all, the catches cannot be expressed in tons of fish and are therefore not stated.

3.11 Norway

Up to now, Norwegian fishing vessels have not been engaged in the fishing of Greenland halibut in the ICNAF areas. Thus the quantity of halibut given on the STANA LW forms relates solely to Atlantic halibut.

In the ICES areas quantities are given separately for the two species.

3.12 Poland

Poland has introduced into her statistical reports as far back as 1965 two separate entries, i.e. "halibut" (Hippoglossus hippoglossus) and "Greenland halibut" (Reinhardtius hippoglossoides).

3.13 Portugal

The halibut caught by the Portuguese boats is in so small a quantity that the statistics for this species have no significance.

3.14 Sweden

Swedish catches reported as "halibut" refer only to Hippoglossus hippoglossus.

3.15 United Kingdom

The term "halibut" as used in U.K. statistical returns refers to Atlantic halibut only (Hippoglossus hippoglossus).

Any catches of Greenland halibut are reported to the U.K. as "Mock halibut" and in U.K. returns are included with "unsorted and unidentified" species. The possibility of distinguishing Greenland halibut separately might begin as of 1 January 1970.

3.16 U.S.A.

U.S. vessels do not ordinarily frequent Reinhardtius grounds and because it is very rare in the areas fished, all halibut landed by U.S. are classified as Hippoglossus hippoglossus.

3.17 U.S.S.R.

As this question needs to be clarified with the specialists concerned, comments will be submitted at a later date.

4. Summary and Recommendations

- 4.1 Attached to this document is a table showing quantities of Atlantic halibut and Greenland halibut caught in the Northeast and Northwest Atlantic, broken down by country. It appears that, amongst countries catching considerable quantities of Atlantic halibut and Greenland halibut, only the USSR does not yet report statistics separately for these two species.
- 4.2 It is proposed that countries be specifically asked in the future to record and report separately to ICES, ICNAF and FAO catch statistics for each of these two species; it will be made clear that if catches are significant only for one of these two species, the other should not be mixed in the group "Various" but should also be reported separately.
- 4.3 It is also proposed that in the future, at the time of reprinting the STATLANT 1W and 1E forms, two distinct entries be inserted in the stub, one for Atlantic halibut and one for Greenland halibut, in order to stress the need to collect and report separate statistics for these species, i.e.

A. <i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>	Halibut (Atlantic)	Flétan (Atlantique)	Hipogloso (Atlantico)
B. <i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>	Greenland halibut	Flétan noir	Hipogloso negro

ATLANTIC HALIBUT AND GREENLAND HALIBUT: NOMINAL CATCHES IN NORTH ATLANTIC

English name Scientific name Area, country	National name	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
. Thousand metric tons							
<u>Atlantic halibut</u>		<u>18.0</u>	<u>17.0</u>	<u>15.0</u>	<u>16.0</u>	<u>15.0</u>	
<i>Hippoglossus hippoglossus</i>							
Atlantic, Northwest		(5.9)	(5.5)	(5.1)	(5.4)	(5.0)	
Canada	Halibut	2.9	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.5	
Faeroe Islands	Kalvi	--	0.3	0.0	0.0	--	
Germany (Eastern)	Heilbutt	...	...	1.4	...	...
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	Heilbutt	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	
Greenland	Natárnaq	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Iceland	Lúda	0.1	0.0	0.0	--	0.0	
Norway	Kveite	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.2	
Poland	Kulbak	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.1	
St. Pierre and Miquelon	Flétan	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
USSR	Paltus	<u>a/...</u>	<u>a/...</u>	<u>a/...</u>	<u>a/...</u>	<u>a/...</u>	
UK (England and Wales)	Halibut	0.6	0.5	0.2	0.4	0.0	
United States	Halibut	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Atlantic, Northeast		(12.3)	(11.2)	(9.4)	(10.5)	(10.1)	
Belgium	Heilbot/Flétan	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Denmark	Helleflynder	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	
Faeroe Islands	Kalvi	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.3	0.3	
Germany (Eastern)	Heilbutt	...	...	2.1	...	...
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	Heilbutt	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.9	0.6	
Iceland	Lúda	1.1	1.0	0.9	1.0	1.1	
Netherlands	Heilbot	0.1	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2	
Norway	Kveite	4.1	3.8	2.8	2.9	2.8	
Poland	Kulbak	--	--	--	--	--	
Sweden	Hällefundra	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	...	
USSR	Paltus	<u>a/...</u>	<u>a/...</u>	<u>a/...</u>	<u>a/...</u>	<u>a/...</u>	
UK (England and Wales)	Halibut	1.6	1.7	1.5	1.2	0.9	
UK (Scotland)	Halibut	1.4	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.1	
<u>Greenland (=Black) halibut</u>		<u>52.0</u>	<u>55.0</u>	<u>52.0</u>	<u>78.0</u>	<u>74.0</u>	
<i>Reinhardtius hippoglossoides</i>							
Atlantic, Northwest		(7.4)	(12.9)	(19.8)	(29.6)	(31.3)	
Canada	Greenland halibut	1.8	8.1	15.2	17.0	14.3	
Faeroe Islands	Svartkalvi	--	0.0	0.0	1.8	0.0	
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	Schwarzer Heilbutt	0.2	--	0.4	0.3	0.1	
Greenland	Qaleralik	2.7	3.0	2.6	1.8	1.6	
Norway	Blåkveite	0.0	0.0	0.0	--	--	
Poland		1.9	0.6	1.1	3.3	5.8	
USSR	Chjornij paltus	<u>a/0.8</u>	<u>a/1.2</u>	<u>a/0.5</u>	<u>a/5.4</u>	<u>a/9.5</u>	

ATLANTIC HALIBUT AND GREENLAND HALIBUT: NOMINAL CATCHES IN NORTH ATLANTIC

(concluded)

English name Scientific name Area, country	National name	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969
		. . . . . Thousand metric tons					
<u>Greenland (=Black) halibut</u>							
(concluded)							
Atlantic, Northeast		(44.3)	(42.0)	(32.3)	(48.6)	(41.4)	
Germany, Fed. Rep. of	Schwarzer Heilbutt	3.9	5.9	6.0	4.4	2.0	
Greenland	Qaleralik	0.0	--	--	--	0.0	
Iceland	Grálúda	--	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	
Norway	Blåkkeite	14.2	18.1	16.4	17.5	22.5	
USSR	Chjornij paltus	<u>a/26.2</u>	<u>a/18.0</u>	<u>a/9.9</u>	<u>a/26.7</u>	<u>a/16.9</u>	
Arctic Sea		--	--	--	--	(1.4)	
USSR	Chjornij paltus	--	--	--	--	1.4	

a/ "Atlantic halibut" included with "Greenland halibut".

