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I Subareas 1, 2 and 3

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A. Status of the fisheries.

Nominal catches in 1973 by species and areas are given in Table 1. The main important changes from 1972 are a decrease in the total catches of cod from 39332 tons in 1972 to 24174 tons in 1973 and a new fishery for capelin in Subarea 3 which gave a catch of 41293 tons in 1973. As a result, the total Norwegian catch in the Convention area increased from 42051 tons in 1972 to 69266 tons in 1973.

Cod. In the Table below catch and effort data for the trawl fisheries for cod are given for 1972 and 1973 (provisional figures for 1973).

Subarea	Days fished, trawlers		Catch of cod (metric tons), trawlers	
	1972	1973	1972	1973
1	1107	781	21721	9681
2	110	94	1156	197
3	33	199	490	4190

In Subarea 1 the catch per day fished has decreased from 19.6 tons in 1972 to 12.4 tons in 1973. The decrease in Norwegian cod catches at West Greenland from 1972 to 1973 thus seems to be a result of a decrease both in effort and catch per unit of effort. The same is the case in Subarea 2 where the decrease in catch per unit of effort is very pronounced. In Subarea 3, both catch and catch per unit of effort have increased.

Greenland Halibut The catches of Greenland Halibut decreased from 1401 tons in 1972 to 542 tons in 1973 as a result of a decrease in the effort directed towards this species. In 1973 only one long-liner was fishing for Greenland Halibut.

Capelin A Norwegian fishery for capelin on the Grand Banks, Newfoundland, started in 1973. A total catch of 41293 tons was taken during the spawning period in June and July on Southeast Shoal. A factory ship and from four to nine trawlers were present. The catch per unit of effort was high and fairly even throughout the period, around 150-200 tons per boat per day.

Deep Sea prawn The expanding fishery for deep sea prawn in Subarea 1 gave catches of 2940 tons in 1973 compared with 984 tons in 1972.

B. Special Research Studies

Capelin The catches of capelin were sampled for age-, length- and sex composition and maturity stages. 490 age determinations and 7357 length determinations were made. All capelin caught was mature. Most of the capelin was 4 years old, but also 3 and 5 years old fish were present. A more detailed report of the results is given in Res. Doc. 74/ .

Table 1. Nominal catch in metric tons, 1973 (provisional figures) .

Subarea and Division	Cod	Redfish	Greenland halibut	Deep Sea prawn	Salmon	Capelin	Total
1	15205	52	41	2940	250		18488
2 G, 2 H		3	480				483
2 J	546	1	2				549
2 Total	546	4	482				1032
3 K	5844	11	15				5870
3 L	114		4				118
3 M	417						417
3 N						41293	41293
3 Ps	1364						1364
3 Total	7739	11	19			41293	49062
4 S, 4 T, 4 R	684						684
Total	24174	67	542	2940	250	41293	69266

II Seals

by

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A. Status of the fisheries

Catch and effort data for Norwegian sealing on the "Front" off Newfoundland-Labrador (Subareas 2 and 3) in 1973 were reported in ICNAF Res. Doc. 73, 122 (Serial No 3094).

B. Special Research Studies

Field work on harp and hooded seals was continued in 1973 by the Institute of Marine Research, Bergen, and sampling was carried out during the hunting season on board a commercial sealing vessels at Newfoundland-Labrador from 10 March to 17 April. Ice edges and patches of seals were plotted and samples for age analysis were collected from 817 harps and 285 hoods. Additional age samples were collected from 1455 seals by crew members of other sealing vessels. Some long-term special studies of pups and adult seals were continued. No seals were tagged, but three harp seals tagged at Newfoundland in past seasons were recaptured in West Greenland in 1973.

Age-samples and female reproductive organs of hooded seals collected at Newfoundland from 1964 to 1972 have been processed and analyzed. Females are fully recruited to the breeding stock in that area at an age of 6, and males at an age of 10 years. The total annual mortality rate was found to be 0.16 for 6 years old and older females and 0.23 for 10 years old and older males. It was also found that female hooded seals reach sexual maturity at ages from 2 to 6 years and that fertility is high with up to 98 % of the older females producing one pup per year.

