



Serial No. 3539
(D.c. 3)

ICNAF Res.Doc. 75/57

ANNUAL MEETING - JUNE 1975

Seasonal distribution of haddock in Division 4X

by

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In Subarea 4 no special Soviet investigations of haddock have been carried out. The data on the Soviet catches for 1962-1966 are the only source of information on our part, which give an idea (rather rough) of seasonal distribution of haddock. The statistics on the catches in Division 4x by years (ICNAF Summ. Doc. 74/38 and 74/25) is given in table 1.

Table 1. Soviet catches of haddock from
Division 4x for the period of 1963 to 1973.

YEARS	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972	1973
Catches tons	400	1108	2582	10065	199	335	-	2	97	10	14

It is clearly seen from the table, that there cannot be any discussion concerning a specialized haddock fishery by the Soviet fleet following 1966. The by-catch of this species is also negligible.

Seasonal distribution of haddock shown in figs 1-4 supports the Canadian data indicating that during certain periods of time haddock may concentrate and form aggregations near a 200 m isobath though this species occurs mainly at the depths less than 200 m (Bigelow, Schroder, 1953).

In 1965-1966, when no ban was imposed yet, a directed fishing was carried out covering the shelf slopes.

The interruption of specialized haddock fishery (following 1966) and maintained fishery for silver hake and argentine on the shelf slopes (150 m and deeper), suggest the possibility of specialized fishing for other species with minimum by-catch of haddock. This can be explained by different habitats of haddock, silver hake and argentine and allows to carry out a directed searching and exploitation of the concentrations represented by two latter species basing on the data on water temperature, type of the ground, feeding character, etc.

S U M M A R Y

In given report a seasonal distribution of haddock according to the data on commercial catches for 1962-1966 is considered and opinion expressed about the possibility of specialized fishing for silver hake and argentine at the depths over 150 m in order to avoid the by-catch of haddock.

R E F E R E N C E S:

- Bigelow H.B., W.C. Schroeder. Fishes of the Gulf of Maine.
Fish. Bull. Fish. and Wild.
Serv. Vol. 53, 1953.

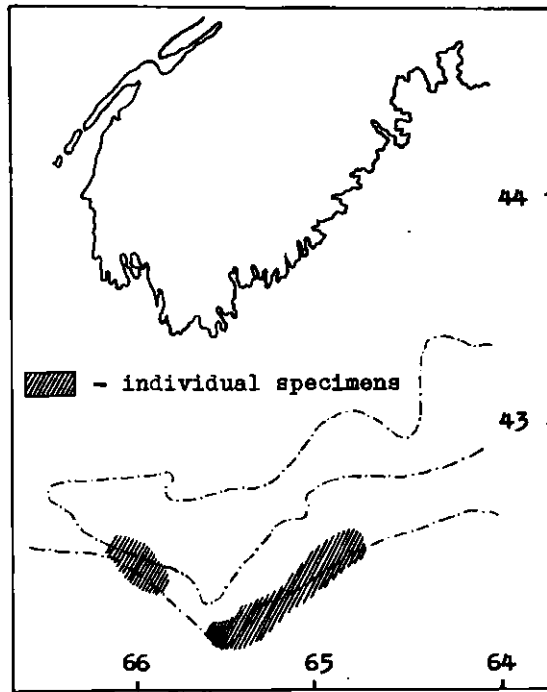


Fig.1. The distribution of haddock according to the data on the Soviet catches taken in winter (joint data for November 1963 and 1965).

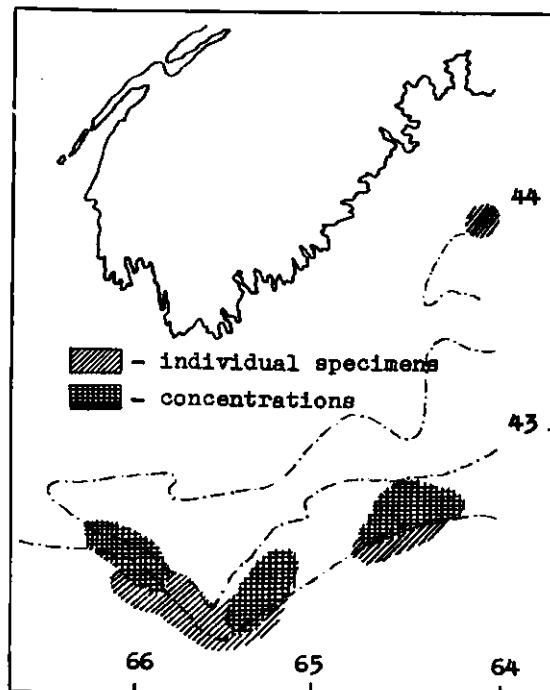


Fig.2. The distribution of haddock according to the data on the Soviet catches taken in spring (joint data for March-May 1962-1966).

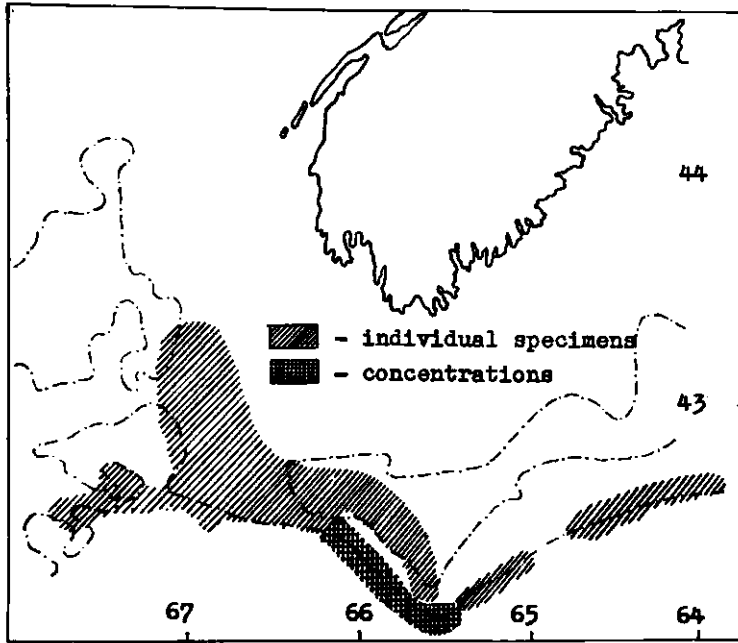


Fig.3. The distribution of haddock according to the data on the Soviet catches taken in summer (joint data for June-August 1962-1966).

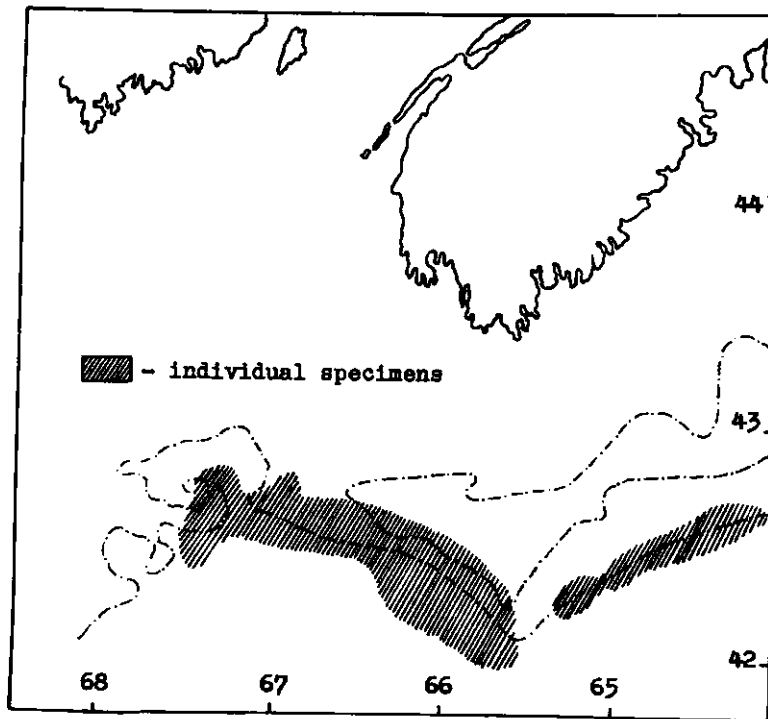


Fig.4. The distribution of haddock according to the data on the Soviet catches taken in autumn (joint data for September-November 1963-1965).