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Japanese Research Report, 1978

by

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Eleven Japanese stern trawlers operated in 1977 in the ICNAF waters, including Div. 2J, 3KLMNO and 4VWX. The total of 10,383 tons of catch was made from 723 days operations which were expended more heavily in the southern area (Div. 4W and 4X) than in the northern waters. Capelin, Illex and argentine were major species sought and caught. Slightly less than half of the total catch were capelin (4,824 tons) followed by Illex (3,149 tons) and argentine (2,144 tons).

The majority of capelin caught were from Div. 3N but a substantial amount of catch was made for the first time from Div. 2J-3KL, amounting to about 1,000 tons. The fishing season for capelin was June and July in Div. 3N and September and October in the northern fishing grounds. Most of the Illex catch was reported from Div. 4W (2,586 out of the total of 3,149 tons), along the edge of the continental shelf during late summer from August to October. No squid catch was made from Subarea 3 and northward.

In relation to the currently applied closed area regulation for the squid bottom trawl fishery, a series of fishing operations has been carried out jointly by Canadian and Japanese scientists, using two different types of gear, namely bobbin and chain types, to find out the amounts of by-catch. Experiments from mid-July to mid-September indicated that chain type gear is very effective in reducing by-catch. The details of findings are described in ICNAF Res.Doc. 78/II/16.

Throughout the fishing season, a number of samples of capelin, Illex, Loligo and butterfish were taken for biological measurements. Nineteen samples were collected for capelin from Subareas 2 and 3 and 93 samples for Illex from Subarea 4.

(over)

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Table 1. Japanese fishing operations in 1977.

Area	Number of days fished	Catch					Total
		Capelin	Illex	Argentine	Redfish	Others	
2J	40	589	-	-	4	-	593
3K	28	281	-	-	-	1	282
3L	22	214	-	-	123	15	352
3M	6	-	-	-	101	14	115
3N	172	3,679	-	-	-	-	3,679
3O	18	61	-	-	-	-	61
4Vs	14	1	181	6	1	-	188
4W	322	1	2,586	746	1	5	3,338
4X	101	-	382	1,392	-	1	1,775
Total	723	4,824	3,149	2,144	230	36	10,383