

DEMERSAL FISH (NORTHERN) COMMITTEE

(A. Hysten)

1974



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Belgium

(P. Hovart)

Work at sea

The determination of the density and the stock composition of juvenile soles, plaice, dab, flounders, gadoids along the Belgian coast has been continued by means of monthly cruises by the RV "Hinders".

Two cruises were carried out for the demersal young fish survey in collaboration with Holland and Germany.

Work on fish

The market sampling was continued covering several species and areas : Cod : North Sea; whiting : North Sea; plaice : North Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, Irish Sea; sole: North Sea, English Channel, Bristol Channel, Irish Sea.

Species	Season	No. of samples		No of Fish	
		Research vessel	Market samples	Measured	Aged
<u>Sole</u>	1	-	11	1352	190
	2	-	11	1177	210
	3	-	9	1145	209
	4	-	12	1413	210
VIII f	1	-	11	1181	200
	2	-	8	886	220
	3	-	13	1938	210
	4	-	11	1457	210
VII a	1	-	7	683	247
	2	-	9	796	257
	3	-	6	845	140
	4	-	5	666	210
VII d, e	1-4	-	3	278	200
<u>Plaice</u>	1	-	11	713	150
	2	-	12	659	150
	3	-	7	486	148
	4	-	12	711	140
VIII f	1-4	-	10	390	240

Species	Season	No. of Samples		No. of Fish	
		Research Vessel	Market Samples	Measured	Aged
VIIa	1-4	-	8	418	250
VII d, e	1-4	-	3	198	50
<u>Cod</u>	1	-	9	280	205
IV	2	-	11	369	229
	3	-	15	403	350
	4	-	7	529	265
<u>Whiting</u>	1	-	5	60	60
	2	-	4	111	80
IV	3	-	4	155	110
	4	-	8	395	200
Haddock	1-4	-	7	417	-
IV					

Canada

(A. W. May)

A more extensive report on demersal fish research by Canada in 1974 is contained in the Canadian research report to the 1975 Annual Meeting of ICNAF. Sampling data have also been reported in detail to ICNAF. Heavy emphasis continued on stock assessment in relation to ICNAF quota regulations, and new assessments were prepared for a number of demersal stocks. All the major demersal stocks off the Canadian Atlantic coast are now under quota regulation. To provide the data base necessary for continued revision and updating of stock assessments, intensive research vessel surveys and commercial sampling from national fisheries were continued in 1974, and associated biological data collected for all species.

Analysis of changes in stocks of American plaice on the Grand Bank revealed a decline of about 50% in adult stock size between 1956-58 and 1968-69 in response to increased fishing on a relatively unfished stock. Increases in growth rate were closely correlated with the decrease in stock size. Decline in abundance of yellowtail flounder on the northern Grand Bank, indicated by research vessel surveys, was probably associated with very low water temperatures during the past several years.

Declines in inshore cod catch, catch per man, average age and percentage of mature fish in the catches in inshore Labrador and eastern Newfoundland were associated with increased fishing intensity in the offshore cod fisheries.

Analysis of data from survey cruises in the Gulf of St Lawrence revealed good correlation between catches of 2 year old juvenile cod and the size of the same year classes at age 4 in the commercial fishery. Also analysis of larval catches of cod in the Gulf shows good correlation with survey vessel catches of 2 year old juveniles.

As a basis for assessment of the use of parasites in stock identification of flatfish, a study is being carried out of the species and abundance of intestinal parasites of the common flatfish species of the Scotian Shelf and Gulf of St Lawrence.