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Japanese Research Report, 1976

by

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#### I. Review of Japanese Fisheries

In 1976, 14 vessels operated in the ICNAF waters including Statistical Area 6 and caught a total of 26,000 tons of various species. The total catch included 1,900 tons of butterfish, 6,400 tons of *Illex*, 5,000 tons of *Loligo* and 5,000 tons of capelin.

One vessel operated for the first time to fish shrimp in Subarea 1 but the catch was very limited (149 tons). No substantial fishing was done in Subarea 2. A total of 5,200 tons were caught from Subarea 3, mostly capelin from Div. 3NO. Due to high abundance of *Illex* in 1976, about 3,000 tons of it were caught in Subarea 4 during the summer months. *Loligo* and butterfish were again most important species caught in Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6. About 2,000 and 3,000 tons of *Loligo* were taken from Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6, respectively and most of the butterfish catch was from Subarea 5.

#### II. Research Activities

One research vessel covered Subareas 4 and 5 and Statistical Area 6 from June to October for locating *Illex* fishing grounds by pelagic gear (jigging) and collecting squid samples for growth study of this species. The data obtained are now under process.

Analysis was made for the age-length study of butterfish based on otoliths. Growth study of *Illex* was also made based on mantle length frequency by month. The abundance of *Loligo* in Subarea 5 and Statistical Area 6 were again estimated by revised areal extention method.

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