

International Commission for



the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries

Serial No. 5313

ICNAF Res. Doc. 78/XI/97

SPECIAL MEETING OF STACRES - NOVEMBER 1978

Catch-Per-Unit-Effort Estimates from the Faroese Prawn Fishery
off West Greenland, 1974-78

by

K. Hoydal
Fiskirannsóknarstovan
Torshavn, Faroe Islands

Introduction

Catch and effort data, available for Faroes vessels fishing for shrimp off West Greenland, have been analyzed to illustrate trends in the fishery during 1974-78. A description of the data base is given in Hoydal (1978). The vessels were divided into two categories on the basis of a factor, defined as "horsepower \times tonnage \div 1000". The older prawn vessels have factors below 410, and the newer larger vessels have factors greater than this value.

Catch-per-unit-effort (CPUE) estimates by month were determined for the two classes of vessels fishing in the management area between 64°15'N and 68°00'N (ICNAF Div. 1B (south of 68°N) and Div. 1C). Estimates were also made for one group of vessels (<410) in the management area south of 64°15'N (ICNAF Div. 1DEF).

Results

The results are shown in Fig. 1. In addition to the apparent general decline in catch rates from peak levels in 1976, the most remarkable feature of the data for both classes of vessels in the main fishing area (management area 3) is the low level of CPUE in the first half of 1978 compared with very high levels in the first half of 1976 and 1977. Even in the area south of 64°15'N (management area 4) the CPUE was considerably lower in early 1978 than in the same months of 1977 for the class of vessels illustrated.

References

HOYDAL, K. 1978. An assessment of the deep-sea shrimp, *Pandalus borealis*, stocks off West Greenland. *ICNAF Sel. Papers* No. 4: 31-33.

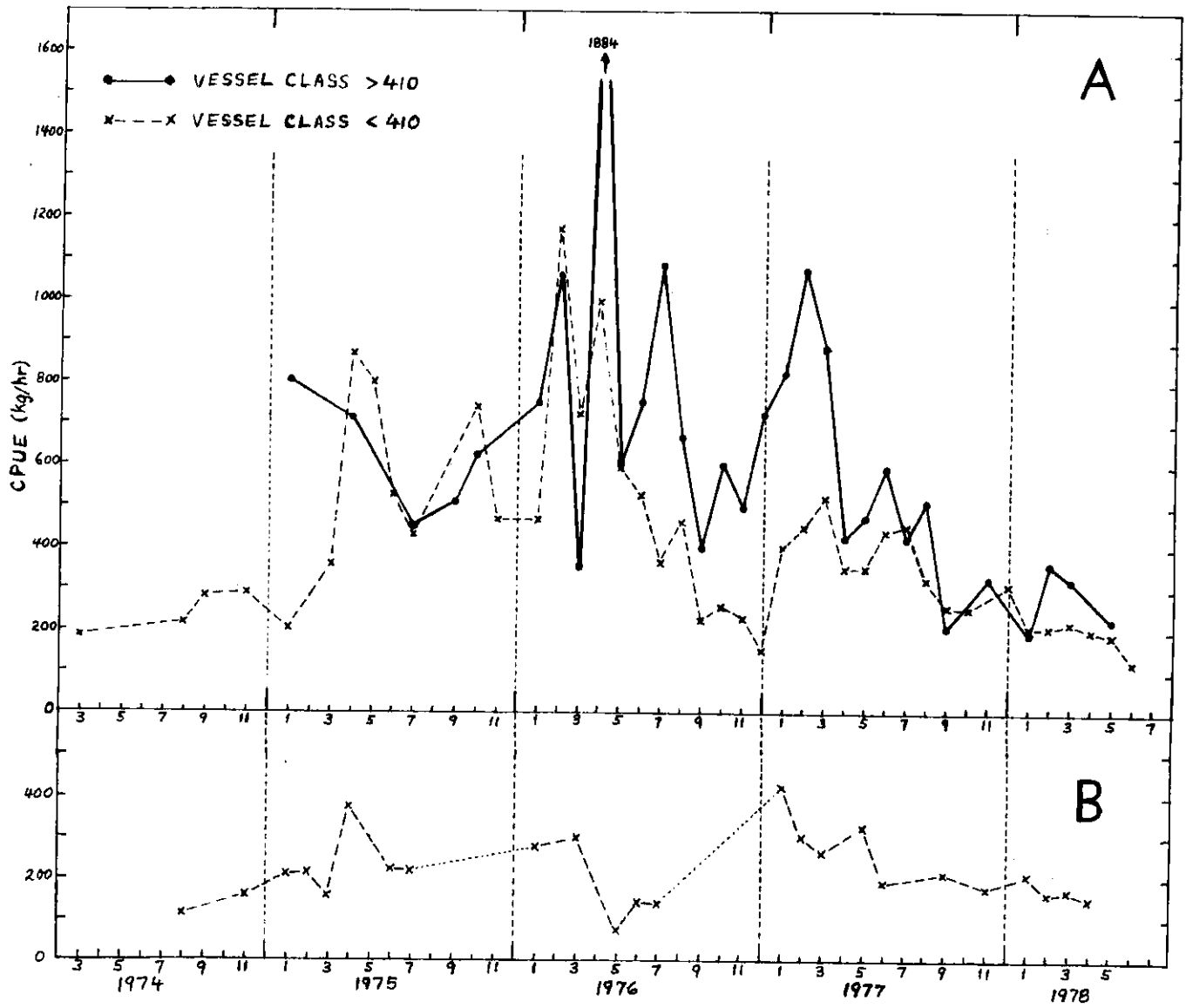


Fig. 1. Trends in catch-per-unit-effort for Faroese prawn vessels fishing off West Greenland in (A) management area 3 between 64°15'N and 68°15'N, and in management area 4 south of 64°15'N, 1974-78.