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The Japanese fleets, one small vessel under 1,000 tonnage, 4 medium vessels of 1,000-2,000 tonnages and 11 large vessels over 2,000 tons, fished in Subareas 3, 4, and 5 and in Statistical Area 6 during 1973, taking a preliminary total of 39,629 tons. This is 6,000 tons higher than in 1972.

Principal species caught were common American squid(14,397 tons), butterfish(12,327 tons), redfish(4,984 tons) and herring(2,552 tons). The catches for butterfish and redfish were increased, while the squid and herring were decreased, compared with the previous year.

Subarea 3

A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

The catch by Japanese trawlers in Subarea 3 increased from 1,558 tons in 1972 to 3,415 tons in 1973, as shown in Table 1. The fishing ground was mainly in 3N for redfish.

Table 1. Catch in Subarea 3, 1968-1973

Year	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973*
Hours fished	1,043	410	1,861	3,160	902	1,143
Total catch (tons)	1,672	810	3,511	8,136	1,558	3,415
Redfish	774	533	2,586	7,600	1,345	3,282
Argentine	145	106	793	444	165	103
Cod	574	83	49	14	1	5
Haddock	6	1	6	-	-	2
Flatfishes	38	21	4	1	2	1
Herring	-	-	0	-	0	-

\* Preliminary

B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

1. Biological Studies

Length measurements of redfish were made on board the commercial trawlers in Division 3N.

2. Exploratory fishing

An exploratory fishing for short finned squid, sponsored by JAMARC (Nippon Kaiyo Suisan Shigen Kaihatsu Center), was carried out around the Newfoundland area.

Subarea 4

A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

The fishing effort of Japanese trawlers in this subarea increased from 2,306 hours fished in 1972 to 3,556 hours in 1973. The fishing ground for herring was mainly in 4X, and that for redfish was in 4Vs. The pollock catch, indicating a great increase this year, were taken from the both divisions.

Table 2. Catch in Subarea 4, 1968-1973

Year	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973*
Hours fished	1,075	896	2,176	1,673	2,306	3,556
Total catch (tons)	2,012	1,936	4,779	4,499	4,412	5,141
Redfish	524	251	967	1,164	2,298	1,696
Pollock	-	-	-	10	12	1,544
Herring	9	14	100	88	1,394	1,303
Argentine	1,086	1,256	2,940	2,879	446	234
Silver hake	76	213	128	9	96	77
Cod	21	39	154	6	46	61
Flatfishes	28	21	9	1	23	12
Haddock	18	20	13	1	2	6
White hake	-	-	17	31	16	-

\* Preliminary

B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

1. Biological Studies

Length measurements for main species caught by Japanese trawlers were made on-board the commercial fleets.

Subarea 5

A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

Both fishing effort and catch of Japanese trawlers in Subarea 5 decreased from the previous year. This is due to the unusual concentration of fishing activity for Statistical Area 6, where good concentrations of the squid and the butterfish were encountered.

Table 3. Catch in Subarea 5, 1968-1973

Year	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973*
Hours fished	540	8,216	9,310	10,196	10,387	8,253
Total catch	724	8,789	10,722	16,938	12,745	10,832
(tons)						
Squid(Loligo)	113	3,902	5,086	5,008	7,871	5,946
Butterfish	328	1,291	1,724	867	1,177	2,857
Herring	1	527	1,222	3,109	1,295	1,205
Silver hake	52	229	73	195	175	203
Mackerel	1	197	463	322	583	126
Argentine	-	976	368	5,739	86	90
Flatfishes	2	79	138	7	6	7
Red hake	-	-	1	7	7	5
Cod	2	45	15	19	100	3
White hake	-	-	158	109	100	-
Haddock	3	9	1	11	6	-

\* Preliminary

B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

1. Biological Studies

Length measurements were carried out on main species caught by Japanese trawlers.

Preliminary age determination of butterfish has started by use of otolith and an assessment of the stock will be expected in near future.

Overall quota reduction in relation to the by-catch problems was theoretically considered by Y. Fukuda and presented as a Research Document.

Statistical Area 6

A. STATUS OF THE FISHERIES

Japanese catch in this area increased from 14,961 tons in 1972 to 20,241 tons in 1973. Substantial increase in butterfish was observed here in this area.

Table 4. Catch in Statistical Area 6, 1968-1973

Year	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973*
Hours fished	4,056	8,623	16,112	13,564	13,498	18,554
Total catch (tons)	6,536	8,133	18,933	13,688	14,961	20,241
Butterfish	3,198	2,010	6,897	4,914	2,637	9,447
Squid(Loligo)	1,619	3,805	8,275	6,578	7,970	8,450
Mackerel	311	326	1,036	838	1,005	322
Silver hake	30	44	255	80	260	167
Red hake	-	-	2	7	-	2
White hake	-	-	58	105	12	-

\* Preliminary

B. SPECIAL RESEARCH STUDIES

See special research studies for Subarea 5.